

The AEDI in Action

Case Study: Nerang Queensland



AEDI Participation

Year of completion:	2007
Number of primary schools:	9
Number of children:	641
Number of teachers:	27



'The AEDI results can support existing programs and new initiatives that are tackling local issues'

Communication of the AEDI results

Presentations were made to a range of professional and community groups where the AEDI results were shown and the ways of initiating responses to the results were discussed.

Community use of the AEDI results

Development of networks and partnerships

Using the AEDI results, Nerang Primary School set up a Community Advisory Committee to work together in identifying vulnerable families from school settings. The committee is responsible for holding case conferences to look at wrapping services around families. An Early Years Partnership project has also been established in response to the AEDI results. This project will investigate further each of the AEDI domains.

Supporting existing initiatives, projects and programs

The North Gold Coast Early Years Centre began operating in Nerang in March 2008. The Early Years Centre provides universal and some targeted programs to families with children aged zero to eight years. Programs and activities offered have been tailored to suit the vulnerabilities identified in the AEDI.

Informing new initiatives, projects and programs

The development of the Early Language Initiative was driven by the AEDI results. The project is designed to address early language problems by training child care staff to recognise the importance of language development and work with children and parents in strategies/interactions that promote language development.

Individual school use of AEDI results

Some local schools looked more closely at their own results and considered issues families were facing that could contribute to children's outcomes. They became proactive in trying to intervene earlier in children's lives and looked for more resources and ways to work together. For example, a principal made a presentation to the local council and tried to harness council involvement in making the area more focused on children.

Positive outcomes

- The AEDI takes a whole population approach to make a difference for children.
- There was much interest in understanding what the community could do to turn things around.
- The AEDI gave valid and reliable data to support programs and initiatives that are tackling early childhood issues.

'A number of local projects and initiatives are a direct result of the AEDI'

Challenges

- While there was initially much interest in the AEDI results, maintaining the enthusiasm to act on the AEDI results was difficult.
- There was a feeling in the community that some areas did not have the resources required to act on the AEDI results and that the amount of support families require to provide a scaffold for children was significant.

North Gold Coast Early Years Centre—Telephone (07) 5578 1346

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



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