The value of AEDC data for schools and regions

**The value of the AEDC for schools and regions**

*Dr Mary Lincoln, Director, Early Learning Pathways Early Childhood and Community Engagement. Department of Education and training*

*Because the AEDC is completed by all schools across the state and across Australia, it provides a really rich source of information about how children are faring when they enter school, information that can be used by schools and the community in really understanding where they could focus their attention in the future.*

**Using the AEDC at the school level - In the classroom**

Completing the AEDC can help teachers consider the holistic development of children before they start school and in the classroom.

*Nicole Arvidson, Prep year level coordinator at Victoria Park State School*

*We first started to analyse our AEDC data in order to strengthen our transition programme. We examined our local area's data and discussed trends in order to target an approach for students before and when they started school.*

*Completing the AEDC raised our awareness of the needs of the individual children, our class and the year level. Analysing the data prompted us to begin asking questions about how we can best support children before they enter school and how we cater for the development of the whole child to insure they reach their full potential.*

**Every school matters and helps contribute to the big picture**

Small schools with few children may not receive an AEDC school report. For these schools, the regional data they contribute to provides a valuable resource to support local planning.

*Kirsty VanScherpenseel, P-2 Teacher at Coppabella State School*

*In 2015, we only had five children for the data collection, so our data gets put in the big pool, so to speak, at a regional level.*

*I am involved in meetings at a regional level, where a cluster of schools, we all get together and we look at the domains and what's improved and what is still vulnerable.*

*The cluster schools that are together, we brainstorm ideas that we can improve in the domains and how we can get to the kids that are about to come through school and that, right back from not just kindergarten, but even earlier, how we can assist families.*

*Elizabeth Somers, Principal Professional Advisor, Department of Education and Training (School Principal since 2008)*

*It's really important that we contribute to this AEDC data at every school level regardless of how big or small the school is because it contributes to a global picture for the state, for our region, and also it does give us information around our local context, which is extremely valuable and extremely useful for resourcing.*

**Using the AEDC at the school level - For school wide planning**

Schools can use the AEDC data alongside their existing planning and strategies to support the future needs of the children in the community.

*Leanne Ordorico, Principal at Clontarf Beach State School*

*We use the AEDC data prior to the children coming to prep to identify the children's areas of strength and their areas of need. When we're looking at our whole school improvement agenda, often we have a look at the literacy and numeracy needs of the children, but when we looked at the AECD data, we knew that we needed to broaden that scope*

*Once we've reviewed the data, we take that back to the whole school team and we have a look at how that informs us as a school and the strategies that we use across our whole school*

*Elizabeth Somers, Principal Professional Advisor, Department of Education and Training (School Principal since 2008)*

*As a principal, I've used AEDC data to inform me about the transitions from my local community into school and in particular I look carefully at those domains to find out where I might have to target additional resources.*

*It asks us to question what's the same or what's different and what will our needs be for the future for the children in our community.*

**Using the AEDC at the regional level**

The AEDC data is used at a regional level to inform planning and to support early edfucaiton providers and communitiies

*Elizabeth Somers, Principal Professional Advisor, Department of Education and Training (School Principal since 2008)*

*The north coast region has used AEDC data to inform decisions around funding and where we might put target programmes.*

*The AEDC data is used to assist in the decision-making around which communities would most benefit from support financially, and which other resources to support communities who display a great deal of vulnerability.*

*Lina Vella, Transition and Partnerships officer. Central QLD region. Prep teacher 2008-2014*

*The value of the AEDC data, in terms of regional planning, and my role as transition officer at the moment, it's really been great to use that AEDC data to unpack with school groups, ECEC services and community organisations, to really look at the data, and determine what are the vulnerabilities within that community, what are the strengths in that community, to really start to come together to plan for the zero to five space, for the children and their families.*

**Using the AEDC at the state level**

The AEDC is a valuable data set that is used at the state level by researchers, policy makers and partner organisations.

 *Dr Mary Lincoln, Director, Early Learning Pathways Early Childhood and Community Engagement. Department of Education and training*

*At a state-wide level, we analyse the AEDC data and reflect on trends in that data over time.*

*It's a really rich resource that we share with our partners in other departments with regional teams and, more generally, with heads of organisations to support their planning in terms of where they may want to prioritise particular initiatives or where they may just want to have a greater understanding of the needs across the state and how children are faring generally.*

*The AEDC is an important resource for researchers. It helps us to build a strong evidence base so that we can use that to inform policies and programmes. The researchers can delve more deeply into the data and join it with other data sets to really demonstrate what are effective approaches to programme and planning.*

To find out more about how to use the AEDC within your setting visit the [Queensland Government Department of Education and Training website](https://qed.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/about-us/aedc)