

# The AEDI in Action

## Case Study: Mt DrUITT & surrounds

### New South Wales



#### AEDI Participation

Year of completion:	2006
Number of primary schools:	20
Number of children:	2,508
Number of teachers:	65



'The AEDI results were used to support service re-development and target locations for service delivery'

#### Communication of the AEDI results

In disseminating the AEDI results, care needed to be taken to explain that the AEDI results were based on children's residential address. It was also important to point out the variation in population size between suburbs and that these proportions represented a wide range of numbers of children.

#### Community use of the AEDI results

##### Development of networks and partnerships

An Early Years Planning Group was developed to conduct research and advocate for quality early childhood education opportunities including community supported playgroups. The group came together to consider the AEDI results and other local information. They have developed an action plan, including a research project, to investigate the reasons parents do not access services for their children prior to school entry.

##### Strategic planning

The AEDI results and the Early Years Planning research findings and recommendations were incorporated into relevant service/area plans that set strategic direction for local service delivery.

##### Informing new initiatives, projects and programs

The AEDI results have been used to inform a range of local initiatives to promote healthy childhood development including:

- Physical activity opportunities
- Healthy nutrition including breastfeeding
- Smoke-free environments
- Antenatal maternal health & nutrition.

##### Community mapping

The AEDI helped map and strengthen pathways between schools, early childhood community services and families and implement strategies so that developmental issues can be detected and addressed in a timely manner.

#### Positive outcomes

- All the initiatives listed above were only possible because of participation in the AEDI – they were all developed in response to the AEDI results.
- Increased knowledge of how agencies can work more collaboratively.

#### Challenges

- The health sector has struggled with the necessary resources to deliver services at the level required to reach all vulnerable children and with a shortage of appropriate, accessible venues in which to deliver outreach services.
- The AEDI has helped re-focus target areas but there remains difficulty in reaching all vulnerable children.

'A school addressed their transition program and now offers 2x 2-hour sessions over 20 weeks'

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



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