

Media Release

Every young South Australian Counts!

First comprehensive, independent assessment of South Australia's children and young people

How are they faring? South Australia's 2020 Report Card shows that most young South Australians under 18 years are faring well. Most are healthy, safe from abuse, neglect and crime, have supportive early learning and development experiences, and are gaining skills for independent living and civil engagement.

However, when compared nationally they have:

- higher rates of disability
- higher rates of out-of-home care
- higher estimates of mental health problems
- higher rates of binge drinking
- lower educational achievement at Year 3 and Year 5 levels
- higher rates of children with one or more developmental vulnerabilities at school entry.

Approximately 40% of measures in the annual report card show a favourable change, 30% show no change, 15% show an unfavourable change and 15% lack data.

The evidence-based report card identifies 6 priorities for collective action in 2020-21:

- 1 children entering school with unidentified disabilities and developmental delays
- 2 increasing obesity rates
- 3 poorer outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people
- 4 children and young people's mental health concerns
- 5 'dual status' children and young people involved in child protection and youth justice
- 6 economic, social and health impacts of the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic.

"Most young South Australians are doing well. By international standards, they are living in a safe, healthy, prosperous, progressive and civil society and have positive life trajectories," said Dr Anne Glover AO, Presiding Member, Child Development Council.

South Australia's 2020 Report Card can be accessed at www.childrensa.sa.gov.au.

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