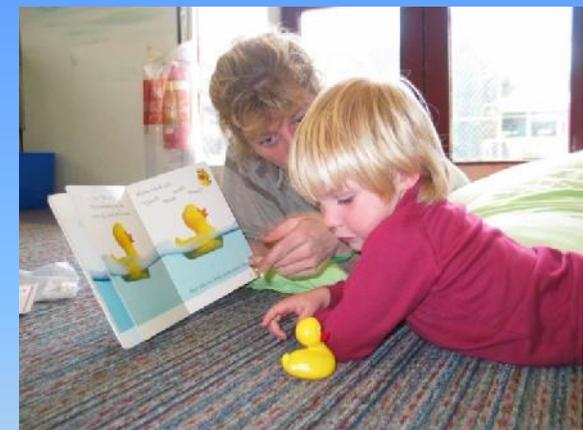


Children's Centres

for Early Childhood
Development and Parenting



Government
of South Australia



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BUILDING STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS THE COMMUNITY



Children's Centres

- Children's Centres for Early Childhood Development and Parenting are a multiagency initiative with the Department for Education and Child Development leading the work.
- There are 42 Children's Centres currently operational across metropolitan and regional South Australia.



Children and Family Centres

This includes 4 Children and Family Centres established through the National Partnership for Indigenous Early Childhood Development and focusing on supporting Aboriginal families to have the best possible start in life.

These centres are located at:

- Ernabella, APY Lands
- Taikurrendi, Christies Beach
- Gabmididi Manoo, Whyalla
- Ngura Yadurirn, Ceduna



Children's Centre Vision

Children's Centres for Early Childhood Development and Parenting support children and families to achieve the best possible learning, health and wellbeing outcomes in a universal setting with targeted responses for families who may require additional support.



Population Outcomes

The focus of all Children's Centres in SA is on providing universal services with targeted support in order to impact population outcomes in four areas :

1. Children have optimal health, development and learning
2. Parents provide strong foundations for their children's healthy development and wellbeing
3. Communities are child and family friendly
4. Aboriginal children are safe, healthy, culturally strong and confident

Children's Centre Model

Care and education from pre birth to prior to attending school which may include:

- Preschool
- Occasional Care Program
- Playgroup
- Crèche
- Long day care
- Community development
- Parenting programs
- Family support and service coordination
- Health and Allied Health



Universal & Targeted Programs

- Early Learning programs
- Family and Community programs
- Baby and child health care
- Early Intervention



Universal & Targeted Programs

- Allied Health
- Paediatric Services
- Antenatal
- CAFHS
- Playgroups



Community Development

Community Development Coordinators develop partnerships within the community and with other agencies, and encourage and support parents and families to actively participate in all activities of the children's centre.



Family Services

Family Services Coordinators work alongside long day care, early childhood educators, and other services to help families develop & maintain safe, caring connected & resilient relationships.



Allied Health

The Allied Health program provides speech pathology and occupational therapy, with these two disciplines identified as having key roles in providing early intervention services to promote optimal child development outcomes.



Governance

The Children's Centres governance structures allow for a broad range of people within the community to be actively involved in decisions and their implementation.



Partnership Group

Successful integrated services rely on the development of a partnership approach to working with children, families and the community.



Leadership Team

The Children's Centre Leadership Team builds shared leadership responsibility through the professional expertise, knowledge and responsibilities of program leaders.



Parent Engagement Group

The Parent Engagement Group provides opportunities for family & community members to participate in the future directions of the Children's Centre based on community strengths & needs.



Evaluation

DECD contracted the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research through the Fraser Mustard Centre to undertake a 3 year evaluation of the South Australian Children's Centres. The overall aim of the evaluation is to measure process and impact of integrated services in Children's Centres

Sustainable partnerships

The provision of successful integrated services in Children's Centres relies on:

- a partnership approach
- developing a shared vision
- an agreed set of goals
- effective working relationships
- building trust and commitment.

