



# How are they faring?

South Australia's 2022 Report Card  
for children and young people

## Acknowledgements

The Child Development Council acknowledges and respects Aboriginal peoples as the state's first peoples and nations, recognises Aboriginal peoples as traditional owners and occupants of land and water in South Australia, and that their spiritual, social, cultural and economic practices come from their traditional lands and waters, that they maintain their cultural and heritage beliefs, languages and laws which are of ongoing importance, and that they have made and continue to make a unique and irreplaceable contribution to the state.

## Language and definitions

The term 'birth to 18 years' includes all children and young people under 18 years, however, all other age ranges used in this report are inclusive of both the youngest and oldest age, eg '10 to 17 years' includes both ten and 17-year-old children and young people.

The term 'Aboriginal' is used respectfully to refer to Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children, young people, adults, families and communities.

## Notes and data acknowledgements

South Australia's 2022 Report Card uses routinely collected and publicly available data, to publish the latest available information from a variety of state and national sources to track progress.

The term 'Margin of Error' abbreviated to 'MoE' is used to indicate when survey results should be interpreted with caution because of large confidence intervals. The use of summarised secondary data may contribute to data gaps, data lags and issues of data quality.

This year's report card includes information from publications by other oversight and advocacy bodies for children and young people in South Australia including the Commissioner for Children and Young People, Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, Guardian for Children and Young People, Training Centre Visitor and Child Death and Serious Injury Review Committee.

The Child Development Council appreciates the assistance and support from various national and state agencies in providing data for this report card. These agencies include the National Disability Insurance Agency and, in South Australia, the Attorney General's Department, Department for Education, Department for Infrastructure and Transport, SACE Board of South Australia and Department for Health and Wellbeing.

South Australia's 2022 Report Card uses unit record data from the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey. These HILDA survey data were obtained from the Australian Data Archive, hosted by the Australian National University. The HILDA Survey is initiated and funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services (DSS) and managed by the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research (Melbourne Institute). The findings and views based on the data are those of the authors and should not be attributed to the Australian Government, DSS, the Melbourne Institute, the Australian Data Archive or the Australian National University or any DSS contractors or partners, and none of those entities bear any responsibility for the analysis or interpretation of the unit record data from the HILDA Survey provided by the authors. DOI: [10.26193/YP7MNU](https://doi.org/10.26193/YP7MNU).

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# Introduction



*How are they faring? South Australia's 2022 Report Card for children and young people* is the third report of population-level outcomes for children and young people from birth to 18 years under [South Australia's Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People](#) (framework).

This legislated framework, a first in Australia, has been prepared under the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016*.

This year's report card is in two distinct parts:

- Part A – reports for all children and young people<sup>1</sup>
- Part B – reports for Aboriginal children and young people and commences on page 65 with a separate executive summary.

The data in both parts are reported for the framework's five legislated dimensions – health, safety, wellbeing, education and citizenship – to provide an evidence-base that informs strategies, objectives, policies and funding decisions.

It is important to note that other forms of culturally relevant qualitative and/or quantitative data, that would give a clearer and more accurate picture of the outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people, are not covered in South Australia's 2022 Report Card.

National comparison shows that, proportionally, more children and young people under 20 years live in disadvantaged socio-economic circumstances in South Australia. In 2021, more than half of all children and young people (**53.6%**) lived in disadvantaged socio-economic circumstances, compared to **38.9%** nationally. Of these, **26%** lived with the *most* disadvantage (19.3% nationally).

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<sup>1</sup> References to 'all children and young people' are inclusive of Aboriginal children and young people.

# South Australia's children and young people at a glance

## All children and young people



During Census 2021, there were 363,100 children and young people **under 18 years** estimated to be living in South Australia.

Census 2021 indicates children and young people **under 18 years** made up 20% of South Australia's total population; slightly more than half (51%) were male and 49% were female.

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2021, TableBuilder

## Location

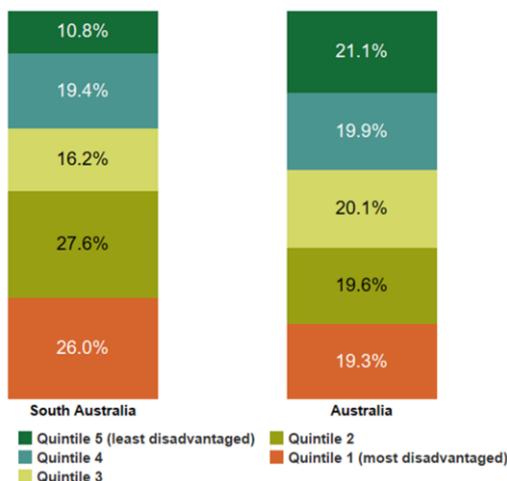
The latest available data:

- 2021, indicate that 78.3% of children and young people **under 20 years** in South Australia were living in the Adelaide metropolitan area and less than one quarter (21.7%) were living in rural and regional areas
- 2016, indicate that more than half (53%) of Aboriginal children and young people **under 20 years** were living in major cities in South Australia.



Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, cat no. 3235.0 Regional Population by Age and Sex, Australia, June 2021; Australian Bureau of Statistics 3238.0.55.001 Estimated resident Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous population, states and territories, Remoteness Areas - 30 June 2016.

## Socioeconomic level (IRSD)



The latest available data, 2021, for children and young people **under 20 years** in South Australia indicate that:

- 26% (104,000), (*more than one quarter*) were estimated to be living in the most disadvantaged socio-economic circumstances (19.3% nationally)
- 63.2%, more than six in 10, were estimated to be living in the middle quintiles (59.6% nationally)
- 10.8% (43,000), (*just over one in ten*) were estimated to be living in the least disadvantaged socio-economic circumstances (21.1% nationally).

Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, cat no. 3235.0 Regional Population by Age and Sex, Australia, June 2021 and Australian Bureau of Statistics, cat no. 2033.0.55.001 Census of Population and Housing: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia, 2016.

Notes: Due to rounding the proportions may not add up exactly. IRSD cuts are based on ranking within Australia, and it excludes Unknown IRSD.

## Age group

Census 2021 indicates that:

- children and young people **under 18 years** made up 20.4% of South Australia's population (1.8 million)
- Aboriginal children and young people **under 25 years** made up more than half (50.9%) of South Australia's Aboriginal population (42,600)
- 38.6% of South Australia's Aboriginal population were **under 18 years**.



Sources: Census of Population and Housing, 2021, TableBuilder

Note: Due to rounding the proportions may not add up exactly.

## Age groups for all children and young people



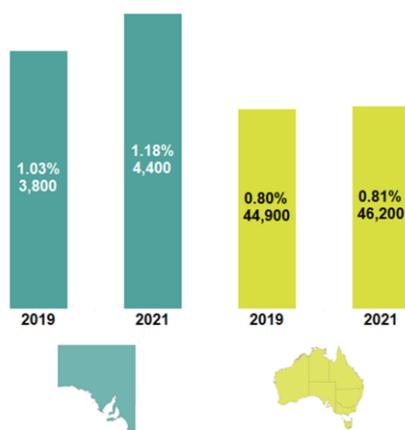
The Census data disaggregated by age for children and young people in South Australia indicate that in 2021:

- 114,700 (31.6%) were **under six years**
- 125,200 (34.5%) were **six to 11 years**
- 123,300 (33.9%) were **12 to 17 years**.

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2016 and 2021, TableBuilder

Note: Due to rounding the proportions may not add up exactly.

## In out-of-home care

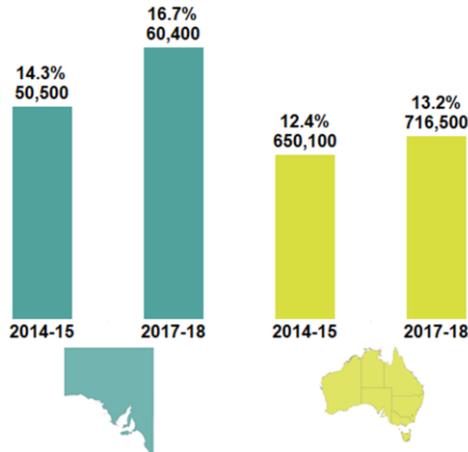


The latest available data, 30 June 2021, indicate that 4,400 (1.2%) of all children and young people **under 18 years** in South Australia were in out-of-home care (0.8% nationally).

During the previous 12 months, 4,900 (1.3%) children and young people **under 18 years** had been in out-of-home care at some time in South Australia.

Source: AIHW Child Protection Collections 2018–19 and 2020–2021

## Disability



The latest data, 2017-18, indicate there were 60,400 children and young people **under 18 years** with disability in South Australia.

Children and young people with disability made up 16.7% of all children and young people in South Australia in 2017-18.

Nationally, children and young people with disability made up 13.2% of all children and young people in Australia in 2017-18.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 4364.0 National Health Survey, 2014-15 and 2017-18.

## Country of birth

The latest data, 2021, indicate that 9 in 10 (91.3%) children and young people **under 18 years** living in South Australia were born in Australia.

Of children and young people born overseas and living in South Australia, most came from India, England, China (excludes Special Administrative Regions [SARs] and Taiwan), the Philippines and Pakistan.

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 2021, TableBuilder  
Excludes *Not stated*

Note: Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10. Due to rounding the numbers may not add up exactly.

Country	Birth to 18 years	
	Number	Percent
<b>Australia</b>	<b>319,680</b>	<b>91.3%</b>
India	4,730	1.3%
England	3,350	1.0%
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	1,840	0.5%
Philippines	1,590	0.5%
Pakistan	1,410	0.4%
South Africa	1,090	0.3%
Afghanistan	1,050	0.3%
Vietnam	1,010	0.3%
New Zealand	940	0.3%
Malaysia	890	0.3%
Others	12,700	3.6%
<b>All overseas born</b>	<b>30,590</b>	<b>8.7%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>350,270</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Key priority for action in 2023



### **Addressing data gaps and data quality**

Good quality data are fundamental to government and policy makers for creating strategies, setting objectives or developing and implementing policies. Data gaps inhibit South Australia's decision-makers from making informed decisions to improve the outcomes of children and young people (birth to 18 years).

South Australia's Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People exists to improve the outcomes of children and young people in five specified dimensions. For the framework to be effective in improving outcomes, the data reported under the framework should be used to evaluate proposed policies and funding allocation in South Australia, eg using a set of agreed principles.<sup>i</sup>

Measures with known data gaps were included in the inaugural framework because they were considered fundamental to outcomes. These measures are 'placeholders' to highlight where data are needed. *How are they faring? South Australia's 2022 Report Card for children and young people* points out the data gaps in all five dimensions, eg the current lack of developmental milestone data for children under five years remains of grave concern and means that South Australia has no idea how many young children are developmentally on track.

Some of the available data are too old for a contemporary evidence-base to inform decision-making, eg the *National Oral Health Plan 2015-2024* calls for a population-based epidemiological study of the oral health of children and young people to be conducted every 10 years. Oral health is important to overall health, development, wellbeing and social inclusion and it is concerning that current data are not available.

Measurement and reporting of data is a means to an end. For measurement and reporting to be effective in improving outcomes, data must be timely, able to be disaggregated, have some consistency of indicators and measures and reflect data gaps with placeholder measures.<sup>ii</sup>

Data lag challenges have been compounded by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on collection processes, survey frequency and methodology changes. Two examples of this impact are:

- in 2020-21, the National Health Survey data collection was via an online self-completion platform, meaning that physical measurements of height and weight were not collected
- the Australian School Students' Alcohol and Drug Survey (ASSAD) was postponed from 2020 to 2022.

What the Council is doing:

1. Since the framework commenced in November 2019, yearly report cards have shown how young South Australians under 18 years are faring in terms of their health, safety, wellbeing, education and citizenship (which includes preparing for adult life)
2. Raising awareness of the data gaps with South Australia's decision makers and data custodians and seeking their cooperation to fill these gaps
3. Engaging eminent researchers and data custodians regarding Aboriginal data sovereignty principles to clarify and guide data availability and reporting for Aboriginal children and young people.

To comply with the statutory duty of State authorities regarding the framework, the **Chief Executives and leadership teams** of state government agencies and councils should lead their organisations and staff in:

1. **Endorsing** the framework in high-level planning and strategy processes and documentation, thereby publicly committing to improving agreed outcomes for children and young people. It is important that all governments work towards this shared set of outcomes as legislated and gazetted.
2. **Applying** the [framework](#) and proactively:
  - **determining** how the organisation's policies, programs and services align with the five dimensions and outcome statements?
  - **embedding** the dimensions and outcome statements in the organisation's policies, programs and services, ie into all existing aspects and mechanisms to give effect to the framework
  - **considering** the indicators and the outcomes statements and asking: Are we collecting and/or reporting data that provide evidence of how children and young people are doing?

Figure 1 below depicts the quality of the available data being reported for the framework's measures in a one-page 'Severity of data gaps' table.

Figure 1 – ‘Severity of Data Gaps’ Table

## Quality of the reported data

This dashboard assesses the quality of the available data, rating the data from poor to good in terms of completeness, consistency and reliability.

### Naming convention

- Poor
- Poor - Medium
- Medium - Good
- Good

**D** -- ‘Dimension’ eg D1= Health;  
D2=Safety; D3=Wellbeing;  
D4=Education; D5=Citizenship

**I** -- ‘Indicator’ eg D1\_I1 = ‘Babies are  
born healthy’ (Health Dimension).

**M** -- ‘Measure detail’

Last updated: 30 August 2022

D1_I1_M01	D1_I1_M02	D1_I1_M03.1	D1_I1_M03.2	D1_I1_M04	D1_I2_M01	D1_I2_M02.1	D1_I2_M02.2	D1_I2_M03	D1_I2_M03.1	D1_I2_M03.2	D1_I3_M01.1	D1_I3_M01.2	D1_I3_M01.3	D1_I3_M01.4	D1_I3_M01.5	D1_I3_M01.6	D1_I3_M01.7	D1_I3_M01.8	D1_I3_M01.9	D1_I3_M01.10
D1_I3_M01.2	D1_I3_M01.3	D1_I3_M01.4	D1_I3_M01.5	D1_I3_M01.6	D1_I3_M01.7	D1_I3_M01.8	D1_I3_M01.9	D1_I3_M01.10	D1_I3_M01.11	D1_I3_M01.12	D1_I3_M01.13	D1_I3_M01.14	D1_I3_M01.15	D1_I3_M01.16	D1_I3_M01.17	D1_I3_M01.18	D1_I3_M01.19	D1_I3_M01.20	D1_I3_M01.21	D1_I3_M01.22
D1_I3_M01.23	D1_I3_M01.24	D1_I3_M01.25	D1_I3_M01.26	D1_I3_M01.27	D1_I3_M01.28	D1_I3_M01.29	D1_I3_M01.30	D1_I3_M01.31	D1_I3_M01.32	D1_I3_M01.33	D1_I3_M01.34	D1_I3_M01.35	D1_I3_M01.36	D1_I3_M01.37	D1_I3_M01.38	D1_I3_M01.39	D1_I3_M01.40	D1_I3_M01.41	D1_I3_M01.42	D1_I3_M01.43
D1_I3_M01.44	D1_I3_M01.45	D1_I3_M01.46	D1_I3_M01.47	D1_I3_M01.48	D1_I3_M01.49	D1_I3_M01.50	D1_I3_M01.51	D1_I3_M01.52	D1_I3_M01.53	D1_I3_M01.54	D1_I3_M01.55	D1_I3_M01.56	D1_I3_M01.57	D1_I3_M01.58	D1_I3_M01.59	D1_I3_M01.60	D1_I3_M01.61	D1_I3_M01.62	D1_I3_M01.63	D1_I3_M01.64
D1_I3_M01.65	D1_I3_M01.66	D1_I3_M01.67	D1_I3_M01.68	D1_I3_M01.69	D1_I3_M01.70	D1_I3_M01.71	D1_I3_M01.72	D1_I3_M01.73	D1_I3_M01.74	D1_I3_M01.75	D1_I3_M01.76	D1_I3_M01.77	D1_I3_M01.78	D1_I3_M01.79	D1_I3_M01.80	D1_I3_M01.81	D1_I3_M01.82	D1_I3_M01.83	D1_I3_M01.84	D1_I3_M01.85
D1_I3_M01.86	D1_I3_M01.87	D1_I3_M01.88	D1_I3_M01.89	D1_I3_M01.90	D1_I3_M01.91	D1_I3_M01.92	D1_I3_M01.93	D1_I3_M01.94	D1_I3_M01.95	D1_I3_M01.96	D1_I3_M01.97	D1_I3_M01.98	D1_I3_M01.99	D1_I3_M01.100	D1_I3_M01.101	D1_I3_M01.102	D1_I3_M01.103	D1_I3_M01.104	D1_I3_M01.105	D1_I3_M01.106





## Part A

# All children and young people

# Executive Summary

## All children and young people



### **Health dimension**

Most children and young people in South Australia are in **good health**.

- Positive trends include a high proportion of women attending a first antenatal visit in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy and declining smoking rates in pregnancy. Viewed in the national context, South Australia's infant mortality rate is low and childhood immunisation rates are high.
- Concerningly, the data indicate that more than 95% of children and young people (2-17 years) in South Australia don't meet national guidelines for vegetable consumption.

### **Safety dimension**

Most children and young people in South Australia are **safe** from preventable injury, abuse and neglect.

- Positive trends include a reduction in the proportion of children and young people presenting to public hospital emergency departments whose

presentations are classified as

'potentially preventable

hospitalisations', a significant reduction in police cautions or fines to drivers for passengers under 16 years not being safely restrained, and a significant drop in arrests of children and young people (10-17 years).

- Of the utmost concern is that increasing numbers of children and young people have contact with the child protection and youth justice systems, eg:
  - more children and young people are **in** out-of-home care and substantiated notifications for infants and children (birth to nine years) have increased significantly
  - there has been an increase in children and young people under 18 years being victims of *offences against the person* reported to the police.

### ***Wellbeing dimension***

Most children and young people in South Australia are **happy, inspired and engaged**.

- Positive trends include most students (Years 4-10) reporting that they feel optimistic about life
- Proportionally more children and young people (5-14 years) in SA participated and/or attending cultural activities or events than nationally.
- Of concern is that:
  - the proportion of four-year-old children enrolled in a quality preschool program in the year before attending fulltime school has reduced
  - the proportion of students (Years 4-10) reporting that they feel connected to adults at school has reduced
  - more than 10% of students (Years 4-10) reported not having at least one friend close enough to confide in.

### ***Education dimension***

Most children and young people in South Australia have **positive experiences of learning**.

- Positive trends include a substantial improvement in the proportion of Year 1 students in government schools reading at an age-appropriate level and

a slight increase in the proportion of young people completing a senior certificate of education. The proportion of young people with profound or severe disability (15-19 years) partially or fully engaged in school, work or further education was above the national proportion.

- Faring less well, when compared nationally, are students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 whose performance is at, or just below, the national average in the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy. The proportion of children **developmentally vulnerable** in one or more of five domains of the Australian Early Development Census when they start school is **above the national average**. The current lack of developmental milestone data for children under five years remains of grave concern and means that South Australia has no idea how many young children are developmentally on track.

### ***Citizenship dimension***

- Indications of young people being **prepared for adult life** may include being financially literate, working and/or studying and voting. Positive trends for South Australia include a significant increase in the proportion of young people enrolling to vote in both the state and federal elections in 2022.

- Areas of concern include nearly 20% of Year 9 students (14-15 years) not meeting the minimum national standard in writing and a reduction in the proportion of Year 10 students achieving or exceeding the national minimum standard in the Australian curriculum civics and citizenship assessment. There has been a decrease in the proportion of young people (15-19 years) volunteering.

### **Data shortfalls**

At a population level, most children and young people in South Australia appear to be doing well, however, this report highlights areas of concern that should be prioritised for improvement. The ongoing **data limitations** are also of significant concern and should be carefully considered and specifically addressed in South Australia.

The specific data gaps for the framework measures are summarised in a one-page table which indicates the severity of the gaps using a colour-coded legend (refer Figure 1 on page 10).

### **Framework review**

The framework was gazetted on 14 November 2019 and the legislation requires review of the framework at least once in each three-year period. Stakeholder feedback received from February to August 2022 will inform changes to the framework, eg to the indicators and/or measures.

### **COVID-19**

Throughout this report card, reference is made to the impact of the pandemic on children and young people both in terms of contemporary impacts and potential future opportunities.

### **Annexures**

Three **data tables** are annexed to this report card:

- Data for **all children and young people**, including Aboriginal children and young people - Annex 1 (page 40)
- Data for **Aboriginal children and young people** – Annex 2 (page 96)
- **Data gaps:** All children and young people, including Aboriginal children and young people – Annex 3 (page 119)

## Outcome

Young South Australians are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy

## Indicators

- Babies are born healthy
- Children have a healthy early life
- Children and young people have health-promoting behaviours
- Children and young people are thriving

The outcome statement: *Young South Australians are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy* represents the desired result for dimension 1 of South Australia's Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People (framework). There are four indicators to determine what aspects are measured and 18 measures to provide evidence of progress.

Data gaps for the health dimension are minimal, however, a lack of data for some measures that are considered fundamental to overall health and wellbeing, makes the monitoring and reporting of trends in these measures impossible, eg whether young children are meeting developmental milestones.

Data delays mean a lack of recent data being available for reporting, eg the Australian School Students' Alcohol and Drugs Survey (ASSAD) was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic from 2020 to 2022.

## **Babies are born healthy**

### **Birthweight**

The average birthweight in South Australia (SA) in 2020 was 3,330 grams. Of 18,619 live births of babies born in SA, 6.7% were of low birthweight in 2020 (7.1% in 2016).

### **Smoking in pregnancy**

The proportion of pregnant women who smoked in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy in SA was 7.7% in 2020 (12.0% in 2016). Nationally the proportion was 8.8% in 2020 (9.5% in 2016).

### **Age when giving birth<sup>2</sup>**

In 2020, the proportion of women under 20 years at the time of giving birth, made up 1.8% of all women who gave birth in SA (2.4% in 2016).<sup>3</sup> Despite a slight rise in 2019 and 2020, the rate has steadily declined since 2009.

### **Antenatal visits**

More women are attending a first antenatal visit in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy in

<sup>2</sup> The average age of mothers giving birth in South Australia is approximately 30.7 years.

<sup>3</sup> Nationally the proportion of women under 20 years at the time of giving birth was also 1.8 of all women who gave birth (and also 2.4% in 2016).

SA. In 2020, 84.8% of women expecting a baby attended a first antenatal visit in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy (82.7% in 2016). Nationally, the proportion was 79.1% in 2020 (68.6% in 2016).

### **Children have a healthy early life**

#### **Infant mortality (birth to 12 months)**

South Australia's mortality rate for infants (birth to 12 months) was 2.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2020 (3.1 in 2016). Nationally, the rate was 3.2 in 2020 (3.1 in 2016).

#### **Immunisation**

The proportions of children fully immunised at one, two and five years in SA were:

##### *One year*

- 95.0% in 2021 (94.3% in 2017).  
Nationally, the proportion was 94.6% in 2021 (94.0% in 2017)

##### *Two years*

- 93.0% in 2021 (90.2% in 2017).  
Nationally, the proportion was 92.6% in 2021 (90.5% in 2017)

##### *Five years*

- 96.1% in 2021 (93.8% in 2017).  
Nationally, the proportion was 95% in 2021 (94% in 2017).

#### **Meeting developmental milestones**

The proportion of children under five years in SA meeting developmental milestones

at two and four years cannot be reported due to a lack of data.<sup>4</sup>

Under the Department for Education (Education) Early Learning Strategy 2021 to 2031 'Responsive local programs and services supporting community priorities', the Office for the Early Years (OFEY) has entered into a funding agreement with the Local Government Association. This agreement is to provide one-off grants to councils to help establish programs, in partnership with other community stakeholders, that support children to thrive and learn in the first five years. The grants support evidence-informed innovation and delivery of local and community-led programs in response to local needs identified through the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC). This program is an example of how state and local government can work in partnership for the benefit of children and communities. There have been 12 successful recipients, four in metropolitan Adelaide and eight in rural SA.<sup>iii</sup>

### **Children and young people have health-promoting behaviours**

[Note: Publicly available data for some of these measures below are at least four years old.]

#### **Underweight, overweight or obese**

In 2017-18, the proportions of children and young people (2-17 years) being

<sup>4</sup> New funding of \$50.1 million was announced in the 2021 State Budget which included provision to increase the number of children accessing child development screenings.

underweight, overweight or obese in SA were:

#### *Underweight*

- 6.1% in 2017-18 (5.4% in 2014-15).  
Nationally, the proportion was 8.2% in 2017-18 (5.9% in 2014-15)<sup>5</sup>

#### *Overweight*

- 18.9% in 2017-18 (16.6% in 2014-15).  
Nationally, the proportion was 16.7% in 2017-18 (18.4% in 2014-15)

#### *Obese*

- 7.5% in 2017-18 (6.2% in 2014-15).  
Nationally, the proportion was 8.2% in 2017-18 (7.5% in 2014-15).

A new Health and Wellbeing Queensland-commissioned report demonstrates the anticipated impact of childhood obesity on life expectancy in that state. The report shows an estimated drop in life expectancy of up to 4.06 years for children born from 2023 if nothing were done to reverse the increase in childhood obesity. The notion that childhood obesity is a parental rather than a societal challenge works against the necessary social and community licence to make system-wide changes.<sup>iv</sup>

The Child Development Council's (Council) October 2021 policy brief #2, [\*The hidden cost of young South Australians shaping up for an unhealthy future\*](#), highlighted that SA does not have an adequate monitoring mechanism to track the prevalence and incidence of

overweight and obesity from early childhood and provide the data needed to develop appropriately targeted evidence-based programs.

South Australia's overweight and obesity prevalence rates for children and young people (2-17 years) are estimated from Australia's triennial National Health Survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Because these data are not captured annually, a significant measurement gap exists. Wellbeing SA conducts a state-wide population health survey that monitors the nutrition and activity patterns of children and young people through a telephone survey. Whilst these data are useful for tracking broad population trends, they are insufficient to accurately measure any regional/group patterns of growth/weight in children and young people. These data are also inadequate to evaluate the impact of specific prevention or intervention strategies. Regular, objectively measured growth and eating patterns of children and young people are needed.

Altering a life-long trajectory of weight-related health problems for individuals and a cost burden for the state requires robust data to build prevention and intervention strategies. Better outcomes are achieved when prevention occurs early in life. It is also more cost-effective. It is crucial to:

- collect improved data using random samples and objective physical

<sup>5</sup> These results were obtained through a survey and are estimates subject to a margin of error.

measurements to inform evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies

- tailor data collection to provide longitudinal insights for the same group of children and young people from birth to adulthood, rather than unrelated snapshots of data taken periodically in childhood and again in adolescence.

An Australia-wide initiative of relevance to the health and wellbeing of children and young people in SA is the National Diabetes in Schools program funded by the Australian Government through the National Diabetes Services Scheme. This new program provides nationally consistent information, training and support for schools and families to better support students with Type 1 diabetes at school. In SA, the Diabetes in Schools program is administered by Diabetes SA.<sup>v</sup>

[Note: The latest publicly available data for these measures below are five years old.<sup>6]</sup>

### **Smoking, alcohol and drugs**

#### *Smoking*

- 10.2% of students (12-17 years) from all school sectors in SA reported *ever having smoked tobacco* in 2017 (13.8% in 2014). Nationally, the proportion was 18.0% in 2017 (19.1% in 2014).

#### *Alcohol*

- 66.8% of students (12-17 years) from all school sectors in SA reported *ever having consumed alcohol* in 2017 (67.5% in 2014). Nationally, the proportion was 66% in 2017 (68% in 2014)
- 57.2% of students (12-17 years) from all school sectors in SA reported potentially unsafe or binge-drinking behaviour in 2017 (58.5% in 2014).<sup>7</sup> Nationally, the proportion was 33% in 2017 (24% in 2014).<sup>8</sup>

#### *Illicit drugs including cannabis*

- 12.8% of students (12-17 years) from all school sectors in SA reported *ever having taken illicit drugs including cannabis* in 2017 (14.2% in 2014). Nationally, the proportion was 16% in 2017 (14.9% in 2014).

#### *Cannabis*

- 10.2% of students (12-17 years) from all school sectors in SA reported *ever having taken cannabis* in 2017 (11.3% in 2014). Nationally, the proportion was 16% in 2017 (15.8% in 2014).

#### **Vaping**

The framework does not currently include a measure to report vaping by children and young people in SA; this is being considered as part of the inaugural

<sup>6</sup> The next round of the Australian Secondary Students' Alcohol and Drug Survey (ASSAD) is scheduled to be conducted in 2022 with the national report being likely to be available in early 2024.

<sup>7</sup> These data were sourced from publicly available statistical bulletins on the SA Health website, which classify potentially unsafe or binge-drinking behaviour as consuming four or more standard drinks on one or more occasions.

<sup>8</sup> Nationally, potentially unsafe or binge-drinking behaviour is defined as consuming **five or more** standard drinks on one or more occasions.

review<sup>9</sup> of the framework. In the interim, SA's Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP) has surveyed 990 young people (13 to 19 years) about vaping. The CCYP's vaping survey report in July 2022 revealed that two out of every three young people have tried vaping.

A timely state initiative in the form of funding of \$40,000 for a pilot program to educate students in Year 7 to Year 12 in 60 schools over the next two years has been announced in SA. This pilot program will provide education about how e-cigarettes work, nicotine levels in e-cigarette liquids and the health risks of inhaling.<sup>vi</sup>

### *Children and young people are thriving*

[Note: The latest publicly available data for these measures below are at least four years old.]

#### **Fruit consumption**

- In 2017-18, 70.5% of children and young people (2-17 years) in SA met the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines for fruit consumption (66.9% in 2014-15). Nationally, the proportion was 73.0% in 2017-18 (70.1% in 2014-15)

- These data are subject to wide variability and should be interpreted with caution.<sup>10</sup>

#### **Vegetable consumption**

- In 2017-18, **only 3.7%** of children and young people (2-17 years) in SA **met the NHMRC guidelines for vegetable consumption** (7.7% in 2014-15). Nationally, the proportion was 6.3% in 2017-18 (5.5% in 2014-15)
- These data were subject to a wide margin of error (MoE) of 1.9% in 2017-18 (3.1% in 2014-15).
- Despite the MoE, it would appear that more than **95%** of children and young people are **not meeting the guidelines for vegetable consumption**.

[Note: The latest publicly available data for this measure below are eight to 10 years old.]

#### **Tooth decay**

In 2012-14, the proportions of children and young people in SA with tooth decay in deciduous or permanent teeth were:

##### *Deciduous teeth*

- 37.6% of children (5-10 years). Nationally, the proportion was 41.7%.

<sup>9</sup> The framework was gazetted on 14 November 2019 and review of the framework once in each three year is mandated by the legislation.

<sup>10</sup> The margin of error was 5.7% in 2017-18 (4.5% in 2014-15).

### *Permanent teeth*

- 15.3% of children and young people (6-14 years). Nationally, the proportion was 23.5%.

The *National Oral Health Plan 2015-2024* calls for a population-based epidemiological study of the oral health of children and young people to be conducted every 10 years. **Data from this study should next be available in 2025.** Considering the importance of oral health to the overall health, development, wellbeing and social inclusion of children and young people, it is concerning that current data are not available.

### ***Self-reported health***

In 2022:

- 79.1% of Year 4 to Year 10 school students in SA who participated in the Department for Education Wellbeing and Engagement Collection (WEC)<sup>11</sup> considered themselves to be in good or excellent health (81.3% in 2019)<sup>12</sup>
- 82.7% of Year 6 school students considered themselves to be in good or excellent health (85.0% in 2019)<sup>13</sup>
- 70.7% of Year 10 students considered themselves to be in good or excellent health (70.6% in 2019).<sup>14</sup>

The reasons for a slight decline in self-reported health are not readily apparent. Contributing factors *may* include COVID-19 related impacts, however, assumptions should be avoided.

### ***Mental health and wellbeing***

The proportion of children and young people (5-17 years) estimated to have an emotional, mental health or behavioural problem was 14.6% in 2021 (14.3% in 2018). These data were collected by the South Australian Population Health Survey (SAPHS) for the purpose of reporting the proportion of children and young people who had used a mental health service in the previous 12 months.

### ***COVID-19***

School and childcare closures, suspension of organised physical activity (eg, team sport) and isolation requirements impacted physical activity levels and resulted in reduced opportunities for social interaction with friends or peers. More families engaged in unstructured physical activities in outdoor settings, however, the longitudinal impact of the pandemic is still largely unknown in terms of potential changes in the activity levels of children and young people.<sup>vii</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Since 2019, the WEC has collected and reported data for Year 4 to Year 12 students *in all school sectors* in South Australia. For Aboriginal students, the WEC data are not published separately. These data can be made available upon request for *public schools only*.

<sup>12</sup> In Tasmania, the other Australian jurisdiction that participates in the WEC, 74% of Year 4 to Year 10 students considered themselves to be in good or excellent health (72.6% in 2019).

<sup>13</sup> In Tasmania, the proportion of all Year 6 students was 80.4% in 2021 (82.2% in 2019).

<sup>14</sup> In Tasmania, the proportion of all Year 10 students was 61.1% in 2021 (61.2% in 2019).

### Outcome

Young South Australians are safe and nurtured

### Indicators

- Children and young people live in safe housing
- Children and young people are safe from preventable injury
- Children and young people are safe from abuse and neglect
- Children and young people are safe from crime

The outcome statement: ‘*Young South Australians are safe and nurtured*’ represents the desired result for dimension 2 of the framework. There are four indicators to determine what aspects are measured and 13 measures to provide evidence of progress.

Data are generally available for whole-of-population reporting although, for two of the measures, data are only available at the national level. These two measures are:

- number of children and young people (5-13 years) attending a swimming safety program
- proportion of children and young people feeling (un)safe in their local area at night.

### *Children and young people live in safe housing*

#### **Family conflict**

In 2021, 59.5% of young South Australians (15-19 years) participating in the Mission Australia Youth Survey, felt concerned

about family conflict (60.2% in 2017). Their levels of concern ranged from feeling slightly to extremely concerned. While a reduction from 64.2% in 2016, it was higher than the national level (56.9%).

[Note: The latest publicly available data for these measures below are six years old.]

#### **Housing stress**

In SA, 20.9% of children and young people under 15 years lived in households experiencing housing stress (households that spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs) in SA in 2016 (23.7% in 2011).

#### **Homelessness**

The rate of children and young people under 19 years experiencing homelessness in SA was 38.7 per 10,000 population in 2016 (42.4 per 10,000 population in 2011). Nationally, the rate was 47% in 2016.

In July 2021, SA implemented a reform of the Specialist Homeless Services sector,

establishing five Alliances, to assist clients experiencing, or being at risk of, homelessness. During the COVID-19 lockdown in SA, the SA Housing Authority facilitated hotel/motel accommodation for people experiencing homelessness or family and domestic violence if they had no safe alternative. A coordinated approach with local homelessness service providers to identify a priority housing list of clients who required longer term housing and support was put in place, with hotel/motel support provided to those clients who were on the priority housing list and awaiting a housing allocation.<sup>viii</sup>

### *Children and young people are safe from preventable injury*

#### **Hospitalisations**

The proportion of children and young people under 18 years presenting to public hospital emergency departments whose presentation are classified as 'potentially preventable hospitalisations' in SA was 10.8% in 2021 (14.8% in 2017).

[Note: The latest publicly available data for these two measures below are six to eight years old.]

#### **Preventable/unintentional deaths due to injury**

For a three-year period from 2014-16, 5.3 per 100,000 deaths of children and young

people under 15 years in SA were attributable to preventable/unintentional injury (4.5 in 2010-12). Nationally, the rate was 4.1 from 2014-16 (5.0 in 2010-12).<sup>15</sup>

#### **Restraint in vehicles**

In 2020-21, 327 police cautions or fines were issued in SA to drivers for passengers under 16 years not being safely restrained (a significant reduction from 690 in 2017-18).

### *Children and young people are safe from abuse and neglect*

#### **Admission to out-of-home care (OOHC)**

Children and young people under 18 years were **admitted to** OOHC in SA at a rate of 2.2 per 1,000 population in 2020-21 (2.1 in 2018-19). Nationally, the rate was 2.0 in 2020-21 (2.2 in 2018-19).

#### **Children and young people in OOHC**

A rate calculated on the last day of June each year indicates that, in SA, at 30 June 2021:

- 11.8 per 1,000 children and young people under 18 years were **in** OOHC (10.3 per 1,000 at 30 June 2019). Nationally, the rate was 8.1 per 1,000 (8.0 per 1,000 at 30 June 2019).

The above data appear to indicate that the length of stay in OOHC may be increasing,

<sup>15</sup> South Australia's Child Death and Serious Injury Review Committee (CDSIRC) reports deaths due to external causes, rather than deaths attributable to preventable/unintentional injury. The CDSIRC 2020-21 annual report indicates that, between 2005-2020, there were 236 deaths children and young people under 15 years due to external causes in SA. Deaths from external causes are classified as: transport-related, suicide, drowning, a deliberate act by another person, fire-related, accidents (falls, suffocation and asphyxiation, poisoning), neglect, and health-system related.

however, the rates for being admitted to OOHC, versus being in OOHC, cover different data collection periods.

### **Substantiated notifications**

Substantiated notifications to the child protection system for children and young people under 10 years have increased in SA. In 2020-21, these rates were:

#### *Infants (birth to 12 months)*

- For infants (birth to 12 months) the substantiation rate was 24.3 per 1,000 population in 2020-21 (15.7 in 2016-17). Nationally, the rate was 16.6 per 1,000 in 2020-21 (16.4 in 2016-17).

#### *Babies/toddlers and young children (1-4 years)*

- For children (1-4 years), the substantiation rate was 8.2 per 1,000 population in 2020-21 (5.2 in 2016-17). Nationally, the rate was 9.2 per 1,000 population in 2020-21 (9.4 in 2016-17)

#### *Children (5-9 years)*

- For children (5-9 years) the substantiation rate was 6.3 per 1,000 population in 2020-21 (3.9 in 2016-17). Nationally, the rate was 8.2 per 1,000 population in 2020-21 (8.9 in 2016-17).

In 2022, SA's Guardian for Children and Young People (GCYP) received funding of \$1.869 million over four years for the

introduction of the 'Child and Young Person's Visitor' scheme.<sup>16</sup>

### **Children and young people are safe from crime**

#### **Feeling safe in the community**

This report card is unable to report data for the proportion of children and young people feeling (un)safe in their local area at night. Despite the importance of feeling safe in one's neighbourhood, there are no data available.

Generally, city streets are designed for commuter traffic which is known to reduce play, exercise and social interaction. Anecdotal data suggest that during the COVID-19 pandemic, with less through traffic in neighbourhoods, more people enjoyed and explored their communities and gained a glimpse of the benefits of living in a safer 'child-friendly city' environment which invites active living and social interaction. The pandemic experience showed the value of accessible and safe neighbourhoods and should encourage communities and local and state governments to proactively consider speed limits and other potential options to encourage local streets and community facilities to be enjoyed safely.<sup>ix</sup>

<sup>16</sup> The Child and Young Person's Visitor (CYPV) role is established under the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* to operate a visiting and advocacy scheme for children and young people in OOHC, specifically residential and emergency care facilities. The GCYP had originally taken on this role in February 2018; however, having failed to secure ongoing funding for the CYPV role, the GCYP publicly resigned from the CYPV role on 24 August 2021.

### ***Victims of offences***

The number of children and young people under 18 years who were victims of offences reported to the South Australia Police (SAPOL) was 55.9 per 10,000 population in 2021 (47.7 in 2019).

### ***Arrests***

The rate of arrests for children and young people (10 to 17 years) in SA was 64.4 per 10,000 population in 2021 (81.2 in 2019).

### ***Youth justice involvement***

Using SAPOL data, the GCYP and Training Centre Visitor (TCV) Final Report

of the South Australian Dual Involved Project (SADI) in June 2022 indicated that children and young people were arrested and detained in 20 different adult police custodial facilities on 2,030 separate occasions in 2020-21.<sup>x</sup>

The above final report of children and young people in both the child protection and youth justice systems in SA, highlighted that 90% of dual involved children and young people in detention at Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre (KTYJC) during the SADI Project came directly from residential care placements.<sup>xi</sup>

## Outcome

Young South Australians are happy, inspired and engaged

## Indicators

- Children have early experiences that enhance their development
- Children and young people are connected to family, friends and culture
- Children and young people play and participate in recreational activities
- Children and young people are leading satisfied lives

The outcome statement: *‘Young South Australians are happy, inspired and engaged’* represents the desired result for dimension 3 of the framework. There are four indicators to determine what aspects of the outcome are measured and 14 measures to provide evidence of progress.

Data are generally available for this dimension because data sources such as the WEC are well established. Data are collected and published on a regular basis. Currently, SA and Tasmania participate in the WEC. For six of the 14 measures, data are not available for comparison purposes.

It has been found that social and emotional skills are good predictors of educational, employment and social outcomes. Social and emotional skills, such as resilience and optimism, help us cope in difficult and uncertain circumstances. The COVID-19 pandemic has shaped the experiences of children and young people, eg increased online

learning helped to maintain and further develop cognitive skills. It is important to consider the learning and development needs of children and young people holistically. Initiatives that provide opportunity for children and young people to develop robust social and emotional skills as well as cognitive skills should be proactively considered, eg in terms of the built environment and use of public space.<sup>xii</sup>

Community and neighbourhood spaces are important social infrastructure and should facilitate opportunities for connection and meaningful interactions. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of community spaces being accessible, welcoming and safe. The built environment should be designed to foster opportunities for the development of social capital, a sense of belonging, wellbeing, active living, human connection and social interaction.<sup>xiii</sup>

### **Digital inclusion**

Digital access is considered a modern right and one of the 20 conditions of SA's Charter for Children and Young People (Charter) is: *Children and young people should have safe and supported digital access.* Affordability is crucial to closing the digital divide in SA and nationally. In 2021, the Australian Digital Inclusion Index reported that 67% of Australians in the lowest income quintile would have to pay more than 10% of their household income to gain quality, reliable connectivity. Children and young people in the most disadvantaged circumstances have been disproportionately impacted by periods of COVID-19-related lockdown and/or isolation requirements without quality, reliable digital access and/or access to affordable devices appropriate for online learning.<sup>xiv</sup>

### **Children have early experiences that enhance their development**

#### **Attendance of an approved childcare service (birth to five years)<sup>17</sup>**

In 2021, 53,800 children in SA were attending an approved childcare service.

In 2021, 23.3% of all children in SA attending an approved childcare were from **low-income families** (20.4% in 2017). Nationally, the proportion was 24.0% in 2021 (22.4% in 2017).

In 2021, 18.1% of all children in SA attending an approved childcare were in **regional areas** (18.2% in 2017).

Nationally, the proportion was 23.2% in 2021 (23.0% in 2017).

In 2021, 2.4.% of all children in SA attending an approved childcare were in **remote areas** (2.5% in 2017). Nationally, the proportion was 1.1% in 2021 (1.0% in 2017).

[Note: the data for these two measures below are six years old.]

In 2016:

- 3.2% of all children in SA attending an approved childcare service were children with disability (3.4% in 2013). Nationally, the proportion was 3.4% (2.9% in 2013)
- 15.5% of all children in SA attending an approved childcare service were from NESB families (12.4% in 2013). Nationally, the proportion was 22.3% (18.5% in 2013).

#### **Enrolments in a quality preschool program in the year before attending fulltime school**

The proportion of four-year-old children enrolled in a quality preschool program in the year before attending fulltime school in SA was 84.1% in 2021 (88.9% in 2017). Nationally, the proportion was 85.1% in 2021 (85.5% in 2017).

<sup>17</sup> Children attending approved childcare services may be counted more than once if they attended more than one childcare service in the relevant period. Attendance is estimated to be less than 50% in SA for all children (birth to five years).

## **Children and young people are connected to family, friends and culture**

Positive relationships, interactions and experiences with others provide a foundation for social connectedness. School is a centrally important place to children and young people and supportive relationships with teachers and other school staff are important to students' sense of wellbeing.

## **Feeling connected at school**

The WEC<sup>18</sup> data for SA indicate that the proportion of:

- Year 4 to Year 10 students from all school sectors feeling connected to adults at school was 59.4% in 2022 (61.4% in 2019), meaning that **nearly 40% of Year 4 to Year 10 students do not feel connected to adults at school.**<sup>19</sup>

An example of how Education is seeking to apply the framework is shown in figure 2 below.

Figure 2 Department for Education considering additional 'connectedness' measures.

### *Feeling connected at home and in the community*

Data are not currently available for the proportion of children and young people feeling connected to adults at home and in the community. In December 2020, the Council wrote to Education and requested that consideration be given to including two additional measures in the WEC for children and young people feeling connected to adults at home and in the community. The request was followed up in early 2021 by meeting with the Director, Data, Reporting and Analytics, System Performance who also presented the latest WEC data to the Council in August 2021.

The Council was pleased to receive advice in August 2022 from the Manager, National and International Wellbeing Programs, Education, indicating that:

- the WEC had previously included an item on connectedness to adults at home; however, this item was removed as it was highly skewed, the psychometrics were not working and Education was unable to identify a suitable intervention
- the process for adding new items to the WEC includes a check that every item has providence in the literature and that psychometrics are run on these items to ensure they are working correctly, are sound and not highly skewed
- a public health approach is followed to ensure domains included in the WEC meet the following criteria; evidence of enduring impact, malleable skills and characteristics, measurable developmental domains, there are suitable interventions, meet agreed standards and do no harm
- moving forward, Education will develop a program of work to review items in the WEC. This program will include identification of items focusing on whether children and young people have an adult that they feel:
  - connected to at home
  - safe with in the community.

Education has indicated that relevant staff from the Council would be invited to be involved in that process and would be kept informed of progress on any suitable items.

<sup>18</sup> Since 2019, the WEC has collected and reported data for Year 4 to Year 12 students **in all school sectors** in South Australia. For Aboriginal students, the WEC data are not published separately; however, these data can be made available upon request **for public schools** (only).

<sup>19</sup> In Tasmania, the other Australian jurisdiction that participates in the WEC, a slightly different question was asked. In 2021, 66.3% of Year 4 to Year 10 students in government schools in Tasmania agreed with this question: 'Are there any adults who are important to you at your school?' (53.9% in 2019).

In June 2022, Wellbeing SA launched a Wellbeing Index for SA.<sup>20</sup> In September 2022, Wellbeing SA advised the Council that the development of the Wellbeing Index delivered on a commitment in the Wellbeing SA strategic plan and that the index would enable Wellbeing SA to monitor indicators of wellbeing outcomes over time. The Wellbeing Index has a whole-of-population focus, and consistent with its intentional monitoring purpose, is intended to be updated annually. The Council uses publicly available data from robust sources to report outcomes for children and young people (birth to 18 years) under SA's legislated framework.<sup>21</sup> The Wellbeing Index has indicators and measures for children and young people for which Wellbeing SA uses data from similar robust sources to those being used by the Council.

### ***Friends***

Making friends is an essential part of being socially connected. Friends can help to reduce stress and navigate challenging life experiences. The data indicate that the proportion of Year 4 to Year 10 students with one or more friends in whom they can confide was 89.1% in 2022 (90.2% in 2019). It is concerning that **more than**

**10% of Year 4 to Year 10 students reported not having at least one friend close enough to confide in.**

### ***Cyberbullying<sup>22</sup>***

Almost four-fifths (79%) of Year 4 to Year 10 students responding to the WEC in 2021 indicated that they did not/rarely experienced any form of cyberbullying during the school year. Specifically, 16% of respondents indicated that they had encountered a form of cyberbullying approximately monthly and 5% of respondents indicated that they had experienced a form of cyberbullying more often than monthly.

### ***Cultural activities and events***

[Note: The data for this measure below are four years old.]

Cultural activities and events provide important opportunities for children and young people to connect with others. The ABS definitions of:

- ***cultural activities*** include participation in drama, singing, playing a musical instrument, dancing, art and craft, creative writing and creating digital content.
- ***cultural events*** include attending libraries and archives, art galleries,

<sup>20</sup> This paragraph is an extract of information provided on 9/11/22 by Ms Katherine Pontifex, Manager, Evaluation Services Epidemiology Branch, Prevention and Population Health Directorate, Wellbeing SA.

<sup>21</sup> Wellbeing SA's has also advised that these data sources are also used by its partners in the Departments for Education, Human Services and Child Protection.

<sup>22</sup> With reference to 'cyberbullying' the WEC states: 'for example, someone used the computer or text messages to exclude, threaten, humiliate you, or to hurt your feelings'.

museums, cinemas, live music concerts, theatre, dance and other performing arts.

In 2017-18, children and young people in SA reported their participation and attendance for the 12-month period prior to being surveyed as follows:

- 66.8% of children and young people (5-14 years) **participated in** cultural activities (63.4% nationally)
- 94.8% of children and young people (5-14 years) **attended** at least one cultural venue or event (94.3% nationally).

### **Children and young people play and participate in recreational activities**

#### **Self-reported participation in organised activities**

The WEC results for 2022 indicate that 87.9% of Year 4 to Year 10 students participated in organised activities outside of school hours (87.6% in 2020<sup>23</sup>).<sup>24</sup>

#### **Self-reported participation in sports or recreational physical activities**

The WEC results indicate that in 2022, 69.3% of all Year 4 to Year 10 students

participated in sports or *recreational physical activities* (69.7% in 2020)<sup>25</sup>

### **Children and young people are leading satisfied lives**

#### **Self-reported optimism about life**

- The proportion of Year 4 to Year 10 students feeling optimistic about life decreased from 85.7% in 2019 to 82.4% in 2022.<sup>26</sup>

#### **Self-reported level of satisfaction with life**

- The proportion of Year 4 to Year 10 students reporting a medium to high level of satisfaction with life was 79% in 2022 (80.9% in 2019).<sup>27</sup>

A 2022 study by Education and the University of South Australia has found that children and young people in Years 4 to 9 who participate in extra-curricular activities report higher wellbeing. Some relatively sedentary activities such as doing homework or reading also positively contributed to wellbeing, however, spending time on social media or playing video games was associated with lower wellbeing. This study reported that the benefits of

<sup>23</sup> Year 10 students were *not* surveyed in 2019 for participation in 'organised activities/sports'.

<sup>24</sup> In Tasmania, the other Australian jurisdiction that participates in the WEC, 84.0% of all Year 4 to Year 10 students in government schools participated in organised activities outside of school hours (86.5% in 2019).

<sup>25</sup> In Tasmania, 62.8% of all Year 4 to Year 10 government school students participated in sports or recreational physical activities (65.0% in 2019).

<sup>26</sup> In Tasmania, the proportion of all Year 4 to Year 10 government school students feeling optimistic about life decreased from 78.3% in 2019 to 75.8% in 2021.

<sup>27</sup> In Tasmania, the proportion of all Year 4 to Year 10 government school students reporting a medium to high level of satisfaction with life was 71.0% in 2021 (72.5% in 2019).

extra-curricular activities in terms of being optimistic and/or happy and satisfied with life were highest for children and young people from low socioeconomic backgrounds, providing a compelling argument for effort in relevant areas.<sup>xv</sup>

A 2021 study by Dr Long Le, an Alfred Deakin Postdoctoral Fellow in Deakin Health Economics at Deakin University, found a dose-response relationship between **bullying and quality of life**. The longer children reported being a victim or perpetrator of bullying, the greater the loss of quality of life.<sup>xvi</sup>

The Council looks forward to an initiative by the Minister for Education, Training and Skills to host a School Violence, Bullying and Mental Health Summit in 2023.

#### *Suicide*

In the five years from 2017-21, the rate of suicide for children and young people (5 to 17 years) in SA was 2.1 per 100,000 population (1.9 in 2012-16). Nationally, the rate was 2.5 per 100,000 population for 2017-21 (2.3 for 2012-2016).

## Outcome

Young South Australians are successful learners

## Indicators

- Children enter the school system ready to take advantage of the learning environment
- Children and young people’s experience of learning is positive
- Children and young people are engaged in school, further education, training or work

The outcome statement: ‘*Young South Australians are successful learners*’ represents the desired result for dimension 4 of the framework. There are three indicators to determine what aspects of the outcome are measured and 10 measures to provide evidence of progress.

The data sources are mostly the AEDC, NAPLAN and Census data.

### ***Children enter the school system ready to take advantage of the learning environment***

The Council’s first policy brief in August 2020, [South Australia’s surprising downward trend in AEDC results](#) highlighted a lack of population wide data on child development prior to the federally implemented triennial AEDC which indicates that a large number of children are developmentally vulnerable across the entire socio-economic distribution in SA.

On 22 June 2021, new funding of \$50.1 million for an [Early Learning Strategy](#) was

announced in SA’s State Budget, including funding for two additional universal checks at key stages between birth and school age. The existing checks are available soon after birth, at 6 to 9 months, 18 to 24 months and preschool. The two new universal checks to be added would be at 12 month and 3 years, increasing the total number of universal checks between birth and 5 years to six. The Council welcomed this news because the first few years of a child’s life are vital. Accessing help and services early, eg for disability or developmental delay, can significantly improve a child’s outcomes at every stage of life.

The building blocks for literacy are established by three years of age. The proposed National Early Language and Literacy Strategy framework for action proposes four priority areas including family support within communities, early education and transitions, specialist support, and knowledge production and dissemination.<sup>xvii</sup>

A key goal of Education's new *Early Learning Strategy 2021 to 2031: All young children thriving and learning* is 'to increase the number of South Australian children who are developmentally on track when they start school' (p.16). Planned activities include expanding the reach, frequency and number of child development checks and equipping parents and families to support their children's development.

The Year 1 highlights of the OFEY 'Early Learning Strategy Report Card' included:

- June 2021 – A two-year grand funding agreement with Playgroups SA to deliver new universal, not targeted, community playgroups
- June 2021 – A two-year grant funding agreement with Raising Literacy Australia to build a coalition of non-government and government partners to develop and disseminate clear and consistent early childhood development messages and resources to families with children (birth – three years)
- June 2022 – Development and launch of a new Children's Centres outcomes framework.

On 2 August 2022, the Head of the OFEY, Early Years Division, Education, advised the Council that the funding for additional developmental milestone checks pilots will be in addition to, and separate from, the existing checks offered by Child and

Family Health Service (CAFHS) and use a different modality. These pilots will initially be tested over 18 months and will:

- provide 'moment in time' checks
- not track children.

[South Australia's surprising downward trend in AEDC results](#) had recommended that the development of all children in SA from birth to school age be monitored proactively and regularly and that universally applied checks be delivered in the first two weeks after birth, at 8 weeks, 12 months, 2 years and 3 years at a minimum. It would appear that these pilots **will not address** the Council's recommendations nor provide population wide data on child development prior to commencing school.

### ***Early intervention***

Early identification of, and support for, students with developmental delays and disability is essential to children gaining the skills needed to thrive.<sup>xviii</sup>

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) early childhood intervention approach aims to support children with a developmental delay or disability to develop the skills they need to take part in daily activities and achieve the best possible outcomes. In quarter 4, 2020-21, the numbers of children under six years receiving early childhood early intervention (ECEI) supports and children with an

approved NDIS plan before entering school were:

- 680 children under six years received ECEI supports through the NDIS
- 5,651 children under six years had an approved NDIS plan.

The Council welcomes the [Words Grow Minds](#) campaign launched on 24 October 2022 by the Early Years Taskforce, aimed at bringing together early years services from across SA.<sup>xix</sup> The campaign is being piloted with families and early years services in Mount Gambier and Whyalla. The Early Years Taskforce, set up in 2021, is charged with improving early childhood developmental outcomes for South Australian children. Members include government and non-government services working with young children and their families. Taskforce members are working to improve developmental outcomes by:

- increasing collaboration across services
- forming clear and consistent messaging for parents and caregivers on the importance of brain development in the early years
- showing families simple things they can do to literally grow babies' and young children's brains.

The Early Years Taskforce and Words Grow Minds campaign are funded by Education.

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

#### **NAPLAN results**

A decision was made by Australia's Education Ministers to cancel NAPLAN in 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. NAPLAN results for 2021 are available and are reported below.

##### *Year 1*

In SA, the proportions of Year 1 students in government schools<sup>28</sup> reading at an age-appropriate level was 67% in 2021 (43% in 2018).<sup>29</sup>

##### *Year 3*

In SA, the proportions of Year 3 students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in:

- *reading* was 94.8% in 2021 (93.4% in 2016)
- *writing* was 95.3% in 2021 (95.2% in 2016)
- *numeracy* was 94.7% in 2021 (94.2% in 2016).

##### *Year 5*

In SA, the proportions of Year 5 students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in:

<sup>28</sup> While the phonics screening materials are provided to Catholic and Independent schools in SA, these data are not collected by the Department for Education.

<sup>29</sup> The measure used is the phonics screening test given to Year 1 students in SA government schools, which helps teachers assess the reading levels of individual children. It is an element of literacy, along with vocabulary, fluency and comprehension.

- *reading* was 94.4% in 2021 (91.5% in 2016)
- *writing* was 90.4% in 2021 (91.7% in 2016)
- *numeracy* was 94.4% in 2021 (92.8% in 2016).

#### Year 7

In SA, the proportions of Year 7 students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in:

- *reading* was 93.3% in 2021 (94.2% in 2016)
- *writing* was 88.4% in 2021 (90.1% in 2016)
- *numeracy* was 92.6% in 2021 (95.2% in 2016).

#### National comparison – Years 3, 5 and 7

The rates for Year 3, Year 5 and Year 7 students in SA achieving at or above the national minimum standards for reading, writing and numeracy were lower than the national rates.

#### Year 9

The proportions of Year 9 students achieving at or above the national minimum standards in reading, writing and numeracy are reported in the Citizenship dimension.

## **Children and young people are engaged in school, further education, training or work**

### **Exclusionary discipline**

A key protective factor or buffer for students is their school connectedness, which is positively related to learning outcomes and emotional wellbeing, while negatively related to mental health symptoms such as anxiety and depression. Exclusionary discipline, including enrolment in non-mainstream programs, are likely to exacerbate disengagement by damaging relationships, increasing family tensions and stress levels, and expanding achievement gaps. Students who are not at school are not connected.

The *Inquiry into Suspension, Exclusion and Expulsion Processes in South Australian government schools*<sup>30</sup> found that most exclusionary practices were being issued to students in at-risk or priority equity groups such as students with disability, Aboriginal students, students in OOHC<sup>xx</sup> and students attending Category 1-3 schools. These students were being removed from school for significant periods of time, and with very little or no access to quality

<sup>30</sup> Data about exclusionary practices in Independent and Catholic schools are not available.

educational and developmental opportunities during the exclusion period.<sup>xxi, xxii, 31</sup>

### ***Studying and/or training and/or working***

The Survey of Education and Work data indicate that 88.2% of young people (15-19 years) were fully engaged in school, work or further education in 2021 in SA (87.2% in 2016).

#### *Young people with disability studying and/or training and/or working*

The proportion of young people (15-19 years) with disability that were partially or fully engaged in school, work or further education in SA was 81.5% in 2021, down from 84.8% in 2016 (79.9% in 2021 and 81.1% in 2016 nationally).

### ***School attendance rates<sup>32</sup>***

A majority of primary and secondary students attend school regularly in SA, however, the attendance rate has gradually declined since 2015.

In 2021:

- at least nine in 10 students (90.5%) enrolled in Year 1 to Year 10 attended school (91.7% in 2017). This was

similar to the national attendance rate of 90.9% in 2021 (92.4% in 2017)<sup>33</sup>

- 30.2% of students enrolled in Year 1 to Year 10 were absent from school for more than 10% of school days.

Certain student groups may be at greater risk of absences, eg attendance declines as remoteness increases. Other student groups at risk of absences may including students transitioning to high school and/or students in low socioeconomic areas.<sup>xxiii</sup>

### ***Educational achievement***

The proportion of young people completing a senior certificate of education qualification, or equivalent by 19 years in SA was 91.1% in 2020 (86% in 2015).

A new Education initiative will track school leavers from 2023 or 2024 to ascertain if they're studying, working or training. Tracking should yield information about the numbers of students involved in preparing for particular industries, including growth industries, and also inform initiatives in the public school system to ensure students transition successfully.

<sup>31</sup> In acknowledging the overrepresentation of vulnerable or at-risk groups, the inquiry report noted the importance of also acknowledging the high percentages of students in each of these groups that were not sent home, suspended, or excluded in 2019 (p.309).

<sup>32</sup> There are two ways to measure school attendance:

- a) Attendance rate – the number of actual full-time equivalent student-days attended by full-time students in Year 1 to Year 10 in Semester 1 as a percentage of the total number of possible student-days attended in Semester 1
- b) Attendance level – the proportion of full-time students in Year 1 to Year 10 whose attendance rate in Semester 1 is equal to, or greater than, 90%.

The framework currently reports the attendance rate.

<sup>33</sup> Care should be taken in comparing attendance rates and levels across school years and jurisdictions given the differences in the numbers of students for whom these data are calculated.

## Dimension 5: Citizenship

All

### Outcome

Young South Australians participate actively in society

### Indicators

- Children and young people develop skills for an independent life
- Children and young people participate in decisions that affect them directly and the wider society
- Children and young people are engaged in community activities

The outcome statement: *‘Young South Australians participate actively in society’* represents the desired result for dimension 5 of the framework. There are three indicators to determine what aspects of the outcome are measured and 10 measures to provide evidence of progress.

Data used to report for this dimension are mostly from surveys. Tracking for some measures has been scaled down due to a change in survey design, eg changes in both the questions being asked and in the age profile of those being surveyed.

### **Reviewing South Australia’s framework**

The inaugural framework was gazetted on 14 November 2019. The legislation requires review of the framework at least once in every three-year period. The framework is being reviewed in 2022 with open consultation from 1 February 2022 to 30 June 2022 and targeted community consultation from 1 June to 31 August 2022. This consultation was with key community stakeholders, especially Aboriginal people, across SA.

In October 2022, the Council commenced the process of working through the feedback to identify changes to the framework, eg of the existing indicators and measures with the aim of obtaining data to aid the reporting of outcomes in all five dimensions, especially the citizenship dimension.

### ***Children and young people develop skills for an independent life***

#### ***Literacy and numeracy of Year 9 students***

The proportions of Year 9 students in SA achieving or exceeding the national minimum standards for reading, writing and numeracy were as follows:

- *reading* was 88.9% in 2021 (91.9% in 2016). Nationally, 89.7% in 2021 (92.8% in 2016)
- *writing* was 81.1% in 2021 (81.5% in 2016). Nationally, 82.2% in 2021 (82.9% in 2016)
- *numeracy* was 93.8% in 2021 (94.4% in 2016). Nationally, 94.7% in 2021 (95.2% in 2016).

## **Financial literacy**

The Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) survey poses a series of questions to report on the proportion of young people (15-19 years) in Australia that are financially literate. The HILDA questions are about concepts of financial literacy, inflation, diversification, risk return and money illusion. In 2016 and 2020, these questions were tracked. The HILDA survey results indicate the following for young people (15-19 years) in SA:

- 41.6% demonstrated an understanding of inflation<sup>34</sup> in 2020 (65.5% in 2016)<sup>35</sup>
- 79.8% demonstrated an understanding of diversification<sup>36</sup> in 2020 (65.2% in 2016)
- 80% demonstrated an understanding of risk return<sup>37</sup> in 2020 (78.8% in 2016)
- 81.6% demonstrated an understanding of money illusion<sup>38</sup> in 2020 (86.5% in 2016).

In February 2020, the federal government launched [moneymanaged.gov.au](http://moneymanaged.gov.au) which is designed to help young people feel more confident about budgeting, investing and saving.<sup>xxiv</sup>

## **Driving**

In 2021, 55.9% of young people (17-19 years) in SA had a driver's licence (55.3% in 2016).

[Note: the data for the measure below are 11 years old.]

## **Independence**

Current data are not available to show the proportions of young people (15-19 years) that report being satisfied with their level of independence.

The most recent data are from the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY). These data indicate that, in 2011, 91.7% of young people (17 years) surveyed in SA, reported being satisfied with their level of independence (93.6% nationally).

[Note: the data for this measure below are five years old.]

## **Average hours of paid employment**

The average hours of paid employment for young people (17 years) in SA were 12.6 hours in 2017 (14 hours nationally).

<sup>34</sup> The 'Inflation' question was: 'If the interest rate on your savings account was 1% per year and inflation was 2% per year, after one year, would you be able to buy more/the same/less than today?'

<sup>35</sup> Nationally, the proportion of young people (15-19 years) that understood the concept of 'inflation' was 51.7% in 2020 (50.1% in 2016).

<sup>36</sup> The 'diversification' statement to respond to was: 'Buying shares in a single company usually provides a safer return than buying shares in a number of different companies.'

<sup>37</sup> The 'risk-return' statement to respond to was: 'An investment with a high return is likely to be high risk.'

<sup>38</sup> In 2020, the 'money illusion' question was: 'If by the year 2024 your income has doubled, but the prices of all purchases have also doubled, in 2024 will you be able to buy more/the same/less than today?' In 2016, the reference year used for the 'money illusion' question was 2020.

[Note: the data for this measure below are four to more than 10 years old.]

### ***Not living with parents***<sup>39</sup>

The proportion of young people (18 years) *not currently living with* their parents was 13.2% in 2012 (17.3% in 2009).

Nationally, the proportion was 15.9% in 2012 (16.5% in 2009). Although data for 2018 are available, due to a change in methodology, this latter LSAY cohort expanded the scope of data capture to include reporting by family members and guardians (ie, in addition to young people themselves). The data published for 2018 are not comparable to the 2012 and/or 2009 data.

### ***Civics and citizenship***

Studying Civics and Citizenship provides students with the opportunity to:

- develop their understanding of, and define their civic identity
- explore the rights and responsibilities of citizens and the values that underpin democratic communities such as freedom, equality, responsibility, accountability and inclusion
- gain a range of relevant skills and knowledge.

In 2019:

- the proportion of Year 10 students achieving or exceeding the national minimum standard in the Australian curriculum civics and citizenship

assessment was 29% in SA (34% in 2016)

- nationally, the proportion of Year 10 students achieving or exceeding the national minimum standard was 38% (38% in 2016 also).

### ***Children and young people participate in decisions that affect them directly and the wider society***

[Note: the data for the measure below are eight years old.]

### ***Having a say on important issues***

Having voice and influence is important for all citizens, including children and young people, however, due to a reporting change made by the ABS from 2015, the most recent ABS data for young people (15-17 years) are from 2014.<sup>40</sup>

### ***Enrolled to vote***

Voting provides an opportunity for young people to exercise their citizenship rights and responsibilities and social inclusion by participating in decision-making to elect state and national governments.

In 2022:

- 73.6% of young people (18-19 years) in SA were enrolled to vote (61.6% in 2019)
- nationally, 71.4% of young people (18-19 years) were enrolled to vote in 2021 (65.3% in 2019).

<sup>39</sup> Reporting data for young people not living with their parents is not necessarily an indication of developing skills for an independent life.

<sup>40</sup> The ABS now reports these data for young people (15-24 years).

Two new initiatives of note in SA are:

- the Student Representative Council (SA SRC):<sup>xxv</sup>
  - the SA SRC for students in Years 10, 11 and 12 was developed via a partnership between the CCYP and the Foundation for Young Australians (FYA), supported by the National Indigenous Youth Education Coalition (NIYEC).
  - the CCYP selected 166 students from over 240 applications with approximately 150 travelling to attend the inaugural SA SRC Summit in May 2022 where these SA SRC members met each other for the first time.
- the [Charter Ambassador Program](#) (CAP)
  - South Australia's Charter Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, hosted a reception at Government House on 10 May 2022 to formally launch the CAP.
  - The CAP:
    - aims to 'give life' to the [Charter for Children and Young People](#) (Charter) which consists of 20 conditions that all children and young people in SA can, and should, have for a good life now and opportunities in the future
    - is open to all children and young people of school age in SA; communication with Charter

Ambassadors at schools is through Charter Facilitators (ie, teachers or wellbeing coordinators)

- provides Charter Ambassadors with opportunities to develop an understanding of personal agency and the role children and young people can play in shaping the future
- offers workshops and forums during the year to equip the Charter Ambassadors to promote the Charter at school and in the community.

### ***Children and young people are engaged in community activities***

#### ***Volunteering***

The proportion of young people (15-19 years) participating in volunteering was 16.5% in 2021, down from 22.5% in 2016 (14.9% in 2021 and 21.9% in 2016 nationally).

#### ***Community support groups***

Data for children and young people under 18 years participating in community support groups are not available. The latest available data for young people under 18 years are for 2014. Since then, the ABS has reported for young people (15-24 years) and these data cannot be disaggregated for young people (15-17 years).

## Annex 1 – Whole-of-population data table

Dimension 1: Health					Whole-of-population data table		
Indicator	Babies are born healthy						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of low birthweight babies as a proportion of all live births</i>	Low birthweight	Birth	2016 (7.1%)	2020 (6.7%)	No change	AIHW analysis of the National Perinatal Data Collection	Of the 18,619 live births in South Australia in 2020, 6.7% of babies weighed less than 2,500 grams at birth. The change is marginal.
<i>Proportion of pregnant mothers smoking in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy</i>	Pregnant mothers smoking	Before birth	2016 (12.0%)	2020 (7.7%)	Favourable change	AIHW analysis of the National Perinatal Data Collection	The proportion of mothers who gave birth that had smoked in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy declined between 2016 and 2020.
<i>Proportion of mothers under 20 years when giving birth</i>	Proportion of all mothers	Under 20 years	2016 (2.4%)	2020 (1.8%)	Favourable change	Pregnancy Outcomes Unit, SA Health AIHW analysis of the National Perinatal Data Collection	The proportion of women under 20 years giving birth decreased between 2016 and 2020.
<i>Proportion of mothers under 20 years when giving birth</i>	Birth rate (per 1,000 population)	Under 20 years	2015 (10.7 per 1,000)	2019 (5.9 per 1,000)	Favourable change	Pregnancy Outcomes Unit, SA Health AIHW analysis of the National Perinatal Data Collection	In South Australia, the teenage birth rate for young women (15-9 years) has been declining since 2015.
<i>Proportion of women attending a first antenatal visit in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy</i>	First antenatal visit in first 14 weeks	Before birth	2016 (82.7%)	2020 (84.8%)	Favourable change	Pregnancy Outcomes Unit, SA Health AIHW analysis of the National Perinatal Data Collection	The proportion of women attending a first antenatal visit in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy in South Australia has been above 80% since 2016.

## Dimension 1: Health

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children have a healthy early life						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Rate of infant mortality per 1,000 live births</i>	Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 population)	Under 12 months	2016 (3.1 per 1,000)	2020 (2.5 per 1,000)	Favourable change	Deaths, Year of registration, Summary data, Sex, States, Territories and Australia - Deaths, Australia	In 2020, the infant mortality rate in South Australia was 2.5 deaths per 1,000 live births, signifying a decrease since 2016.
<i>Proportion of children fully immunised at one, two and five years</i>	Fully immunised	1 year	2017 (94.3%)	2021 (95.0%)	Favourable change	Australian Childhood Immunisation Register	The proportion of children fully immunised in South Australia aged at 12 months has been improving over time since 2014.
<i>Proportion of children fully immunised at one, two and five years</i>	Fully immunised	2 years	2017 (90.2%)	2021 (93.0%)	Favourable change	Australian Childhood Immunisation Register	The proportion of two year olds in South Australia being fully immunised mirrors the national trend.
<i>Proportion of children fully immunised at one, two and five years</i>	Fully immunised	5 years	2017 (93.8%)	2021 (96.1%)	Favourable change	Australian Childhood Immunisation Register	Ninety six percent of five year olds were fully immunised in 2021.
<i>Proportion of children meeting developmental milestones at two and four years</i>	Developmental milestones	2 years			Not available		New funding of \$50.1 million for a new Early Learning Strategy announced on 22/6/21 in SA's State Budget included funding for additional developmental milestone checks at key stages between birth and school age.
<i>Proportion of children meeting developmental milestones at two and four years</i>	Developmental milestones	4 years			Not available		New funding of \$50.1 million for a new Early Learning Strategy announced on 22/6/21 in SA's State Budget included funding for additional developmental milestone checks at key stages between birth and school age.

## Dimension 1: Health

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children and young people have health-promoting behaviours						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children and young people being reported as underweight, overweight or obese</i>	Underweight	2-17 years (inc)	2014–15 (5.4% ± 2.4%*)	2017–18 (6.1% ± 3.3%*)	No change	National Health Survey	These survey results appear to indicate that the proportion of underweight children and young people (2-17 years) has increased. Caution is needed in trend interpretation due to the margin of error.
<i>Proportion of children and young people being reported as underweight, overweight or obese</i>	Overweight	2-17 years (inc)	2014-15 (16.6% ± 4.2%*)	2017–18 (18.9% ± 4.2%*)	No change	National Health Survey	These survey results appear to indicate that the proportion of overweight children and young people (2-17 years) has increased. Caution is needed in trend interpretation due to the margin of error.
<i>Proportion of children and young people being reported as underweight, overweight or obese</i>	Obese	2-17 years (inc)	2014-15 (6.2% ± 2.6%*)	2017–18 (7.5% ± 3.7%*)	No change	National Health Survey	These survey results appear to indicate that the proportion of obese children and young people (2-17 years) has increased. Caution is needed in trend interpretation due to the margin of error.

\* The margin of error describes the amount of variability for the reported measure.

## Dimension 1: Health

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children and young people have health-promoting behaviours						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of young people smoking tobacco</i>	Ever smoked tobacco	12-17 years (inc)	2014 (13.8%)	2017 (10.2%)	Favourable change	Australian School Students' Alcohol and Drugs (ASSAD) Survey+	In 2017, 10% of students (12-17 years) from all school sectors reported having ever smoked tobacco, down from 14% in 2014.
<i>Proportion of young people consuming alcohol</i>	Ever consumed alcohol	12-17 years (inc)	2014 (67.5%)	2017 (66.8%)	No change	Australian School Students' Alcohol and Drugs (ASSAD) Survey+	The percentage decline for students (12-17 years) from all school sectors that reported having ever consumed alcohol was less than 1% between 2014 and 2017.
<i>Proportion of young people with potentially unsafe or binge-drinking behaviour</i>	Unsafe or binge drinking – ever	12-17 years (inc)	2014 (58.5%)	2017 (57.2%)	No change	Australian School Students' Alcohol and Drugs (ASSAD) Survey+	The proportion of students (12-17 years) from all school sectors that reported ever having consumed more than 4 standard drinks on one or more occasions reduced slightly from 2014 to 2017.
<i>Proportion of young people taking illicit drugs</i>	Ever taken illicit drugs (including cannabis)	12-17 years (inc)	2014 (14.2%)	2017 (12.8%)	No change	Australian School Students' Alcohol and Drugs (ASSAD) Survey+	There was no significant change in the proportion of students (12-17 years) from all school sectors that reported ever having taken illicit drugs including cannabis in 2014 and 2017.
<i>Proportion of young people taking illicit drugs</i>	Ever taken cannabis	12-17 years (inc)	2014 (11.3%)	2017 (10.2%)	No change	Australian School Students' Alcohol and Drugs (ASSAD) Survey+	There was no significant change in the proportion of students (12-17 years) from all school sectors that reported ever having taken cannabis in 2014 and 2017.

+ No new data. The next round of the AASAD survey is being conducted in 2022.

## Dimension 1: Health

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children and young people are thriving						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children and young people with access to healthy food</i>	Meeting NHMRC fruit guidelines	2-17 years (inc)	2014-15 (66.9% ± 4.5%*)	2017-18 (70.5% ± 5.7%*)	No change	National Health Survey	The rate of change in children and young people (2-17 years) meeting the NHMRC fruit consumption guidelines has not improved significantly.
<i>Proportion of children and young people with access to healthy food</i>	Meeting NHMRC vegetable guidelines	2-17 years (inc)	2014-15 (7.7% ± 3.1%*)	2017-18 (3.7% ± 1.9%*)	Unfavourable change	National Health Survey	Less than 10% of children and young people (2-17 years) reportedly met the 2013 NHMRC guidelines for vegetable consumption. The data indicate a significant decline over time.
<i>Number of children and young people with tooth decay</i>	Tooth decay in deciduous teeth (%)	5-10 years (inc)	2012-14 (37.6%)	2012-14 (37.6%)	Unable to determine	National Child Oral Health Study	Same year data. Unable to determine a trend due to a lack of recent data being available. The National Oral Health Plan 2015-2024 calls for a population-based epidemiological study of the oral health of children to be conducted every 10 years.
<i>Number of children and young people with tooth decay</i>	Tooth decay in permanent teeth (%)	6-14 years (inc)	2012-14 (15.3%)	2012-14 (15.3%)	Unable to determine	National Child Oral Health Study	Same year data. Unable to determine a trend due to a lack of recent data. The National Oral Health Plan 2015-2024 calls for a population-based epidemiological study of the oral health of children to be conducted every 10 years.

\* The margin of error describes the amount of variability for the reported measure.

## Dimension 1: Health

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children and young people are thriving						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children and young people considering themselves to be in good or excellent health</i>	Good or excellent health	Year 4 to Year 10	2019 (81.3%)	2022 (79.1%)	Unfavourable change	Wellbeing and Engagement Collection, South Australia	The proportion of Year 4 to Year 10 students that considered themselves to have medium to high wellbeing declined between 2019 and 2022.
<i>Proportion of 12 year olds considering themselves to be in good or excellent health</i>	Good or excellent health	Year 6	2019 (85.0%)	2022 (82.7%)	Unfavourable change	Wellbeing and Engagement Collection, South Australia	In 2022, four in five Year 6 students (82.7%) reported their health as good or excellent, down from 85% in 2019.
<i>Proportion of 16 year olds considering themselves to be in good or excellent health</i>	Good or excellent health	Year 10	2019 (70.6%)	2022 (70.7%)	No change	Wellbeing and Engagement Collection, South Australia	Year 10 students' wellbeing status remained unchanged between 2019 to 2021.
<i>Proportion of children and young people estimated to have an emotional, mental health or behavioural problem</i>	Mental health support service	5-17 years (inc)	2018 14.3% (12.4% - 16.6%)	2020 15.0% (13.7%-16.3%)	Unable to determine	South Australian Population Health Survey	In 2020, 15% of children and young people (5-17 years) were reported as having used a mental health service in the previous 12 months, up from 14.3% in 2018.

## Dimension 2: Safety

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children and young people live in safe housing						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children and young people feeling concerned about family conflict</i>	Family conflict	15-19 years (inc)	2017 (60.2%)	2021 (59.5%)	No change	Mission Australia Youth Survey	In 2021, 59.5% of young people (15-19) years that responded to the national Mission Australia Youth Survey indicated family conflict as a personal concern, up from 55.6% in 2020 but comparable to 2017.
<i>Proportion of children and young people living in households with financial hardship</i>	Financial hardship	Birth to 14 years (inc)	2011 (23.7%)	2016 (20.9%)	Unable to determine	Census of Population and Housing	Unable to determine trend - more recent data from this source are not yet available. In 2016, 21% of children and young people (from birth to 14 years) lived in households experiencing financial hardship, a slight drop since 2011 (24%) but significantly higher than in 2001 (12%).
<i>Number of children and young people experiencing homelessness</i>	Homelessness (per 10,000 population)	Birth to 18 years (inc)	2011 (42.4 per 10,000)	2016 (38.7 per 10,000)	Unable to determine	Census of Population and Housing	Unable to determine trend - more recent data from this source are not yet available. At 38.7 per 10,000 population in 2016, the number of children and young people experiencing homelessness was lower than in 2011 (42.4 per 10,000 population).

## Dimension 2: Safety

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children and young people are safe from preventable injury						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Number of children and young people presenting to emergency departments with potentially preventable hospitalisations</i>	Potentially preventable hospitalisations (% of total admissions)	Birth to 17 years (inc)	2017 (14.8%)	2021 (10.8%)	Favourable change	Health Information Portal (Admitted Activity), SA Health	The proportion of children and young people under 18 years presenting to public hospitals with potentially preventable hospitalisations declined between 2016 and 2021.
<i>Number of deaths of children and young people being attributed to preventable/unintentional injury</i>	Injury death (per 100,000) population	Birth to 14 years (inc)	2010-2012 (4.5 per 100,000)	2014-2016 (5.3 per 100,000)	Unable to determine	Children's Headline Indicators, AIHW	Unable to determine trend - more recent data from this source are not yet available. During 2014-16, the injury death rate for children and young people (birth to 14 years) was 5.3 per 100,000 population, higher than in 2010-12 (4.5).
<i>Number of police cautions or fines issued for failing to safely restrain passengers under 16 years</i>	Failing to safely restrain passengers	Under 16 years	2016-17 (761 cases annually)	2020-21 (327 cases annually)	Favourable change	South Australian Government Data Directory	There was a significant reduction in the number of police cautions or fines issued for failing to safely restrain passengers under 16 years in 2020-21.
<i>Number of children and young people 5-13 years attending a swimming safety program</i>	Swimming safety program	5-13 years				Not available	

## Dimension 2: Safety

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children and young people are safe from abuse and neglect						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
Number of children and young people being admitted to out-of-home care	<b>Admitted to</b> out-of-home care (per 1,000 population)	Under 18 years	2018-19 (2.1 per 1,000)	2020-21 (2.2 per 1,000)	No change	AIHW Child Protection Collections	South Australia's <b>admission</b> rate to out-of-home care was 2.2 per 1,000 for children and young people under 18 years in 2019-2020, up from 2.1 per 1,000 population in 2018-19.
Number of children and young people being admitted to out-of-home care	<b>In</b> out-of-home care (per 1,000 population)	Under 18 years	at 30 June 2019 (10.3 per 1,000)	at 30 June 2021 (11.8 per 1,000)	Unfavourable change	AIHW Child Protection Collections	As at 30 June 2021, approximately 4,400 children and young people under 18 years were <b>in</b> out-of-home care in South Australia, a rate of 11.8 per 1,000 population, up from 10.3 as at 30 June 2019.
Proportion of children twelve months old or under being notified to the child protection system	Substantiations of notifications to child protection (per 1,000 population)	Under 12 months	2016-17 (15.7 per 1,000)	2020-21 (24.3 per 1,000)	Unfavourable change	AIHW Child Protection Collections	The substantiation rate for infants under 12 months in South Australia in 2020-21 was 24.3 per 1,000 population, up from 15.7 in 2016-17. This substantiation rate has grown faster than the national rate over time.
Proportion of children aged five years being notified to the child protection system	Substantiations of notifications to child protection (per 1,000 population)	1-4 years (inc)	2016-17 (5.2 per 1,000)	2020-21 (8.2 per 1,000)	Unfavourable change	AIHW Child Protection Collections	The substantiation rate for children (1-4 years) in 2020-21 was 8.2 per 1,000 population in South Australia, up from 5.2 per 1,000 population in 2016-17.
Proportion of children aged five years being notified to the child protection system	Substantiations of notifications to child protection (per 1,000 population)	5-9 years (inc)	2016-17 (3.9 per 1,000)	2020-21 (6.3 per 1,000)	Unfavourable change	AIHW Child Protection Collections	The substantiation rate for children (5-9 years) in 2020-21 was 6.3 per 1,000 population in South Australia, up from 3.9 per in 2016-17.

## Dimension 2: Safety

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children and young people are safe from crime						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children and young people feeling unsafe in their local area at night</i>	Feeling unsafe at night	12-16 years				Not available	
<i>Number of children and young people who are victims of offences reported to police</i>	Victims of crime (per 10,000 population) - excluding sexual assault and related sexual offences	Birth to 17 years (inc)	2019 (47.7 per 10,000)	2021 (55.9 per 10,000)	Unfavourable change	Justice Policy and Analytics data, South Australia	Children and young people under 18 years were slightly more likely to be the victims of an offence against the person reported to SAPOL in 2021 than in 2019 (55.9 compared with 47.7 per 10,000 population).
<i>Number of arrests involving young people 10-17 years</i>	Apprehended by police (per 10,000 population) – apprehension includes arrested and/or reported	10-17 years (inc)	2019 (81.2 per 10,000)	2021 (64.4 per 10,000)	Favourable change	Justice Policy and Analytics data, South Australia	The apprehension (arrested/reported) rate for young people (10-17 years) in South Australia in the 2021 calendar year was 64.4 per 10,000 population, a significant reduction since 2019 (81.2). Data limitations include the number of apprehensions for particular offences not being available separately.

## Dimension 3: Wellbeing

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children have early experiences that enhance their development						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children with special needs, birth to five years, attending approved child care services</i>	Vulnerable group: Aboriginal children	Birth to 5 years (inc)	2017 (1.7%) In the community, at 30 June 2016 (4.7%) In the community, at 30 June 2021 (5.2%)	2021 (3.0%)	Unable to determine	Report on Government Services (ROGS)	Unable to determine trend - data interpretation challenges.  In 2021, Aboriginal children made up 3.0% of all children in SA attending an approved childcare service  The proportion of Aboriginal children under six years in the community was 5.2% at 30 June 2021.
<i>Proportion of children with special needs, birth to five years, attending approved child care services</i>	Vulnerable group: Children with disability	Birth to 5 years (inc)	2013 (3.4%) In the community, 2012 (6.2%) In the community, 2018 (5.7%)	2016 (3.2%)	Unable to determine	Report on Government Services (ROGS)	Unable to determine trend - no recent data.  It is estimated that 5.7% - 6.2% of children under six years living in the community (2012 and 2018) were children with disability (noting in 2016, 3.2% of all children in SA attending an approved childcare service were children with disability).
<i>Proportion of children with special needs, birth to five years, attending approved child care services</i>	Vulnerable group: Regional areas	Birth to 5 years (inc)	2017 (18.2%) In the community, at 30 June 2016 (22.1%) In the community, at 30 June 2020 (21.7%)	2021 (18.1%)	Unable to determine	Report on Government Services (ROGS)	Unable to determine trend - data interpretation challenges.  At 30 June 2020, the proportion of children under six years in regional areas was 21.7% (noting that in 2021, 18.1% of all children in SA attending an approved childcare were in regional areas).

## Dimension 3: Wellbeing

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children have early experiences that enhance their development						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children with special needs, birth to five years, attending approved child care services</i>	Vulnerable group: Remote areas	Birth to 5 years (inc)	2017 (2.5%) In the community, at 30 June 2016 (3.9%) In the community, at 30 June 2020 (3.7%)	2021 (2.4%)	Unable to determine	Report on Government Services (ROGS)	Unable to determine trend - data interpretation challenges.  At 30 June 2020, the proportion of children under six years in remote areas was close to 4% (noting that in 2021, 2.4% of all children in SA attending an approved childcare were in remote areas).
<i>Proportion of children with special needs, birth to five years, attending approved child care services</i>	Vulnerable group: Low income families	Birth to 5 years (inc)	2017 (20.4%)  In the community 2017-18 (20.1%)	2021 (23.3%)	Unable to determine	Report on Government Services (ROGS)	Unable to determine trend - data interpretation challenges.  In 2017-18, children from low income families made up 20.1% in the community (noting that in 2021, 23.3% of all children in SA attending an approved childcare were from low-income families).
<i>Proportion of children with special needs, birth to five years, attending approved child care services</i>	Vulnerable group: Non-English speaking backgrounds (NESB)	Birth to 5 years (inc)	2013 (12.4%)  In the community 2011 (16.7%) In the community 2016 (17.8%)	2016 (15.5%)	Unable to determine	Report on Government Services (ROGS)	Unable to determine trend - no recent data.  In 2016, the proportion of children under six years in the community from NESB was 17.8%. This was higher than the 15.5% attending Australian Government Child Care Subsidy (AGCCS) approved child care services.

## Dimension 3: Wellbeing

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children have early experiences that enhance their development						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion and number of three-year-old Aboriginal children enrolled in a quality preschool program</i>	Aboriginal	3 years	2017 (84.1%)	2021 (81.5%)	Watching brief	Preschool Education, Australia	The enrolment rate of Aboriginal three year olds in quality preschool programs was 81.5% in 2021, down from 84.1% in 2017.
<i>Proportion of children enrolled in a quality preschool program in the year before attending fulltime school</i>	Preschool	4 years	2017 (88.9%)	2021 (84.1%)	Watching brief	Preschool Education, Australia	In 2021, the enrolment rate for all four year olds in quality preschool programs was 84%, down from 89% in 2017.
<i>Proportion of children and young people participating in cultural activities</i>	Participating in cultural activities	5-14 years (inc)	2017-2018 (66.8%)	2017-2018 (66.8%)	Unable to determine	Cultural Participation Survey, ABS	Same year data. In 2017-18, 67% of children and young people (5-14 years) participated in a cultural activity outside of school hours. These activities included drama, singing, playing a musical instrument, dancing, art and craft, creative writing and creating digital content and <b>excluded screen-based activities or reading for pleasure.</b>
<i>Proportion of children and young people attending cultural venues and events</i>	Attending at least one cultural venue or event	5-14 years (inc)	2017-2018 (94.8%)	2017-2018 (94.8%)	Unable to determine	Cultural Participation Survey, ABS	Same year data. In 2017-18, 95% of children and young people (5-14 years) attended at least one cultural venue or event including art galleries, museums, libraries, live music, theatres, dance performances, musicals, operas and other performing acts, cinemas or drive-ins.

## Dimension 3: Wellbeing

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator: Children and young people are connected to family, friends and culture							
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children and young people feeling connected to adults in their home</i>	Connected to adults in their home	Year 4 to Year 10 students			Not available		<p>Education collects self-reported data for Year 4 to Year 10 students feeling connected to adults in school but not for in their home.</p> <p>In December 2020, the Council requested that consideration be given to adding this measure to the WEC survey. Education advised in 2022 that the request would be considered as part of the upcoming WEC questionnaire review.</p>
<i>Proportion of children and young people feeling connected to adults in their school</i>	Connected to adults in their school	Year 4 to Year 10 students	2019 (61.4%)	2022 (59.4%)	Unfavourable change	Wellbeing and Engagement Collection, South Australia	<p>About three-fifths of the students in Year 4 to Year 10 participating in the WEC reported feeling connected to an adult at school.</p> <p>Note: Measure is based on the WEC question whether there are any adults who are important to the student at their school.</p>
<i>Proportion of children and young people feeling connected to adults in their community</i>	Connected to adults in their community	Year 4 to Year 10 students			Not available		<p>Education collects self-reported data for Year 4 to Year 10 students feeling connected to adults in school but not for in their community.</p> <p>In December 2020, the Council requested that consideration be given to adding this measure to the WEC survey. Education advised in 2022 that the request would be considered as part of the upcoming WEC questionnaire review.</p>

## Dimension 3: Wellbeing

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children and young people play and participate in recreational activities						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children and young people with one or more friends in whom they can confide</i>	Friendships	Year 4 to Year 10 students	2019 (90.2%)	2022 (89.1%)	Unfavourable change	Wellbeing and Engagement Collection, South Australia	In 2022, 89% of Year 4 to Year 10 students reported that they had one or more friends in whom they could confide, down from 90% in 2019.
<i>Proportion of children and young people participating in organised activities outside of school hours</i>	Organised activities	Year 4 to Year 10 students	2020 (87.6%)	2022 (87.9%)	No change	Wellbeing and Engagement Collection, South Australia	In 2022, almost 9 in 10 students in Year 4 to Year 10 reported that they participated in organised activities after school (eg, sports, music, arts and craft). This participation rate has not changed between 2020 and 2022.
<i>Proportion of children and young people participating in sport or recreational physical activities</i>	Organised sports	Year 4 to Year 10 students	2020 (69.7%)	2022 (69.3%)	No change	Wellbeing and Engagement Collection, South Australia	Almost 7 in 10 students in Year 4 to Year 10 reported that they participated in organised sports. This participation rate has remained similar between 2020 (69.3%) and 2022 (69.7%).

## Dimension 3: Wellbeing

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children and young people are leading satisfied lives						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children and young people feeling optimistic about life</i>	Proportion of children and young people in Year 4 to Year 10 who report feeling optimistic about life	Year 4 to Year 10 students	2019 (85.7%)	2022 (82.4%)	Unfavourable change	Wellbeing and Engagement Collection, South Australia	The 2022 WEC data indicate that 82.4% of Year 4 to Year 10 students reported feeling optimistic about life, down from 85.7% in 2019.
<i>Proportion of children and young people who report a medium to high level of satisfaction with life.</i>	Proportion of children and young people in Year 4 to Year 10 who report a medium to high level of satisfaction with life.	Year 4 to Year 10 students	2019 (80.9%)	2022 (79.0%)	Unfavourable change	Wellbeing and Engagement Collection, South Australia	The proportion of Year 4 to Year 10 students that reported medium to high levels of satisfaction with life in 2022 was 79%, down from 80.9% in 2019.
<i>Rate of suicide for children and young people</i>	Rate of suicide for children and young people aged 5-17 years per 100,000 population	5-17 years (inc)	2012-2016 (1.9 per 100,000 population)	2017-2021 (2.1 per 100,000 population)	No change	Causes of Death, Australia	In the five years from 2017 to 2021, the suicide rate for children and young people (5-17 years) was 2.1 per 100,000 population, a total of 29 deaths.

## Dimension 4: Education

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children enter the school system ready to take advantage of the learning environment						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children developmentally vulnerable in one or more of five domains under the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) when they enter school</i>	Developmentally vulnerable	4-6 years (inc)	2015 (23.5%)	2021 (23.8%)	Unfavourable change	Australian Early Development Census	A marginal increase in the proportion of children being developmentally vulnerable is observed between 2015 and 2021.
<i>Number of children receiving early childhood intervention supports through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) or with approved NDIS plan before entering school</i>	Early childhood early intervention (ECEI)	Birth to 6 years (inc)	2020-21 Q4 (680)	2020-21 Q4 (680)	Unable to determine	NDIS Tailored Data Request	<p>Unable to determine trend - data interpretation challenges.</p> <p>ECEI participant count includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) children in the ECEI gateway receiving initial supports</li> <li>b) children in the ECEI gateway NOT receiving initial supports.</li> </ul> <p>Note: The definition used to report on children being supported in the ECEI gateway has changed since Quarter 1 2019-20 due to improvements in data collection.</p>
<i>Number of children receiving early childhood intervention supports through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) or with approved NDIS plan before entering school</i>	NDIS plan	Birth to 6 years (inc)	2020-21 Q4 (5,651)	2020-21 Q4 (5,651)	Unable to determine	NDIS Tailored Data Request	<p>Unable to determine trend - data interpretation challenges.</p> <p>An NDIS participant is considered 'active' when they receive their first plan.</p>

## Dimension 4: Education

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children and young people's experience of learning is positive						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of Year 1 students reading at an age-appropriate level or better</i>	Phonics	Year 1	2018 (43.0%)	2021 (67.0%)	Favourable change	Phonics Screening Check, Department for Education, South Australia	Year 1 government school students achieved significant improvements in phonics, from 43% in 2018 to 67% in 2021.
<i>Proportion of Year 3 students achieving at or above minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy</i>	Reading	Year 3	2016 (93.4%)	2021 (94.8%)	No change	National Assessment Program, NAP	The proportion of Year 3 students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in reading increased marginally from 2016 to 2021.
<i>Proportion of Year 3 students achieving at or above minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy</i>	Writing	Year 3	2016 (95.2%)	2021 (95.3%)	Np change	National Assessment Program, NAP	The proportion of Year 3 students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in writing was similar in 2016 and 2021.
<i>Proportion of Year 3 students achieving at or above minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy</i>	Numeracy	Year 3	2016 (94.2%)	2021 (94.7%)	No change	National Assessment Program, NAP	The proportion of Year 3 students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in numeracy increased marginally from 2016 to 2021.

## Dimension 4: Education

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children and young people's experience of learning is positive						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
Proportion of Year 5 students achieving at or above minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy	Reading	Year 5	2016 (91.5%)	2021 (94.4%)	Favourable change	National Assessment Program, NAP	There has been a slow improvement for Year 5 students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in reading over time.
Proportion of Year 5 students achieving at or above minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy	Writing	Year 5	2016 (91.7%)	2021 (90.4%)	No change	National Assessment Program, NAP	There has been a decline in Year 5 students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in writing. The rate appears to be cyclical.
Proportion of Year 5 students achieving at or above minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy	Numeracy	Year 5	2016 (92.8%)	2021 (94.4%)	No change	National Assessment Program, NAP	The proportion of Year 5 students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in numeracy increased from 2016 to 2021. The trend is relatively flat and appears to be cyclical.
Proportion of Year 7 students achieving at or above minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy	Reading	Year 7	2016 (94.2%)	2021 (93.3%)	No change	National Assessment Program, NAP	The proportion of Year 7 students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in reading reduced slightly from 2016 to 2021.
Proportion of Year 7 students achieving at or above minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy	Writing	Year 7	2016 (90.1%)	2021 (88.4%)	No change	National Assessment Program, NAP	The proportion of Year 7 students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in writing was highest in 2016 (90.1%). Since then it has been between 86% and 89%.
Proportion of Year 7 students achieving at or above minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy	Numeracy	Year 7	2016 (95.2%)	2021 (92.6%)	Unfavourable change	National Assessment Program, NAP	The proportion of Year 7 students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in numeracy was highest in 2016 (95.2%) but declined to 92.6% in 2021.

## Dimension 4: Education

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children and young people are engaged in school, further education, training or work						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of young people fully engaged in school, work or further education and training</i>	Fully engaged	15-19 years (inc)	2017 (86.0% ± 3.2%*)	2021 (88.2% ± 4.1%*)	No change	Survey of Education and Work, ABS	The apparent rise in the proportion of young people being fully engaged in school, work or further education and training is not significant because the margin of error is wide.
<i>Proportion of young people with disability, partially or fully engaged in school, work or further education and training</i>	Partially or fully engaged	15-19 years (inc)	2016 (84.8%)	2021 (81.5%)	Unfavourable change	Census of Population and Housing	The proportion of young people (15-19 years) with disability that were partially or fully engaged in school, work or further education in SA was 81.5% in 2021 down from 84.8% in 2016.
<i>Rate of attendance for students enrolled at school</i>	Rate of school attendance	Year 1 to Year 10	2017 (91.7%)	2021 (90.5%)	No change	National Report on Schooling in Australia, ACARA	The attendance rate for Year 1 to Year 10 is consistent between 2017 and 2021.
<i>Proportion of young people completing a senior secondary certificate of education qualification or equivalent by 19 years</i>	Senior secondary certificate	Year 12	2016 (92.0%)	2020 (91.1%)	No change	National Report on Schooling in Australia, ACARA	There has been a steady improvement in the proportion of young people completing a senior secondary certificate of education qualification or equivalent between 2015 and 2019.

\* The margin of error describes the amount of variability for the reported measure.

## Dimension 5: Citizenship

## Whole-of-population data table

Children and young people develop skills for an independent life							
Indicator							
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of young people 14-15 years that are literate</i>	Reading	Year 9	2016 (91.9%)	2021 (88.9%)	No change	National Assessment Program, NAP	The proportion of Year 9 students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in reading reduced slightly in 2021. The trend appears to be cyclical.
<i>Proportion of young people 14-15 years that are literate</i>	Writing	Year 9	2016 (81.5%)	2021 (81.1%)	No change	National Assessment Program, NAP	The proportion of Year 9 students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in writing indicates less than 1% change from 2016 to 2021.
<i>Proportion of young people 14-15 years that are numerate</i>	Numeracy	Year 9	2016 (94.4%)	2021 (93.8%)	No change	National Assessment Program, NAP	The proportion of Year 9 students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in numeracy indicates less than 1% change from 2016 to 2021.

## Dimension 5: Citizenship

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children and young people develop skills for an independent life						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of young people 15-19 years that are financially literate</i>	Financial numeracy	15-19 years (inc)	2016 (np)	2020 (np)	Unable to determine	Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey, GENERAL RELEASE 20 (Waves 1-20)	Data are suppressed due to data suppression rule where cell size with five or less respondent counts will not be published.
<i>Proportion of young people 15-19 years that are financially literate</i>	Inflation	15-19 years (inc)	2016 (67.1%± 12.1%*)	2020 (41.6%± 12.1%*)	Unfavourable change	Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey, GENERAL RELEASE 20 (Waves 1-20)	When asked the question 'If the interest rate on your savings account was 1% per year and inflation was 2% per year. After one year, would you be able to buy more/the same/less than today?', the survey found that 42% of South Australian 15-19 year olds were likely to record the right answer in 2020, down from 67% in 2016.
<i>Proportion of young people 15-19 years that are financially literate</i>	Diversification	15-19 years (inc)	2016 (62.9%± 10.0%*)	2020 (79.8%± 11.1%*)	Favourable change	Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey, GENERAL RELEASE 20 (Waves 1-20)	When asked the question 'Buying shares in a single company usually provides a safer return than buying shares in a number of different companies', the survey found that almost 80% of South Australian 15-19 year olds were likely to record the right answer in 2020.

\* The presented margin of error describes the amount of variability we can expect for the reported measure.

## Dimension 5: Citizenship

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children and young people develop skills for an independent life						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of young people 15-19 years that are financially literate</i>	Risk-return	15-19 years (inc)	2016 (82.5%± 7.4%*)	2020 (80.0%± 12.8%*)	No change	Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey, GENERAL RELEASE 20 (Waves 1-20)	When asked the question “An investment with a high return is likely to be high risk”, the survey found that 82.5% of South Australian 15-19 year olds were likely to record the right answer in 2020.
<i>Proportion of young people 15-19 years that are financially literate</i>	Money illusion	15-19 years (inc)	2016 (86.0%± 7.2%*)	2020 (81.6%± 10.6%*)	No change	Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey, GENERAL RELEASE 20 (Waves 1-20)	When asked the question in 2016 (2020) “If by the year 2020 (2024) your income has doubled, but the prices of all of purchases have also doubled, in 2020 (2024), will you be able to buy more/the same/less than today?”, the survey found that 82% of 15-19-year-olds in SA were likely to record the right answer in 2020, a marginal fall from 86.0% in 2016.
<i>Proportion of young people 16-19 years with a driver's licence</i>	Driver's licence	16-19 years (inc)	2017 (55.2%)	2021 (55.9%)	No change	TRUMP system - Transport Regulation User Management Processing System	The proportion of young people (17 to 19 years) with a driver's licence remained relatively unchanged between 2017 and 2021.  No data are available for 16 year olds.

\* The presented margin of error describes the amount of variability we can expect for the reported measure.

## Dimension 5: Citizenship

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children and young people develop skills for an independent life						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
Proportion of young people 15-19 years satisfied with their level of independence	Satisfied with independence	17 years	2008 (Cohort Y06, Wave 3) (94.2%)	2011 (Cohort Y09, Wave 3) (91.7%)	Unable to determine	Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY)	Unable to determine trend - no recent data. Due to a methodology change for the LSAY, this question was only asked of young people in the Y15 cohort after the Wave 3 survey.
Average hours of paid employment for young people 15-19 years	Employed young people (hours)	17 years	2011 (Cohort Y09, Wave 3) (14.0)	2017 (Cohort Y15, Wave 3) (12.6)	Unable to determine	Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY)	Unable to determine trend – data interpretation challenges as the survey margin of error is not provided. Young people (17 years) reported working fewer hours in their main job, a reduction from 14.0 hours in 2011 to 12.6 hours in 2017.
Proportion of young people 15-19 years not currently living with their parents	Not living with parents	18 years	2009 (Cohort Y06, Wave 4) (17.3%)	2012 (Cohort Y09, Wave 4) (13.2%)	Unable to determine	Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY)	Unable to determine trend - no recent data. Due to a methodology change for the LSAY for Y15 cohort, the scope of this question was expanded to include family members, or a guardian.
Proportion of Year 10 students achieving at or above proficient standard in the Australian curriculum civics and citizenship assessment	Civics and Citizenship	Year 10	2016 (34.0% ± 4.3%*)	2019 (29.0% ± 5.5%*)	No change	National Assessment Program for Civics and Citizenship (NAP-CC) survey	While there is a fall in the proportion of Year 10 students achieving at or above the proficient standard in the Australian curriculum civics and citizenship assessment, this decrease is not significant due to the wide margin of error associated with this survey.

\* The margin of error indicates the magnitude of variability for this measure.

## Dimension 5: Citizenship

## Whole-of-population data table

Indicator	Children and young people participate in decisions that affect them directly and the wider society						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
Proportion of children and young people feeling able to have a say on important issues	Having a say on important issues	15-17 years		Not available		General Social Survey, ABS	No South Australia-specific data and no age-aligned data available.
Proportion of young people 18 years enrolled to vote	Enrolled to vote	18-19 years (inc)	2019 (61.6%)	2022# (73.6%)	Favourable change	Australian Electoral Commission	In South Australia, 29,449 young people (18-19 years) were enrolled to vote in the 2022 federal election, an improvement since 2019
Proportion of children and young people participating in volunteering	Volunteering	15-19 years (inc)	2016 (22.5%)	2021 (16.5%)	Unable to determine	Census of Population and Housing	Fewer young South Australians (15-19 years) were participating in volunteering in 2021 than in 2016.
Proportion of children and young people participating in community support groups	Community support groups	15-17 years		Not available		General Social Survey, ABS	No South Australia-specific data and no age-aligned data available.

# The proportion is calculated by taking the number of 18-19 year olds on the certified list for Australian federal elections as the numerator and the estimated resident population from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (3101.0) by age and state/territory in the denominator. All residents are included in the denominator including non-citizens that are unable to enrol to vote. Caution must be taken in interpreting these results. The 2022 statistic is based on the estimated resident population at 31 December 2021.



## **Part B**

# **Aboriginal children and young people**

## South Australia's Aboriginal children and young people at a glance

### Aboriginal children and young people

The Census data:

- 2021, indicate that 16,400 Aboriginal children and young people were estimated to be living in South Australia, making up 4.5% of all children and young people **under 18 years**
- Nationally, Aboriginal children and young people comprised 5.7% of all children and young people **under 18 years**

Source: Sources: Census of Population and Housing, 2016 and 2021, TableBuilder



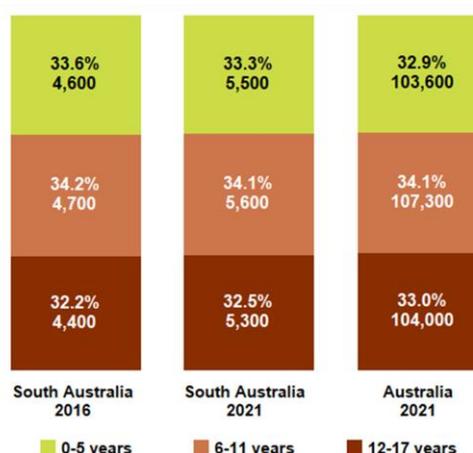
### Age groups for Aboriginal children and young people

The Census data disaggregated by age for Aboriginal children and young people in South Australia indicated that in 2021, of the approximately 16,400 Aboriginal children and young people **under 18 years**:

- 5,500 (33.3%) were under six years
- 5,600 (34.1%) were six to 11 years
- 5,300 (32.5%) were 12 to 17 years.

Source: Sources: Census of Population and Housing, 2016 and 2021, TableBuilder

Note: Due to rounding the proportions may not add up exactly.

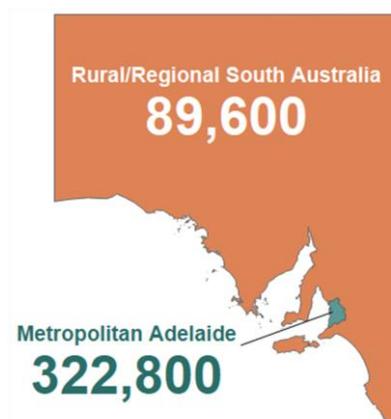


### Location

The latest available data:

- 2021, indicate that 78.3% of children and young people **under 20 years** in South Australia were living in the Adelaide metropolitan area and less than one quarter (21.7%) were living in rural and regional areas
- 2016, indicate that more than half (53%) of Aboriginal children and young people **under 20 years** were living in major cities in South Australia.

Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, cat no. 3235.0 Regional Population by Age and Sex, Australia, June 2021; Australian Bureau of Statistics 3238.0.55.001 Estimated resident Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous population, states and territories, Remoteness Areas - 30 June 2016.



# Executive Summary

## Aboriginal children and young people



*How are they faring? South Australia's 2022 Report Card for children and young people* is the third report of population-level outcomes for children and young people from birth to 18 years under [South Australia's Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People](#) (framework).

Part B reports data for **Aboriginal children and young people** under the framework's five legislated dimensions – health, safety, wellbeing, education and citizenship – with the intent of providing an evidence-base to inform strategies, set objectives and implement policies.

It should be noted that other forms of culturally relevant qualitative and/or quantitative data, that would give a clearer and more accurate picture of the outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people, are not covered in SA's 2022 Report Card. Other forms may be considered in the future.

### **Health dimension**

Most Aboriginal children and young people in South Australia (SA) appear to be in **good health**.

- Positive trends include the proportion of Aboriginal women under 20 years of age at the time of giving birth being lower than the national proportion and the mortality rate for Aboriginal infants in the first year after birth being lower than the national rate.<sup>41</sup>
- The proportion of Aboriginal women in SA attending a first antenatal visit in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy is lower than the national rate (2019) and fewer Aboriginal two-year-old children in SA are fully immunised than nationally.

### **Safety dimension**

Most Aboriginal children and young people appear to be **safe** from preventable injury, abuse and neglect, however, child protection and youth justice data are causing significant concern.

<sup>41</sup> These data for state and national comparison are four to five years old (2017-18).

- Positive trends include a slight reduction in the proportion of young people including Aboriginal young people (15-19 years) in SA feeling concerned about family conflict, and a lower rate of deaths for Aboriginal children and young people, classified as preventable deaths. The proportion of presentations of Aboriginal children and young people under 18 years to public hospital emergency departments whose presentations are classified as 'potentially preventable hospitalisations' was lower in 2021 than in 2017.
- Of grave concern is that:
  - South Australia has the second highest rate of all Australian jurisdictions for Aboriginal children and young people both **entering** out-of-home care (OOHC) during 2020-21 and being **in** OOHC at 30 June 2021
  - **the substantiation rate of 169.2 per 1,000 population for Aboriginal infants (birth to 12 months) was almost double that of the national rate (85.6 per 1,000 population in 2020-21)**
  - the rate of Aboriginal children and young people under 18 years who were victims of offences reported to the police was 104.7 per 10,000 population in 2021 (up from 91.3 in 2019)

- Aboriginal children and young people (10-18 years) comprised 42.2% of children and young people involved in the both the child protection and youth justice systems in SA.

### **Wellbeing dimension**

Most Aboriginal children in SA appear to be **happy, inspired and engaged**, however, when separate data for Aboriginal children and young people are either not available or delayed it is difficult to tell.

- Positive trends include Aboriginal three-year-olds being more likely to be enrolled in a quality preschool program in SA than in other Australian jurisdictions and that enrolments of Aboriginal four-year-olds increased slightly from 2017 to 2021
- Faring less well in national comparison is SA's proportion of Aboriginal children **attending** an approved childcare service (3.0% in 2021), lower than the national proportion (4.3% in 2021). Importantly, however, the proportion of 3.0% in 2021 was a significant increase from 1.7% in 2017.

### **Education dimension**

Most Aboriginal children and young people would appear to have **positive experiences of learning** in SA:

- Positive trends include an increase in Aboriginal students in Year 3 and

Year 5 reading at or above the national minimum standard and the proportion of Aboriginal Year 5 students performing at or above the national minimum standard in numeracy.

National comparison indicates that Aboriginal young people (15-19 years) in SA were slightly more likely to be fully engaged in school, work or further education and training.<sup>42</sup> The rate for Aboriginal young people (15-19 years) with profound or severe disability being partially or fully engaged in school, work or further education and training was slightly higher than the national average.

- In SA, a higher proportion of Aboriginal children were **developmentally vulnerable** in one or more of five domains under the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) when they entered school than the national proportion in 2018. The proportion of Aboriginal Year 3 students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in writing was lower in 2021 than in 2016. The rate for Aboriginal young people completing Year 12 or an equivalent qualification was lower in SA than the national rate (Census 2021). School attendance by Aboriginal students in Years 1-10, who were enrolled in school, was below the national attendance rate (77.3% vs 79.4%) in 2021.

### ***Citizenship dimension***

Most Aboriginal young people appear to be preparing for adult life, however, without recent, disaggregated data being available, it is difficult to state categorically that they have opportunities to prepare and that their preparations are on track.

- The latest available data (2011) indicate that the proportion of Aboriginal young people (15-19 years) in SA who reported being satisfied with their level of independence was fractionally higher than the national proportion
- When compared nationally, SA had lower rates for both the average hours of paid employment for Aboriginal young people (15-19 years) and for volunteering by Aboriginal young people (15-19 years). Separate data are not available for Aboriginal Year 10 students achieving or exceeding the national minimum standard in the Australian curriculum civics and citizenship assessment or for Aboriginal young people being enrolled to vote in the most recent state and national elections.

### ***Data shortfalls***

At a population level, most Aboriginal children and young people in SA appear to be doing well, however, this report card

<sup>42</sup> Census 20216 data being the latest available data.

highlights areas of concern that should be prioritised for improvement, especially for Aboriginal children and young people. The ongoing data limitations are of concern and especially that these **data limitations are more pronounced for Aboriginal children and young people.**

The specific data gaps for the framework measures are summarised in a one-page table which indicates the severity of the gaps using a colour-coded legend (refer Figure 1 on page 10).

### **Framework review**

The framework was gazetted on 14 November 2019 and the legislation requires review of the framework at least once in each three-year period. Feedback received from Aboriginal people from February to August 2022 will inform

changes to the framework, eg of the existing indicators and/or measures.

### **COVID-19**

Throughout this report card, reference is made to the impact of the pandemic on children and young people both in terms of contemporary impacts and potential future opportunities.

Three data tables are annexed to this report card:

- Data for 'whole-of-population' (ie, **all children and young people** including Aboriginal children and young people) – Annex1 (page 40)
- Data for **Aboriginal children and young people** – Annex 2 (page 96)
- **Data gaps:** All children and young people, including Aboriginal children and young people – Annex 3 (page 119)

## Key priority for action in 2023



### ***Addressing data gaps and data quality***

Good quality data are fundamental to government and policy makers for creating strategies, setting objectives or developing and implementing policies. Data gaps inhibit SA's decision-makers from making informed decisions to improve the outcomes of children and young people (birth to 18 years).

This report card specifically points out the existing data gaps for framework measures in all five dimensions that are considered fundamental to outcomes.

Some of the available data are too old for a contemporary evidence-base to inform decision-making.

The 2020 National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement) was developed in partnership with the Coalition of Peaks. The National Agreement has 17 targets for eight subject areas (health and wellbeing, education and employment, justice, safety, housing, land and waters, languages and digital inclusion).

The National Agreement targets include all Aboriginal four-year-olds being **enrolled in early childhood education** by 2025 and, that by 2028:

- 90-92% of babies born to Aboriginal mothers have a **healthy birthweight**
- 45% of Aboriginal children are assessed as **developmentally on track** in all five domains of the AEDC
- the rate of Aboriginal children and young people **in detention having reduced** by 11-19%.

What the Council is doing:

Since the framework commenced in November 2019, yearly report cards have shown how young South Australians under 18 years are faring in terms of their health, safety, wellbeing, education and preparedness for adulthood. Specific areas of concern highlighted in previous report cards that are of relevance to the National Agreement targets included:

- babies born with low bodyweight
- infant mortality rate for infants under 12 months
- mother's age at birth; smoking and seeking antenatal care in pregnancy
- rates of apprehension, arrest and reporting by police
- rates of children and young people (birth to 18 years) being *in* OOHC
- school attendance rates for students in Year 1 to Year 10.

The Council is also:

- raising awareness of the data gaps with SA's decision makers and data custodians and seeking their cooperation to fill data gaps
- engaging eminent researchers and data custodians regarding Aboriginal data sovereignty principles to clarify and guide data availability and reporting for Aboriginal children and young people.

To comply with the statutory duty of State authorities regarding the framework, the **Chief Executives and leadership teams** of state government agencies and councils should lead their organisations and staff in:

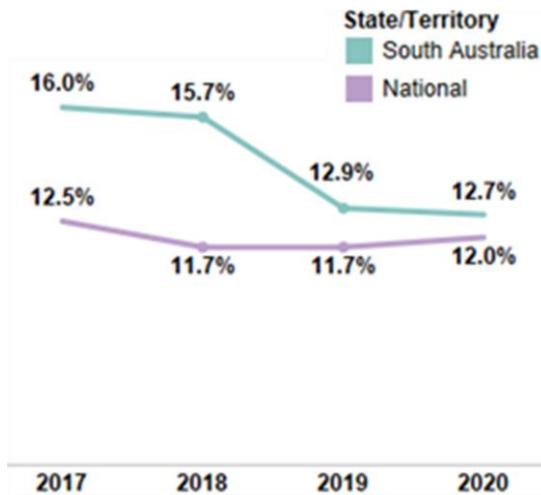
**1 Endorsing** the framework in high-level planning and strategy processes and documentation, thereby publicly committing to improving agreed outcomes for children and young people. It is important that all governments work towards this shared set of outcomes as legislated and gazetted.

**2 Applying the framework** and proactively:

- **determining** how the organisation's policies, programs and services align with the five dimensions and outcome statements?
- **embedding** the dimensions and outcome statements in the organisation's policies, programs and services ie, into all existing aspects and mechanisms to give effect to the framework
- **considering** the indicators and the outcomes statements and asking: Are we collecting and/or reporting data that provide evidence of how children and young people are doing?

## Data for framework measures relevant to the National Agreement targets

### Aboriginal babies experience more low bodyweight births



### Aboriginal mothers tend to be younger, more likely to smoke and seek antenatal care later in pregnancy

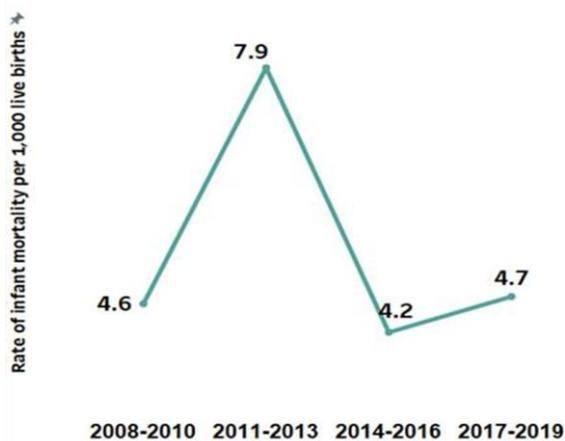
 The proportion of Aboriginal mothers **under 20 years** when giving birth declined from 15% in 2015 to **9%** in 2019 (11% nationally in 2019).

 **45%** of Aboriginal women **smoked in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy** in 2019.

 An increasing proportion of Aboriginal women attended a first **antenatal visit** in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy in 2019, still significantly lower than the proportion for all women in South Australia.

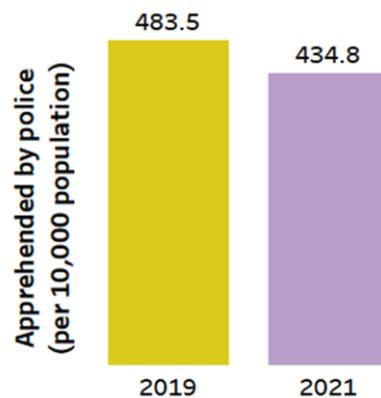
*Data are available for all women in South Australia for 2020; however, not for Aboriginal women in South Australia.*

### South Australia's infant mortality rate for Aboriginal babies under 12 months remain unchanged



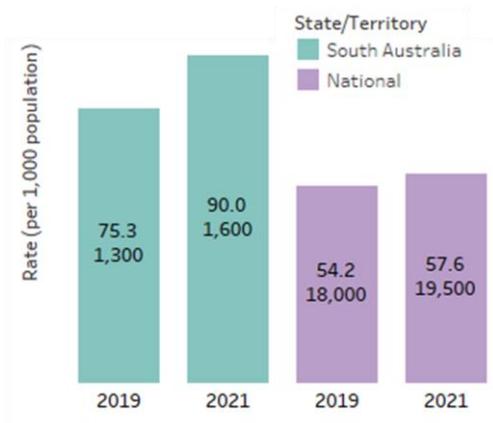
The mortality rate for Aboriginal infants **under 12 months** fluctuated widely between 2008-10 to 2017-19.

### Lower number of Aboriginal young people apprehended, arrested and/or reported by SAPOL



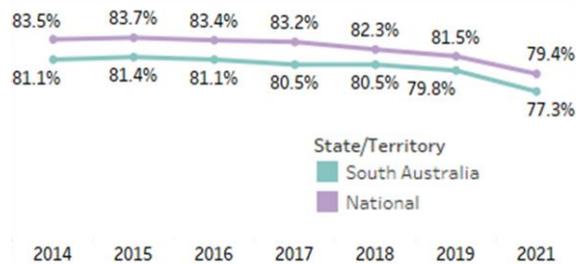
The rate of Aboriginal young people (**10-17 years**) being apprehended, arrested and/or reported by police reduced from 483.5 per 10,000 in 2019 to 434.8 in 2021.

**Increasing rate for being *in* out-of-home care (OOHC) for Aboriginal children and young people (birth to 18 years) in South Australia**



The number of Aboriginal children and young people (**birth to 18 years**) in OOHC in South Australia rose from 75.3 per 1,000 population at 30 June 2019 to 90.0 per 1,000 population at 30 June 2021.

**Declining attendance rate for Aboriginal students (Year 1 to 10)**



The attendance rate for Aboriginal students enrolled at school has slowly declined from 81.1% in 2014 to 77.3% in 2021 (except for a slight improvement in 2015). This means that on any school day, **more than one out of every five, were not at school**. School attendance data for 2020 has not been published due to inconsistencies in the data across the country as a result of to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Outcome

Young South Australians are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy

## Indicators

- Babies are born healthy
- Children have a healthy early life
- Children and young people have health-promoting behaviours
- Children and young people are thriving

The outcome statement ‘*Young South Australians are physically, mentally and emotionally healthy*’ represents the desired result for dimension 1 of SA’s framework. There are four indicators to determine what aspects are measured and 18 measures to provide evidence of progress.

[Notes:

- The **lack of recent and quality health data** for Aboriginal children and young people in SA is common. Data for smoking, alcohol and drugs are not available for reporting publicly due to small sample sizes. In 2018-19, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey reached approximately 33% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons in Australia, meaning that the findings cannot be reliably reported for all Aboriginal people.
- A lack of data for some measures considered fundamental to overall

health and wellbeing, makes the monitoring and reporting of trends in these measures impossible, eg [whether children under five years are meeting developmental milestones.]

### *Babies are born healthy*

#### ***Birthweight***

The proportion of low birthweight Aboriginal babies in SA was 12.7% in 2020 (13.8% in 2016).

#### ***Smoking in pregnancy***

The most recent data are from 2019. These data show that the proportion of Aboriginal women who smoked in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy was 44.8% in 2019 (48.4% in 2015).

#### ***Age when giving birth<sup>43</sup>***

The latest available data for Aboriginal mothers are from 2019. These data indicate that 9.2% of Aboriginal mothers were under 20 years at the time of giving birth in SA (15.2% in 2015). Nationally, the

<sup>43</sup> The average age of mothers giving birth is approximately 30.7 years.

proportion was 11.4% in 2019 (15.3% in 2015).

### **Antenatal visits**

More Aboriginal women are attending a first antenatal visit in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy. In 2019, the latest available data for Aboriginal women in SA, indicated that 64.4% of Aboriginal women attended their first antenatal visit in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy (56.5% in 2015). Nationally, the proportion was 68.2% in 2019 (56.5% in 2015).

### **Children have a healthy early life**

#### **Infant mortality (birth to 12 months)**

The mortality rate data for Aboriginal infants (birth to 12 months) in SA are subject to wide variability and cannot be reliably reported. The mortality rate data for Aboriginal infants under 12 months in SA was 4.7 per 1,000 live births for the three-year period 2017-2019.

#### **Immunisation**

The proportions of Aboriginal children fully immunised at one, two and five years in SA were:

##### *One year*

- 92.4% in 2021 (90.3% in 2017).  
Nationally, the proportion was 92.4% in 2021 (92.2% in 2017)

##### *Two years*

- 89.7% in 2021 (87.6 % in 2017). Nationally, the proportion was 91.4% in 2021 (88.2% in 2017)

##### *Five years*

- $\geq 95.0\%$ <sup>44</sup> in 2021 (94.2% in 2017).  
Nationally, the proportion was 96.8% in 2021 (96.2% in 2017).<sup>45</sup>

### **Meeting developmental milestones**

The proportion of Aboriginal children under five years in SA meeting developmental milestones at two and four years cannot be reported due to a lack of data.

### **Children and young people have health-promoting behaviours**

[Note: Publicly available data reported for some of these measures below are three to four years old. Data for Aboriginal children and young people are not readily available.]

### **Underweight, overweight or obese**

Data for Aboriginal children and young people (2-17 years) for 2018-19 are for the combined category of 'overweight/obese'.

- In 2018-19, the proportion of Aboriginal children and young people (2-17 years) being overweight/obese in SA was 43.7% (37.9% nationally)

<sup>44</sup> For the Aboriginal population data estimates, 95.0% means  $\geq 95.00\%$ .

<sup>45</sup> For the Aboriginal population data estimates, 95.0% means  $\geq 95.00\%$ .

- These data are subject to a high margin of error due to the small sample size.<sup>46</sup>

[Note: The latest publicly available data for these measures below are five years old and separate data for Aboriginal children and young people are not available.<sup>47</sup>]

### **Smoking, alcohol and drugs**

#### *Smoking*

- 10.2% of students (12-17 years) from all school sectors in SA, including Aboriginal students, reported ever having smoked tobacco in 2017 (13.8% in 2014). Nationally, the proportion was 18.0% in 2017 (19.1% in 2014)

#### *Alcohol*

- 66.8% of students (12-17 years) from all school sectors in SA, including Aboriginal students, reported ever having consumed alcohol in 2017 (67.5% in 2014). Nationally, the proportion was 66% in 2017 (68% in 2014)
- 57.2% of students (12-17 years) from all school sectors in SA, including Aboriginal students, reported potentially unsafe or binge-drinking behaviour in 2017 (58.5% in 2014).<sup>48</sup> Nationally, the proportion was 33% in 2017 (24% in 2014).

#### *Illicit drugs including cannabis*

- 12.8% of students (12-17 years) in SA, including Aboriginal students, reported *ever having taken* illicit drugs including cannabis in 2017 (14.2% in 2014). Nationally, the proportion was 16% in 2017 (14.9% in 2014).

#### *Cannabis*

- 10.2% of students (12-17 years) in SA, including Aboriginal students, reported *ever having taken* cannabis in 2017 (11.3% in 2014). Nationally, the proportion was 16% in 2017 (15.8% in 2014).

### **Children and young people are thriving**

#### *Fruit consumption*

- In 2018-19, 64.9% of Aboriginal children and young people (2-17 years) were meeting the National Health and Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines for fruit consumption. Nationally, the proportion was 65%. These data for SA are subject to wide variability and should be interpreted with caution.<sup>49</sup>

#### *Vegetable consumption*

- In 2018-19, 11.9% of Aboriginal children and young people, met the NHMRC guidelines for vegetable

<sup>46</sup> The 2018-19 NATSIHS covered approximately 33% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in Australia.

<sup>47</sup> The next round of the Australian Secondary Students' Alcohol and Drug Survey (ASSAD) is scheduled to be conducted in 2022 with the national report being likely to be available towards the end of 2023.

<sup>48</sup> These data were sourced from publicly available statistical bulletins on the SA Health website, which classify potentially unsafe or binge-drinking behaviour as consuming four or more standard drinks on one or more occasions.

<sup>49</sup> The MoE was 7.8% for South Australia while it is 3.3% at the national level.

consumption. Nationally, the proportion was 6.1%. These data for SA are subject to wide variability and should be interpreted with caution<sup>50</sup>

Figure 3 below, highlights the disproportionate impact on children and young people in rural and remote areas in terms of being able to access quality fresh food of high nutritional value.

Figure 3 Example of feedback during face-to-face consultation for the first review of the framework in 2022

*The cost of living continues to rise in South Australia which impacts on accessibility to quality nutritious food for children and young people. The importance of nutrition for a growing and developing young brain and body is widely known. For many people who live in regional and remote parts of South Australia access to quality nutritious fresh food can be very expensive. Families are having to choose between purchasing expensive vegetables and meat that will not necessarily fill the number of bellies that it needs to or purchasing foods that will provide the illusion of fullness much more quickly and affordably.*

*This information was provided during community consultation with Aboriginal people throughout the review of the framework.*

[Note: The latest publicly available data for this measure are eight years old. Separate data for Aboriginal children and young people are not available.]

### **Tooth decay**

In 2012-14 in SA, the proportions of children and young people, including Aboriginal children and young people, with tooth decay in deciduous or permanent teeth were:

#### *Deciduous teeth*

- 37.6% of children (5-10 years).  
Nationally, the proportion was 41.7%.

#### *Permanent teeth*

- 15.3% of children and young people (6-14 years). Nationally, the proportion was 23.5%.

The *National Oral Health Plan 2015-2024* calls for a population-based epidemiological study of the oral health of children and young people to be conducted every 10 years. Data from this study should be available in 2025. Considering the importance of oral health to overall health, development, wellbeing and social inclusion it is concerning that current data are not available to inform strategy and funding allocation.

### **Self-reported health**

- The proportion of Aboriginal Year 4 to Year 10 students in government schools in SA that considered themselves to be in good or excellent health was 73.5% in 2022 (77.7% in 2019)

<sup>50</sup> The MoE was 10.3% for South Australia while it is 1.5% at the national level.

- 76.8% of Aboriginal Year 6 students in government schools considered themselves to be in good or excellent health in 2022 (82.1% in 2019)
- 63.8% of Aboriginal Year 10 students in government schools considered themselves to be in good or excellent health in 2022 (61.1% in 2019).

### ***Mental health and wellbeing***

Separate data for the proportion of Aboriginal children and young people (5-17 years) estimated to have an emotional, mental health or behavioural problem from the SAPHS are not publishable due to a relatively small sample size.

## Dimension 2: Safety

## Aboriginal

### Outcome

Young South Australians are safe and nurtured

### Indicators

- Children and young people live in safe housing
- Children and young people are safe from preventable injury
- Children and young people are safe from abuse and neglect
- Children and young people are safe from crime

The outcome statement 'Young South Australians are safe and nurtured' represents the desired result for dimension 2 of the framework. There are four indicators to determine what aspects are measured and 13 measures to provide evidence of progress.

Data are generally available for whole-of-population reporting although for two of the measures, data are only reported at national level. These measures include:

- number of children and young people (5-13 years) attending a swimming safety program
- proportion of children and young people feeling (un)safe in their local area at night.

[Note: Several data gaps exist for Aboriginal children and young people, owing to the infrequent collection of data and small sample sizes which reduce the statistical reliability of the data.]

### *Children and young people live in safe housing*

#### **Family conflict**

- In 2021, 59.5% of young South Australians (15-19 years), including Aboriginal young people, who responded to the Mission Australia Youth Survey indicated that they felt concerned about family conflict (60.2% in 2017). These reported levels of concern ranged from feeling slightly to extremely concerned.
- The proportion of Aboriginal young people (15-19 years) in SA who responded to the Mission Australia Youth Survey in 2021, is not reported separately due to the small sample size.

[Note: The latest publicly available data for these measures below are six years old.]

#### **Housing stress**

In SA, 28.1% of Aboriginal children and young people under 15 years lived in households experiencing **housing stress**

in 2016 (26.8% in 2011). This means that almost three in every 10 Aboriginal children and young people under 15 years lived in households experiencing housing stress (higher than the national proportion of 27.1% in 2016).

### **Homelessness**

In SA, the rate of Aboriginal children and young people under 19 years experiencing **homelessness** was 259.7 per 10,000 population in 2016. Nationally, the rate was 336.4 per 10,000 population in 2016.

### **Children and young people are safe from preventable injury**

#### **Hospitalisations**

The proportion of presentations by Aboriginal children and young people under 18 years to public hospital emergency departments whose presentations are classified as 'potentially preventable hospitalisations' was 14.8% in 2021 (18% in 2017).

[Note: The latest publicly available data for this measure below are six to 10 years old.]

#### **Preventable/unintentional deaths due to injury**

- The rate of preventable/unintentional deaths of Aboriginal children and young people under 16 years is reported for a five-year period
- In the five years from 2012-16, 20.9 per 100,000 deaths of Aboriginal children

and young people under 15 years were classified as preventable/unintentional deaths (9.3 in 2008-2012). Nationally, the rate for 2012-16 was 14.5 per 100,000 deaths (14.2 in 2009-13).

#### **Restraint in vehicles**

The number of police cautions or fines issued to drivers for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal passengers under 16 years not being safely restrained was 327 in 2020-21 (a significant reduction from 690 in 2017-18).

### **Children and young people are safe from abuse and neglect**

#### **Admission to out-of-home care (OOHC)**

In SA, Aboriginal children and young people under 18 years were **admitted to** OOHC at a rate of 17.9 in 2020-21 (17.2 in 2018-19). Nationally, the admission rate of Aboriginal children and young people to OOHC was 13.3 in 2020-21 (13.0 in 2018-19).

#### **Children and young people in OOHC**

A rate calculated on the last day of June each year indicates that, at 30 June 2021, in SA:

- Approximately 90.0 per 1,000 Aboriginal children and young people under 18 years were **in** OOHC (75.3 per 1,000 at 30 June 2019). Nationally, the rate was 57.6 per 1,000 (54.2 per 1,000 **at** 30 June 2019).

- Aboriginal children and young people represented 37% of all children and young people under 18 years *in* OOHC in SA.

Of more than 1,600 Aboriginal children and young people under 18 years *in* out-of-home care in SA at 30 June 2021:

- Two-fifths (40.9%) had been continuously in care for five or more years
- 27.2% had been continuously in care between two and five years
- 37.4% were living with Aboriginal relatives or kin or other Aboriginal carers
- 23.6% were living with non-Aboriginal relatives or kin
- 39% were in other care arrangements, eg living with non-Aboriginal carers, in residential care, or independently in family group homes.

Of these 1,600 Aboriginal children and young people (97%) had a **current, documented and approved cultural support plan**, a significant jump from 55% at 30 June 2020.

In March 2022, the Guardian for Children and Young People (GCYP) reported on a new trial service funded by the Department for Child Protection (DCP) designed to provide access to affordable accommodation and a range of supports

for young people exiting OOHC. The 'Next Steps Pilot Program' operated by Centacare in partnership with the Aboriginal Sobriety Group, Housing Choices SA and DCP, is anticipated to run until mid-2025, and to provide support to at least 20 young people from 17.5 years and older.<sup>xxvi</sup>

### **Substantiated notifications**

The rates of substantiated notifications to the child protection system for Aboriginal children under 10 years have increased steeply.

#### *Infants (birth to 12 months)*

- For Aboriginal infants under 12 months, the substantiation rate was 169.2 per 1,000 population in 2020-21 (100.9 in 2016-17). Nationally, the rate for Aboriginal infants was 85.6 per 1,000 in 2020-21 (83.2 in 2016-17).

#### *Babies/toddlers and young children (1-4 years)*

- For Aboriginal children (1-4 years), the substantiation rate was 57.1 per 1,000 population in 2020-21 (35.1 in 2016-17). Nationally, the rate was 47.7 in 2020-21 (51.6 in 2016-17).

#### *Children (5-9 years)*

- For Aboriginal children (5-9 years) the substantiation rate was 50.2 per 1,000 population in 2020-21 (25.7 in 2016-17). Nationally, the rate was 39.4 per 1,000 population in 2020-21 (45.8 in 2016-17).

Section 12 of the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* enshrines the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle](#) in legislation in SA.

This means, in order of priority, that:

- Placement in care should be with a member of the child or young person's family or community (who has a relationship of responsibility for that child or young person)
- If not, placement should be with a person of Aboriginal cultural background.

On 30 June 2022, SA's Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People (CACYP) announced an [Inquiry into the removal and placement of Aboriginal children and young people in SA](#), indicating that the inquiry would examine recent and current policies, practices and procedures of State authorities in applying the principle.

### ***Children and young people are safe from crime***

#### ***Feeling safe in the community***

This report card is unable to report the proportion of Aboriginal children and young people feeling (un)safe in their local area at night. Despite the importance of feeling safe in one's own neighbourhood, there are no data available.

### ***Victims of offences***

The number of Aboriginal children and young people under 18 years who were **victims of offences** reported to SAPOL in 2021, was 104.7 per 10,000 population (91.3 in 2019).

### ***Arrests***

The number of arrests of Aboriginal children and young people in SA was 434.8 per 10,000 population (483.5 in 2019). These high rates, both for being a victim of an offence and for being arrested, demonstrate that Aboriginal children and young people are overwhelmingly more likely to have contact with SAPOL than non-Aboriginal children and young people. This continues to highlight a critical need for greater investment in early intervention, prevention, and diversion strategies.<sup>xxvii</sup>

### ***Youth justice involvement***

In 2021, the Department for Human Services announced an extension of the Child Diversion Pilot Program which provides short-term accommodation on weekends for Aboriginal children and young people (10-13 years) who are at risk of entering youth justice detention. The program provides an alternative to police custody if there is no other safe, appropriate bail option and to identify a safe and appropriate residential home with Aboriginal family-led decision-making.

This Youth Justice Child Diversion Program will run until June 2023.<sup>xxviii</sup>

In 2020-21, children and young people who had been arrested by SAPOL, were held in 20 different adult police custodial facilities. Of 2,030 separate 'admissions', 890 (43.8%) were of Aboriginal children and young people.<sup>51, xxix</sup>

### ***Dual involved***

The GCYP and TCV Final Report of the South Australian Dual Involved Project in

June 2022 of children and young people in both the child protection and youth justice systems in SA, highlighted that 90% of the dual involved cohort of children and young people in detention at KTYJC during the SADI Project were from residential care placements. The report also highlighted that, despite only comprising about 5% of SA's population under 18 years, Aboriginal children and young people made up 42.2% of the 'dual involved' cohort.<sup>xxx</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> Police data cited in the GCYP and Training Centre Visitor (TCV) Final Report of the South Australian Dual Involved Project in June 2022.

## Outcome

Young South Australians are happy, inspired and engaged

## Indicators

- Children have early experiences that enhance their development
- Children and young people are connected to family, friends and culture
- Children and young people play and participate in recreational activities
- Children and young people are leading satisfied lives

The outcome statement ‘*Young South Australians are happy, inspired and engaged*’ represents the desired result for dimension 3 of the framework. There are four indicators to determine what aspects are measured and 14 measures to provide evidence of progress.

Wellbeing data are generally available for reporting because data sources such as the Wellbeing and Engagement Collection (WEC) are established, and data are collected and published on a regular basis. Currently, only SA and Tasmania participate in the WEC and for six of these measures data are not available for comparison purposes.

[Note: For Aboriginal children and young people, data from the WEC are only available for government schools.]

### ***Children have early experiences that enhance their development***

#### ***Attending an approved childcare service (birth to five years)<sup>52</sup>***

In 2021, Aboriginal children made up 3.0% of all children in SA attending an approved childcare service (1.7% in 2017)<sup>53</sup>.

Nationally, the proportion was 4.3% in 2021 (2.8% in 2017)<sup>54</sup>.

#### ***Enrolments in a quality preschool program in the year before attending fulltime school***

In SA, the proportions of Aboriginal children enrolled in a quality preschool program at:

- four years, ie in the year before attending fulltime school, was 90.4% in 2021 (88.4% in 2017)
- three years, was 81.5% in 2021 (84.1% in 2017). Nationally, the proportion was 54.9% in 2021 (44.6% in 2017).

<sup>52</sup> Children attending approved childcare services may be counted more than once if they attend more than one childcare service in the relevant period. Attendance is estimated to be less than 50% in SA for all children (birth to five years).

<sup>53</sup> In SA, the proportion of Aboriginal children under six years in the community was 5.2% at 30 June 2021.

<sup>54</sup> Nationally, the proportion of Aboriginal children under six years in the community was 6.3% at 30 June 2021.

## **Children and young people are connected to family, friends and culture**

The foundation of social connectedness is positive relationships, interactions and experiences with others. School is a centrally important place to children and young people and supportive relationships with teachers and other school staff are important to students' sense of wellbeing.

The Child Development Council (Council) uses WEC data to report for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children and young people. The WEC data are not published separately for Aboriginal students, however, WEC data for Aboriginal students in public schools are obtained by request.

### **Feeling connected at school**

The WEC data for SA indicate that 64.3% of Aboriginal Year 4 to Year 10 students in government schools reported feeling connected to adults at school in 2022 (65.5% in 2019).

### **Feeling connected at home and in the community**

Data are not currently available for the proportion of Aboriginal or non-Aboriginal children and young people feeling connected to adults at home, or to adults in the community.

### **Friends**

Making friends is an essential part of social connectedness. Friends help

reduce stress and help navigate challenging life experiences. The proportion of Aboriginal Year 4 to Year 10 students in government schools with one or more friends in whom they can confide was 87.9% in 2022 (88.8% in 2019).

### **Cultural activities and events**

- Cultural activities provide important opportunities for children and young people to connect with others. The ABS definition of cultural **activities** includes performing arts, singing or playing a musical instrument, dancing, writing, visual art activities and craft activities.
- The ABS definition of cultural **events** includes attending libraries and archives, art galleries, museums, cinemas, live music concerts, theatre, dance and other performing arts. This definition does not include open events such as National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) or reconciliation events, celebrations or occasions where everyone is welcome.

Separate data for Aboriginal children and young people's participation in cultural events are not available.

## **Children and young people play and participate in recreational activities**

### **Self-reported participation in organised activities**

The WEC results for 2022 indicate that 84.3% of Aboriginal Year 4 to Year 10 students in public schools participated in

organised activities outside of school hours in (84% in 2020).

### ***Self-reported participation in sports or recreational physical activities***

In 2022, 61.1% of Aboriginal Year 4 to Year 10 students in government schools participated in sports or recreational physical activities (61.8% in 2020).

### ***Children and young people are leading satisfied lives***

#### ***Self-reported optimism about life***

The proportion of Aboriginal Year 4 to Year 10 students in government schools who reported feeling optimistic about life was 78.2% in 2022 (81.4% in 2019).<sup>55</sup>

### ***Self-reported level of satisfaction with life***

The proportion of Aboriginal Year 4 to Year 10 students in government schools reporting a medium to high level of satisfaction with life was 75% in 2022 (77.2% in 2019).

### ***Suicide rate***

The suicide rate for Aboriginal children and young people in SA is suppressed, however, in the five years from 2017-21, the national rate of suicide for Aboriginal children and young people (5 to 17 years) was 7.4 per 100,000 population (9.8 from 2012-16).

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<sup>55</sup> In Tasmania, 78.3% of all Year 4 to Year 10 students government school feeling optimistic about life decreased from 78.3% in 2019 to 75.8% in 2021.

## Dimension 4: Education

## Aboriginal

### Outcome

Young South Australians are successful learners

### Indicators

- Children enter the school system ready to take advantage of the learning environment
- Children and young people's experience of learning is positive
- Children and young people are engaged in school, further education, training or work

The outcome statement: '*Young South Australians are successful learners*' represents the desired result for dimension 4 of the framework. There are three indicators to determine what aspects of the outcome are measured and 10 measures to provide evidence of progress.

The data sources for this dimension are mostly the AEDC, NAPLAN and the national Census. The primary reporting gap is the lack of recent data for Aboriginal children and young people being engaged in school, further education, training or work (Census data).

### ***Children enter the school system ready to take advantage of the learning environment***

The Council's first policy brief in August 2020, [\*South Australia's surprising downward trend in AEDC results\*](#) highlighted that SA lacks population wide data on child development prior to the federally implemented triennial AEDC, meaning we are blind to the

developmental health and wellbeing of young children living in our state and that **SA has a large number of children developmentally vulnerable across the entire socio-economic distribution.**

On 22 June 2021, new funding of \$50.1 million for an [\*Early Learning Strategy\*](#) was announced in SA's State Budget, including funding for two additional universal checks at key stages between birth and school age. The existing checks are available soon after birth, at 6 to 9 months, 18 to 24 months and preschool. The two new universal checks to be added would be at 12 month and 3 years, increasing the total number of universal checks between birth and 5 years to six. The Council welcomed this news because the first few years of a child's life are vital. Accessing help and services early, eg for disability or developmental delay, can significantly improve a child's outcomes at every stage of life.

The building blocks for literacy are established by three years of age. The

proposed National Early Language and Literacy Strategy framework for action proposes four priority areas including family support within communities, early education and transitions, specialist support, and knowledge production and dissemination.<sup>xxxi</sup>

A key goal of SA's new *Early Learning Strategy 2021 to 2031: All young children thriving and learning* is 'to increase the number of children who are developmentally on track when they start school' (p.16). Planned activities include expanding the reach, frequency and number of child development checks and equipping parents and families to support their children's development.

The Year 1 highlights of the Office for the Early Years (OFEY) 'Early Learning Strategy Report Card' included:

- June 2021 – A two-year grand funding agreement with Playgroups SA to deliver new universal (rather than targeted) community playgroups
- June 2021 – A two-year grant funding agreement with Raising Literacy Australia to build a coalition of non-government and government partners to develop and disseminate clear and consistent early childhood development messages and resources to families in the birth – three years space

- June 2022 – Development and launch of a new Children's Centres outcomes framework.

On 2 August 2022, the Head of the OFEY, Early Years Division, Education, advised the Council that the funding for additional developmental milestone checks trial will be in addition to, and separate from, the existing checks offered by Child and Family Health Service (CAFHS) and will use a different modality. These pilots will provide 'moment in time' checks, not track children, and will initially be tested over 18 months.

[South Australia's surprising downward trend in AEDC results](#) had recommended in 2020 that:

- the development of all children in SA from birth to school age be monitored proactively and regularly
- universally applied checks be delivered in the first two weeks after birth, at 8 weeks, 12 months, 2 years and 3 years at a minimum.

This trial for additional developmental milestone checks **will not address** either of the Council's recommendations, or provide population wide data, on child development prior to commencing school.

### ***Early intervention***

Early identification of, and support for, students with developmental delays and

disability is essential to children gaining the skills needed to thrive.<sup>xxxii</sup> The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) early childhood intervention approach aims to support children with a developmental delay or disability to develop the skills they need to take part in daily activities and achieve the best possible outcomes. In quarter 4, 2020-21, the numbers of children under six years either receiving early childhood early intervention (ECEI) supports or with an approved NDIS plan before entering school were:

- 680 children under six years received ECEI supports through the NDIS
- 5,651 children under six years had an approved NDIS plan.

Data are not available for Aboriginal children receiving ECEI supports. The concept of the ECEI gateway was introduced in July 2016, however, reporting for Aboriginality became possible only in 2019 with the commencement of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) business system.

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

#### ***NAPLAN results***

A decision was made by Australia's Education Ministers to cancel NAPLAN in 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19

pandemic, however, NAPLAN results for 2021 are reported below.

#### ***Year 1***

In SA, the proportion of Aboriginal Year 1 students in government schools reading at an age-appropriate level was 38% in 2021 (21% in 2018).

#### ***Year 3***

In SA, the proportions of Aboriginal students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy were as follows:

- *reading* was 81.2% in 2021 (74.7% in 2016)
- *writing* was 80.5% in 2021 (85.1% in 2016)
- *numeracy* was 78.3 in 2021 (78% in 2016).

#### ***Year 5***

In SA, the proportions of Aboriginal students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy were as follows:

- *reading* was 79% in 2021 (67.2% in 2016)
- *writing* was 68.4% in 2021 (70.1% in 2016)
- *numeracy* was 75.4% in 2021 (72% in 2016).

#### ***Year 7***

In SA, In the proportions of Aboriginal students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy were as follows:

- *reading* was 75.3% in 2021 (78.7% in 2016)
- *writing* was 64.3% in 2021 (67.3% in 2016)
- *numeracy* was 70.5% in 2021 (79.9% in 2016).

#### Year 9

The proportions of Aboriginal Year 9 students achieving at or above the national minimum standards in reading, writing and numeracy are reported in the Citizenship dimension.

### **Children and young people are engaged in school, further education, training or work**

Information about Aboriginal young people engaging in employment or study uses Census data. At the time of this publication, these data were not available.

#### **Studying and/or training and/or working**

The proportion of Aboriginal young people (15-19 years) studying and/or training and/or working was 67.1% in 2021, down from 70.9% in 2016.

#### **Young people with disability studying and/or training and/or working**

The proportion of Aboriginal young people (15-19 years) with disability who were

partially or fully engaged in school, work or further education was 72.9% in 2021, down from 84.7% in 2016 (72.2% in 2021 and 76.2% in 2016 nationally).

#### **School attendance rates**

In 2021, 77.3% of Aboriginal students, who were enrolled in Year 1 to Year 10, attended school in SA (80.5% in 2017).<sup>56</sup> Nationally, the attendance rate for Aboriginal students, who were enrolled in Year 1 to Year 10, was 79.4% in 2021 (83.2% in 2016).<sup>57</sup>

#### **Educational achievement**

The proportion of Aboriginal young people completing a senior certificate of education qualification, or equivalent, by 19 years was 56.1% in 2021 (53.8% in 2016).

A new Education initiative will track school leavers from 2023 or 2024 to ascertain if they're studying, working or training. Tracking should yield information about the numbers of students involved in preparing for particular industries, including growth industries, and also inform initiatives in the public school system to ensure students transition successfully.

<sup>56</sup> The school attendance for Aboriginal Year 1 to Year 10 are significantly poorer than for all enrolled Year 1 to Year 10 students (which includes Aboriginal students) attending school in 2021.

<sup>57</sup> Care should be taken in comparing attendance rates and levels across school years and jurisdictions given the differences in the numbers of students on whom these data are calculated.

## Dimension 5: Citizenship

## Aboriginal

### Outcome

Young South Australians participate actively in society

### Indicators

- Children and young people develop skills for an independent life
- Children and young people participate in decisions that affect them directly and the wider society
- Children and young people are engaged in community activities

The outcome statement: *‘Young South Australians participate actively in society’* represents the desired result for dimension 5 of the framework. There are three indicators to determine what aspects are measured and 10 measures to provide evidence of progress.

Data used to report for this dimension are mostly survey data. Tracking for some measures has been scaled down due to a change in survey design, eg of the survey questions being asked and in the age profile of respondents.

Small sample sizes limit reporting for Aboriginal children and young people, meaning that the data cannot be relied upon for meaningful interpretation.

### **Reviewing South Australia’s framework**

The inaugural framework was gazetted on 14 November 2019 and the legislation requires review of the framework at least once in each three-year period. The framework is being reviewed in 2022 with open consultation from 1 February 2022 to

30 June 2022 and targeted consultation from 1 June to 31 August 2022. This targeted consultation was with key community stakeholders across SA, especially Aboriginal people and organisations.

In October 2022, the Council commenced the process of working through the feedback to identify changes to the framework, eg of the existing indicators and measures, with the aim of reporting more outcomes data for the five dimensions, especially the citizenship dimension.

### ***Children and young people develop skills for an independent life***

The proportions of Aboriginal Year 9 students in SA achieving or exceeding the national minimum standards for reading, writing and numeracy were as follows:

- *reading* was 65.5% in 2021 (74.4% in 2016). Nationally, 66.2% in 2021 (73.6% in 2016)

- *writing* was 49.2% in 2021 (52.1% in 2016). Nationally, 51.5% in 2021 (52.7% in 2016)
- *numeracy* was 78.1% in 2021 (80.1% in 2016). Nationally, 78.5% in 2021 (79.7% in 2016).

### **Financial literacy**

The Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) poses a series of questions to report the proportion of young people (15-19 years) in Australia that are financially literate. These HILDA survey questions are about financial literacy, inflation, diversification, risk return and money illusion. In 2016 and 2020, these questions were tracked. The sample sizes for Aboriginal children and young people were too small for meaningful reporting.

### **Driving**

Separate data for the proportion of Aboriginal young people (17-19 years) with a driver's licence are not available due to constraints on disclosing the information.

[Note: the data for the measure below are 11 years old.]

### **Independence**

Current data are not available to show the proportions of Aboriginal young people

(17 years) that report being satisfied with their level of independence. The most recent data are from the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth (LSAY). These data indicate that 95.6% of Aboriginal young people (15-19 years) surveyed, reported being satisfied with their level of independence in 2011 (95.1% nationally).

[Note: the data for this measure below are five years old.]

### **Average hours of paid employment**

- The average hours of paid employment for Aboriginal 17-year-old respondents to the survey were 14.7 hours (16.6 nationally) in 2017. Caution is needed in interpreting these data due to the small sample size.

[Note: the data for the measure below are four, to more than 10 years old.]

### **Not living with parents<sup>58</sup>**

- The proportion of Aboriginal young people (18 years) *not currently living with* their parents was 7.0% in 2012 (30.1% in 2009). Nationally, the proportion was 25.7% in 2012 (30.6% in 2009). Caution is needed for the interpretation of these data due to small sample sizes.
- Although LSAY data for 2018 are available, there was a reporting change

<sup>58</sup> Reporting data for young people not living with their parents is not necessarily an indication of developing skills for an independent life.

in that year. The survey allowed reporting by family members or a guardian, ie in addition to young people themselves. This means that the data published for 2018 are not comparable to the 2012 and/or 2009 data.

### ***Civics and citizenship***

Studying civics and citizenship provides students with the opportunity to develop their understanding of, and define their civic identity, explore the rights and responsibilities of citizens and the values that underpin democratic communities such as freedom, equality, responsibility, accountability and inclusion, and gain a range of relevant skills and knowledge.

Nationally, the proportion of Year 10 students, including Aboriginal students, achieving or exceeding the national minimum standard was 38% in 2019 and in 2016. In SA, the proportion of Year 10 students, including Aboriginal students, achieving or exceeding the national minimum standard in the Australian curriculum civics and citizenship assessment was 29% in 2019 (34.0% in 2016).

Separate data for Aboriginal Year 10 students are not available.

### ***Children and young people participate in decisions that affect them directly and the wider society***

[Note: the data for the measure below are eight years old.]

#### ***Having a say on important issues***

Having voice and influence is important for children and young people, however, due to a reporting change made by the ABS from 2015, the most recent data reported by the ABS for this measure for young people (15-17 years) are from 2014.<sup>59</sup>

#### ***Enrolled to vote***

Voting provides an opportunity for young people to participate in decision-making to elect state or national governments.

In 2022, 73.6% of young people (18-19 years) in SA, including Aboriginal young people, were enrolled to vote (61.6% in 2019). Nationally, the proportion was 71.4% in 2021 (65.3% in 2019). Separate data for Aboriginal young people are not available.

Two new initiatives of note in SA are:

- the Student Representative Council (SA SRC)<sup>xxxiii</sup> for students in Years 10, 11 and 12 was developed via a partnership between the Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP) and the Foundation for Young

<sup>59</sup> The ABS now reports these data for young people (15-24 years).

Australians (FYA), supported by the National Indigenous Youth Education Coalition (NIYEC). The CCYP selected 166 students from over 240 applications with approximately 150 travelling to attend the inaugural SA SRC Summit in May 2022, where these SA SRC members met each other for the first time.

- the [Charter Ambassador Program](#) (CAP). SA's Charter Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia, hosted a reception at Government House on 10 May 2022 to formally launch the CAP.
- The CAP:
  - aims to 'give life' to the [Charter for Children and Young People](#) (Charter) which consists of 20 conditions that all children and young people in SA can, and should, have for a good life now and opportunities in the future
  - is open to all children and young people of school age in SA; communication with Charter Ambassadors at schools is through Charter Facilitators (ie, teachers or wellbeing coordinators)
  - provides Charter Ambassadors with opportunities to develop an

understanding of personal agency and the role children and young people can play in shaping the future

- offers workshops and forums during the year to equip the Charter Ambassadors to promote the Charter at school and in the community.

### ***Children and young people are engaged in community activities***

#### ***Volunteering***

- The proportion of Aboriginal young people (15-19 years) participating in volunteering was 9.0% in 2021, down from 14.3% in 2016 (9.8% in 2021 and 14.7% in 2016 nationally).

#### ***Community support groups***

Data for children and young people under 18 years participating in community support groups are not available. The latest available data for young people under 18 years are for 2014. Since then, the ABS has reported for young people (15-24 years) and these data cannot be disaggregated for young people (15-17 years).

## Annex 2 – Aboriginal data table

Dimension 1: Health					Aboriginal data table		
Indicator	Babies are born healthy						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of low birthweight babies as a proportion of all live births</i>	Low birthweight	Birth	2016 (13.8%)	2020 (12.7%)	No change	AIHW analysis of the National Perinatal Data Collection	In 2022, of 763 live births of Aboriginal babies in South Australia, 12.7% weighed less than 2,500 grams at birth.
<i>Proportion of pregnant mothers smoking in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy</i>	Pregnant mothers smoking	Before birth	2015 (48.4%)	2019 (44.8%)	Favourable change	Pregnancy Outcomes Unit, SA Health AIHW analysis of the National Perinatal Data Collection	In 2019, 329 Aboriginal women smoked at any time in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy. This includes women who quit smoking during their pregnancy and those that continued smoking up to 20 weeks of pregnancy.
<i>Proportion of mothers under 20 years when giving birth</i>	Proportion of mothers	Under 20 years	2015 (15.2%)	2019 (9.2%)	Favourable change	Pregnancy Outcomes Unit, SA Health AIHW analysis of the National Perinatal Data Collection	The proportion of Aboriginal women under 20 years giving birth decreased between 2015 and 2019.
<i>Proportion of mothers under 20 years when giving birth</i>	Birth rate (per 1,000 population)	Under 20 years	2015 (52.5 per 1,000)	2019 (29.9 per 1,000)	Favourable change	Pregnancy Outcomes Unit, SA Health AIHW analysis of the National Perinatal Data Collection	In South Australia, the teenage birth rate for Aboriginal women (15-19 years) has been declining since 2015.
<i>Proportion of women attending a first antenatal visit in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy</i>	First antenatal visit in first 14 weeks	Before birth	2015 (56.5%)	2019 (64.4%)	Favourable change	Pregnancy Outcomes Unit, SA Health AIHW analysis of the National Perinatal Data Collection	The proportion of Aboriginal women attending a first antenatal visit in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy in SA improved from 2015 and 2019.

## Dimension 1: Health

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children have a healthy early life						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Rate of infant mortality per 1,000 live births</i>	Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 population)	Under 12 months	2014–2016 (4.2 per 1,000)	2017–2019 (4.7 per 1,000)	Unable to determine	AIHW National Mortality Database.	The data are likely to be subject to wide variability. Data variability were omitted in the latest published data table.
<i>Proportion of children fully immunised at one, two and five years</i>	Fully immunised	1 year	2017 (90.3%)	2021 (92.4%)	Favourable change	Australian Childhood Immunisation Register	The proportion of children fully immunised in South Australia at 12 months has been improving over time since 2017.
<i>Proportion of children fully immunised at one, two and five years</i>	Fully immunised	2 years	2017 (87.6%)	2021 (89.7%)	Favourable change	Australian Childhood Immunisation Register	The immunisation rate is trending upwards over time.
<i>Proportion of children fully immunised at one, two and five years</i>	Fully immunised	5 years	2017 (94.2%)	2021 (≥95.0%)	Favourable change	Australian Childhood Immunisation Register	The immunisation rate is trending upwards over time.
<i>Proportion of children meeting developmental milestones at two and four years</i>	Developmental milestones	2 years			Not available		New funding of \$50.1 million for a new Early Learning Strategy announced on 22/6/21 in SA's State Budget included funding for additional developmental milestone checks at key stages between birth and school age.
<i>Proportion of children meeting developmental milestones at two and four years</i>	Developmental milestones	4 years			Not available		New funding of \$50.1 million for a new Early Learning Strategy announced on 22/6/21 in SA's State Budget included funding for additional developmental milestone checks at key stages between birth and school age.

## Dimension 1: Health

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children and young people have health-promoting behaviours						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children and young people being reported as underweight, overweight or obese</i>	Underweight	2-17 years (inc)		Not available		National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey	Due to the small sample size, the ABS reports 'underweight/normal weight' as one category for Aboriginal children and young people 2-17 years.
<i>Proportion of children and young people being reported as underweight, overweight or obese</i>	Overweight	2-17 years (inc)		Not available		National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey	Due to the small sample size, the ABS reports 'underweight/normal weight' as one category for Aboriginal children and young people 2-17 years.
<i>Proportion of children and young people being reported as underweight, overweight or obese</i>	Obese	2-17 years (inc)		Not available		National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey	Due to the small sample size, the ABS reports 'underweight/normal weight' as one category for Aboriginal children and young people 2-17 years.
<i>Proportion of children and young people being reported as underweight, overweight or obese</i>	Overweight/ Obese	2-17 years (inc)	2018-19 (43.7% ± 12.2%*)	2018-19 (43.7% ± 12.2%*)	Unable to determine	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey	Same year data. Due to a high margin of error, caution should be exercised when interpreting the result of this survey.

\* The margin of error describes the amount of variability for the reported measure.

## Dimension 1: Health

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children and young people have health-promoting behaviours						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of young people smoking tobacco</i>	Ever smoked tobacco	12-17 years (inc)			Not available	Australian School Students' Alcohol and Drugs (ASSAD) Survey	No state-specific data are available for Aboriginal children and young people from this survey.
<i>Proportion of young people consuming alcohol</i>	Ever consumed alcohol	12-17 years (inc)			Not available	Australian School Students' Alcohol and Drugs (ASSAD) Survey	No state-specific data for Aboriginal children and young people are available from this survey.
<i>Proportion of young people with potentially unsafe or binge-drinking behaviour</i>	Unsafe or binge drinking – ever	12-17 years (inc)			Not available	Australian School Students' Alcohol and Drugs (ASSAD) Survey	No state-specific data for Aboriginal children and young people are available from this survey.
<i>Proportion of young people taking illicit drugs</i>	Ever taken illicit drugs (including cannabis)	12-17 years (inc)			Not available	Australian School Students' Alcohol and Drugs (ASSAD) Survey	No state-specific data for Aboriginal children and young people are available from this survey.
<i>Proportion of young people taking illicit drugs</i>	Ever taken cannabis	12-17 years (inc)			Not available	Australian School Students' Alcohol and Drugs (ASSAD) Survey	No state-specific data for Aboriginal children and young people are available from this survey.

## Dimension 1: Health

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children and young people are thriving						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children and young people with access to healthy food</i>	Meeting NHMRC fruit guidelines	2-17 years (inc)	2018-19 (64.9% ± 7.8%*)	2018-19 (64.9% ± 7.8%*)	Unable to determine	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey	Same year data. The results of this survey is subject to a wide margin of error.
<i>Proportion of children and young people with access to healthy food</i>	Meeting NHMRC vegetable guidelines	2-17 years (inc)	2018-19 (11.9% ± 10.3%*)	2018-19 (11.9% ± 10.3%*)	Unable to determine	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey	Same year data. The survey result is subject to a wide margin of error.
<i>Number of children and young people with tooth decay</i>	Tooth decay in deciduous teeth (%)	5-10 years (inc)		No data available		National Child Oral Health Study	No state-specific data for Aboriginal children and young people are available from this study.
<i>Number of children and young people with tooth decay</i>	Tooth decay in permanent teeth (%)	6-14 years (inc)		No data available		National Child Oral Health Study	No state-specific data for Aboriginal children and young people are available from this study.

\* The margin of error describes the amount of variability for the reported measure.

## Dimension 1: Health

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children and young people are thriving						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children and young people considering themselves to be in good or excellent health</i>	Good or excellent health	Year 4 to Year 10	2019 (77.7%)	2022 (73.5%)	Unfavourable change	Wellbeing and Engagement Collection	The proportion of Year 4 to Year 10 Aboriginal students in government schools that considered themselves to have medium to high wellbeing was 73.5% in 2022, down from 77.7% in 2019.
<i>Proportion of 12 year olds considering themselves to be in good or excellent health</i>	Good or excellent health	Year 6	2019 (82.1%)	2022 (76.8%)	Unfavourable change	Wellbeing and Engagement Collection	In 2022, 76.8% of Year 6 Aboriginal students in government schools reported their health as good or excellent, down from 82.1% in 2019.
<i>Proportion of 16 year olds considering themselves to be in good or excellent health</i>	Good or excellent health	Year 10	2019 (61.1%)	2022 (63.8%)	No change	Wellbeing and Engagement Collection	In 2022, 63/8% of Year 10 Aboriginal students in government schools reported their health as good or excellent.
<i>Proportion of children and young people estimated to have an emotional, mental health or behavioural problem</i>	Mental health support service	5-17 years (inc)			Information suppression	South Australian Population Health Survey	Sample size for Aboriginal children and young people is too small for meaningful reporting.

## Dimension 2: Safety

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children and young people live in safe housing						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children and young people feeling concerned about family conflict</i>	Family conflict	15-19 years (inc)		Not available		Mission Australia Youth Survey	The number of Aboriginal 15-19 year olds in South Australia responding to the Mission Australia Survey in 2020 is small, hence the data have not been reported separately.
<i>Proportion of children and young people living in households with financial hardship</i>	Financial hardship	Birth to 14 years (inc)	2011 (26.8%)	2016 (28.1%)	Unable to determine	Census of Population and Housing	Unable to determine trend - more recent Census data are not yet available. Almost 3 in 10 Aboriginal children and young people birth to 14 years lived in households experiencing housing stress in 2016.
<i>Number of children and young people experiencing homelessness</i>	Homelessness (per 10,000 population)	Birth to 18 years (inc)	2016 (259.8 per 10,000)	2016 (259.8 per 10,000)	Unable to determine	Census of Population and Housing	Unable to determine trend - more recent Census data are not yet available.

## Dimension 2: Safety

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children and young people are safe from preventable injury						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Number of children and young people presenting to emergency departments with potentially preventable hospitalisations</i>	Potentially preventable hospitalisations (% of total admissions)	Birth to 17 years (inc)	2017 (18.0%)	2021 (14.8%)	No change	Health Information Portal (Admitted Activity), SA Health	The proportion of children and young people under 18 years presenting to public hospitals with potentially preventable hospitalisations declined between 2016 and 2021.
<i>Number of deaths of children and young people being attributed to preventable/unintentional injury</i>	Injury death (per 100,000) population	Birth to 14 years (inc)	2008-2012 (9.3 per 100,000)	2012-2016 (20.9 per 100,000)	Unable to determine	Children's Headline Indicators, AIHW	Unable to determine trend - more recent data from this source are not yet available. Data from 2009-2015 are not publishable due to low numbers, confidentiality or other concerns about the quality of the data.
<i>Number of police cautions or fines issued for failing to safely restrain passengers under 16 years</i>	Failing to safely restrain passengers	Under 16 years		Not available		South Australian Government Data Directory	The available data are not disaggregated for Aboriginal children and young people.
<i>Number of children and young people 5-13 years attending a swimming safety program</i>	Swimming safety program	5-13 years				Not available	

## Dimension 2: Safety

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children and young people are safe from abuse and neglect						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
Number of children and young people being admitted to out-of-home care	<b>Admitted to</b> out-of-home care (per 1,000 population)	Under 18 years	2018-19 (17.2 per 1,000)	2020-21 (17.9 per 1,000)	Unfavourable change	AIHW Child Protection Collections	In 2020-21, South Australia's <b>admission</b> rate to out-of-home care for Aboriginal children and young people under 18 years was 17.9 per 1,000 population, up from 17.2 in 2018-19.
Number of children and young people being admitted to out-of-home care	<b>In</b> out-of-home care (per 1,000 population)	Under 18 years	at 30 June 2019 (75.3 per 1,000)	at 30 June 2021 (90.0 per 1,000)	Unfavourable change	AIHW Child Protection Collections	As of 30 June 2021, 1,637 Aboriginal children and young people under 18 years were <b>in</b> out-of-home care in South Australia - a rate of 90.0 per 1,000 population, up from 75.3 at 30 June 2019.
Proportion of children twelve months old or under being notified to the child protection system	Substantiations of notifications to child protection (per 1,000 population)	Under 12 months	2016-17 (100.9 per 1,000)	2020-21 (169.2 per 1,000)	Unfavourable change	AIHW Child Protection Collections	In 2020-21, Aboriginal infants under 12 months were 1.7 times more likely to be the subject of substantiated notifications than in 2016-17 (169.2 and 100.9 per 1,000 population respectively).
Proportion of children aged five years being notified to the child protection system	Substantiations of notifications to child protection (per 1,000 population)	1-4 years (inc)	2016-17 (35.1 per 1,000)	2020-21 (57.1 per 1,000)	Unfavourable change	AIHW Child Protection Collections	In 2020-21, Aboriginal children 1-4 years were 1.6 times more likely to be the subject of substantiated notifications than in 2016-17 (57.1 and 35.1 per 1,000 population respectively).
Proportion of children aged five years being notified to the child protection system	Substantiations of notifications to child protection (per 1,000 population)	5-9 years (inc)	2016-17 (25.7 per 1,000)	2020-21 (50.2 per 1,000)	Unfavourable change	AIHW Child Protection Collections	The substantiation rate for Aboriginal children 5-9 years in 2020-21 was 50.2 per 1,000 population (double the rate in 2016-17).

## Dimension 2: Safety

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children and young people are safe from crime						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children and young people feeling unsafe in their local area at night</i>	Feeling unsafe at night	12-16 years					Not available
<i>Number of children and young people who are victims of offences reported to police</i>	Victims of crime (per 10,000 population) - excluding sexual assault and related sexual offences	Birth to 17 years (inc)	2019 (91.3 per 10,000)	2021 (104.7 per 10,000)	Unfavourable change	Justice Policy and Analytics data, South Australia	In 2021, 105 per 10,000 Aboriginal children and young people under 18 years were victims of an offence against the person (excluding sexual assault and related sexual offences) reported to police. In 2019, the rate was 91 per 10,000
<i>Number of arrests involving young people 10-17 years</i>	Apprehended by police (per 10,000 population) – apprehension includes arrested and/or reported	10-17 years (inc)	2019 (483.5 per 10,000)	2021 (434.8 per 10,000)	Unable to determine	Justice Policy and Analytics data, South Australia	The apprehension rate for Aboriginal 10-17 year olds was 435 per 10,000 population in the 2021 calendar year, a reduction from 484 in 2019 (but up from, 372 in 2020)  Data limitations include the number of apprehensions for particular offences not being separately available.

## Dimension 3: Wellbeing

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children have early experiences that enhance their development						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children with special needs, birth to five years, attending approved child care services</i>	Vulnerable group: Aboriginal children	Birth to 5 years (inc)	2017 (1.7%) In the community, at 30 June 2016 (4.7%) In the community, at 30 June 2021 (5.2%)	2021 (3.0%)	Unable to determine	Report on Government Services (ROGS)	Unable to determine trend - data interpretation challenges. In 2021, Aboriginal children made up 3.0% of all children in SA attending an approved childcare service. The proportion of Aboriginal children under six years in the community was 5.2% at 30 June 2021.
<i>Proportion of children with special needs, birth to five years, attending approved child care services</i>	Vulnerable group: Aboriginal children with disability	Birth to 5 years (inc)				Not available	
<i>Proportion of children with special needs, birth to five years, attending approved child care services</i>	Vulnerable group: Aboriginal children from regional areas	Birth to 5 years (inc)				Not available	
<i>Proportion of children with special needs, birth to five years, attending approved child care services</i>	Vulnerable group: Aboriginal children from remote areas	Birth to 5 years (inc)				Not available	

## Dimension 3: Wellbeing

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children have early experiences that enhance their development						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children with special needs, birth to five years, attending approved child care services</i>	Vulnerable group: Aboriginal children from low income families	Birth to 5 years (inc)					Not available
<i>Proportion and number of three-year-old Aboriginal children enrolled in a quality preschool program</i>	Aboriginal	3 years	2017 (84.1%)	2021 (81.5%)	Watching brief	Preschool Education, Australia	The enrolment rate of Aboriginal three year olds in quality preschool programs was 81.5% in 2021, down slightly from 84.1% in 2017.
<i>Proportion of children enrolled in a quality preschool program in the year before attending fulltime school</i>	Preschool	4 years	2017 (88.4%)	2021 (90.4%)	Watching brief	Preschool Education, Australia	In 2021, the enrolment rate for Aboriginal four year olds in quality preschool programs was 90%, up from 88% in 2017.

## Dimension 3: Wellbeing

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children and young people are connected to family, friends and culture						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children and young people participating in cultural activities</i>	Participating in cultural activities	5-14 years (inc)			Not available	Cultural Participation Survey, ABS	For this survey, the ABS does not publish separate data for Aboriginal children and young people.
<i>Proportion of children and young people attending cultural venues and events</i>	Attending at least one cultural venue or event	5-14 years (inc)			Not available	Cultural Participation Survey, ABS	For this survey, the ABS does not publish separate data for Aboriginal children and young people.
<i>Proportion of children and young people feeling connected to adults in their home</i>	Connected to adults in their home	Year 4 to Year 10 students			Not available		<p>The Department for Education collects self-reported data for Year 4 to Year 10 students feeling connected to adults in school but not for in their community.</p> <p>In December 2020, the Council requested that consideration be given to adding this measure to the WEC survey. Education advised in 2022 that the request would be considered as part of the upcoming WEC questionnaire review.</p>
<i>Proportion of children and young people feeling connected to adults in their school</i>	Connected to adults in their school	Year 4 to Year 10 students	2019 (65.5%)	2022 (64.3%)	No change	Wellbeing and Engagement Collection, South Australia	<p>The proportion of Year 4 to Year 10 Aboriginal students in government schools who felt connected to an adult at school was 64.3% in 2022, slightly lower than 65.5% in 2019.</p> <p>Note: Measure is based on the WEC question on whether there are any adults who are important to the student at their school.</p>

## Dimension 3: Wellbeing

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children and young people are connected to family, friends and culture						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children and young people feeling connected to adults in their community</i>	Connected to adults in their community	Year 4 to Year 10 students			Not available		<p>Education collects self-reported data for Year 4 to Year 10 students feeling connected to adults in school but not for in their community.</p> <p>In December 2020, the Council requested that consideration be given to adding this measure to the WEC survey. Education advised in 2022 that the request would be considered as part of the upcoming WEC questionnaire review.</p>
<i>Proportion of children and young people with one or more friends in whom they can confide</i>	Friendships	Year 4 to Year 10 students	2019 (88.8%)	2022 (87.9%)	No change	Wellbeing and Engagement Collection, South Australia	The proportion of Year 4 to Year 10 Aboriginal students in government schools who reported that they had one or more friends in whom they could confide was consistent between 2019 (88.8%) and 2021 (87.9%).
<i>Proportion of children and young people participating in organised activities outside of school hours</i>	Organised activities	Year 4 to Year 10 students	2020 (84.0%)	2022 (84.3%)	No change	Wellbeing and Engagement Collection, South Australia	The proportion of Year 4 to Year 10 Aboriginal students in government schools who participated in organised activities outside of school hours was consistent at 84% between 2020 and 2022.
<i>Proportion of children and young people participating in sports or recreational physical activities</i>	Organised sports	Year 4 to Year 10 students	2020 (61.8%)	2022 (61.1%)	No change	Wellbeing and Engagement Collection, South Australia	The proportion of Year 4 to Year 10 Aboriginal students in government schools who participated in organised sports was similar in 2020 and 2021.

## Dimension 3: Wellbeing

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children and young people are leading satisfied lives						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children and young people feeling optimistic about life</i>	Proportion of children and young people in Year 4 to Year 10 who report feeling optimistic about life	Year 4 to Year 10 students	2019 (81.4%)	2022 (78.2%)	Unfavourable change	Wellbeing and Engagement Collection, South Australia	The 2022 WEC data indicate that 78.2% of Year 4 to Year 10 Aboriginal students in government schools reported feeling optimistic about life, down from 81.4% in 2019.
<i>Proportion of children and young people who report a medium to high level of satisfaction with life.</i>	Proportion of children and young people in Year 4 to Year 10 who report a medium to high level of satisfaction with life.	Year 4 to Year 10 students	2019 (77.2%)	2022 (75.0%)	Unfavourable change	Wellbeing and Engagement Collection, South Australia	The proportion of Year 4 to Year 10 Aboriginal students in government schools that reported medium to high levels of satisfaction with life in 2022 was 75%, down from 77.2% in 2019.
<i>Rate of suicide for children and young people</i>	Rate of suicide for children and young people aged 5-17 years per 100,000 population	5-17 years (inc)		Not available		Causes of Death, Australia	The suicide rate for Aboriginal children and young people in South Australia is suppressed.

## Dimension 4: Education

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children enter the school system ready to take advantage of the learning environment						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of children developmentally vulnerable in one or more of five domains under the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) when they enter school</i>	Developmentally vulnerable	4-6 years (inc)	2012 (51.4%)	2018 (46.0%)	Favourable change	Australian Early Development Census	The proportion of Aboriginal children who are developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains is declining (51.4% in 2012, 46.8% in 2015 and 46.0% in 2018).
<i>Number of children receiving early childhood intervention supports through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) or with approved NDIS plan before entering school</i>	Early childhood early intervention (ECEI)	Birth to 6 years (inc)		Not available		NDIS	Data are not available. The concept of the ECEI gateway was introduced in July 2016, however, the NDIA business system to report Aboriginality was not introduced until 2019. This means the NDIA is unable to split the number of participants in the ECEI gateway by their Aboriginal status.
<i>Number of children receiving early childhood intervention supports through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) or with approved NDIS plan before entering school</i>	NDIS plan	Birth to 6 years (inc)	Not publishable due to small cell size.	453	Unable to determine	NDIS Tailored Data Request	Unable to determine trend - data interpretation challenges. An NDIS participant is considered 'active' when they receive their first plan.

## Dimension 4: Education

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children and young people's experience of learning is positive						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of Year 1 students reading at an age-appropriate level or better</i>	Phonics	Year 1	2018 (21.0%)	2021 (38.0%)	Favourable change	Phonics Screening Check, Department for Education, South Australia	Aboriginal Year 1 government school students have achieved significant improvements in phonics, an increase of 17% from 21% in 2018 to 38% in 2021.
<i>Proportion of Year 3 students achieving at or above minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy</i>	Reading	Year 3	2016 (74.7%)	2021 (81.2%)	Favourable change	National Assessment Program, NAP	The proportion of Year 3 Aboriginal students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in reading increased from 2016 to 2021.
<i>Proportion of Year 3 students achieving at or above minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy</i>	Writing	Year 3	2016 (82.5%)	2021 (80.5%)	No change	National Assessment Program, NAP	In 2018, there was a significant dip in the achievement rate for 'writing' for Aboriginal students in Year 3 (71%), but the rate improved in 2021 (81%).  The trend appears to be cyclical.
<i>Proportion of Year 3 students achieving at or above minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy</i>	Numeracy	Year 3	2016 (78.0%)	2021 (78.3%)	No change	National Assessment Program, NAP	The proportion of Year 3 Aboriginal students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in numeracy was similar in 2016 and 2021.

## Dimension 4: Education

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children and young people's experience of learning is positive						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of Year 5 students achieving at or above minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy</i>	Reading	Year 5	2016 (67.2%)	2021 (79.0%)	Favourable change	National Assessment Program, NAP	The proportion of Year 5 Aboriginal students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in reading increased significantly between 2016 and 2021.
<i>Proportion of Year 5 students achieving at or above minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy</i>	Writing	Year 5	2016 (70.1%)	2021 (68.4%)	No change	National Assessment Program, NAP	The proportion of Year 5 Aboriginal students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in writing in 2021 was 68.4%, down from 70.1% in 2019. The overall trend appears to be cyclical.
<i>Proportion of Year 5 students achieving at or above minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy</i>	Numeracy	Year 5	2016 (71.0%)	2021 (75.4%)	No change	National Assessment Program, NAP	The proportion of Year 5 Aboriginal students achieving at or above national minimum standard in numeracy increased from 2016 to 2018 but was lower in 2019, before improving in 2021. The overall trend appears to be cyclical.

## Dimension 4: Education

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children and young people's experience of learning is positive						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of Year 7 students achieving at or above minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy</i>	Reading	Year 7	2016 (78.7%)	2021 (75.3%)	No change	National Assessment Program, NAP	The proportion of Year 7 Aboriginal students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in reading reduced to 72% in 2018, however, there was a slight improvement between 2018 and 2021. The overall trend appears to be cyclical.
<i>Proportion of Year 7 students achieving at or above minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy</i>	Writing	Year 7	2016 (67.3%)	2021 (64.3%)	No change	National Assessment Program, NAP	The proportion of Year 7 Aboriginal students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in writing declined between 2016 and 2018. Thereafter, there was an improvement. The overall trend appears to be cyclical.
<i>Proportion of Year 7 students achieving at or above minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy</i>	Numeracy	Year 7	2016 (79.9%)	2021 (70.5%)	Unfavourable change	National Assessment Program, NAP	The proportion of Year 7 Aboriginal students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in numeracy has declined continuously from 2016 to 2021.

## Dimension 4: Education

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children and young people are engaged in school, further education, training or work						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of young people fully engaged in school, work or further education and training</i>	Fully engaged	15-19 years (inc)	2016 (70.9%)	2021 (67.1%)	Unfavourable change	Census of Population and Housing	The proportion of Aboriginal young people (15-19 years) studying and/or training and/or working was 67.1% in 2021, down from 70.9% in 2016.  The denominator only includes the number of young people aged 15-19 years who gave a valid response in the Census.
<i>Proportion of young people with disability, partially or fully engaged in school, work or further education and training</i>	Partially or fully engaged	15-19 years (inc)	2016 (84.7%)	2021 (72.9%)	Unfavourable change	Census of Population and Housing	The proportion of Aboriginal young people (15-19 years) with disability that were partially or fully engaged in school, work or further education was 72.9% in 2021, down from 84.7% in 2016.  The denominator only includes the number of young people with disability aged 15-19 years who gave a valid response in the Census.
<i>Rate of attendance for students enrolled at school</i>	Rate of school attendance	Year 1 to Year 10	2017 (80.5%)	2021 (77.3%)	Unfavourable change	National Report on Schooling in Australia, ACARA	The school attendance rate for Year 1 to Year 10 has been falling from 2017 to 2021.
<i>Proportion of young people completing a senior secondary certificate of education qualification or equivalent by 19 years</i>	Senior secondary certificate	Year 12	2016 (53.8%)	2021 (56.1%)	Unable to determine	Census of Population and Housing	Since 2011, there has been a proportional increase of Aboriginal young people completing Year 12 or equivalent. The completion rate for these Aboriginal 19 year olds was 41.1% in 2011, 53.8% in 2016 and 56.1% in 2021.

## Dimension 5: Citizenship

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children and young people develop skills for an independent life						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of young people 14-15 years that are literate</i>	Reading	Year 9	2016 (74.4%)	2021 (65.5%)	No change	National Assessment Program, NAP	The proportion of Year 9 Aboriginal students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in reading has fallen since 2016.  The overall rate appears to be cyclical.
<i>Proportion of young people 14-15 years that are literate</i>	Writing	Year 9	2016 (52.1%)	2021 (49.2%)	No change	National Assessment Program, NAP	The proportion of Year 9 Aboriginal students achieving at or above the national minimum standard in writing declined in 2021.  The overall rate appears to be cyclical.
<i>Proportion of young people 14-15 years that are numerate</i>	Numeracy	Year 9	2016 (80.1%)	2021 (78.1%)	No change	National Assessment Program, NAP	Approximately four-fifths of Year 9 Aboriginal students achieved at or above the national minimum standard in numeracy in both 2016 and 2021.
<i>Proportion of young people 15-19 years that are financially literate</i>	Financial numeracy	15-19 years (inc)			Not available		Sample size for the Aboriginal young people is too small for meaningful reporting.
<i>Proportion of young people 15-19 years that are financially literate</i>	Inflation	15-19 years (inc)			Not available		Sample size for the Aboriginal young people is too small for meaningful reporting.
<i>Proportion of young people 15-19 years that are financially literate</i>	Diversification	15-19 years (inc)			Not available		Sample size for the Aboriginal young people is too small for meaningful reporting.
<i>Proportion of young people 15-19 years that are financially literate</i>	Risk-return	15-19 years (inc)			Not available		Sample size for the Aboriginal young people is too small for meaningful reporting.
<i>Proportion of young people 15-19 years that are financially literate</i>	Money illusion	15-19 years (inc)			Not available		Sample size for the Aboriginal young people is too small for meaningful reporting.

## Dimension 5: Citizenship

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children and young people develop skills for an independent life						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of young people 16-19 years with a driver's licence</i>	Driver's licence	16-19 years (inc)		Not available		South Australian Government Data Directory	The data are not disaggregated for Aboriginal children and young people.
<i>Proportion of young people 15-19 years satisfied with their level of independence</i>	Satisfied with independence	17 years	2008 (Cohort Y06, Wave 3) (91.0%)	2011 (Cohort Y09, Wave 3) (95.6%)	Unable to determine	Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth	Unable to determine trend - no recent data. Also, due to small sample sizes, trends cannot be determined from the data.
<i>Average hours of paid employment for young people 15-19 years</i>	Employed young people (hours)	17 years	2011 (Cohort Y09, Wave 3) (18.7)	2017 (Cohort Y15, Wave 3) (14.4)	Unable to determine	Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth	Due to small sample sizes, trends cannot be determined from the data.
<i>Proportion of young people 15-19 years not currently living with their parents</i>	Not living with parents	18 years	2009 (Cohort Y06, Wave 4) (30.1%)	2012 (Cohort Y09, Wave 4) (7.0%)	Unable to determine	Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth	Unable to determine trend - no recent data. Also, due to small sample sizes, trends cannot be determined from the data.
<i>Proportion of children and young people feeling able to have a say on important issues</i>	Having a say on important issues	15-17 years		Not available		General Social Survey, ABS	No South Australia-specific data and no age-aligned data available.

## Dimension 5: Citizenship

## Aboriginal data table

Indicator	Children and young people develop skills for an independent life						
Measure	Measure detail	Age	Baseline year (Baseline value)	Latest year (Latest value)	Trend	Data Source	Commentary
<i>Proportion of young people 18 years enrolled to vote</i>	Enrolled to vote	18-19 years (inc)		Not available		Australian Electoral Commission	The data are not disaggregated for Aboriginal children and young people.
<i>Proportion of children and young people participating in volunteering</i>	Volunteering	15-19 years (inc)	2016 (14.3%)	2021 (9.0%)	Unable to determine	Census of Population and Housing	In 2021, 9% of Aboriginal children and young people (15-19 years) participated in volunteering, down from 14.3% in 2016.
<i>Proportion of children and young people participating in community support groups</i>	Community support groups	15-17 years		Not available		General Social Survey, ABS	No South Australia-specific data and no age-aligned data available.

## Annex 3 – Data gaps

<i>Dimension 1: Health</i>		<i>Data gaps table</i>
<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Children are born healthy</i>	
<i>Measure</i>	<i>Affected population group</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Proportion of pregnant mothers smoking in the first 20 weeks of pregnancy</i>	Aboriginal mothers	Whole-of-population data for SA are available for 2020. However, for Aboriginal mothers, only 2019 data are available. The 2019 data for Aboriginal mothers were published in August 2022.
<i>Proportion of mothers under 20 years when giving birth</i>	Aboriginal mothers	Whole-of-population data for SA are available for 2020. However, for Aboriginal mothers, only 2019 data are available. The 2019 data for Aboriginal mothers were published in August 2022.
<i>Proportion of women attending a first antenatal visit in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy</i>	Aboriginal women	Whole-of-population data for SA are available for 2020. However, for Aboriginal women, only 2019 data are available. The 2019 data for Aboriginal women were published in August 2022.
<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Children have a healthy early life</i>	
<i>Measure</i>	<i>Affected population group</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Proportion of children meeting developmental milestones at two and four years</i>	All children and young people	No data available. New funding of \$50.1 million announced on 22/6/21 in SA's State Budget for an Early Learning Strategy included funding for additional developmental milestone checks at key stages between birth and school age.
<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Children and young people have health-promoting behaviours</i>	
<i>Measure</i>	<i>Affected population group</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Proportion of children and young people being reported as underweight, overweight or obese</i>	Aboriginal children and young people	The data source is the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, the latest available data being for 2018-19. Due to the small sample size, the ABS reports 'underweight/normal weight' as one category for Aboriginal children and young people (2-17 years).

**Dimension 1: Health**

**Data gaps table**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Children and young people have health-promoting behaviours</b>	
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Affected population group</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Proportion of young people smoking tobacco</i>	Aboriginal young people	No state-specific data are available for Aboriginal children and young people (12-17 years) from this survey.
<i>Proportion of young people consuming alcohol</i>	Aboriginal young people	No state-specific data (12-17 years) are available for Aboriginal children and young people from this survey.
<i>Proportion of young people with potentially unsafe or binge-drinking behaviour</i>	Aboriginal young people	No state-specific data (12-17 years) are available for Aboriginal children and young people from this survey.
<i>Proportion of young people taking illicit drugs</i>	Aboriginal young people	No state-specific data (12-17 years) are available for Aboriginal children and young people from this survey.
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Children and young people are thriving</b>	
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Affected population group</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Proportion of children and young people with access to healthy food</i>	Aboriginal children and young people	The data source is the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey, the latest available data being for 2018-19.
<i>Number of children and young people with tooth decay</i>	All children and young people	The National Oral Health Plan 2015-2024 calls for a population-based epidemiological study of the oral health of children and young people to be conducted every 10 years. The National Child Oral Health Study was last conducted in 2012-14. No state-specific data for Aboriginal children and young people are available from this study.
<i>Proportion of children and young people estimated to have an emotional, mental health or behavioural problem</i>	Aboriginal children and young people	Sample size for Aboriginal children and young people is too small for meaningful reporting.

**Dimension 2: Safety**

**Data gaps table**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Children and young people are safe from preventable injury</b>	
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Affected population group</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Proportion of children and young people feeling concerned about family conflict</i>	Aboriginal young people	A small number of Aboriginal young people (15-19 years) in South Australia responded to the Mission Australia Survey in 2020, hence the data are not reported separately.
<i>Proportion of children and young people living in households with financial hardship</i>	All children and young people	No more recent data available than the 2016 Census data.
<i>Number of children and young people experiencing homelessness</i>	All children and young people	No more recent data available than the 2016 Census data.
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Children and young people are safe from preventable injury</b>	
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Affected population group</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Number of deaths of children and young people being attributed to preventable/unintentional injury</i>	All children and young people	Data are reported up to 2016 and it is not known if the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) will release more data.
<i>Number of children and young people 5-13 years attending a swimming safety program</i>	All children and young people	No data available. In 2018, the Royal Life Saving Society – Australia published data obtained from a national database of private swim schools across South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria between 2014 and 2016. The data excluded school-based programs and did not represent all children and young people participating in private swimming lessons nationwide.
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Children and young people are safe from crime</b>	
<b>Measure</b>	<b>Affected population group</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Proportion of children and young people feeling unsafe in their local area at night</i>	All young people	No South Australia-specific data available from the Australian Child Wellbeing Project (ACWP). No new data have been available since a report published in 2016.

**Dimension 3: Wellbeing**

**Data gaps table**

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Children and young people are connected to family, friends and culture</i>	
<i>Measure</i>	<i>Affected population group</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Proportion of children with special needs, birth to five years, attending approved child care services</i>	All children	Data for a number of priority equity groups of children are either old or not reported separately for Aboriginal children.
<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Children and young people are connected to family, friends and culture</i>	
<i>Measure</i>	<i>Affected population group</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Proportion of children and young people participating in cultural activities</i>	Aboriginal children and young people	The Australian Bureau of Statistics does not publish separate data for Aboriginal children and young people for this measure.
<i>Proportion of children and young people feeling connected to adults in their home</i>	All children and young people	<p>The Wellbeing and Engagement Collection (WEC) collects self-reported data for Year 4 to Year 10 students feeling connected to adults in school but not for in their home.</p> <p>In December 2020, the Council requested that consideration be given to adding this measure to the WEC survey. Education advised in 2022 that the request would be considered as part of the upcoming WEC questionnaire review.</p>
<i>Proportion of children and young people feeling connected to adults in their community</i>	All children and young people	<p>WEC collects self-reported data for Year 4 to Year 10 students feeling connected to adults in school but not in their community.</p> <p>In December 2020, the Council requested that consideration be given to adding this measure to the WEC survey. Education advised in 2022 that the request would be considered as part of the upcoming WEC questionnaire review.</p>
<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Children and young people are leading satisfied lives</i>	
<i>Measure</i>	<i>Affected population group</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Rate of suicide for children and young people</i>	Aboriginal children and young people	Publication of the suicide rate for Aboriginal children and young people in South Australia is suppressed.

**Dimension 4: Education**

**Data gaps table**

Indicator	<i>Children enter the school system ready to take advantage of the learning environment</i>	
Measure	Affected population group	Comments
<p><i>Number of children receiving early childhood intervention supports through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) or with approved NDIS plan before entering school (Early childhood early intervention (ECEI))</i></p>	<p>Aboriginal children</p>	<p>Not available. The concept of the ECEI gateway was introduced in July 2016, however, the NDIA business system to data about Aboriginality was not introduced until 2019. This means NDIA is unable to split the number of participants in the ECEI gateway by their Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.</p>

## Dimension 5: Citizenship

## Data gaps table

<i>Children and young people develop skills for an independent life</i>		
<i>Indicator</i>		
<i>Measure</i>	<i>Affected population group</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Proportion of young people 15-19 years that are financially literate</i>	All young people	The data are not disaggregated for Aboriginal young people due to small responding base.
<i>Proportion of young people 16-19 years with a driver's licence</i>	All young people	The data are not disaggregated for Aboriginal young people for privacy reasons.
<i>Proportion of Year 10 students achieving at or above proficient standard in the Australian curriculum civics and citizenship assessment</i>	Aboriginal young people	The data are not disaggregated for Aboriginal young people.
<i>Children and young people participate in decisions that affect them directly and the wider society</i>		
<i>Indicator</i>		
<i>Measure</i>	<i>Affected population group</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Proportion of children and young people feeling able to have a say on important issues</i>	All young people	No South Australia-specific data and no age-aligned data available.
<i>Proportion of children and young people participating in volunteering</i>	All young people	No more recent data available than the 2016 Census.
<i>Children and young people are engaged in community activities</i>		
<i>Indicator</i>		
<i>Measure</i>	<i>Affected population group</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Proportion of children and young people participating in community support groups</i>	All young people	No South Australia-specific data and no age-aligned data available.

## Acronyms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACARA	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority
ACWP	Australian Child Wellbeing Project
AEDC	Australian Early Development Census
AGCCS	Australian Government Child Care Subsidy
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ASSAD	Australian School Students' Alcohol and Drug Survey
Charter	Charter for Children and Young People
CAP	Charter Ambassador Program
CDSIRC	Child Death and Serious Injury Review Committee
CACYP	Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People
CAFHS	Child and Family Health Service
CCYP	Commissioner for Children and Young People
Council	Child Development Council
DCP	Department for Child Protection
DOI	Digital Object Identifier
DSS	Department of Social Services (Australian Government)
ECEI	Early childhood early intervention
Education	Department for Education
Framework	<i>South Australia's Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People</i>
FYA	Foundation for Young Australians
GCYP	Guardian for Children and Young People
HILDA	Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia
IRSD	Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage
KTYJC	Kurlana Tapa Youth Justice Centre
LSAY	Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth
MoE	Margin of error
NAIDOC	National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee
National Agreement	National Agreement on Closing the Gap
NAP	National Assessment Program
NAP-CC	National Assessment Program Civics and Citizenship
NAPLAN	National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy
NCCD	Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NDIA	National Disability Insurance Agency
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
NESB	non-English speaking background
NIYEC	National Indigenous Youth Education Coalition
OFEY	Office for the Early Years

OOHC	Out-of-home care
ROGS	Report on Government Services
SA	South Australia
SACE	South Australian Certificate of Education
SADI Project	South Australian Dual Involved Project
SAPHS	South Australian Population Health Survey
SAPOL	South Australia Police
SARs	Special Administrative Regions
SRC	Student Representative Council
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
TCV	Training Centre Visitor
TRUMP	Transport Regulation User Management Processing System
WEC	Wellbeing and Engagement Collection

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