

The Council for the Care of Children

Technical Report to support the monitoring framework, *Look out for young South Australians*

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Government
of South Australia

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	5
Use of existing data sources.....	6
DIMENSION: Young South Australians are healthy	7
DIMENSION: Young South Australians stay safe and are nurtured.....	8
DIMENSION: Young South Australians enjoy and achieve	10
DIMENSION: Young South Australians make a positive contribution..	11
DIMENSION: Young South Australians are prepared for adult life	12

Technical Report to support the monitoring framework, *Look out for Young South Australians*

As part of its mandated responsibility to report to government on the wellbeing of South Australian children, the Council for the Care of Children has developed a monitoring framework, *Look out for young South Australians*, in keeping with the Council's vision that,

'South Australian children are cherished, nurtured, respected and encouraged to be all that they can be, by their families, communities and government, and by all members of society.'

The report examines the wellbeing of South Australians aged less than 18 years across five dimensions of children's lives: health; safety; achievement and enjoyment of life; relationships with family, peers, community, culture and society; and preparedness for adulthood. Each dimension contains a number of areas of focus or 'indicators', and each indicator has at least one measure.

This document contains background material regarding the indicators, their measures, the data sources and notes that underpin the Council's monitoring framework.

THE FIVE DIMENSIONS OF YOUNG SOUTH AUSTRALIANS' LIVES

Young South Australians

- **are healthy** (*enjoying good physical and emotional health and living healthy lives*)
- **stay safe and are nurtured** (*being cared for and nurtured and protected from harm and neglect*)
- **enjoy and achieve** (*getting the most out of life and developing skills for life, according to their capabilities*)
- **make a positive contribution** (*being actively involved with their peers, families, culture, community and society, according to their capabilities*)
- **are prepared for adult life** (*gaining knowledge and skills to participate as adults and not being prevented by economic disadvantage from achieving in life*)

The Council for the Care of Children acknowledges the UK Government's *Every Child Matters* (UK Govt. 2003), from which this framework has been developed.

Use of existing data sources

Where possible, the monitoring framework uses existing data from sources that are reliable, and already collected and published on a regular basis. This means that there is no additional expense required for data collection.

In particular, indicators which are significant for policy reasons, and which are already in use to focus government policy attention on identified priorities for children's health, development and wellbeing have been included.

These indicators have been sourced from:

- i) *South Australia's Strategic Plan (SASP) - South Australia's Strategic Plan (SASP)* was launched by the Government of South Australia in March 2004 and updated in January 2007. Most of its targets have a 10 year timeframe for achievement. The Government committed to a report to the public every two years on progress against the Plan's targets;
- ii) the national *Headline Indicators for children's health, development and wellbeing*, developed with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) - in July 2006, this set of national, jurisdictionally agreed headline indicators to monitor the health, development and wellbeing of children in 19 priority areas was endorsed by Australian Health Ministers' Conference (AHMC), the Community and Disability Services Ministers' Conference (CDSMC) and the Australian Education Systems Officials' Committee (AESOC); and
- iii) the Productivity Commission's *Review of Government Services (PC ROGS)*.

Details of all indicators, their measures and the data sources are contained in the following tables. Source documents should be accessed for further details of definitional matters, survey limitations and data qualifications. The indicators will be refined over time as better measures and data sources become available.

As data sources improve, it is also hoped that the Council will be able to monitor over time the wellbeing of specific groups of children in South Australia at risk of poorer outcomes, such as those in the care and protection system, those who identify as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin, those who are socioeconomically disadvantaged, and those with a disability.

DIMENSION: Young South Australians are healthy

ACHIEVABLE OUTCOME	INDICATOR	MEASURE AND BASELINE DATE (BL)	DATA SOURCE AND NOTES*
Optimal development before birth	State infant mortality rate is less than the national average	Number of deaths per 1,000 live born infants less than 1 year of age Number of deaths per 1,000 Aboriginal live born infants less than 1 year of age [BL = 2002-06]	SA Strategic Plan (SASP) target [T6.3] National Headline indicator Source: <i>SA Strategic Plan Progress report 2008</i>
	Increase the proportion of healthy birthweight babies (>2500gm) particularly for Aboriginal births	Percentage of live born infants of low birthweight (<2500gm) Percentage of live born Aboriginal infants of low birthweight (<2500gm) [BL = 2006]	SA Strategic Plan (SASP) target [T6.3] National Headline indicator Source: <i>SA Strategic Plan Progress report 2008</i>
Children have a healthy start to life	Increase the proportion of children on the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register who are fully immunised at 2 years of age	Percentage of children on the Australian Childhood Immunisation Register who are fully immunised at 2 years of age [BL = September 2008]	National Headline indicator Source: Australian Childhood Immunisation Register
	Increase the proportion of mothers breastfeeding their infants at age 6 months	Percentage of mothers breastfeeding at their infant's six month check [BL = Jan-Mar 2008]	SA Strategic Plan (SASP) target [T6.3 supp. measure] Source: <i>SA Strategic Plan Progress report 2008</i>
Children are physically and emotionally healthy	Reduce the proportion of children at age 12 years with experience of permanent tooth decay	Percentage of children at age 12 years with experience of permanent tooth decay [BL = 2002]	National Headline indicator Source: AIHW DSRU Child Dental Health Surveys
	Reduce the proportion of children having current confirmed asthma	Percentage of all children aged 2–15 years reporting asthma as a current confirmed condition [BL = 2002-07]	National Headline indicator Source: SA Health - SAMSS Child health surveys
	Reduce the proportion of young children who are overweight or obese	Percentage of 4 year old children who are overweight or obese [BL = 2007]	SA Strategic Plan (SASP) target [T2.2 supp. measure] Source: <i>SA Strategic Plan Progress report 2008</i>
	Reduce the estimated number of children with a mental health problem	Estimated number of children aged 4-17 years using the 2006 Census for SA and the national prevalence estimate from the National Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing (1998) [BL = June 2006]	No current prevalence data are available for SA Source: <i>SA Health - South Australia: Our health and our health services, 2008</i>
Children have health-promoting behaviours	Reduce proportion of school students aged 12-17 years reporting regular cigarette smoking	Percentage of school students aged 12-17 years reporting having smoked tobacco in the previous 7 days (current smoker) [BL = 2005]	SA Strategic Plan (SASP) target [T2.1] Source: Australian School Students' Alcohol and Drugs Survey (ASSAD)
	Decrease proportion of school students aged 12-17 years reporting potentially unsafe or binge-drinking behaviour	Percentage of school students aged 12-17 years reporting potentially unsafe or binge-drinking behaviour (consumption of 5 or more drinks on at least one occasion in the previous two weeks) [BL = 2005]	Source: Australian School Students' Alcohol and Drugs Survey (ASSAD)

*All source documents should be accessed for further definitional matters, survey limitations and data qualifications

DIMENSION: Young South Australians stay safe and are nurtured

ACHIEVABLE OUTCOME	INDICATOR	MEASURE AND BASELINE DATE (BL)	DATA SOURCE AND NOTES
Children are safe from injury	Reduce the age-specific death rate from all injuries for children aged 0-14 years	Injury death rate for children aged 0-14 years (rate per 100,000 population) [BL = 2004-06]	National Headline indicator Source: AIHW National Mortality Database
Children are safe from abuse, neglect and violence	Reduce the rate of children aged 0-16 years who are the subjects of child protection substantiations	Rate of children aged 0-16 years who are the subjects of child protection substantiations in a given year (rate per 1,000 population) For all children, Aboriginal children and non-Indigenous children Substantiation rate refers to finalised investigations where harm or risk of harm is substantiated [BL = 2007-08]	National Headline indicator Source: AIHW Child Protection Database; cited in the <i>Report on Government Services 2009</i> (Productivity Commission)
	Reduce the proportion of children aged 0-16 years who are the subject of a decision not to substantiate a child protection notification during the year and are also the subject of a subsequent substantiation within 3 and 12 months	Percentage of children aged 0-16 years who are the subject of a decision not to substantiate a child protection notification during the year and are also the subject of a subsequent substantiation within 3 and 12 months The year reported relates to the year of the initial decision not to substantiate Reported as a proportion of all children who were the subject of a substantiation [BL = 2006-07]	The measure is an agreed national indicator of improved safety Source: <i>Report on Government Services 2009</i> (Productivity Commission)
	Monitor the number of children aged less than 5 years admitted to out-of-home care	Number of children aged less than 5 years admitted to out-of-home care [BL = 2007-08]	Source: AIHW Child Protection Database
	Monitor the number of children aged 0-14 years on care and protection orders; and the rate for children aged 0-17 years per 1,000 children	Number of children aged 0-14 years on care and protection orders on a given date [BL = 30 June 2008] Rate for children aged 0-17 years on care and protection orders per 1,000 children For all children, Aboriginal children and non-Indigenous children [BL = 30 June 2008]	Source: AIHW Child Protection Database
Children are safe from crime and anti-social behaviour	Reduce the number of children aged 0-17 years who are victims of an offence (excluding sexual offences)	Number of children aged 0-17 years who are victims of an offence reported to Police (excluding sexual offences) [BL = 2006]	Source: Office of Crime Statistics, SA Dept. of Justice
	Reduce the number of children aged 0-17 years who are victims of a sexual offence	Number of children aged 0-17 years who are victims of a sexual offence reported to Police [BL = 2006]	Source: Office of Crime Statistics, SA Dept. of Justice
Children have stability, security and are cared for	Monitor the number of children aged 0-17 years providing a caring role for a family member	Estimated number of children aged 0-17 years providing a caring role for a family member; include estimated numbers aged under 15 years and under 9 years [BL = 2006]	Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing
	Increase the proportion of children aged 0-17 years in out-of-home care in continuous placement for 5 years or more	Percentage of children aged 0-17 years in out-of-home care in continuous placement for 5 years or more [BL = 30 June 2008]	Source: AIHW Child Protection Database

ACHIEVABLE OUTCOME	INDICATOR	MEASURE AND BASELINE DATE (BL)	DATA SOURCE AND NOTES
	Increase the number of mothers and fathers commencing a first-time parents' course	Number of mothers and fathers commencing a first-time parents' course [BL = 2007]	SA Strategic Plan (SASP) target [T6.3 supp. measure] Source: <i>SA Strategic Plan Progress report 2008</i>

DIMENSION: Young South Australians enjoy and achieve

ACHIEVABLE OUTCOME	INDICATOR	MEASURE AND BASELINE DATE (BL)	DATA SOURCE AND NOTES
Children's developmental experience of early childhood is enriched	Increase the proportion of 4 year old children enrolled in DECS-funded Preschools, Integrated Centres and Children's Centres	Percentage of 4 year old children enrolled in DECS-funded Preschools, Integrated Centres and Children's Centres [BL = 2007]	Source: DECS Annual Report
	Increase the proportion of Aboriginal children aged 3 years enrolled in preschool	Percentage of Aboriginal children aged 3 years enrolled in preschool [BL = Term 2, 2007]	Source: DECS Annual Report
	Increase the proportion of special needs children aged 3-5 years attending government or community provided preschool services	Percentage of special needs children aged 3-5 years attending government or community provided preschool services: with a disability; from non-English-speaking backgrounds; from regional areas; from remote areas; and from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds [BL = 2007-08]	Source: <i>Report on Government Services 2009</i> (Productivity Commission)
	Increase the proportion of special needs children aged 0-5 years attending approved child care services	Percentage of special needs children aged 0-5 years attending approved child care services: with a disability; from non-English-speaking backgrounds; from low income families; from regional areas; from remote areas; and from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds [BL = 2006]	Source: <i>Report on Government Services 2009</i> (Productivity Commission)
Children's experience of learning is positive	Increase the proportion of children reading at an age appropriate level or better by the end of Year 1	Percentage of children reading at an age appropriate level or better by the end of Year 1 [BL = 2007]	SA Strategic Plan (SASP) target [T6.2] Source: DECS; cited in <i>SA Strategic Plan Progress report 2008</i>
	Increase the proportion of Aboriginal children reading at an age appropriate level or better by the end of Year 1	Percentage of Aboriginal children reading at an age appropriate level or better by the end of Year 1 [BL = 2007]	SA Strategic Plan (SASP) target [T6.18] Source: DECS; cited in <i>SA Strategic Plan Progress report 2008</i>
Children learn effectively and develop life skills according to their capabilities	Increase the proportion of children aged 5-14 years who use a computer (excluding use of the Internet) and access the Internet	Percentage of children aged 5-14 years who use a computer (excluding use of the Internet) and access the Internet [BL = 2006]	Source: ABS Children's Participation in Culture and Leisure Activities Survey; cited in <i>ABS - Arts and Culture in Australia: A Statistical Overview, 2008</i>
	Increase the proportion of students achieving national benchmarks in reading, writing and numeracy at years 3, 5 and 7	Percentages of students achieving national benchmarks in reading, writing and numeracy at years 3, 5 and 7 [BL =2006]	SA Strategic Plan (SASP) targets [T6.12] [T6.13] [T6.14] Source: Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs; cited in <i>SA Strategic Plan Progress report 2008</i>
	Increase the proportion of 19 year olds who complete the SA Certificate of Education or equivalent	Percentage of 19 year olds who complete the SA Certificate of Education or equivalent [BL = 2007]	SA Strategic Plan (SASP) targets [T6.16] Source: <i>SA Strategic Plan Progress report 2008</i>
	Increase the proportion of students who receive a Tertiary Entrance Rank (TER) or equivalent with at least one of the following subjects: mathematics, physics or chemistry	Percentage of students who receive a Tertiary Entrance Rank (TER) or equivalent with at least one of the following subjects: mathematics, physics or chemistry [BL = 2007]	SA Strategic Plan (SASP) targets [T6.17] Source: <i>SA Strategic Plan Progress report 2008</i>

ACHIEVABLE OUTCOME	INDICATOR	MEASURE AND BASELINE DATE (BL)	DATA SOURCE AND NOTES
Children play and participate in recreational activities according to their capabilities	Increase the proportion of children aged 5-14 years who participate in an organised cultural activity outside of school hours (playing a musical instrument, singing, dancing or drama)	Percentage of children aged 5-14 years who participate in an organised cultural activity outside of school hours (playing a musical instrument, singing, dancing or drama) [BL = 2006]	Source: ABS Children's Participation in Culture and Leisure Activities Survey; cited in ABS - <i>Arts and Culture in Australia: A Statistical Overview, 2008</i>
	Increase the proportion of children aged 5-14 years who participate in an organised sport outside of school hours	Percentage of children aged 5-14 years who participate in an organised sport outside of school hours [BL = 2006]	Source: ABS Children's Participation in Culture and Leisure Activities Survey; cited in ABS - <i>Arts and Culture in Australia: A Statistical Overview, 2008</i>
	Increase the proportion of children aged 5-14 years who read for pleasure	Percentage of children aged 5-14 years who read for pleasure [BL = 2006]	Source: ABS Children's Participation in Culture and Leisure Activities Survey; cited in ABS - <i>Arts and Culture in Australia: A Statistical Overview, 2008</i>
	Monitor the proportion of children aged 5-14 years and their three most popular leisure activities in the previous two weeks	Percentage of children aged 5-14 years and their three most popular leisure activities (watching TV, videos or DVDs; reading for pleasure; playing electronic or computer games) in the previous two weeks [BL = 2006]	Source: ABS Children's Participation in Culture and Leisure Activities Survey; cited in ABS - <i>Arts and Culture in Australia: A Statistical Overview, 2008</i>

DIMENSION: Young South Australians make a positive contribution

ACHIEVABLE OUTCOME	INDICATOR	MEASURE AND BASELINE DATE (BL)	DATA SOURCE AND NOTES
Children engage in decision-making	Increase the number of young people aged 12 to 17 years on the Youth Participation Register	Number of young people aged 12 to 17 years on the Youth Participation Register [BL = September 2008]	Source: Youth Participation Register
Children are involved in community activities	Increase the proportion of children aged 5-14 years who attend a cultural venue and/or a performing arts event	Percentage of children aged 5-14 years who attend a cultural venue (i.e., visited a public library, art gallery or museum) and/or a performing arts event [BL = 2006]	Source: ABS Children's Participation in Culture and Leisure Activities Survey; cited in ABS - <i>Arts and Culture in Australia: A Statistical Overview, 2008</i>
Children engage in positive behaviour	Monitor the number of children aged 10-17 years who receive a formal police caution or attend a family conference or the Youth Court	Number of children aged 10-17 years who receive a formal police caution or attend a family conference or the Youth Court [BL = 2006]	Source: Office of Crime Statistics, Department of Justice
	Monitor the number of children aged 10-17 years under juvenile justice supervision	Number of children aged 10-17 years under juvenile justice supervision (include juvenile detention, community supervision or both) [BL = 2006-07]	Source: AIHW Juvenile Justice Database

DIMENSION: Young South Australians are prepared for adult life

ACHIEVABLE OUTCOME	INDICATOR	MEASURE AND BASELINE DATE (BL)	DATA SOURCE AND NOTES
Children's material needs are met	Reduce the proportion of children aged less than 15 years living in jobless families	Percentage of children aged less than 15 years living in jobless families [BL = 2006]	Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing
	Reduce the proportion of children aged less than 16 years living in welfare-dependent or other low income households	Percentage of children aged less than 16 years living in welfare-dependent or other low income households [BL = June 2006]	Source: SA Social Health Atlas 2008 (online)
	Monitor the proportion of accompanying children 0-15 years turned away on an average day from the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) because their need for accommodation cannot be met	Percentage of accompanying children 0-15 years turned away on an average day from the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) because their need for accommodation cannot be met [BL = 2006-07]	Source: <i>Report on Government Services 2009</i> (Productivity Commission)
	Reduce the rate of homelessness; and reduce the estimated number of children aged 12-18 years who are homeless	Rate of homelessness per 10,000 population Estimated number of children aged 12-18 years who are homeless [BL = 2006]	Source - ABS National Census of Homeless School Students and SAAP Client Collection; cited in <i>ABS Counting the Homeless 2006</i>
Children live in sustainable communities	Increase the proportion of children aged 5-14 years who go bike-riding outside of school hours	Percentage of children aged 5-14 years who go bike-riding outside of school hours [BL = 2006]	Source: ABS Children's Participation in Culture and Leisure Activities Survey; ; cited in ABS - <i>Arts and Culture in Australia: A Statistical Overview, 2008</i>
Children are ready to engage in further education, employment or training, according to their capabilities	Increase the proportion of 15-19 year olds engaged fulltime in school, work or further education and training	Percentage of 15-19 year olds engaged fulltime in school, work or further education and training [BL = April 2008]	SA Strategic Plan (SASP)target [T6.15] Source: <i>SA Strategic Plan Progress report 2008</i> (from ABS Labour force survey spreadsheets, April 2008 Cat no. 6202.0.55.001)