

The AEDI in Action

Case Study: Wellington Shire Victoria



AEDI Participation

Year of completion:	2006
Number of primary schools:	25
Number of children:	440
Number of teachers:	32



'The Partnership is committed to ensuring all children have the same opportunities to prepare for school'

Communication of the AEDI results

The AEDI data have been distributed mostly among professionals in the community. The results have been generally well received, as long as people understand the data and comprehend the purpose of collection.

Community use of the AEDI results

Informing existing networks and partnerships

The Wellington 'Working Together' Partnership has been providing early learning opportunities for children and their families since 2005. The Partnership has endorsed and supported a number of projects and programs, including the Best Start 'Going to School Ready to Learn' working group which focuses on providing support to children prior to entering the school system. The Partnership has ensured that the AEDI data is given weight and that discussions about the data continue.

The local zero to eight years network also discussed the AEDI results and formed platform to discuss common concerns that early childhood and school professionals have around children's language and communication skills.

Strategic planning and an AEDI Working group

The AEDI results provided evidence about issues professionals have been raising and discussing for a long time. A working group of relevant services came together to analyse the AEDI data and are working on tasks and projects to address the issues identified. There is now a strong basis for action plans to support children and families to prepare for school. The existing partnership ensures that the needs identified by the AEDI data are included in planning.

The AEDI data provided the Going to School Ready to Learn group with practical information on where to target initiatives for implementation. This group used the data to seek support from the local TAFE to make a DVD featuring parents to promote the importance of talking, singing and reading to young children.

Further investigation

The Partnership is now further investigating the strengths and weaknesses of particular areas and how those have impacted on the results. For example how the availability of playgroups, kindergartens and childcare for children, the level of service systems, and other issues for the community, may have impacted on the AEDI results. The AEDI results will also be used regionally to support future planning for programs and services at their most strategic location.

Positive outcomes

- The AEDI provides strong data and evidence to address local issues.
- The formation of a specific AEDI working group.
- Having the pre-existing groups and structure to facilitate further investigation into identified issues and to start responding to the results.

'The AEDI data provides up-to-date evidence that is location specific'

Challenges

- The Wellington Shire required support funding for responding to the results and this limited the capacity for intensive follow up.

Wellington Working Together Partnership

Facilitated by Kilmany UnitingCare – Telephone (03) 5144 7777

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



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