



The Council for the
Care of Children

**A snapshot of young
South Australians**

Third edition | 30 June 2015



**Government of
South Australia**

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**Government of
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A snapshot of young South Australians

"To improve something, first measure it" (UNICEF 2007).

In 2009 the Council for the Care of Children developed a monitoring framework as part of the Council's responsibility to report on the wellbeing of children and young people in South Australia.

A snapshot of young South Australians, June 2015, is guided by the concept of 'child wellbeing' as underpinned by the *United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child* to which Australia is a signatory. The Convention includes developmental, participatory and protective obligations to fulfil, respect and protect children and young people at different stages in their lives.

Outcomes for our youngest citizens are not static. They result from the continuing interplay of resources and risk and protective factors. They relate to the individual and social situations of children and young people and their families, friends, the communities where they live and learn, and the wider society. Children and young people – with their considerable evolving capacities – are also active in their own wellbeing.

Assessing how well the youngest members of our society are doing can help us set priorities, serves as a guiding rail for keeping our efforts on track, giving early warning of failure or success, and makes us accountable for how well they are doing. In short, it allows us to celebrate successes and look to areas where further effort may be needed.

The first edition of the Council's framework in 2009 set a baseline to enable the monitoring, tracking and measuring of the wellbeing of children and young people over time. It set the measurement parameters to highlight areas of improvements or where more attention is required. The second edition of the framework in 2013 provided the first trend data.

This edition indicates that, overall, children and young people in South Australia continue to do well. Yet there remain areas of inequality and disadvantage particularly relating to Aboriginal children and young people, those living with disability and those who have experienced trauma in its various forms, and the impact of poverty and discrimination.

It has been challenging to bring information from many diverse, reliable and publically available sources together to develop a picture of the lives of young South Australians. There are a number of areas where reliable information is not available at the present time and other areas where measures could be improved including:

- more information about the long-term outcomes for children and young people with disability; children and young people in the care and protection system; Aboriginal children and young people; refugee children and young people; children and young people who live in rural and remote areas; and children and young people who are socioeconomically disadvantaged
- the views of young South Australians about the issues that affect them and which they believe are important
- information about young South Australians involved in volunteering, caring and those who are employed
- information about young South Australians and their relationships with their families, friends, carers, peer groups and others in their lives.

The priority for all who are concerned with the wellbeing of our youngest South Australians, wherever they are, whatever problems they face and wherever they live, is to make sure they have the opportunities for a good life.

What does the framework cover?

A snapshot of young South Australians, June 2015, examines the wellbeing of children and young people in South Australia across five dimensions of their 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.

Using these indicators, the present life and development, and the future life chances of children and young people are brought together, by looking both at the conditions under which they are doing well and not so well, and the outcomes that are being achieved.

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 social and economic disadvantage from achieving in life*)

The framework provides a basis for setting goals and monitoring young South Australians' progress and allows the Council to reflect upon the success of the efforts to improve the lives of children and young people including by children and young people themselves, their families, communities, organisations and governments.

The framework is an evolving tool which can be adapted as important issues emerge or new information becomes available.

While the focus aims to be on the outcomes for children and young people, there are areas where information is lacking and indicators reflecting service use have been substituted until there are better measures.

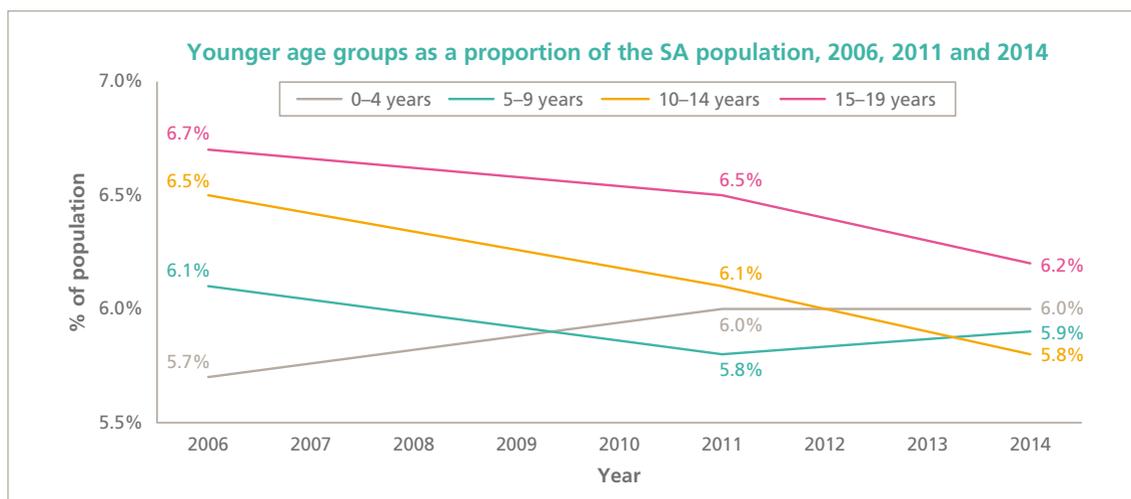
Full details of all measures and data sources can be found in the companion technical report on the Council's website at www.childrensa.sa.gov.au.

Young South Australians at a glance:

In 2014, children and young people aged 0–19 years made up 23.9% of the South Australian population (a total of 402,095 children and young people):

Age range	Proportion of the SA population in 2006	Proportion of the population in 2011	Proportion of the population in 2014
0–19 years	25.0% (392,051)	24.4% (390,184)	23.9% (402,095)
0–4 years	5.7%	6.0%	6.0%
5–9 years	6.1%	5.8%	5.9%
10–14 years	6.5%	6.1%	5.8%
15–19 years	6.7%	6.5%	6.2%

Since 2006, there has been a slight increase in the proportion of the population (0–4 years), stability in the proportion of the population (5–9 years) and the other age groups (10–14 years and 15–19 years) have declined somewhat, as illustrated by the figure below.



More detailed demographic information on young South Australians is expected from the 2016 ABS Census of Population and Housing. Meanwhile, several potential emerging trends are evident when comparing 2011 Census data with 2006 Census data:

- 10,551 children and young people aged 0–14 years identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin in 2011, an increase of more than 1,500 since 2006 (9,010)
- there were 177, 538 families with children and young people under 15 years, up from 171,000 in 2006
- one fifth (20.3%) of children and young people under 15 years were living in sole parent families in 2011, down slightly from 23.1% in 2006.

1. Young South Australians are healthy... enjoying good physical and emotional health and living healthy lives

The foundations for health and wellbeing are established early in life. Along with the genes inherited from parents and their own biology, children and young people grow, develop, experience and learn. These factors act in different ways on their physical and emotional health, their behaviours and their abilities to learn. They also help to set the pattern for health in adulthood.

Children and young people who have special needs and who live with disability, those who identify as Aboriginal, those who have experienced deprivation and trauma, and those with existing long-term illnesses are among young South Australians most likely to experience the poorest health and wellbeing.

Achievable outcomes

Optimal development before birth

- Low birthweight is a predictor of future health. A birthweight of less than 2.5 kilograms may leave a child susceptible to a range of health problems.
- A child's risk of dying is greatest around the time of birth and in the first year of life. Infant mortality rate is a key measure of a nation's population and child health.

A healthy start to life

- Immunisation is an effective means of preventing childhood death and illness, and reflects the capacity of health services.
- Breastfeeding increases immunity, protects against illness and strengthens infant development.

Develop health-promoting behaviours

- Attitudes and behaviours that are risky to health start when we are young; tobacco smoking and high-risk alcohol use are examples.

Children and young people are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy

- Good physical, mental and emotional health is essential to wellbeing throughout life.

Key indicators in SA

Domain: How healthy are young South Australians?					
Indicator	Measure	Baseline 2009	Update 1 June 2013	Update 2 June 2015	Trend
Optimal development before birth ^{1 2}	Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) per 1,000 live births for all infants	3.2 (2006)	3.8 (2010)	3.2 (2013)	☺
	IMR per 1,000 live births for Aboriginal infants	6.7 (2004–06)	4.6 (2008–10)	7.9 (2011–13)	☹
	IMR per 1,000 live births for non-Aboriginal infants	3.6 (2004–06)	3.4 (2008–2010)	2.7 (2011–13)	☺
	Low birthweight infants as a proportion of total live births (all births)	6.4% (2006)	6.8% (2010)	7.2% (2012)	☹
	Low birthweight infants as a proportion of total live births (Aboriginal births)	13.4% (2006)	16.0% (2010)	14.8% (2012)	☺
Children have a healthy start to life ^{3 4}	Proportion of all children fully immunised at 2 years #	92.8% (2008)	92.5% (2012)	90.6% (2014)	☺
	Proportion of Aboriginal children fully immunised at 2 years #	88.8% (2009)	87.6% (2011)	84.6% (2014)	☺
	Proportion of non-Aboriginal children fully immunised at 2 years #	Not included in 2009 report	92.8% (2011)	91.9% (2014)	☺
	Proportion of mothers who reported breastfeeding at their infant's six month check #	56.0% (2008)	55.0% (2009)	58.8% (2010)	☺
Children and young people have health-promoting behaviours	Proportion of students aged 12–17 years who reported smoking tobacco in the previous week	7.5% (2005)	4.7% (2011)	n.a.	...
	Proportion of students aged 12–17 years who reported consuming alcohol in the previous week	23.0% (2008)	15.0% (2011)	n.a.	...
	Proportion of students aged 12–17 years who reported potentially unsafe or binge-drinking behaviour	27.3% (2005)	n.a	n.a	...

1 **Infant mortality rate (IMR):** The IMR data are a volatile series due to the relatively small number of infant deaths registered and this is particularly so for Aboriginal infants.

2 **Low birthweight:** The low birthweight data are volatile over time; however, the SA Strategic Plan has cautiously interpreted a longer term trend towards improvement since 2003.

3 **# Immunisation rates:** The 2014 immunisation rates are **not comparable** to rates for the preceding periods as three additional immunisations were added to the list of vaccines a child needs to be considered fully immunised by two years of age.

4 **# Breastfeeding:** The breastfeeding data for 2010 is **not comparable** to earlier periods due to a change in source and definition.

Domain: How healthy are young South Australians?

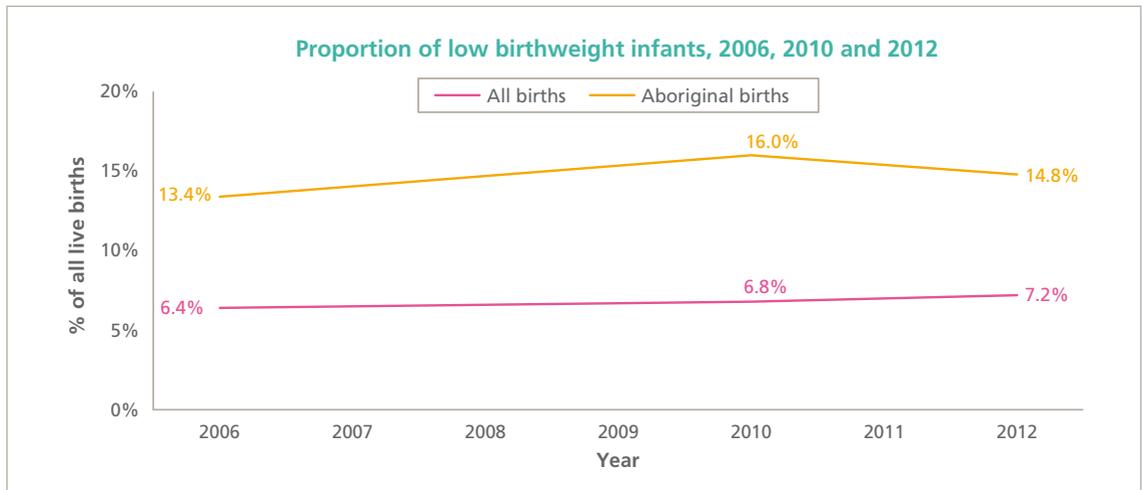
Indicator	Measure	Baseline 2009	Update 1 June 2013	Update 2 June 2015	Trend
Children and young people are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy	Proportion of 12 year-old children who had experienced some tooth decay in their permanent teeth	42.2% (2005)	34.2% (2007)	40.1% (2010)	☹️
	Proportion of children and young people aged 2–15 years reported as having asthma	16.9% (2002–07)	n.a	n.a.	...
	Proportion of children and young people aged 4–17 years estimated to have a mental health problem	14.1% (June 2006)	n.a	n.a.	...
	Proportion of 4 year old pre-school children reported as overweight	13.8% (2007)	13.8% (2010)	n.a.	...
	Proportion of 4 year old pre-school children reported as obese	5.0% (2007)	4.8% (2010)	n.a.	...

Key:

- 😊 = favourable trend
- ☹️ = unfavourable trend
- 😐 = no clear trend

- ... = no trend data available
- n.a. = no later equivalent data available
- # = changed conditions or definition

While many indicators of children’s health have remained relatively stable, the ongoing gap between birth outcomes for Aboriginal and non Aboriginal infants is particularly concerning, as illustrated by the figure below.



Current data on smoking tobacco, binge-drinking, asthma prevalence and prevalence of mental health problems in children and young people are needed to plan effectively for prevention, early intervention and treatment services.

The proportion of children in South Australia aged 5–17 years who are of a healthy weight has declined from 75.2% in 2009 to 74.4% in 2013 (SA Strategic Plan 2014–15 Progress Update) and the 2011–12 AIHW Children’s Headline Indicators obesity rates for South Australian children and young people are:

- 5–9 years (23.3%), 5–14 years (24.2%) and 10–14 years (23.3%)
- higher in children in one parent families (30.4% compared with 21.8%)
- greater in those from regional and remote areas (33.7%) compared with major cities (20.5%)
- greater in those of lowest socio-economic status (29.1%) compared with highest socio-economic status (13.1%).

2. Young South Australians stay safe and are nurtured... being well cared for and protected from harm and neglect

Children and young people rely on others to keep them safe and provide enriching social experiences. These are important for emotional wellbeing, healthy development, resilience to life stresses and the ability to form good relationships. Families need supportive environments so that they can nurture and protect their children. When families are unable to do so, alternative caring arrangements are required which can provide for the needs of children and young people.

Children and young people who are more vulnerable to injury, abuse, neglect or trauma include those who have special needs or a disability; those who are disadvantaged by poverty, poor parental health and education, or social isolation; and those who have already experienced trauma and dislocation from kin and country (such as some Aboriginal, refugee and homeless children and young people).

Achievable outcomes

Children and young people are safe from injury

- Although injuries are largely preventable, they remain a major cause of suffering and disability for children and young people.

Children and young people are safe from abuse, neglect and violence

- Abuse, neglect and violence in all their forms can have long-lasting consequences for children's and young people's physical and emotional wellbeing.

Children and young people are safe from anti-social behaviour and crime

- Children and young people are vulnerable as victims of anti-social behaviour and crime because of their relative powerlessness and evolving development.

Children and young people have stability, security and are cared for

- Children and young people need consistent, warm and responsive care in a stable, secure environment where they can develop and thrive.

Key indicators in SA

Domain: How safe and nurtured are young South Australians?					
Indicator	Measure	Baseline 2009	Update 1 June 2013	Update 2 June 2015	Trend
Children and young people are safe from injury	Injury death rate for children and young people aged 0–14 years per 100,000 population	7.4 (2004–06)	4.5 (2008–10)	4.7 (2011–13)	😊
Children and young people are safe from abuse, neglect and violence ⁵ #	Rate of child protection substantiations for all children and young people aged 0–17 years per 1,000 population	5.5 (2007–08)	5.1 (2010–11)	6.1 (2013–14)	😞
	Rate of child protection substantiations for Aboriginal children and young people aged 0–17 years per 1,000 population	48.4 (2007–08)	35.7 (2010–11)	43.4 (2013–14)	😞
	Rate of child protection substantiations for non-Aboriginal children and young people aged 0–17 years per 1,000 population	4.0 (2007–08)	3.9 (2010–11)	4.1 (2013–14)	😊
	Proportion of children and young people aged 0–16 years who were the subject of a decision not to substantiate and who were also the subject of a subsequent substantiation within 3 months	4.5% (2006–07)	5.8% (2010–11)	7.7% (2012–13)	😞
	Proportion of children and young people aged 0–16 years who were the subject of a decision not to substantiate and who were also the subject of a subsequent substantiation within 12 months	13.4% (2006–07)	13.1% (2010–11)	15.9% (2012–13)	😞
	Number of all children aged less than 5 years admitted to out-of-home care	284 (2007–08)	486 (2010–11)	195 (2013–14)	😊
	Number of all children and young people aged 0–14 years on care and protection orders	1,817 (at 30 June 2008)	2,144 (at 30 June 2011)	2,353 (at 30 June 2014)	😞

⁵ # **Child protection substantiations:** The child protection substantiation data above are **not fully comparable** across time as South Australia implemented a new client information system and policy and practice changes during 2009–10 and, for these particular measures the trend symbols only reflect improvement or deterioration since Update 1 in June 2013. The substantiation rate refers to finalised investigations where risk of harm is substantiated.

Domain: How safe and nurtured are young South Australians?

Indicator	Measure	Baseline 2009	Update 1 June 2013	Update 2 June 2015	Trend
Children and young people are safe from abuse, neglect and violence ^{5#} (continued)	Rate of all children and young people aged 0–17 years on care and protection orders per 1,000 population	6.2 (at 30 June 2008)	7.3 (at 30 June 2011)	7.8 (at 30 June 2014)	☹️
	Rate of Aboriginal children and young people aged 0–17 years on care and protection orders per 1,000 population	45.2 (at 30 June 2008)	51.8 (at 30 June 2011)	50.7 (at 30 June 2014)	😊
	Rate of non-Aboriginal children and young people aged 0–17 years on care and protection orders per 1,000 population	4.9 (at 30 June 2008)	5.5 (at 30 June 2011)	5.7 (at 30 June 2014)	😊
Children and young people are safe from anti-social behaviour and crime	Number of children and young people aged 0–17 years who were victims of an offence against the person reported to police (excluding sexual offences)	2,615 (2006)	1,972 (2012)	2,145 (2014)	😊
	Number of children and young people aged 0–17 years who were victims of a sexual offence reported to police	782 (2006)	639 (2012)	847 (2014)	☹️
Children and young people have stability, security and are cared for	Proportion of children and young people in out-of-home care in a continuous placement for 5 years or more	63.6% (at 30 June 2008)	67.3% (at 30 June 2011)	47.2% (at 30 June 2014)	☹️
	Number of mothers and fathers who commenced a first-time parents' course	1,977 (2007)	2,716 (2008)	n.a.	...
	Estimated number of children and young people under 18 years caring for a family member	14,800 (2006)	n.a.	n.a.	...
	Estimated number of children and young people under 15 years caring for a family member	10,200 (2006)	n.a.	n.a.	...
	Estimated number of children under 9 years caring for a family member	over 600 (2006)	n.a.	n.a.	...

Key: 😊 = favourable trend ... = no trend data available
 ☹️ = unfavourable trend n.a. = no later equivalent data available
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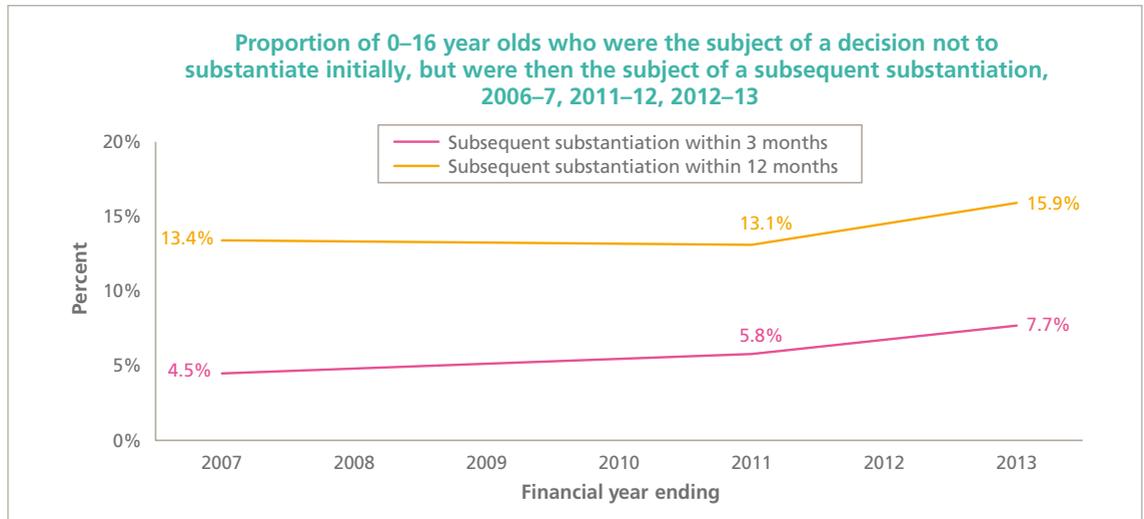
5 # **Child protection substantiations:** The child protection substantiation data above are **not fully comparable** across time as South Australia implemented a new client information system and policy and practice changes during 2009–10 and, for these particular measures the trend symbols only reflect improvement or deterioration since Update 1 in June 2013. The substantiation rate refers to finalised investigations where risk of harm is substantiated.

In 2011–13, the death by injury rate for children aged 0–14 in SA, per 100,000 population, was:

- highest for children aged 0–4 years (8.4); 5–9 years (2.1); and 10–14 years (3.4)
- more than twice as high for Aboriginal children (9.2), as non-Aboriginal children (4.2)
- higher in outer regional, remote/very remote areas (8.9) than in inner regional (5.2) and major cities (3.4).

Of concern is the increasing number of children and young people with substantiation of a previous notification of a child protection concern.

The figure below illustrates the proportion of children and young people from birth to 16 years of age who were the subject of a decision not to substantiate initially and who were the subject of a substantiation within three months or within 12 months.



The provision of out-of-home care continues to be an important aspect of the child protection system, although the data suggest that children and young people in care for five years or more, may be more likely to live in unstable placements.

Our understanding of other aspects of home life affecting a young person’s stability, security and care within the home, such as being required to act as a carer for another family member, is at present quite limited due to a lack of recent data.

3 Young South Australians enjoy and achieve... getting the most out of life and developing skills for life, according to their capabilities

Children and young people develop physical abilities, complex emotions and essential social skills from the first years of life. Early childhood is a key period for brain development, and a time of both potential and vulnerability. Learning opportunities, from pre-school through to secondary education and then to employment, influence future life chances as adults. Children and young people are also active partners in their own learning.

Children and young people who have special needs and who live with disability, those who identify as Aboriginal, those in the care and protection system, and those who are disadvantaged by low family income, caring responsibilities, trauma and discrimination, or geographic or social isolation are the ones who benefit most from effective early intervention services and increased family support.

Achievable outcomes

Children's developmental experience of early childhood is enriched

- Enriched experiences of the infant and young child provide an important foundation for their development.

Children's and young people's experience of learning is positive

- Children and young people who are encouraged, included and supported are more likely to enjoy learning, and less likely to leave school early.

Children and young people learn effectively and develop life skills according to their capabilities

- Children and young people who are able to learn effectively are more likely to gain confidence and skills that will equip them for later life.

Children and young people play and participate in recreational activities, according to their capabilities

- Play and recreational activities are important for children and young people to develop skills, learn how to interact with others and enjoy life.

Key indicators in SA

Domain: How are young South Australians enjoying and achieving?					
Indicator	Measure	Baseline 2009	Update 1 June 2013	Update 2 June 2015	Trend
Children's developmental experience of early childhood is enriched ⁶ #	Proportion of children who were developmentally vulnerable in one or more of five domains under the AEDC when they entered school	22.8% (2009)	23.7% (2012)	n.a.	...
	Proportion of children who were developmentally vulnerable in two or more of five domains under the AEDC when they entered school	11.5% (2009)	12.2% (2012)	n.a.	...
	Proportion of 4 year old children in South Australia enrolled in a quality preschool program in the year before fulltime school	87.6% (Term 2, 2007)	82.7% (Term 2, 2012)	88.0% (Term 2, 2014)	😊
	Proportion and number of 3 year old Aboriginal children enrolled in a quality preschool program in the year before fulltime school	71.0% or 474 (Term 2, 2007)	71.0% or 516 (Term 2, 2012)	61.4% or 548 (Term 2, 2014)	😞
	Proportion of special needs children aged 0–5 years attending approved child care services:				
	• Children with a disability	3.2% (2006)	2.9% (2010)	3.4% (2013)	😊
	• Children from non-English speaking backgrounds	9.2% (2006)	9.2% (2010)	12.4% (2013)	😊
	• Children living in low-income families	27.8% (2006)	24.3% (2010)	24.1% (2013)	😊
	• Children living in regional areas	20.8% (2006)	20.5% (2010)	17.2% (2013)	😞
	• Children living in remote areas	2.6% (2006)	2.2% (2010)	2.4% (2014)	😊
• Aboriginal children	2.3% (2006)	1.4% (2010)	1.7% (2014)	😊	

⁶ # **Enrolment:** The enrolment data should be used with caution as enrolment numbers in Government funded preschools in 2013 were affected by the transition from a quarterly intake to a single annual intake. Some children are now going to childcare centres which have accredited preschool programs and teachers as required by DECD.

Domain: How are young South Australians enjoying and achieving?

Indicator	Measure	Baseline 2009	Update 1 June 2013	Update 2 June 2015	Trend
Children's developmental experience of early childhood is enriched ⁶ # (continued)	Proportion of special needs children aged 3–5 years attending government funded preschool services:				
	• Children with a disability	15.5% (2007–08)	n.a.	13.2% (2013)	☹️
	• Children from non-English speaking backgrounds	10.5% (2007–08)	n.a.	10.5% (2013)	😊
	• Children living in regional areas	29.0% (2007–08)	n.a.	23.5% (2013)	☹️
	• Children living in remote areas	5.8% (2007–08)	n.a.	4.2% (2013)	☹️
	• Children from Aboriginal backgrounds	6.2% (2007–08)	n.a.	7.6% (2013)	😊
Children's and young people's experiences of learning are positive	Proportion of all Year 1 students who were reading at an age-appropriate level or better	67.9% (2007)	70.7% (2011)	74.5% (2013)	😊
	Proportion of Aboriginal Year 1 students who were reading at an age-appropriate level or better	29.8% (2007)	31.9% (2011)	40.8% (2013)	😊
Children and young people learn effectively and develop life skills according to their capabilities ⁷ #	Proportion of children and young people aged 5–14 years who accessed the Internet ⁸	65.0% (2006)	91.8% (2011)	91.8% (2012)	😊
	Proportion of all Year 3 students who achieved at or above national minimum standards in reading	93.0% (2006)	92.6% (2012)	91.8% (2014)	😊
	Proportion of Aboriginal Year 3 students who achieved at or above national minimum standards in reading	n.a.	72.5% (2012)	69.6% (2014)	☹️
	Proportion of all Year 3 students who achieved at or above national minimum standards in writing	92.0% (2006)	95.3% (2012)	91.8% (2014)	☹️

6 # **Enrolment:** The enrolment data should be used with caution as enrolment numbers in Government funded preschools in 2013 were affected by the transition from a quarterly intake to a single annual intake. Some children are now going to childcare centres which have accredited preschool programs and teachers as required by DECD.

7 # **National benchmarks/standards:** The definition has been refined from 'the proportion of students who achieved national benchmarks' to 'the proportion of students who achieved at or above national minimum standards'.

8 **Internet:** The 2012 data should be viewed with caution as the result for 2012 was identical to the result for 2011.

Domain: How are young South Australians enjoying and achieving?

Indicator	Measure	Baseline 2009	Update 1 June 2013	Update 2 June 2015	Trend
Children and young people learn effectively and develop life skills according to their capabilities ^{7 #} (continued)	Proportion of Aboriginal Year 3 students who achieved at or above national minimum standards in writing	n.a.	79.5% (2012)	70.7% (2014)	☹️
	Proportion of all Year 3 students who achieved at or above national minimum standards in numeracy	92.0% (2006)	91.9% (2012)	93.2% (2014)	😊
	Proportion of Aboriginal Year 3 students who achieved at or above national minimum standards in numeracy	73.0% (2006)	66.7% (2012)	71.7% (2014)	😊
	Proportion of all Year 5 students who achieved at or above national minimum standards in reading	88.0% (2006)	90.7% (2012)	91.6% (2014)	😊
	Proportion of Aboriginal Year 5 students who achieved at or above national minimum standards in reading	59.0% (2006)	63.8% (2012)	65.6% (2014)	😊
	Proportion of all Year 5 students who achieved at or above national minimum standards in writing	93.0% (2006)	90.6% (2012)	87.1% (2014)	☹️
	Proportion of Aboriginal Year 5 students who achieved at or above national minimum standards in writing	76.0% (2006)	65.7% (2012)	58.2% (2014)	☹️
	Proportion of all Year 5 students who achieved at or above national minimum standards in numeracy	88.0% (2006)	91.7% (2012)	91.8% (2014)	😐
	Proportion of Aboriginal Year 5 students who achieved at or above national minimum standards in numeracy	63.0% (2006)	66.8% (2012)	66.9% (2014)	😐
	Proportion of all Year 7 students who achieved at or above national minimum standards in reading	93.0% (2006)	93.7% (2012)	95.0% (2014)	😊

⁷ # **National benchmarks/standards:** The definition has been refined from 'the proportion of students who achieved national benchmarks' to 'the proportion of students who achieved at or above national minimum standards'.

Domain: How are young South Australians enjoying and achieving?

Indicator	Measure	Baseline 2009	Update 1 June 2013	Update 2 June 2015	Trend
Children and young people learn effectively and develop life skills according to their capabilities ⁷ # (continued)	Proportion of Aboriginal Year 7 students who achieved at or above national minimum standards in reading	71.0% (2006)	77.4 % (2012)	80.3% (2014)	😊
	Proportion of all Year 7 students who achieved at or above national minimum standards in writing	88.0% (2006)	90.2% (2012)	88.1% (2014)	😐
	Proportion of Aboriginal Year 7 students who achieved at or above national minimum standards in writing	59.0% (2006)	67.4% (2012)	60.4% (2014)	😞
	Proportion of all Year 7 students who achieved at or above national minimum standards in numeracy	87.0% (2006)	93.5% (2012)	94.8% (2014)	😊
	Proportion of Aboriginal Year 7 students who achieved at or above national minimum standards in numeracy	55.0% (2006)	74.1% (2012)	80.3% (2014)	😊
	Proportion of 19 year olds who completed the SA Certificate of Education (SACE) or equivalent	64.2% (2007)	75.2% (2011)	84.0% (2013)	😊
	Proportion of students who achieved an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) or equivalent with at least one of the following subjects: mathematics, physics or chemistry ⁹	35.0% (2007)	32.0% (2011)	30.6% (2013)	😞

⁷ # **National benchmarks/standards:** The definition has been refined from 'the proportion of students who achieved national benchmarks' to 'the proportion of students who achieved at or above national minimum standards'.

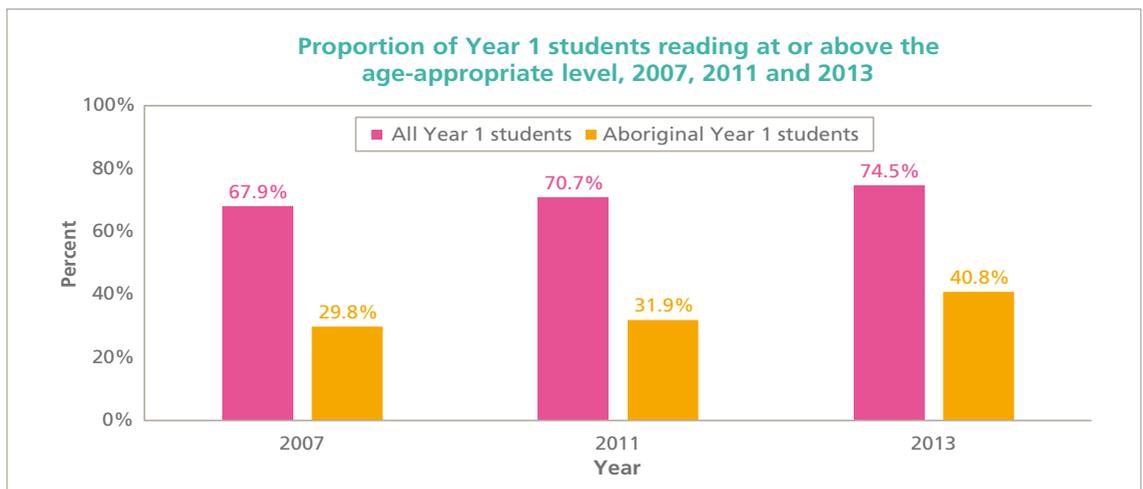
⁹ **ATAR:** The ATAR data represent all students who achieved an ATAR in SA for the respective reporting years and are not specific to young South Australians under 18 years of age.

Domain: How are young South Australians enjoying and achieving?

Indicator	Measure	Baseline 2009	Update 1 June 2013	Update 2 June 2015	Trend
Children and young people play and participate in recreational activities, according to their capabilities	Proportion of children and young people aged 5–14 years who participated in an organised cultural activity outside of school hours (playing a musical instrument, singing, dancing or drama)	27.4% (2006)	35.8% (2011)	n.a.	...
	Proportion of children and young people aged 5–14 years and the three most popular leisure activities undertaken in the previous two weeks ¹⁰	In 2006: watching TV, videos, or DVDs (98.0%) reading for pleasure (73.0%) other screen based activities (67.0%)	In 2011: watching TV, videos or DVDs (98.0%) reading for pleasure (73.3%) other screen based activities (90.8%)	n.a.

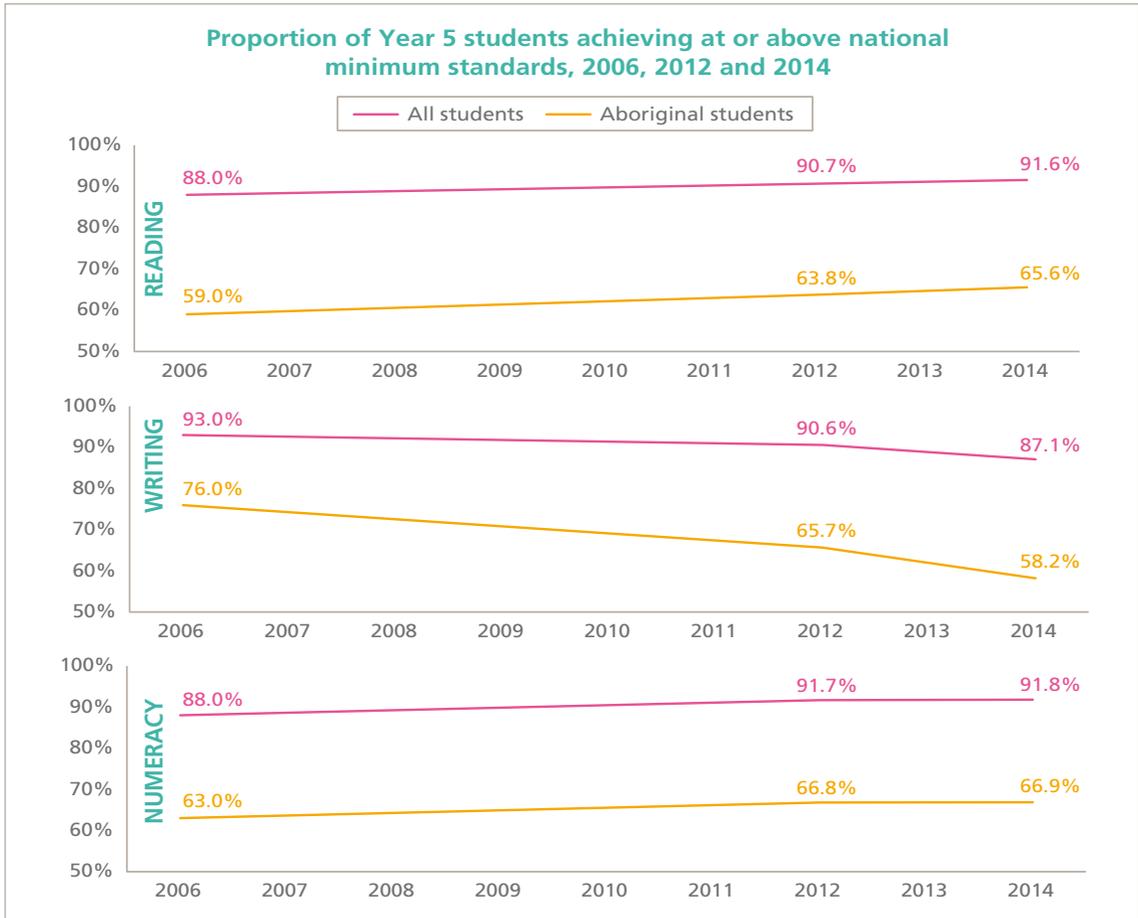
Key: 😊 = favourable trend ... = no trend data available
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Some clear trends are evident in the area of scholastic achievement. The proportion of Year 1 students reading at or above their age appropriate level has increased, particularly for Aboriginal students, as illustrated in the figure below.

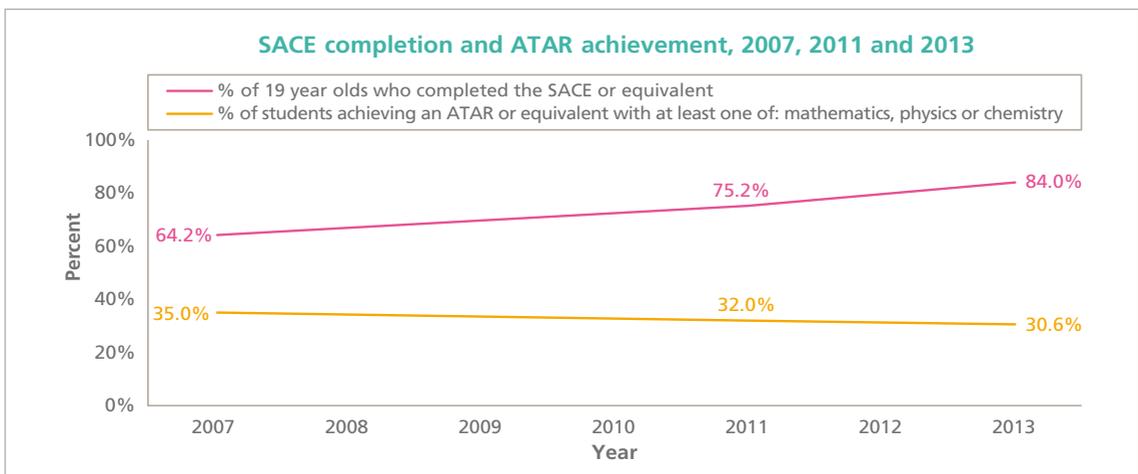


10 **Leisure activities:** The ABS advised on 26 June 2015 there are no updated figures for the indicators from the ABS Children’s Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities Survey and states the 2012 proportions for the three indicators (watching TV, videos or DVDs; reading for pleasure; other screen based activities) as identical to 2011. The next release of the ABS Children’s Participation in Cultural and Leisure Activities Survey is anticipated in December 2015.

There appears to have been a small improvement in the proportion of Year 5 students achieving at or above national minimum standards for reading and numeracy; however, the proportion of Year 5 students achieving at or above national minimum standards for writing has declined as indicated in the figure below.



There has been a distinct increase in the proportion of 19 year olds completing the SACE or equivalent. Importantly, the number of Aboriginal students completing SACE has increased significantly from 58 in 2003 to 238 students in 2013. At the same time there seems to have been a slight decline in the proportion of students achieving an ATAR or equivalent with mathematics, physics and/or chemistry subjects, as illustrated in the figure below.



4 Young South Australians make a positive contribution... by being actively involved with their peers, families, culture, community and society, according to their capabilities

Children and young people contribute much to our society: they actively produce knowledge as they learn; they offer their labour in the form of part-time employment, volunteering, and housework, caring and other roles for their families; and they enhance communities, through their artistic, sporting and cultural efforts; and simply by being children and young people.

They form relationships with those who are important to them. They also understand and act to change their social environments; however, they may be constrained by gender, ethnicity and culture, age, lack of experiences, socioeconomic disadvantage and other factors. Opportunities for all children and young people to be active participants in society can reduce the negative effects of social exclusion and discrimination, and enrich our understanding and valuing of childhood.

Achievable outcomes

Children and young people engage in decision-making

- An ability to make decisions independently is essential to the development of life skills. Children and young people have the right and usually the ability to make choices about their daily experiences and activities. Children and young people learn to see themselves as capable and competent when they are treated this way by others.

Children and young people are involved in community activities

- Children and young people are active participants in their communities and thrive when their voices and actions are acknowledged.

Children and young people engage in positive behaviour

- Children and young people learn from others around them and need supportive and appropriate role models with which to identify.

Children and young people identify and participate with their kinship group and/or culture

- A sense of identity, belonging to and knowledge of culture, kinship, tradition and history enhance wellbeing and resilience for life, and ensures the intergenerational transmission of such knowledge.

Key indicators in SA

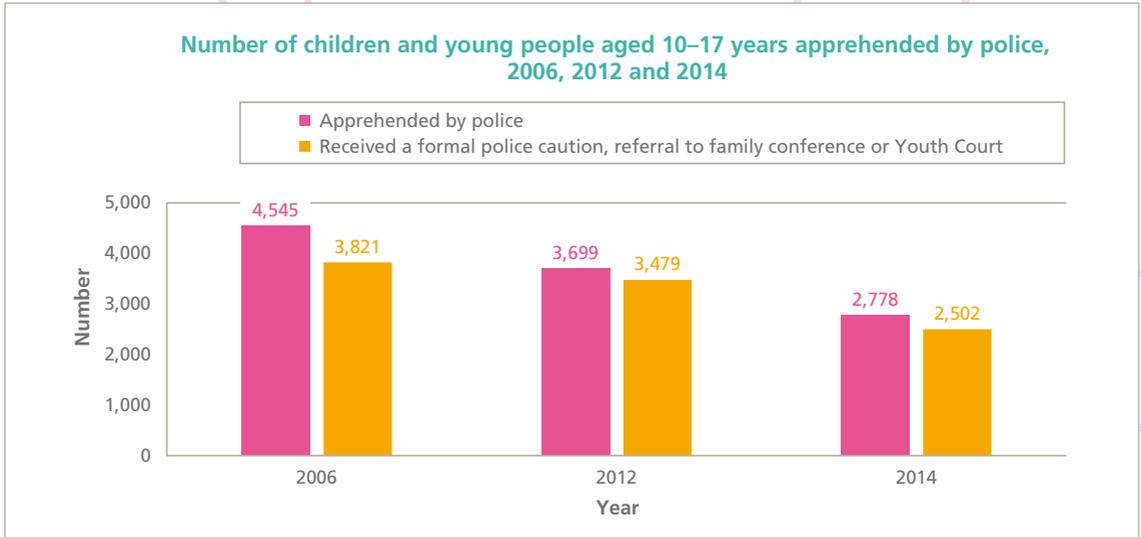
Domain: How are young South Australians making a positive contribution?					
Indicator	Measure	Baseline 2009	Update 1 June 2013	Update 2 June 2015	Trend
Children and young people are involved in community activities	Proportion of children and young people aged 5–14 years who attended cultural venues ie, visited a public library, art gallery or museum, and/or attended a performing arts event ¹¹	76.6% (2006)	80.9% (2011)	n.a.	...
	Number of young people aged 12–17 years on the Youth Participation Register	64 (2008)	n.a.	n.a.	...
Children and young people engage in positive behaviour ¹²	Number of children and young people aged 10–17 years apprehended by police #	4,545 (2006)	3,699 (2012)	2,778 (2014)	😊
	Number of children and young people aged 10–17 years apprehended by police who received a formal police caution , referral to a family conference or a Youth Court #	3,821 (2006)	3,479 (2012)	2,502 (2014)	😊
	Number of children and young people aged 10–17 years under juvenile justice supervision	931 (2006–07)	891 (2011–12)	711 (2013–14)	😊
	Number of children and young people aged 10–17 years in juvenile detention	498 (2006–07)	506 (2011–12)	404 (2013–14)	😊
	Number of children and young people aged 10–17 years under community supervision	814 (2006–07)	729 (2011–12)	550 (2013–14)	😊
Children and young people identify and participate with their kinship group and/or culture	Proportion of children and young people aged 0–14 years who speak a language at home other than English	13.5% (2006)	11.2% (2011)	n.a.	...

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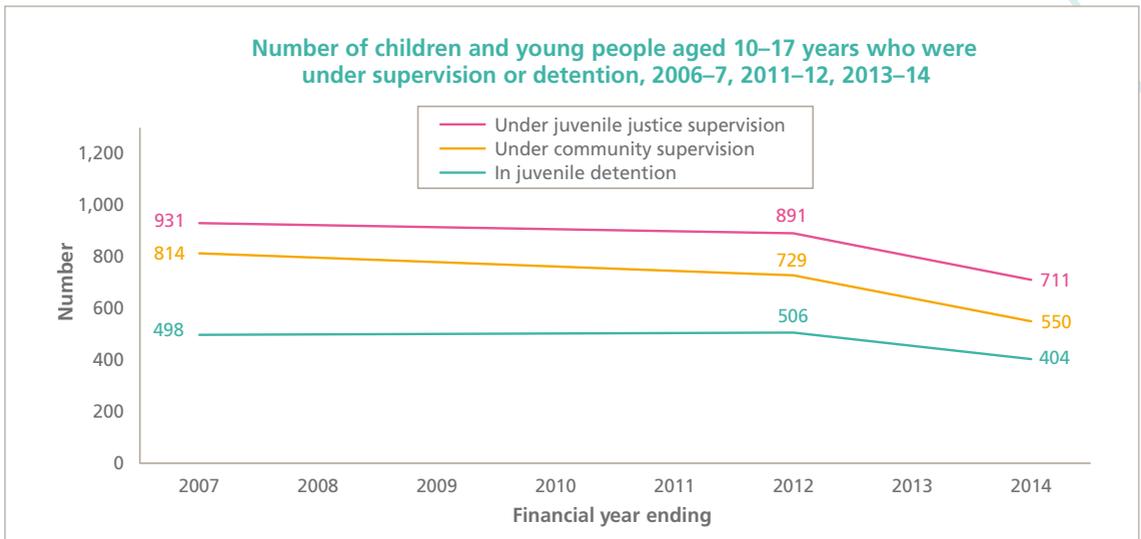
11 **Cultural venues:** The data source states the proportion of children and young people from 5–14 years who attended cultural venues is 80.9% (identical to 2011). The ABS Children's Participation in Cultural and leisure Activities Report is due in December 2015.

12 **# Apprehension:** The original measure 'Number of children and young people aged 10–17 years who received a formal police caution, or attended a family conference or the Youth Court' has now become two separate measures as above.

Overall – and noting the changed conditions – the numbers of children and young people having contact with the juvenile justice system appear to have declined steadily since 2006. Of particular note is the nearly 40% drop in police apprehensions of 10–17 year olds between 2006 and 2014 – see figure below.



There has also been a drop in the number of children and young people under supervision or detention, as the figure below illustrates.



Additional sources of data exploring some of the positive contributions that children and young people make to our community would help to provide a more comprehensive picture of this domain of wellbeing/participation.

5 Young South Australians are prepared for adult life... gaining knowledge and skills to participate as adults, and not being prevented by economic and other disadvantage from achieving in life

The life conditions of children and young people are determined by the economic, political and social forces which also create the framework for adults' lives. They have a profound effect on children's and young people's current lives and opportunities. As our youngest citizens, they rely on their families and their communities to fulfil their basic needs.

Children and young people are active agents for change, and they shape the structures and processes around them. Their social relationships are important now and into the future, as they prepare for adult life.

Achievable outcomes

Children's and young people's material needs are met

- Children and young people need to live in environments that provide some order and meet their basic physical, emotional and material needs, as well as their developmental and learning requirements.

Children and young people live in sustainable communities

- Sustainable communities build local capacity and trust, through working together on specific goals and plans. They engage their members, are inclusive, consult on issues and invest in lifelong learning and their local physical environments.

Children and young people are ready to engage in further education, employment or training, according to their capabilities

- Childhood is a time of rapid development, as children and young people are constantly evolving and adapting to their environments. Those who are able need skills and knowledge to take them forward into further education or training, and employment as adults.

Key indicators in SA

Domain: How are young South Australians prepared for adult life?					
Indicator	Measure	Baseline 2009	Update 1 June 2013	Update 2 June 2015	Trend
Children's and young people's material needs are met	Proportion of children and young people aged less than 15 years living in jobless families	15.9% (2006)	14.7% (2011)	n.a.	...
	Proportion of children and young people under the age of 16 years living in welfare-dependent or other low income households	23.3% (June 2006)	22.0% (June 2009)	24.7% (June 2013)	☹️
	Proportion of accompanying children & young people aged 0–15 years turned away on an average day from the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program as their need for accommodation could not be met	76% (2006–07)	73.7% (2010–11)	n.a.	...
	Rate of homelessness per 10,000 population	37.1% (2006)	n.a.	37.8% (2011)	☹️
	Estimated number of young people aged 12–18 years who were homeless	665 (2006)	n.a.	626 (2011)	☹️
Children and young people live in sustainable communities	Proportion of children and young people who reported going bike-riding outside of school hours	64.0% (2006)	65.0% (2011)	n.a.	...

Domain: How are young South Australians prepared for adult life?					
Indicator	Measure	Baseline 2009	Update 1 June 2013	Update 2 June 2015	Trend
Children and young people are ready to engage in further education, employment or training, according to their capabilities	Proportion of 15–19 year olds who were engaged fulltime in school, work or further education and training	85.5% (2008)	82.5% (2010)	79.8% (2011)	☹️
	Proportion of children and young people aged 5–14 years who had worked at some time in the previous 12 months	6.4% (June 2006)	n.a	n.a.	...

Key: ☺️ = favourable trend ... = no trend data available
 ☹️ = unfavourable trend n.a. = no later equivalent data available
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At present there is little information available to ascertain whether young South Australians are becoming better prepared for adult life. In fact, one measure of preparedness for the future – engagement in full time education, work or training – appears to have declined slightly between 2008 and 2011 (the latest available data), as shown in the figure below.

