

Child Development Council

Annual Report 2024-25

Every young South Australian counts



Acknowledgment

Aboriginal peoples have made and continue to make a unique and irreplaceable contribution to South Australia. The Child Development Council acknowledges and respects the Aboriginal people as Traditional Owners and occupants of the lands and waters. We honour their rich cultural, spiritual and historical knowledge.

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Letter of transmission

Hon Blair Boyer MP
Minister for Education, Training and Skills

Dear Minister

I submit to you for presentation to Parliament the Child Development Council's annual report for the 2024-25 financial year.

This annual report has been prepared to meet the statutory reporting requirements of the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016* and the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting*.

In compliance with the *Public Sector Act 2009* and the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1987*, reporting of the management of human resources and financial issues has been included in the Department for Education's 2024-25 annual report.

Submitted on behalf of the Child Development Council by:

Associate Professor Victoria Whittington
Presiding Member

22/10/2025

Date



Signature

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From the Presiding Member

This year proved to be one of growth and improvement in the work of the Child Development Council (CDC) and one in which the CDC took the opportunity to look at how it might best perform its legislative functions in the years ahead.



A key focus of the CDC during the year was to refine its focus and reset its strategic direction. To that end, it made significant progress in the development of its strategic plan for the next three years.

The CDC successfully managed to improve the way it makes the child development data it collects more accessible and meaningful to government and the community, moving from a static periodic publication to an online format that can be updated when data becomes available.

In line with the requirements of its governing legislation the CDC commenced a periodic review of South Australia's Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People (Outcomes Framework). The review focuses on the elements of the Outcomes Framework that enable the measurement of the state's performance against the outcomes we hope to see for the children and young people of South Australia (SA).

The CDC achieved further significant growth in the Charter Ambassador Program (CAP) and was pleased with the positive impact the program has made in local communities and in the lives of children and young people. The program really demonstrates the Charter for Children and Young People (Charter) in action, putting children at the centre and providing opportunities for them to influence those who make decisions that affect their lives. We look forward to discussion with the Minister regarding ongoing funding for the continuation of this program.

None of this important work would have been possible without the support of the CDC secretariat. I thank the staff for their efforts.

I would also like to thank all my fellow CDC members for their ongoing support in performing the functions of the CDC and their commitment to promoting the very best lives for South Australia's children and young people.



Victoria Whittington

Presiding Member

Child Development Council

Introduction

The Child Development Council (CDC) is established in accordance with Part 6 of the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016* (the Act), to:

- maintain an Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People including a Charter for Children and Young People
- promote the implementation of the legislated Outcomes Framework by State authorities¹
- report to the Government of South Australia on how effective the Outcomes Framework is in improving the outcomes of children and young people (birth to 18 years), including:
 - (i) keeping children and young people safe from harm
 - (ii) ensuring that children and young people are cared for in a way that allows them to realise their potential
 - (iii) improving the physical and mental health, and the emotional wellbeing, of children and young people
 - (iv) improving the participation of children and young people in educational and vocational training
 - (v) improving the participation of children and young people in sporting, creative, cultural and other recreational activities
 - (vi) ensuring that children and young people are properly prepared for taking their position in society as responsible citizens
 - (vii) maintaining the cultural identity of children and young people.

The Minister may assign other functions to the CDC.

¹ State authorities are defined in the Act to include statutory officials, public sector agencies, the South Australia Police, local government eg, councils, incorporated or unincorporated bodies established for a public purpose by/under an Act (other than incorporated companies, associations, cooperatives, societies or other voluntary organisations) and established or subject to control or direction by the Government, a Minister of the Crown or a local council (whether or not established under an Act) and any other person or body declared by the regulations to be a State authority.

Our strategic focus

<i>Our Vision</i>	To be the trusted and independent voice that brings meaning to data, prompting action and better outcomes for all young South Australians.
<i>Our Mission</i>	Our mission is to provide data-led insights that help policymakers make better decisions for South Australian children and young people.
<i>Our Values</i>	<p>Equity: We value diverse perspectives, expertise and contributions to ensure all children and young people are represented.</p> <p>Connection: We commit to working as a team to leverage networks and connections to increase our impact.</p> <p>Curiosity: We have a collective growth mindset, seeking knowledge and ongoing improvement.</p> <p>Productivity: We prioritise our efforts to positively impact the lives of young South Australians and commit to being accountable for our actions.</p>

The Child Development Council's performance at a glance

The highlights of the CDC's performance of its functions during the year included:

- Commenced the development of a strategic plan for 2025-28
- Continued growth of the Charter Ambassador Program
- Commencement of a review of the Outcomes Framework
- Refinement of the online Report Card for reporting on the indicators and measures in the Outcomes Framework

South Australia's Outcomes Framework

The primary function of the CDC is to maintain the Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People (Outcomes Framework) and advise and report to government, providing data and insights to help policymakers make evidence-based decisions to improve the lives of young South Australians. The Outcomes Framework places South Australians, birth to 18 years, at the centre of five key areas:

- Wellbeing
- Health
- Safety
- Education, and
- Preparing for adulthood.

The Outcomes Framework provides a shared goal to guide state authorities to develop strategies, objectives, policies and programs.

The Outcomes Framework includes a set of indicators and measures that enable progress toward the outcomes set out in the framework, to be tracked at a population-level over time.²

The Charter outlines 20 aspirational conditions aligning with the five key areas. The Charter is an integral component of the Framework and was informed by the voices of young South Australians.

During 2024-25, the CDC continued to improve its access to data to track the State's progress against the Outcomes Framework, commenced a review of the Outcomes Framework, and took steps to improve its approach to the reporting of data relevant to Aboriginal children and young people.

² Pursuant to section 57(4)(e) of the Act and regulation 12 of the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Regulations 2017*

South Australia's children and young people at a glance

The population of South Australia is 1.8 million.

Young South Australians account for...

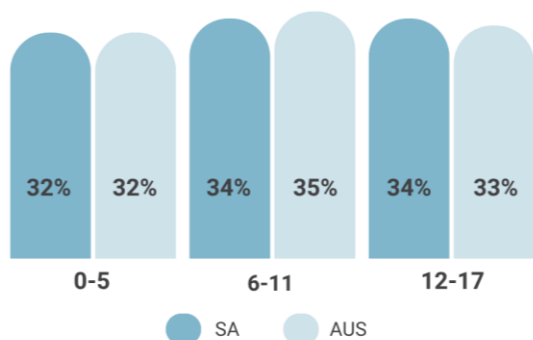


20% of the population
(22% nationally)



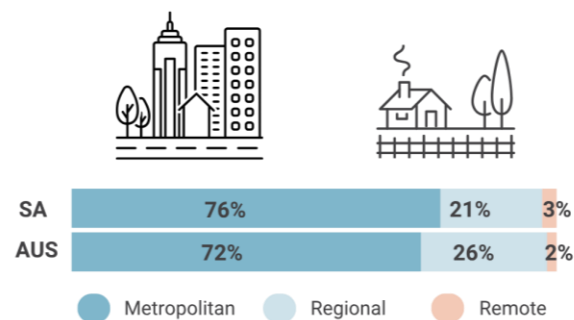
4.5% identify as Aboriginal
and/or Torres Strait Islander
(5.7% nationally)

Age Groups



Location

1 in 4 young South Australians live in regional/remote areas.



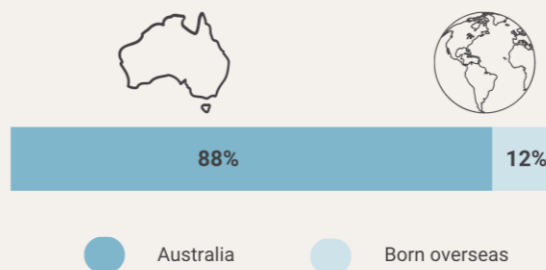
Socioeconomic status (SEIFA: IRSD)

Out of 20 young South Australians...



Country of birth

The majority of young South Australians were born in Australia, however a little more than 1 in 10 were born overseas.



Data on young South Australians is sourced from the ABS 2021 Census.

South Australia's Report Card

In undertaking its function to advise and report to the Government on the effectiveness of achieving the outcomes set out in section 55(2)(a) of the Act, the CDC maintains and publishes a Report Card presented online. The Report Card outlines the State's progress against the measures in the Outcomes Framework.

A significant focus of the CDC's work during the reporting year was in completing the transition of the Report Card from a static yearly publication into an interactive online format. The revised format facilitates the timely publication of data updates while enhancing the clarity and accessibility of population level data.

Promoting the implementation of the Outcomes Framework

The CDC continued to promote the implementation of the Outcomes Framework with state authorities and community stakeholders, through:

- the Charter Ambassador Program
- engagement with relevant agencies and organisations
- responses to significant government policy and law reforms
- website and social media channels, and
- attendance at events relevant to child development.

Review of the Outcomes Framework

Pursuant to regulation 12(6) of the regulations the CDC must review the Outcomes Framework at least once in each 3-year period. The last review of the Outcomes Framework was undertaken in 2022.

Statement regarding data for Aboriginal children and young people

During 2024-25, the CDC Aboriginal Reference Group developed a *Statement regarding data collection for Aboriginal children and young people* relevant to the 2022 Outcomes Framework review consultation.

The statement provides important information for interpreting the data reported by the CDC, and promotes the consideration of data in the context of social and emotional wellbeing, reflecting a whole-of-life perspective of self, interconnected with family, community, cultural heritage and the environment, and influenced by historical, political, and societal factors. The statement further recognises the importance of data sovereignty and self-determination for Aboriginal people.

2025 Review of the Outcomes Framework

Planning for the 2025 review of the Outcomes Framework commenced in October 2024, with the structure and expectations of the review considered at the CDC's meeting in December 2024.

Foundational to the Outcomes Framework are indicators of the development and wellbeing of children and young people in SA, and measures that enable progress against those indicators to be tracked and reported on over time.

The CDC determined that the indicators and measures in the Outcomes Framework would be a particular focus of the 2025 review.

Work on the review during the reporting year included:

- determining the scope of the review and the resources required
- development of a project plan and stakeholder engagement plan
- reviewing, researching and analysing the indicators and measures in the current Outcomes Framework and availability of data that support them, or any potential new measures
- preparation of consultation materials, including a stakeholder survey.

It is anticipated that consultation on the indicators and measures in the Outcomes Framework is being undertaken between July and August 2025 with a view to finalising recommendations for the Minister in late 2025.

Charter Ambassador Program

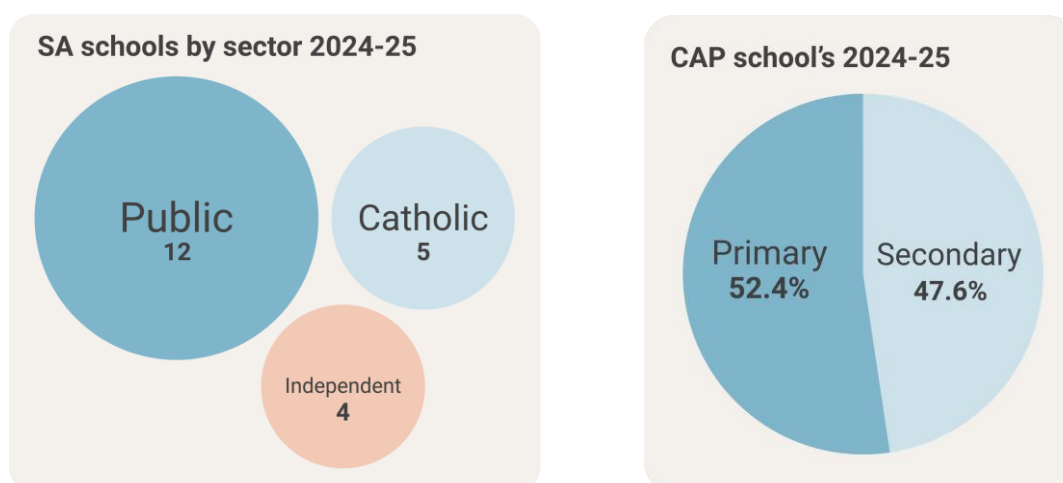
The Charter Ambassador Program (CAP) enables young South Australians to engage in civics, build connections beyond their communities, promote the Charter, initiate positive change and engage in experiences that provide inspiration for their futures.

The CAP links to the Department for Education (Education Department) *Our Strategy for Public Education in South Australia*, Areas of Impact; Wellbeing, Equity and Excellence, Effective Learners, and Learner Agency.

Her Excellency, the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia is the Patron of the Charter, and welcomes new Ambassadors to the CAP at a yearly event at Parliament House.

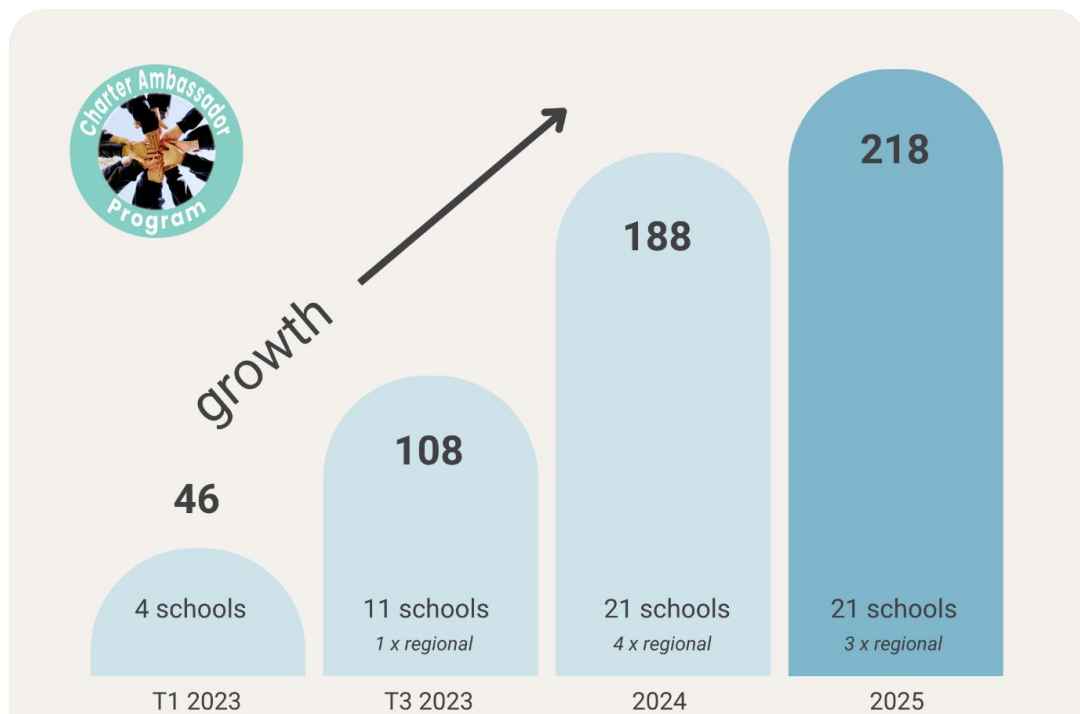
Demographic details

Primary and secondary students from all sectors in SA are eligible to apply to become Ambassadors. During 2024-25 the CAP engaged with 21 schools.



Regional schools included Goolwa Secondary College, Kadina Memorial School, Kangaroo Island Community Education, Tyndale Murray Bridge and Victor Harbor High School.

The Council collaborates closely with CAP Facilitators (educators) in schools, who play a pivotal role in supporting the Ambassadors.



The CAP has grown by 374 percent since 2023.

There has been a focused effort to target schools with lower socio-educational advantage. The inclusion of additional schools has resulted in a higher number of participating schools more educationally disadvantaged, when compared with schools nationally on the Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA).

Between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025, the CAP calendar featured a range of events and engagement opportunities for Ambassadors that enabled them to participate and connect.

Parliament House tours – 31 July and 8 August 2024

Two Parliament House tours were held in July and August 2024. The tours provided Ambassadors with a valuable civics education experience, allowing them to explore

how government in SA makes decisions and to engage directly with Members of Parliament.

Guided by Natalie Badcock, Community Education and Engagement Manager of the Parliament of South Australia, Ambassadors participated in interactive sessions. These sessions deepened their understanding of parliamentary processes and highlighted how young people can be active citizens and leaders within their communities.

Ambassadors met with Hon Blair Boyer MP, Minister for Education, Training and Skills, and Hon Rhiannon Pearce MP, Assistant Minister for Junior Sport Participation (31 July), as well as Hon Lee Odenwalder MP and Hon Josh Teague MP (8 August). Ambassadors posed thoughtful questions, shared their perspectives, and even created their own mock laws on topics such as reducing rubbish at Adelaide Oval and homework reform.

Feedback from CAP Facilitators and Ambassadors was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the tours as an inspiring civics and leadership experience that built confidence, strengthened understanding of how Parliament works, and reinforced the importance of young voices in shaping SA's future.

Wellbeing Summit – 11 September 2024

The 2024 Wellbeing Summit was a celebration of creativity and community, bringing together 168 Ambassadors at the Adelaide Zoo, to connect, reflect, and shape future CAP planning. The 2024 summit showcased the power of youth voice and collaboration, leadership, creativity, and cross-community engagement, highlighting how young South Australians are shaping a more positive and connected future.

On the day, guest presenters from Carclew guided Ambassadors in developing a collective Vision Statement for the CAP, which defines and communicates its purpose and aspirations. Through creative and reflective activities, Ambassadors designed 'vision boxes' to represent their ideas and voted for their preferred statement.

The final Vision Statement chosen was:

'Coming together, Learning to lead, Sharing our voices, Inspiring positive change.'

Charter Champion, David Chikwuba led an engaging session on leadership, trust and listening to one's inner voice, while Chris Blowes' inspiring presentation on resilience and overcoming adversity deeply resonated with participants. Feedback from Ambassadors and CAP Facilitators described the day as empowering, inclusive, and memorable, with many Ambassadors expressing that they felt heard, valued, and inspired to lead.

Ideas captured through the vision boxes and a feedback wall revealed that Ambassadors saw the CAP as a program that 'empowers young leaders to have a positive impact on the world' and 'a community of like-minded students striving to improve the lives of young people today'. These insights provided the foundation for Positive Impact Projects to be launched in 2025.

Northern Sound System closed the day with live music, featuring a band of drums, guitar, and vocals. Several Ambassadors joined in, performing with instruments and adding their own flair to the experience. All Ambassadors collaborated to write and perform an original song inspired by the CAP, blending creativity and teamwork into a shared musical moment. A highlight was an Ambassador from Ngutu College performing on the yidaki, celebrating cultural diversity and deepening connection through the power of music.

Government House pin ceremony and welcome workshop – 20 March 2025

The annual Government House pin ceremony set the stage for an inspiring welcome to the CAP in 2025. At Government House, 230 Ambassadors and CAP Facilitators attended the largest ceremony to date, where they received their CAP pins from Charter Patron, Her Excellency, the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia.

The Governor and Associate Professor Victoria Whittington, Presiding Member of the CDC, delivered welcome speeches that acknowledged the importance of the program and both inspired new Ambassadors as they commenced their journey. Due

to the size of the group and venue capacity, the ceremony and workshops were split across two sessions to ensure all participants could attend.

Students also participated in an interactive workshop that introduced them to the CAP, Charter for Children and Young People and the new Positive Impact Project, designed to inspire Ambassadors to initiate meaningful change within their school communities. encouraging collaboration and goal setting.

In these sessions, Ambassadors were captivated by Mr. Matt Cowdrey OAM MP, who shared his journey of leadership, resilience, and advocacy, while the afternoon session engaged with Pal Tear, a representative from Mentoring Counselling and Coaching, whose session on resilience and goal setting left a lasting impression.

Feedback from CAP Facilitators reinforced the value of the experience:

“This opportunity has been incredible for our school, giving our students the chance to grow in ways they might not otherwise experience. It has allowed them to visit new places, connect with people, and engage in experiences beyond their everyday lives.”

Through the ceremony, workshops, and student voice the CAP continues to equip young South Australians with the skills, inspiration, and connections to lead, advocate, and create positive change.

Parliament House visits 10 and 12 June 2025

Four Parliament House tours on 10 and 12 June 2025 were attended by 229 Ambassadors and CAP Facilitators, providing a unique opportunity to learn about Parliament and meet South Australian Members. The tours were once again led by Natalie Badcock, Community Education and Engagement Manager, offering valuable insights into the workings of Parliament and civic leadership.

Ambassadors met with individual Members, including Hon Heidi Girolamo MP (10 June), Hon Blair Boyer MP, Minister for Education, Training and Skills (12 June morning session), and Hon Connie Bonaros MLC (12 June afternoon

session). The CDC also acknowledges the support of the Hon Rhiannon Pearce MP. Ambassadors engaged in discussions with Members, asking thoughtful and challenging questions about leadership, representation, and how each Member came to their role in Parliament.

Ambassadors then shared ideas for new laws and initiatives during a mock debate. Common themes were; creating more opportunities for students to reset between classes; having more fun; including a wellbeing subject in the curriculum; the importance of school lunch programs; the effect on students of the cost of living; the need for more student-run clubs; after-school programs; expanded access to sport and recreation.

The tours offered an inspiring, behind-the-scenes experience that strengthened Ambassadors' understanding of civic engagement, leadership, and the importance of young voices in shaping SA's future.

Engagement with children and young people is a legislative mandate of the CDC and currently this program is at risk as ongoing funding has not been granted.

Collaboration and Advice

Engagement with agencies and organisations

During 2024-25, the CDC organised for representatives of key government agencies to attend CDC meetings to discuss their work, the Outcomes Framework and opportunities for improving access to data to measure and report on outcomes for young South Australians. Guests included, for example, the Chief Executive of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, representatives of the Office for Early Childhood Development, representatives of the Department for Education, and David Chikwuba, Mentoring, Coaching and Counselling, who is a CAP Champion.

Responses to significant government policy or reforms

One of the ways the CDC promotes the implementation of the Outcomes Framework is through responses to significant policy or legislative reforms of the South Australian Government, and external reviews and inquiries.

In 2024-25, the CDC provided advice or comments on the following matters:

- Submission to the South Australian Parliament's Select Committee into the Children and Young People (Safety and Support) Bill 2024
- Draft Children (Social Media Safety) Bill 2024
- Office for Early Childhood Development Bill 2024
- Education and Children's Services (Barring Notices and Other Protections) Amendment Bill 2024
- Education and Children's Services (Enrolment and Attendance) Amendment Bill 2025 and associated Amendment Regulations
- Education and Children's Services (Inclusive Education) Amendment Bill 2025 and draft associated regulations.

Council leadership and membership

Minister

The CDC advises and reports to Hon Blair Boyer MP, Minister for Education, Training and Skills (the Minister).

Pursuant to Part 6 of the Act, the Minister is responsible for, among other things, appointing CDC members and providing the CDC with the staff and other resources it needs to carry out its functions.

Related agencies within the Minister's area/s of responsibility

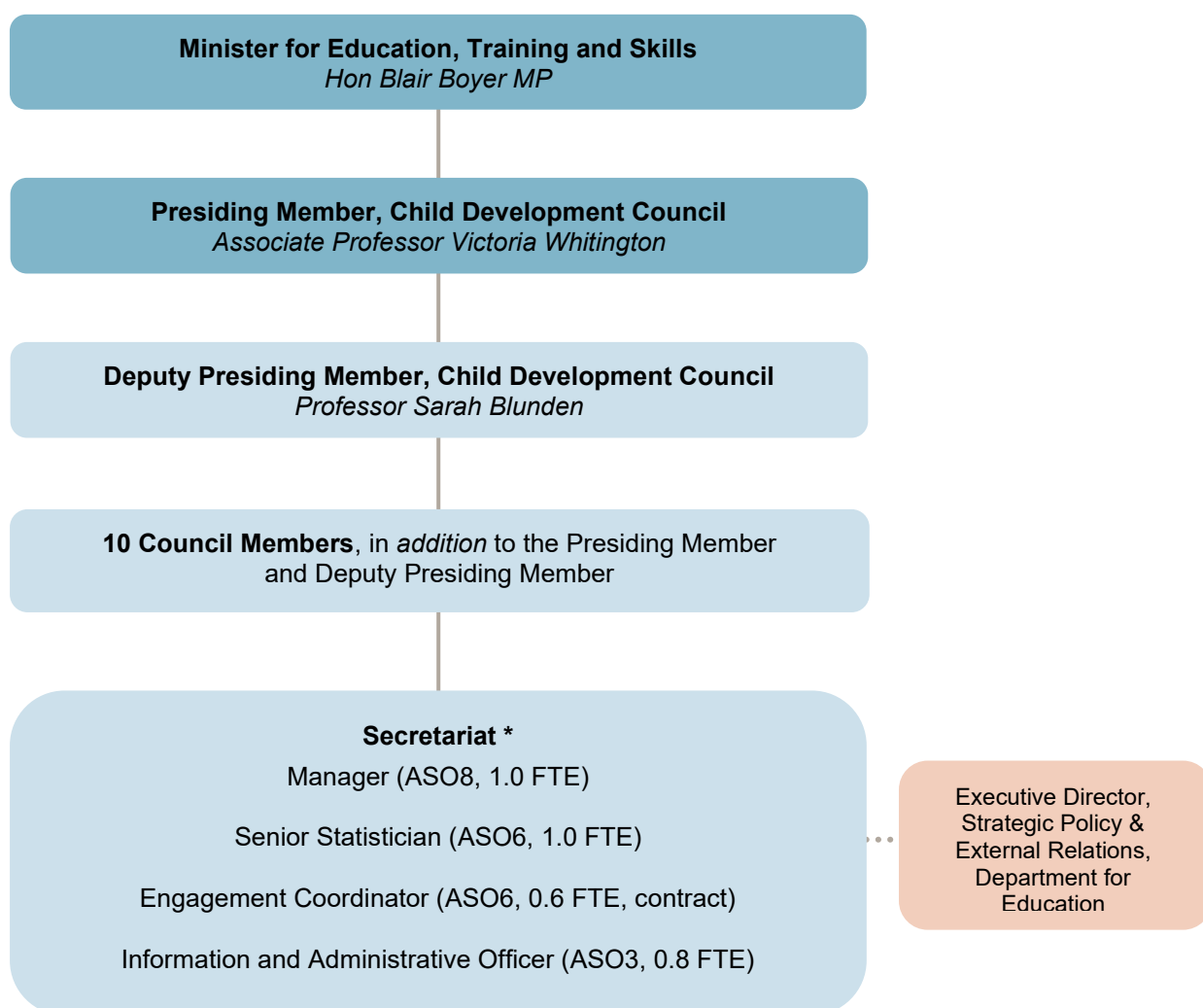
Department for Education

The Department administers funding for the Council and employs the staff in the Council's secretariat.

Organisational structure

The Child Development Council (CDC) consists of up to 12 members appointed by the Minister, being persons who collectively have, in the opinion of the Minister, the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to enable the CDC to carry out its functions effectively. The Minister must appoint one of the members as the Presiding Member and one as the Deputy Presiding Member.

Child Development Council organisational chart.



* In recognition of the CDC's status as a statutory entity that is independent of the Education Department, and the need for it to be perceived as such by internal and external stakeholders, the Secretariat is located at Level 4 East, 50 Grenfell Street.

During the 2024-25 reporting period Ms Tricia Walton, a long-standing member, resigned on 12 December 2024 to pursue other activities. The CDC acknowledges her significant contribution, particularly as the Chair of the Charter Reference Group.

The terms of both the Commissioner for Children and Young People, Helen Connolly, and the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, April Lawrie, ended in April 2025. The CDC acknowledges the considerable insights and contribution they made as non-voting members. The new incumbents of these positions, Acting Commissioner Mimi Crowe and Commissioner Dale Agius, attended CDC meetings from May 2025.

Council membership in 2024-25

<i>Voting members</i>	<i>Term</i>
Adjunct Associate Professor Victoria Whittington, Presiding Member	8/10/2024 to 7/10/2026
Professor Sarah Blunden, Deputy Presiding Member	23/07/2023 to 22/07/2025
Professor Sally Brinkman	8/03/2024 to 7/03/2026
Ms Dawn Davis	8/10/2024 to 7/10/2026
Dr Michelle Fernando	8/03/2024 to 7/03/2026
Ms Tina Hudson	8/03/2024 to 7/03/2026
Professor Gerry Redmond	8/03/2024 to 7/03/2026
Mrs Cat Turner	8/03/2024 to 7/03/2026
Ms Patricia Helen Walton	8/03/2024 to 7/03/2026
Ms Shirley Young	29/08/2023 to 28/08/2025
<i>Non-voting members</i>	<i>Term</i>
Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP)	Ongoing ^{*3}
Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People (CACYP)	Ongoing ^{*3}

[Biographies](#) for CDC members, at the time of completing this report, are on the CDC's website.

³ Part 6, Division 1, s 52, provides that the CCYP and the CACYP (or persons authorised in writing by the CCYP or CACYP) may attend and take part in CDC meetings and have access to meeting papers, but not vote on Council decisions.

Operations

Meetings

Eleven formal CDC meetings were held (including two sessions devoted to strategic planning in March 2025) in July, August, October, November and December 2024 and in February, March, April, May and June 2025.

Council meetings and attendance in 2024-2025

Name	2024					2025						TOTAL
	2/7	6/8	1/10	5/11	6/12	4/2	4/3	25/3	1/4	6/5	3/6	
Sarah BLUNDEN	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	9
Sally BRINKMAN	✓	A	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8
Dawn DAVIS	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10
Michelle FERNANDO	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10
Tina HUDSON	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	8
Gerry REDMOND	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	11
Cat TURNER	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	11
Patricia WALTON	A	✓	A	A	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Victoria WHITINGTON	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	10
Shirley YOUNG	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	8
Helen CONNOLLY	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	A	-	-	6
Mimi CROWE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	2
April LAWRIE	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	A	A	A	-	-	4
Dale AGIUS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	2
TOTAL attendances	11	11	4	8	9	10	10	8	9	10	11	101

✓ = Attended

A = apologies

Finance

The CDC is funded by the South Australian Government and was reported as an administered item in the Education Department's 2024-25 financial statements. The CDC's financial reports were consolidated into, and audited through the Education Department.

The CDC budget covers the operational expenses for the CDC and its secretariat. Members received a modest sitting fee of \$206 for regular CDC meetings of two to four hours' duration, with the Presiding Member receiving \$258 per meeting. The CDC is not funded for members to receive fees or reimbursement for committee meetings and associated work.

The CDC's budget for the 2024-25 financial year was \$534,000. The table below provides a brief unaudited summary of the CDC revenue and expenditure for 2024-25.

Financial summary of expenditure for 2024-25

Financial summary of expenditure from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025			
Item	Actual	Budget	Variance
Revenue	(75,000)	(75,000)	-
Salaries	417,166	439,000	21,834
Salary accruals	14,989	-	(14,989)
Goods and services	94,735	95,000	265
Total expenditure	526,890	534,000	7110
Net Result	451,890	459,000	7,110

No consultants were engaged during the 2024-25 financial year.

Contractors disclosure

The following is a summary of external contractors that have been engaged by the CDC, the nature of the work, and the actual payments made during 2024-25.

Contractors with a contract value below \$10,000

Contractors	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
All contractors below \$10,000 each - combined	Various	\$3540

Contractors with a contract value above \$10,000 each

Contractors	Purpose	\$ Actual payment
Adam Thompson	Strategic planning facilitation	\$26,400

Secretariat

The staff of the CDC's secretariat are employed by the Department for Education. In 2024-25 the CDC was funded for a secretariat of 2.8 FTE.

The CDC continued to be funded on a short-term basis for a part-time Engagement Coordinator (ASO6, 0.6 FTE) to lead the CDC's work with children and young people through the CAP, and local government, with an extension until December 2025. The CDC is seeking ongoing funding for this role to enable the CAP to continue.

Information regarding equal opportunity programs, performance management and development, and work health and safety is reported in the annual report of the Education Department.

The CDC secretariat did not include any executive employees in 2024-25.

Public complaints

No public complaints were received by the CDC in the reporting period.

Annex 1 Glossary

the Act	<i>Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016</i>
Ambassador	Charter Ambassador
CAP	Charter Ambassador Program
Charter	<i>South Australia's Charter for Children and Young People</i>
CDC	Child Development Council
Education Department	Department for Education
ICSEA	Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage
Outcomes Framework	<i>South Australia's Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People</i>
FTE	Full-time equivalent
Minister	Minister for Education, Training and Skills
SA	South Australia
Report Card	South Australia's Report Card

Annex 2 Legislation

Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016

Part 6, Division 1 – Child Development Council

55 – Functions and powers of Council

- (1) The primary function of the Council is to prepare and maintain the *Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People*.
- (2) The Council has the following additional functions:
 - (a) to advise and report to the Government on the effectiveness of the Outcomes Framework in –
 - (i) keeping children and young people safe from harm; and
 - (ii) ensuring that children and young people are cared for in a way that allows them to realise their potential; and
 - (iii) improving the physical and mental health, and the emotional wellbeing, of children and young people; and
 - (iv) improving the participation of children and young people in educational and vocational training; and
 - (v) improving the participation of children and young people in sporting, creative, cultural and other recreational activities; and
 - (vi) ensuring that children and young people are properly prepared for taking their position in society as responsible citizens; and
 - (vii) maintaining the cultural identity of children and young people;
 - (b) to promote the implementation of the Outcomes Framework in respect of matters affecting children and young people under the laws of the State;
 - (c) such other functions as may be assigned to the Council under this or any other Act or by the Minister.
- (3) In performing the functions under this section, the Council should, as far as is reasonably practicable, seek to work collaboratively with –
 - (a) State authorities and Commonwealth agencies that have functions that are relevant to those of the Council; and
 - (b) relevant industry, professional and community groups and organisations.
- (4) Subject to this Act, the Council has such powers as may be necessary or expedient for the performance of the Council's functions.

Part 6, Division 2 – Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People

57 – Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People

- (1) There is to be an *Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People*.
- (2) Without limiting any other matter that may be included in the Outcomes Framework, the Outcomes Framework must include a Charter for Children and Young People.
- (3) The Outcomes Framework is to be prepared by the Child Development Council.
- (4) The Council must, in preparing the Outcomes Framework –

- (a) act in accordance with any instructions of the Minister; and
 - (b) consult with –
 - (i) the CCYP and the CACYP; and
 - (ii) any other person or body prescribed by the regulations, and may consult with any other person or body that the Council thinks appropriate; and
 - (c) engage children and young people, and their parents, carers and families; and
 - (d) ensure an appropriate focus on the needs of priority population groups; and
 - (e) develop performance indicators against which progress in relation to the development and wellbeing of children and young people in the State can be tracked over time.
- (5) The regulations may make further provisions with regard to the Outcomes Framework including, without limiting the generality of this subsection, provisions relating to –
- (a) how the Outcomes Framework is to be prepared; and
 - (b) the form of the Outcomes Framework and any variation of the Outcomes Framework; and
 - (c) the kinds of information to be included in the Outcomes Framework; and
 - (d) consultation requirements relating to the Outcomes Framework; and
 - (e) consideration and approval of the Outcomes Framework by the Minister; and
 - (f) requirements as to the ongoing review of the Outcomes Framework; and
 - (g) variation or substitution of the Outcomes Framework, including provisions limiting a matter referred to in a preceding paragraph.
- (6) The Outcomes Framework, and any variation or substitution of the Outcomes Framework, has effect from the time it is approved by the Minister.
- (7) The Council must, on the Outcomes Framework or a variation of the Outcomes Framework being approved by the Minister –
- (a) cause the Outcomes Framework or variation to be published in the Gazette; and
 - (b) cause the Outcomes Framework to be published on a website determined by the Minister.

Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Regulations 2017

12—Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People

- (1) For the purposes of section 57(4)(b)(ii) of the Act, the following persons and bodies are prescribed:
- (a) the Minister to whom the administration of the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 is committed;
 - (b) the Department (within the meaning of the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017);
 - (c) the Minister to whom the administration of the Education Act 1972 is committed;
 - (d) the administrative unit of the Public Service assisting a Minister with the administration of the Education Act 1972;
 - (e) the Minister to whom the administration of the Health Care Act 2008 is committed;
 - (f) the administrative unit of the Public Service assisting a Minister with the administration of the Health Care Act 2008;
 - (g) the Guardian for Children and Young People.

- (2) Pursuant to section 57(5) of the Act, the Outcomes Framework must contain provisions of the following kinds:
 - (a) provisions designed to provide a common basis across the whole of government for creating strategies, setting objectives or developing or implementing policies related to or affecting children and young people;
 - (b) provisions addressing the needs of children and young people in each of the following areas:
 - (i) health;
 - (ii) safety;
 - (iii) wellbeing;
 - (iv) education;
 - (v) preparedness for adulthood;
 - (c) provisions requiring cooperation and, where appropriate, collaboration between State authorities and other persons or bodies performing functions and duties that relate to or affect children and young people;
 - (d) provisions designed to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in each of the areas referred to in paragraph (b), as well as any other areas particularly affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people;
 - (e) provisions designed to enable outcomes for children and young people in the State to be measured and reported on (including provisions requiring the collection of specified data relating to performance indicators referred to in section 57(4)(e) of the Act), and may contain such other provisions as the Council or Minister thinks fit.
- (3) Pursuant to section 57(5) of the Act, the Council must (in addition to the consultation required under section 57(4)(b) of the Act) undertake additional consultation in respect of the preparation of the Outcomes Framework as follows:
 - (a) consultation with such persons or bodies as may be specified by the Minister;
 - (b) such other consultation (including, without limiting the generality of this paragraph, community consultation) as may be required by the Minister.
- (4) Pursuant to section 57(5) of the Act, the Child Development Council may, with the approval of the Minister, vary or substitute the Outcomes Framework.
- (5) Subject to this regulation, in preparing a variation or substitution of the Outcomes Framework, the Council must undertake the following consultation:
 - (a) in the case of a variation determined by the Minister to be a minor variation—
 - (i) consultation with the Commissioner; and
 - (ii) such other consultation as may be required by the Minister;
 - (b) in any other case—the consultation required by section 57(4)(b) of the Act and subregulation (3) in the preparation of the Outcomes Framework.
- (6) Pursuant to section 57(5) of the Act, the Child Development Council must review the Outcomes Framework at least once in each 3 year period.

