

The AEDI in Action

Case Study: City of Cockburn Western Australia



AEDI Participation

Year of completion:	2006
Number of primary schools:	17
Number of children:	611
Number of teachers:	35



'We started a dialogue with the Department of Education concerning early intervention programs running in schools'

Communication of the AEDI results to the wider community

The AEDI results were communicated to community members and stakeholders through forums. A follow-up meeting was held in response to the AEDI results and a Children's Interest Group was formed. This group allows services to find out what others are doing in the community and enables services to work more collaboratively. Feedback suggests that these collaborations have had a positive impact on the area and on issues of concern.

Community use of the AEDI results

Children's Interest Group

A Children's Interest Group which focuses on the AEDI results and early intervention meets once a term and involves information sharing about early intervention programs operating in Cockburn, especially in schools.

Strategic planning – Municipal Early Years Plan (MEYP)

Local hubs were set up in two areas to operate on a weekly basis providing parents and their children with support, information and a place to meet other local parents. Child health nurses are available to offer information about child health and development and family services are available to provide support through counselling, information, advocacy and referrals. Feedback indicated families benefited from the interaction with other families and community workers.

Primary school Holiday Program

Using the AEDI results, combined with reports of antisocial behaviour, the City of Cockburn implemented a holiday program for primary school aged children which operated in the December/January holidays and the June/July holidays.

Early years groups and partnerships

The AEDI results showed a number of suburbs in which children were found to be developmentally vulnerable. An early years group had been operating in two of these areas since early 2006. After the AEDI results were released, a Better Start Young group was formed, which produced forums and regular newsletters where organisations could share information and work collaboratively on projects.

Positive outcomes

- The AEDI allowed the prioritising of resources, staff, money, time (and energy).
- The AEDI brought groups together who had not worked together previously.
- The results started a dialogue with the Department of Education regarding early intervention programs running in schools.
- The AEDI provided baseline data and information to support funding applications.

'Having the local school on board seemed to make a difference between whether action took place or not'

Challenges

Obtaining funding was successful for smaller projects; however, there was a lack of funding to put into place all the services that are needed, or to expand current services for the growing population.

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



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