

The AEDI in Action

Case Study: Central/Eastern Wheatbelt Western Australia



AEDI Participation

Year of completion:	2006
Number of primary schools:	24
Number of children:	432
Number of teachers:	28



'The AEDI is the first comprehensive data set in these communities which indicates how well young children are developing'

Communication of the AEDI results

The results were communicated through a training and information day, funded by the Eastern Wheatbelt Early Years Network project. Communities were invited to attend the day to learn how to examine and interpret the AEDI data. The session was very valuable and gave communities an opportunity to analyse their data and have face-to-face support in this process.

Community use of the AEDI results

Development of networks and partnerships

New partnerships were developed to implement responses to the AEDI. Partnerships included agencies and organisations such as the District Education Office, Public Health Unit, Primary Health Service, Early Years Reference Group, school principals and early childhood teachers from participating schools.

Supporting funding applications

The Southern Cross/Yilgarn Early Years Group lobbied the shire to adopt the Better Beginnings program and obtained a small grant to purchase reading material and children's resources for waiting areas in community venues such as doctor's surgeries and hairdressers. The objective is to promote early speech and literacy.

Informing early learning programs

The Bruce Rock District High School Early Learning Program for children aged zero to four years has added some fine motor skills activities to their early learning program in response to data reflected in their AEDI results.

Support identification of local needs and issues

The AEDI results helped communities identify issues which they were addressing well in their communities, and other areas they could enhance. Some communities are using the AEDI data along with other local knowledge to concentrate on addressing specific areas of need.

Positive outcomes

- The opportunity to receive mapped data which gave an indication of the development of young children in the community.
- The data was useful in supporting grant and funding applications.

Challenges

- Determining the level that communities have responded to the AEDI results over such a varied and wide area.
- Mobilising all groups in a community to work towards addressing areas highlighted in the AEDI data.
- Ensuring schools understand the results reflect how the child has developed prior to school entry, and is not a reflection of the school.

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



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