

FACT SHEET

Australian Early Development Census

What is the Australian Early Development Census?

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) is a population measure of young children's development. The AEDC is a nationwide data collection of early childhood development at the time children commence their first year of full-time school. The AEDC highlights what is working well and what needs to be improved or developed to support children and their families by providing evidence to support health, education and community policy and planning.

AEDC data are reported and analysed on where children live at the local community level - not where the school is located. AEDC results are geographically mapped to illustrate patterns of strengths and vulnerabilities of children based on the scores from the prep teacher-completed instrument. The instrument collects data relating to five key domains of early childhood development:

- Physical health and well-being
- Social competence
- Emotional maturity
- Language and cognitive skills
- Communication skills and general knowledge

What does the AEDC mean for Catholic education?

The AEDC is implemented every three years, with the 2018 AEDC being the fourth data collection. All Catholic schools in Queensland completed the AEDC instrument in 2009, 2012 and 2015. Teachers are provided with professional development and teacher release time to complete the AEDC instrument.

AEDC data is reported through - School Profiles which provide in-depth information about the cohort of children captured in a single year, and School Summaries which provide an overview of trend data for all collection cycles. Catholic schools are encouraged to implement strategies to support the identified needs of young children and develop collaborative partnerships with local early childhood education services and community agencies.

Links

For more information visit the [AEDC](https://aedic.gov.au) website.