

The AEDI in Action

Case Study: City of Greater Geelong Victoria



AEDI Participation

Year of completion:	2005
Number of primary schools:	57
Number of children:	2,135
Number of teachers:	117



'The AEDI identified significant issues and challenges that wouldn't have been otherwise highlighted'

Communication of the AEDI results

The AEDI results were presented at various forums and network meetings including school principal networks, government department forums, and early childhood services. These provided an opportunity to explain and analyse the data and consider local implications and issues. The community recognised the AEDI provides significant evidence about local children's early development and a valuable tool to assist in planning and advocacy in response to local needs and priorities.

Community use of the AEDI results

Development of networks and partnerships

The AEDI was an important catalyst for the development of a number of early years networks, forums and alliances across the municipality. These included: Geelong Children and Family's Round Table, Children's Early Learning & Education Strategy Group, Children's Health & Wellbeing Strategy Group and local area Early Years networks and forums.

Strategic planning – Municipal Early Years Plan (MEYP)

The AEDI results were used to inform the MEYP, providing a stronger foundation to strategically plan and prioritise local interventions, services and programs for young children and families. The results were also incorporated into the Municipal Public Health Plan and other council strategic plans.

Supporting existing initiatives, projects and programs

The AEDI results helped to strategically plan and target existing programs toward communities with the poorest results. *Kids Go For Your Life* was targeted at communities where children were vulnerable on the Physical Health and Wellbeing domain, and *Let's Read* was targeted at communities where children were vulnerable on the Language and Cognitive Skills and Communication Skills and General Knowledge domains.

Local organisation strategic planning

The AEDI results have been extensively used by other local organisations for the purposes of strategic planning and service development. A range of specific interventions and new service initiatives have occurred as a direct result of this planning.

Positive outcomes

- Increased investment of funding and resources into early childhood services and programs.
- Increased community attention and awareness about the importance of young children and the key contributors to children's early development.
- Development of a cohesive social planning framework to inform planning, policy and services.

Challenges

- Limited capacity to work simultaneously across a large and diverse municipal area to address identified needs.
- Lack of available funding and resources.
- The need to adopt a more effective integrated community response to the issues raised.
- Some service providers questioned the results as an accurate reflection of local children's development.
- Misrepresentation of AEDI results in the media.

'The AEDI results initiated further investigation and analysis of local issues'

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



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