

The AEDI in Action

Case Study: Broadmeadows/Hume City Victoria



AEDI Participation

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Year of completion: | 2005/06 |
| Number of primary schools: | 45 |
| Number of children: | 2,508 |
| Number of teachers: | 134 |



'The AEDI has provided communities with evidence and impetus to work together to improve outcomes'

Communication of the AEDI results

The AEDI results were presented to community groups and were received and understood in a spirit of partnership to improve early years outcomes. In particular, it was understood that the results reflected the system of supports for children (zero to five) and their families.

Community use of the AEDI results

Development of an Early Years Framework

The AEDI results reinforced the need for preschool services to clearly articulate the approach to assisting and meeting the developmental needs of children. The Early Years Framework consists of three major strands of learning with values and principles embedded in each strand. The framework describes the knowledge, skills and behaviours considered essential in the development of children.

Strategic planning – Hume City Family and Children's Plan

The AEDI results helped identify the need to provide additional support to parents (to supplement individual programs or services). Programs shaped by the AEDI results include *Bilingual Storytime* and *Mother Goose*, which are designed to empower parents to assist with language, communication, social and physical development.

Informing new initiatives, projects and programs

The AEDI results helped identify needs that could be serviced by re-orienting funding. Accordingly, funds were directed to employing a child psychologist. The AEDI also identified that there are a proportion of children vulnerable in the Language and Cognitive Skills and Communication Skills and General Knowledge domains, so additional speech therapy services were structured as an enhanced early intervention program.

A Partnership approach

The AEDI results created a partnership approach to improve early years outcomes. They provided a detailed understanding of the developmental needs of local children. The community found having the evidence was liberating and enabled people to have a positive focus and recognise the issues. The results prompted discussion and a shared solution to the early years.

Positive outcomes

- The AEDI was implemented at a time when there were additional funds in the municipality to respond with innovative approaches. These included the Commonwealth governments Communities for Children intervention and the Victorian governments Best Start initiative.
- The 'prior to school entry' system and the school system have strengthened their links.
- Hume City Council now has an Early Years Framework as part of its preschool system.
- The State Government has invested additional funding support for playgroups

'The AEDI results confirmed anecdotal comments of local educators'

Challenges

- Responses to the AEDI results have been resourced by *Communities for Children* brokerage dollars and continued funding for this initiative has not been determined.
- There can be challenges for a community when constantly being identified as having poor results/outcomes.

Hume City Council – Telephone (03) 9205 2200

For more information go to www.aedi.org.au