

Fact sheet for Aboriginal workforce

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.

Aboriginal children have the right to grow up strong in Culture, identity and connection to Community. The Strategy has been co-designed with Aboriginal families, Elders, Aboriginal organisations and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs*), to support Aboriginal children to benefit from universal 3-year-old preschool and broader early childhood reforms.

It recognises families, Elders and Communities as children's First Teachers and decision-makers in their learning journey. Their knowledge, leadership and lived experience are at the heart of this work.

Why an Aboriginal workforce matters

A strong Aboriginal workforce is central to positive outcomes for Aboriginal children.

Children benefit when they:

- see their Culture, identity and Community reflected in their learning
- build relationships with trusted Aboriginal educators and staff
- learn in environments grounded in Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing.

A strong Aboriginal workforce also strengthens Cultural safety, belonging and connection for children and families, while helping services build stronger relationships with Community.

Your role in this work

Whether you are an educator, Community member, leader, support worker or another early childhood professional, your knowledge, experience and connections help Aboriginal children feel safe, valued and supported.

The Strategy recognises and strengthens the important role Aboriginal people play across the early childhood sector by:

- supporting Aboriginal leadership across services and settings
- creating more opportunities to embed Culture, language and Community knowledge in everyday practice
- strengthening partnerships with families and Communities
- supporting the growth of Aboriginal-led services and programs.

**Working
together
to support
Aboriginal
children to
thrive**



Government of
South Australia

South Australian Aboriginal
Early Childhood Strategy

What you can expect

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

- stronger Aboriginal leadership, voice and influence across the sector
- more Aboriginal staff, Elders and Community members involved across services
- greater focus on Cultural safety and Culturally responsive practice
- stronger partnerships with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and key Aboriginal stakeholders
- better connected supports for children and families across health, preschool and early childhood services.

These changes aim to strengthen the Aboriginal workforce while improving access to Culturally safe, connected and high-quality early childhood services for Aboriginal children and families.

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.

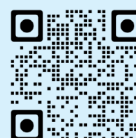
These commitments are part of broader early childhood Flying Start reforms across South Australia, including universal 3-year-old preschool and the state's commitment to Closing the Gap.

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



* 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



Scan the QR code, or visit the link below

earlychildhood.sa.gov.au/AECS



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