

Fact sheet for educators

Flying Start for kids

The South Australian Aboriginal Early Childhood Strategy sets a clear direction to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children in their early years.

Developed in partnership with Aboriginal families, Elders, Communities, Aboriginal organisations and Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs*), the Strategy supports Aboriginal children to grow up strong in Culture, identity and connection to Community.

It builds on South Australia's long-standing access to preschool for Aboriginal children and supports their continued success as the state moves to universal 3-year-old preschool.

The Strategy recognises that educators, families, Elders, Communities and Aboriginal organisations all play an important role in supporting children's learning, development and wellbeing. Families are recognised as children's First Teachers and important partners in their learning journey.

Why it matters

The early years play a critical role in children's learning, development and wellbeing. For Aboriginal children, positive outcomes are strengthened when:

- learning environments are Culturally safe, inclusive and welcoming
- identity, belonging and wellbeing are actively nurtured
- educators build trusted and respectful and reciprocal relationships with families and Communities
- Aboriginal perspectives, knowledge and ways of knowing, being and doing are reflected in everyday practice.

Educators play a key role in creating these conditions and supporting children to thrive.

What this means for educators

The Strategy supports educators to strengthen Culturally responsive programs and practice and build meaningful partnerships with Aboriginal children, families and Communities.

This includes:

- embedding Aboriginal perspectives and ways of knowing, being and doing in everyday learning
- strengthening partnerships with families, recognising their role as children's First Teachers
- working alongside Aboriginal staff, Elders and Community members
- creating environments where Aboriginal children feel seen, heard, valued and connected.

Embedding Aboriginal perspectives and ways of knowing, being and doing in everyday learning



Government of
South Australia

South Australian Aboriginal
Early Childhood Strategy

What educators can expect

As the Strategy is implemented, it is designed to support:

- stronger connections with Aboriginal Communities and Cultural knowledge holders
- increased opportunities to work alongside Aboriginal educators and staff
- clearer pathways to collaborate with health, family and Community services
- improved coordination between services to support children and families
- greater support for family engagement and participation.

Community-based initiatives, including playgroups, integrated hubs and Community Liaison roles, will also help strengthen children's connections to services and support smoother early learning pathways.

The bigger picture

Through the Strategy, the South Australian Government is investing \$35 million over the next 4 years, with ongoing funding of \$12.8 million per year from 2030-31, alongside \$5.8 million under the [South Australian Aboriginal Early Childhood Workforce Strategy](#) to build the Aboriginal early childhood workforce. This is in addition to the estimated benefit of more than \$40 million to 2032 for broader reforms empowering Aboriginal children, families and Communities.

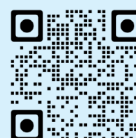
These commitments are part of broader early childhood Flying Start reforms across South Australia, including universal 3-year-old preschool and the state's commitment to Closing the Gap.

Together, these reforms aim to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children and families while building a stronger, more connected and culturally responsive early childhood system.

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- * When referring to ACCOs we are inclusive of ACCHOs and ACCO ECECs and in doing so, we recognise the unique setting of each.



Find out more



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earlychildhood.sa.gov.au/AECS