
Using the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) to Develop Policies and Practices to Support Children in the Early Years
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It is now well known that supporting optimal early childhood development (ECD) greatly increases children's chances of a successful transition to school and following pathways that will lead to good health and educational outcomes. This paper provides an overview of how the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI), a community level measure of ECD, can be used by communities and policy makers to plan for and evaluate their efforts in improving ECD outcomes.

Since 2004 the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) has been completed in 60 geographic areas, encompassing more than 470 local communities, from seven states and territories across Australia as part of the Australian Early Development Index: Building Better Communities for Children project undertaken by the Centre for Community Child Health (a key research centre of the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute) in partnership with the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research and funded by the Australian Government and supported by Shell Australia. In recognition of the national and international work undertaken to date, the Rudd Government has committed to the national rollout of the AEDI over the next three years.