

# The AEDI in Action

## Case Study: Gold Coast Queensland



Image courtesy of Queensland Health 2008

### AEDI Participation

Year of completion:	2005
Number of primary schools:	26
Number of children:	2,110
Number of teachers:	100



‘Our initial involvement in the AEDI was to gain baseline data to inform government and community planning’

### Communication of the AEDI results

A community training session and post-report consultancy was organised to discuss the AEDI results. A range of community members and organisations attended and feedback after the training session suggested that it was valuable for the community in understanding and interpreting the results. The community received the results very positively and most found them consistent with community expectations.

### Community use of the AEDI results

#### Informing local programs and services

The AEDI results were used to inform and guide the services and programs of the Nerang Early Years Service Centre. The Centre provides families with children aged zero to eight a place they can access a range of supports and services to improve their children’s health, wellbeing and safety.

#### Supporting existing services, projects and programs

The Child, Youth and Family Health service used the AEDI results to determine how their team/service could assess children earlier than school entry – a strategy that was included in their 2008 Operational Plan.

#### Supporting funding applications

The AEDI results supported successful funding applications for two key projects: a Growing Years ‘pre-birth to one’ project focusing on parenting, especially nutrition and physical activity, and APPIS (Age-Paced Parent Information System), an age-paced early childhood health and development reminder system where information is provided to parents on child development in the first year of life through the Small Talk newsletter.

#### Community mapping

A mapping consultant was contracted to map key community resources over the AEDI results using a Geographical Information System (GIS). An analyst will be employed to conclude the relationship between the allocation of community resources and the AEDI results.

### Positive outcomes

- The AEDI results, coupled with international literature searches, have been used to advocate for enhanced quality initiatives for the early years.
- Bringing members of the community and a wide variety of organisations together during results dissemination and generating on-going group contact. The potential for joint early childhood investments are continually being discussed.

‘The AEDI was a key informant to planning and prioritisation of local issues’

### Challenges

- The community were keen to use the results but the main barriers were around human and financial resources.
- Existing commitments and program/service funding guidelines already in place limited the capacity to be flexible.
- Some of the results being used out of context, for example areas being compared although not all postcodes have completed the AEDI.

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For more information go to [www.aedi.org.au](http://www.aedi.org.au)