Child Development Council

Annual Report 2025-26

Every young South Australian counts



Child Development Council

Government of South Australia

Acknowledgement

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 Lucy Hood 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 2025-26 financial year.

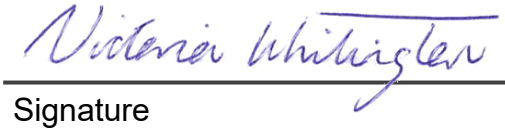
This annual report has been prepared to meet the statutory reporting requirements of the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016* and the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular *PC013 Annual Reporting*.

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 2025-26 annual report.

Submitted on behalf of the Child Development Council by:

Associate Professor Victoria Whitington
Presiding Member

07/10/2026
Date


Signature

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From the Presiding Member



Over the 2025-26 financial year, the Child Development Council (CDC) has continued to fulfil its legislative responsibilities across all areas of its work, while implementing its strategic plan across its activities and priorities. In late 2025, following extensive consultation with stakeholders, the CDC completed its triennial review of *South Australia's Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People.* The updated Outcomes Framework was approved by Minister Boyer, tabled in Parliament then published in the Government Gazette on 4 December 2025. Senior statistician Anisha Joseph and engagement lead and acting manager, Marianne Organ were central to this work. As a result of the review, sixty-seven changes were made including twenty-one additional measures.

The Charter Ambassador Program (CAP) was ongoing in 2025-26. Initially the Engagement Officer was appointed just until June 2026. Fortunately, during the reporting period, the Department for Education re-funded the role until October 2026 which enabled the CAP to complete its full year of activities. In 2025 218 children, and young people and 204 in 2026 from 21 schools participated, developing their knowledge about their role as Ambassadors, learning about government and developing their school Positive Impact Projects. To date 2026 has been the most successful year of the CAP. Feedback from school facilitators showed clearly that from their perspective the CAP excelled in achieving its aims.

In September 2025 through January 2026, Acting Manager, Marianne Organ finalised the Outcomes Framework Review, finessed the Strategic Plan and completed the 2024-25 Annual Report. In January 2026 Amber Francken commenced as the CDC Manager.

During late 2025, CDC Members Sally Brinkman, Michelle Fernando, Cat Turner and Gerry Redmond were all re-appointed until 30 April 2026 and following the State

Election these appointments were extended for a further two years until 30 April 2028.

The online Report Card continues to progress, taking full advantage of the affordances online presentation offers. Anisha Joseph has worked assiduously, taking the Report to a level beyond what was originally imagined, guided by the Data Reference Group, the CDC and the Acting Manager and Manager. The Report Card now presents excellent graphs and explanations accompanied by interpretation, grouped under indicators.

The three reference groups have been busy. As well as supporting the ongoing development of the online Report Card, the Data Reference Group, supported by CDC members, is drawing on the South Australian Wellbeing and Engagement Collection data to write a policy brief on the drop in students' sense of belonging when they commence high school. The Aboriginal Reference Group has considered data sovereignty matters and ways of working collaboratively across organisations for greatest impact. The Charter Ambassador Reference Group has ensured the success of the Charter Ambassador Program.

As Presiding Member during 2025-26, I have attended and contributed to many invited events and meetings relevant to the work of the CDC. Examples include, the Minister's Roundtable on Violence Prevention in Schools, the Centre for Community Child Health, the Our SAAY event, an SA Health consultation regarding proposed change in legislation, consultation with the Treasure Boxes Chief executive regarding their work, the Office of Early Childhood Development data team, the Minister's Early Childhood Advisory Forum, and the Minister's Early Childhood Advisory Forum.

The Oversight and Advocacy Bodies met multiple times during 2025-26. After sharing our work, we discussed ways in which we could collaborate for greater impact regarding improving the lives of children and young people in our state.

In June 2026, I was invited to present on the work of the Council to the annual conference of the Australian Early Development Census State and Territory

Coordinators. They were most impressed by the way in which the AEDC data is presented in the CDC's online Report Card and expressed interested in the CDC's work in general.

None of this important work would have been possible without the support of the hard working CDC Secretariat. I thank Amber, Anisha, Marianne and Sally most sincerely for their efforts.

I would also like to thank Deputy Presiding Member, Professor Sarah Blunden for her support, and all other members for their ongoing and valuable contributions in performing the functions of the CDC, and their commitment to achieving the very best lives for South Australia's children and young people.



Victoria Whitington
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 authorities[1]
- 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 strategy

Vision	To be the trusted, independent voice that brings meaning to data, prompting action and better outcomes for all young South Australians
Commitment	• To provide decision-makers with quality data and insights to facilitate meaningful change for children and young people in our State • To engage with stakeholders and young South Australians to support them in using the Outcomes Framework and Charter to make a positive impact
Our Values	**Connection:** We commit to working as a team, leveraging networks and connections to increase our impact **Diversity:** We value diverse perspectives, expertise and shared contributions to ensure every child and young person is represented in our work **Integrity:** We act with honesty and accountability, foster trust, strive for excellence, and embrace adaptability and continuous improvement to create meaningful impact

The Child Development Council's performance at a glance

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

- Completing a strategic plan for 2025-28
- Ongoing delivery of the Charter Ambassador Program
- Completing a triennial review and delivery of the updated Outcomes Framework
- Continued refinement of the online Report Card.

South Australia's Outcomes Framework

The development of South Australia's Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People (Outcomes Framework) is guided by the provisions of the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016* and the *Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Regulations 2017*.

The Child Development Council (CDC) is a legislated body that maintains the Outcomes Framework, using data and insights to help policymakers in making evidence-based decisions to improve outcomes for young South Australians.

The CDC also advises and reports to the Government on the effectiveness of the Outcomes Framework.

The **Outcomes Framework** places young South Australians, birth to 18, at the centre of 5 key Areas:

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

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

- The Charter for Children and Young People outlines 20 aspirational conditions, aligning with the 5 key Areas. The Charter is an integral component of the Outcomes Framework and was informed by the voices of young South Australians.
- The Charter Ambassador Program provides an opportunity for 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 future.

- South Australia's Report Card for Children and Young People uses population-level data to track the Measures in the Outcomes Framework, to reveal current trends and areas for improvement. Where possible, we disaggregate the data into relevant groups of interest.

The Outcomes Framework includes a statement regarding Aboriginal Data Sovereignty.

Aboriginal Data Sovereignty ensures Aboriginal people's right to control their own data and shapes strengths-based narratives that reflect their resilience, cultural diversity and self-determination. We recognise that this has not been fully realised in the current Report Card and will be progressively addressed in the future.

When interpreting the data:

- The CDC analyses and seeks to publish that data in culturally safe and responsible ways to help improve outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people.
- The CDC's Aboriginal Reference Group advises on the publication of data and information regarding Aboriginal children and young people.
- In support of the inalienable rights of Aboriginal peoples, the CDC aspires to current best practice for the collection, ownership, and application of data and information about Aboriginal peoples, their lifeways and territories.
- The CDC seeks to collaborate with Aboriginal peoples and organisations to identify enablers and barriers to improving Social and Emotional Wellbeing.

2025 Review of the Outcomes Framework

The Regulations state that the Outcomes Framework must be reviewed at least once in every three years. The CDC determined that the indicators and measures in the Outcomes Framework would be a particular focus of the 2025 review to improve their relevance, appropriateness, and usability.

Targeted consultation was undertaken between July and August 2025. The CDC invited feedback via a survey, written submissions or meetings. Stakeholders consulted included: Government agencies; Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs); Other Oversight and Advocacy Bodies; Data agencies; Not-for-profit and non-government, research and community advocacy groups

The review resulted in 67 recommended changes, including:

- one new Indicator
- minor revisions to four existing Indicators
- 21 new Measures, reflecting the aspirational conditions of the Charter and supporting the South Australian Social Statement's focus on inclusion, wellbeing and fairness.

Recommendations for the substitution of the updated Outcomes Framework were forwarded to the Minister, the Hon Blair Boyer MP and were approved on 12 November 2026. Subsequently the approved substitution was published in the Government Gazette on 4 December 2026 as well as on the CDC website.

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.

South Australia's Report Card

In undertaking its function to maintain, advise and report on the effectiveness of achieving the outcomes set out in section 55(2)(a) of the Act, the CDC uses population-level data to track the Measures in the Outcomes Framework, to reveal current trends and areas for improvement. Where possible, we disaggregate the data into relevant groups of interest.

A significant focus of the CDC's work during the reporting year was continuing to improve the interactivity, accessibility and presentation of the Report Card. The revised format supports the timely publication of data updates while enhancing the clarity and accessibility of population-level data.

The Report Card underwent a branding and structural redesign to improve accessibility, making it easier for users to navigate between measures, explore the background, rationale and available data, disaggregating where possible across a range of population groups including Aboriginal children and young people. The updated design provides a more intuitive way for users to explore and compare data, supporting greater understanding of outcomes for young South Australians.

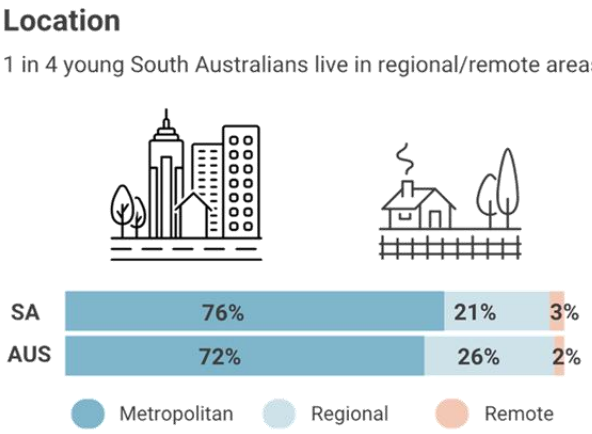
Following the Review, the Report Card is being updated to reflect the revised Outcomes Framework. We are also engaging with data custodians on data availability and requirements for the 21 new measures, as well as identifying opportunities to update existing measures using new or improved data sources.

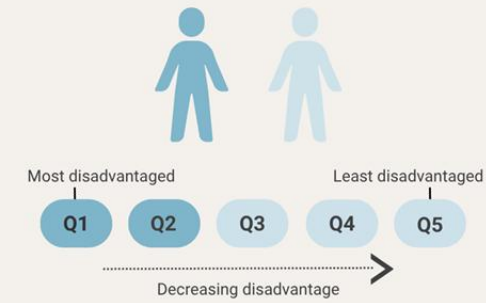
Further development is underway to group measures using the same data source into dashboards. This will enable related measures to be viewed together, providing a central location for relevant research and giving greater context while helping demonstrate why each measure is important to monitor.

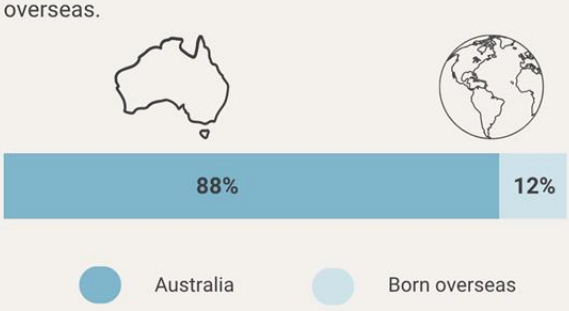
Demographics for Young South Australians

The population of South Australia is 1.8 million.









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

Charter Ambassador Program

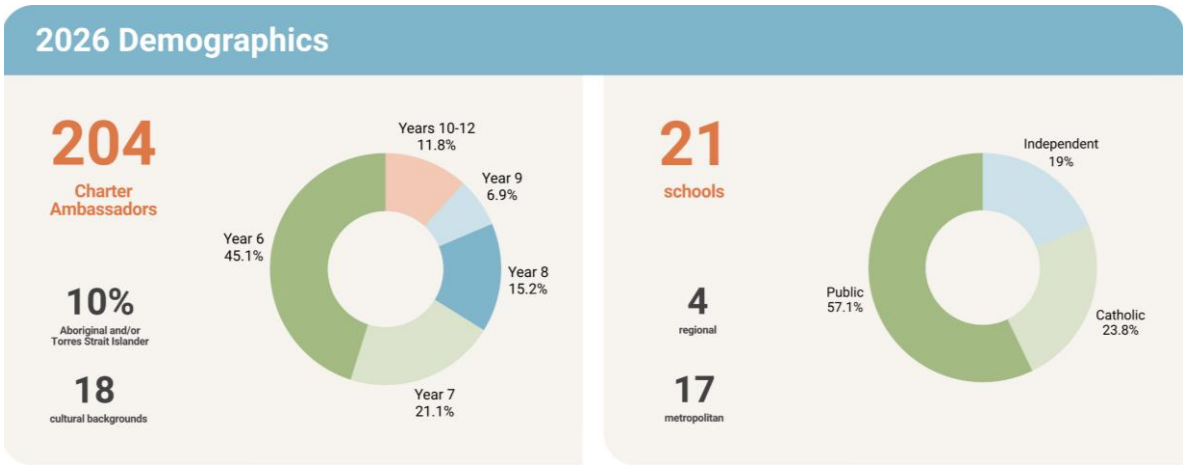
The Charter Ambassador Program (CAP) provides an opportunity for young South Australians to engage in civics, build connections beyond their communities, promote the Charter, initiate positive change and engage in experiences that provide inspiration for their futures.

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

Schools are encouraged to look beyond students who usually step into leadership roles. The CAP is a powerful opportunity for young people who might not yet see themselves as leaders but have potential to grow when given the chance.

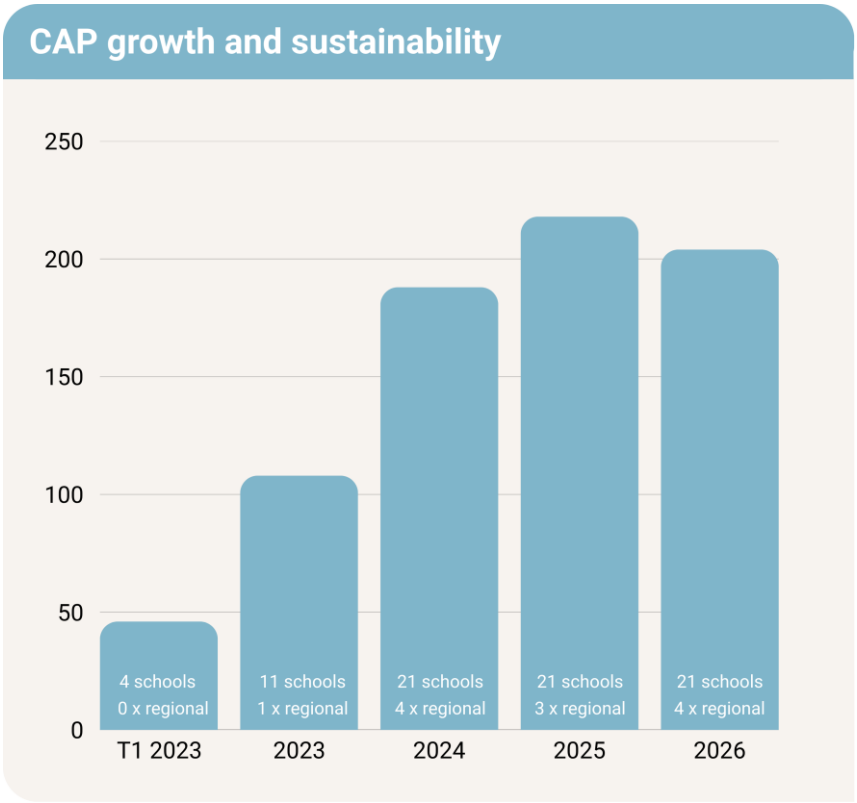
Demographic details

Primary and secondary students from all sectors in SA are eligible to apply to become Ambassadors. During 2025-26 the CAP engaged with 21 schools.

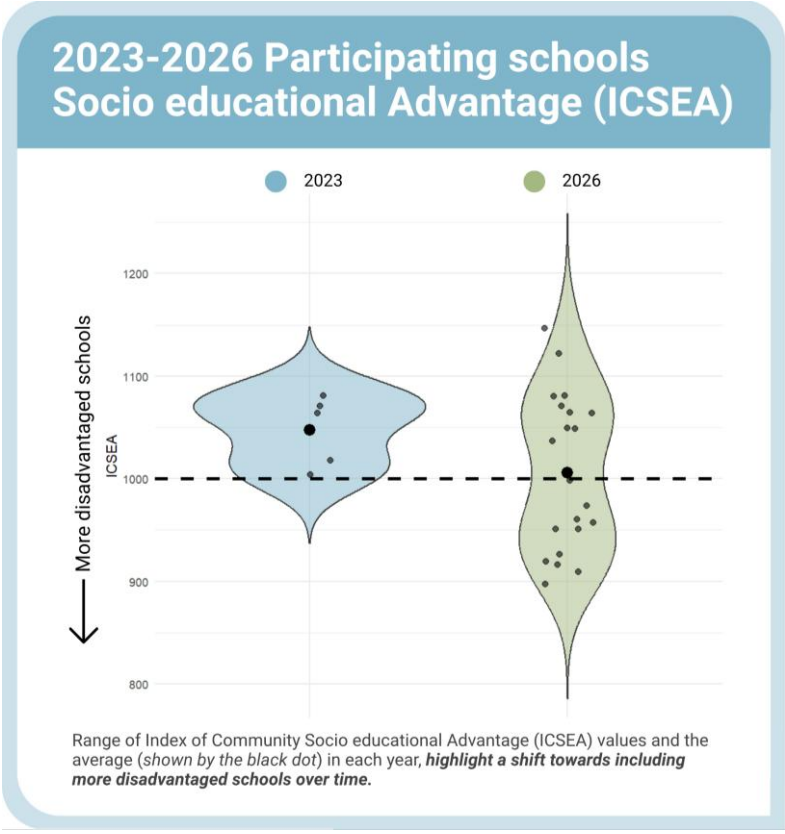


Regional schools included Goolwa Secondary College, Kadina Memorial School, Kangaroo Island Community Education and Victor Harbor High School.

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



The Charter Ambassador Program has successfully transitioned from rapid growth to sustainable delivery, maintaining participation across all 21 schools while continuing to attract interest from additional schools seeking to join the program.



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).

Charter Ambassador Program of events

The CAP is an annual program with Ambassadors engaging in three different events over a calendar year commencing with a Welcome event at Government House followed by a workshop introducing them to the Charter and their role as Ambassadors. This is followed by a tour of Parliament House including a Q & A with an elected Member and concludes with a Positive Impact Exchange, a day of connection, celebration and inspiration; an opportunity for Ambassadors to share their Positive Impact Projects and recognise the difference they have made, leaving them motivated to make an even greater impact in their communities.

Between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026, the CAP calendar featured the following events:

Positive Impact Exchange – 11 September 2025

The 2025 Positive Impact Exchange was a celebration of creativity and community, bringing together 168 Ambassadors at the Adelaide Zoo, to connect, reflect, and shape future CAP planning.

On the day, Ambassadors created a Positive Impact Project poster showcasing their school's Positive Impact Project (PIP). They then participated in a PIP exchange with other schools and finished by selected participants sharing what they learned with the entire group. To round up the day guest presenter Dale Sidebottom from the School of Play provided a fun filled exploration of individual and shared wellbeing by using play as a connector.

> *'When play is done well it accepts everybody, it is incredible with reducing anxiety. Reducing cognitive load … fun first then learning follows.'*

The 2025 exchange 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.

Feedback from CAP Facilitators reinforced the value of the experience:

> *The Charter Ambassador Program is an exemplary initiative that stands out for its commitment to fostering leadership and community engagement with young people.*
>
> *Participants in the program are given the unique opportunity to develop essential skills, such as public speaking, teamwork, and problem-solving. The program's structure encourages ambassadors to take an active role in promoting positive change within their communities, thereby instilling a strong sense of responsibility and civic duty.*
>
> *By welcoming students from various backgrounds, the program enriches the learning experience and broadens participants' perspectives. This diversity not only enhances the program's impact but also reflects the values of equity and respect that are crucial in today's society.*
>
> *Goolwa Secondary College CAP Facilitator*

Government House pin ceremony and welcome workshop – 30 March 2026

The annual Government House pin ceremony sets the stage for an inspiring welcome to the CAP in 2026. Two hundred and one Ambassadors and forty-two Facilitators attended, where Ambassadors received their CAP pins from Charter Patron, Her Excellency, the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, Governor of South Australia.

The Governor and Associate Professor Victoria Whitington, 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 Charter for Children and Young People, their roles as Ambassadors, and the Positive Impact Project, designed to inspire Ambassadors to initiate meaningful change within their school communities, encouraging collaboration and goal setting.

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 11 June 2026

Two Parliament House tours on 10 and 11 June 2026 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 Lucy Hood MP, Minister for Education, Training and Skills (10 June) and Hon John Fulbrook MP (11 June). Lucy Hood encouraged Ambassadors to recognise their potential, embrace new opportunities, and understand that their future is not limited by their circumstances. Through sharing her personal journey and engaging with young people at Parliament House, she reinforced the importance of aspiration, community connection, confidence, and youth voice. John Fulbrook reflected on his life and pathway into politics, encouraging Ambassadors to recognise that anyone, regardless of their background, can pursue opportunities to lead, contribute, and make a difference in their community, including through Parliament.

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 creating new laws and initiatives during a mock debate. Common themes were; the effect on students of the cost of living; after-school programs; funding for regional schools.

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.

Further tours are planned for 5 and 6 August 2026.

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.

Feedback from CAP Facilitators reinforced the value of the experience:

> *Students from our site have participated in the Charter Ambassador Program for the last two years and it has been incredible to watch the inspiring leaders that this program is coaxing out of students that would otherwise be quite reserved and shy. The Charter Ambassador program has given confidence and purpose to students that have previously been overlooked for leadership programs based on the area they come from. The CAP's ability to include our students in this program is one of a kind and they go out of their way to ensure our students could participate as well as students from any other school. At no point did our students feel as though they were less than others, which unfortunately given our socioeconomic area happens to them more often than is fair. Programs that have come from the workshops the CAP facilitates have helped to create a more inclusive, supportive and kind environment at our school and for that we will always be eternally grateful and loud supporters of the Charter Ambassador Program.*
>
> *Mark Oliphant College CAP Facilitator*

Collaboration and Advice

Engagement with agencies and organisations

During 2025-26, the CDC organised for representatives of key government and non-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: Shona Reid, Guardian for Children and Young People; Sandy Pitcher, Chief Executive, and Katherine Hawkins, Executive Director, Child and Family Support, Department for Human Services; Darian Shephard-Bayly, Deputy Chief Executive, Department for Child Protection; Yasmin Harman-Smith, The Kids Research Institute Australia; Mason Zhou, PhD student, Adelaide University.

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 2025-26, the CDC provided advice or comments on the following matters:

- *Education and Children's Services (Barring Notices and Other Protections) Amendment Act 2025* regarding Draft Ministerial Supplementary Guidance, Barring notices and other protections for education and care sites
- What Matters 2 Kids research project, which focuses on the wellbeing of Aboriginal children in Australia, Australian National University
- SA Health Legal and Legislative policy regarding options to address a gap in the existing legislative framework with respect of restrictive practices to support the provision of safe care for people in the health system who have:
    - impaired decision-making capacity (but who do not have mental illness), and
    - behavioural disturbance giving rise to a serious risk of harm, and
    - require medical assessment and/or treatment/care.

Council leadership and membership

Minister

In the 2025-26 financial year the CDC advised and reported to Hon Blair Boyer MP, and from March 2026 following the State election to Hon Lucy Hood MP, as the 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.

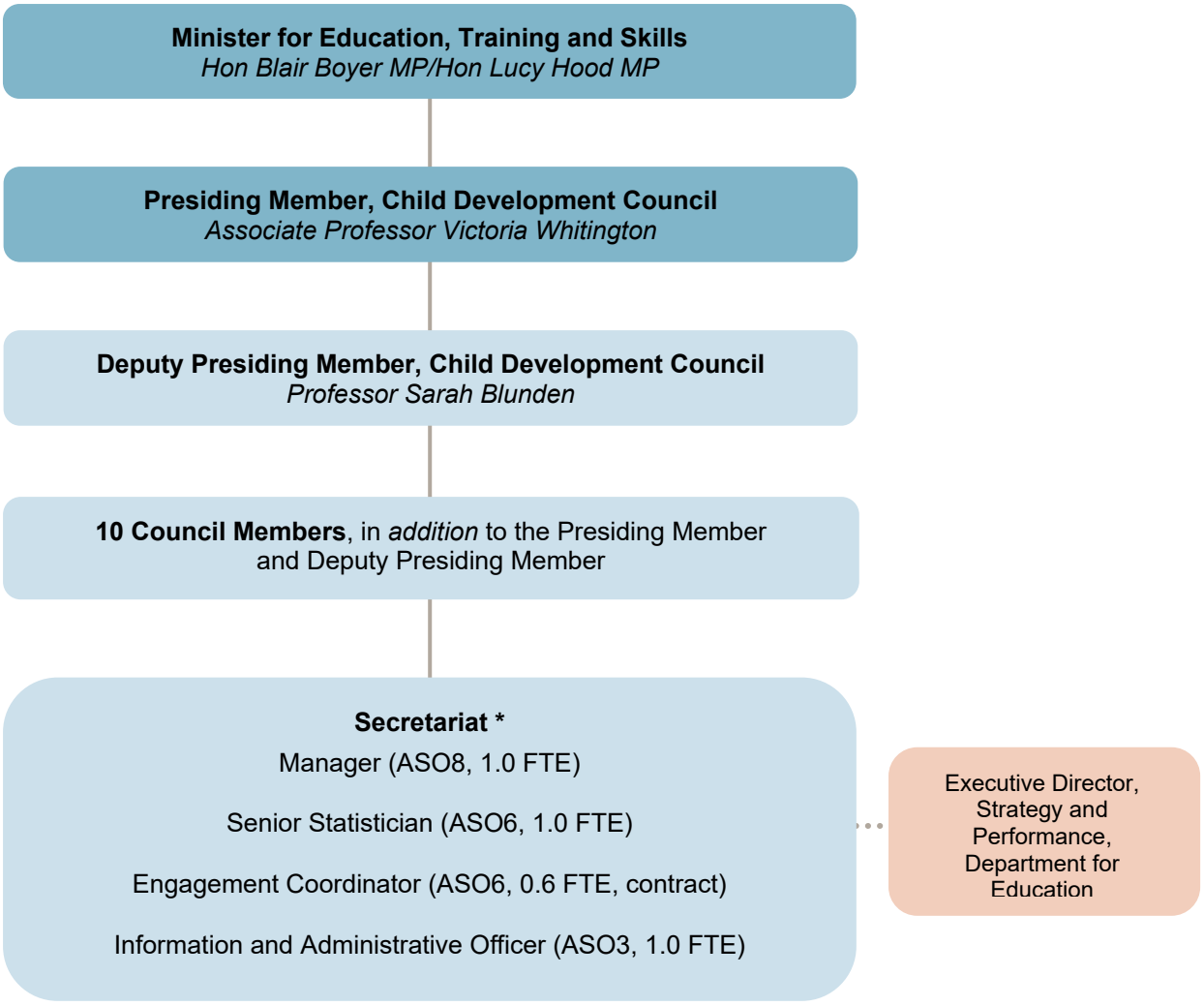
Related agencies within the Minister's area/s of responsibility

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 another 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 Department for Education, and the need for it to be perceived as such by internal and external stakeholders, the Secretariat is located at Level 2 Torrens Building, 220 Victoria Square.

Membership

During the 2025-26 reporting period, Ms Shirley Young completed her two-year term on 28 August 2025, Ms Julie Orchard resigned on 3 November 2025 and Ms Tina Hudson, completed her two-year term on 7 March 2026. The CDC acknowledges their contributions to the work of the CDC.

On 20 August 2025 two new members, Dr Caroline Croser-Barlow and Ms Christine Thyer were appointed and Professor Sarah Blunden was re-appointed for a further

two-year term as Deputy Presiding Member. Four existing members, Professor Sally Brinkman, Associate Professor Michelle Fernando, Professor Gerry Redmond and Mrs Cat Turner were all re-appointed until 30 April 2028.

Council membership in 2025-26

Voting members	***Term***
Adjunct Associate Professor Victoria Whitington, Presiding Member	8/10/2024 to 7/10/2026
Professor Sarah Blunden, Deputy Presiding Member	20/08/2025 to 19/08/2027
Professor Sally Brinkman	1/05/2026 to 30/04/2028
Dr Caroline Croser-Barlow	20/08/2025 to 19/08/2027
Ms Dawn Davis	8/10/2024 to 7/10/2026
Associate Professor Michelle Fernando	1/05/2026 to 30/04/2028
Ms Tina Hudson	8/03/2024 to 7/03/2026
Ms Julie Orchard	20/08/2025 to 3/11/2025
Professor Gerry Redmond	1/05/2026 to 30/04/2028
Ms Christine Thyer	20/08/2025 to 19/08/2027
Mrs Cat Turner	1/05/2026 to 30/04/2028
Ms Shirley Young	29/08/2023 to 28/08/2025
Non-voting attendees	***Term***
Commissioner for Children and Young People (CCYP)	Ongoing*[2]
Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People (CACYP)	Ongoing*[3]

The CDC also welcomed the new Commissioner for Children and Young People, Dr Kylie Heneker, as an ex-officio, non-voting attendee on 19 October 2025. Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, Mr Dale Agius, also attended CDC meetings in 2025-26.

Biographies for CDC members, at the time of completing this report, are on the CDC's website.

[2] *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

Nine formal CDC meetings were held in July, August, September, October and November 2025 and in February, March, April, and June 2026.

Council meetings and attendance in 2025-2026

	2025					2026				
Name	***1/7***	***5/8***	***2/9***	***14/10***	***4/11***	***3/2***	***3/3***	***7/4***	***2/6***	***TOTAL***
Sarah BLUNDEN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	8
Sally BRINKMAN	✓	A	A	✓	A	A	A	✓	✓	4
Caroline CROSER-BARLOW	-	-	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓	5
Dawn DAVIS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Michelle FERNANDO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Tina HUDSON	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓	A	-	-	4
Julie ORCHARD	-	-	✓	A	-	-	-	-	-	1
Gerry REDMOND	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	7
Christine THYER	-	-	A	✓	A	✓	✓	A	A	3
Cat TURNER	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7
Victoria WHITINGTON	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	9
Shirley YOUNG	✓	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mimi CROWE	✓	✓	A	✓	-	-	-	-	-	3
Kylie HENEKER	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	4
Dale AGIUS	A	A	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5
TOTAL attendances	**10**	**6**	**7**	**10**	**9**	**11**	**9**	**8**	**9**	**79**

✓ = Attended **A** = apologies

Finance

The CDC is funded by the South Australian Government and was reported as an administered item in the Department for Education's 2025-26 financial statements. The CDC's financial reports were consolidated into and audited through the Department for Education.

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 following members choose not receive remuneration; Professor Sally Brinkman, Dr Caroline Croser-Barlow and Ms Christine Thyer.

The CDC's budget for the 2025-26 financial year was $476,000. The table below provides a brief unaudited summary of the CDC revenue and expenditure for 2025-26.

Financial summary of expenditure for 2025-26

Financial summary of expenditure from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026			
Item	**Actual**	**Budget**	**Variance**
Revenue	0	0	0
Salaries	$492,940	$396,00	($96,940)
Salary accruals	($8,819)	0	$8,819
Goods and services	$79,741	$80,000	$259
Total expenditure	$563,862	$476,000	($87,862)
Net Result	**$563,862**	**$476,000**	**($87,862)**

No consultants were engaged during the 2025-26 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 2025-26.

Contractors with a contract value below $10,000

Contractors	Purpose	$ Actual payment
All contractors below $10,000 each - combined	Various	$7,224

Contractors with a contract value above $10,000 each

No contractors with a contract value above $10,000 each were engaged during 2025-26.

Secretariat

The staff of the CDC's secretariat are employed by the Department for Education. In 2025-26 the CDC was funded for a secretariat of 3.0 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 October 2026. 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 Department for Education.

The CDC secretariat did not include any executive employees in 2025-26.

Public complaints

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

Annex 1 Glossary

the Act	*Children and Young People (Oversight and Advocacy Bodies) Act 2016*
Ambassador	Charter Ambassador
CAP	Charter Ambassador Program
Charter	*South Australia's Charter for Children and Young People*
CDC	Child Development Council
ICSEA	Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage
Outcomes Framework	*South Australia's Outcomes Framework for Children and Young People*
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.

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(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.

