

Connect 4 Children strategy

Giving all children a great start

A great start in the early years lays the foundation for relationships, learning, health and wellbeing.

The 2018 Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) data demonstrates that the majority of children in Queensland are developmentally on track by the time they start school.

The data also shows Queensland children experience vulnerability on one or more domains at higher levels than the national average, however Queensland has reduced vulnerability at a greater rate than nationally since 2009.

The Queensland Government is committed to reducing the percentage of Queensland children developmentally vulnerable on one or more AEDC domains to 22 per cent by 2025 (from 25.9 per cent in 2018).

Local solutions for local priorities

The Department of Education is partnering with local communities to give all children a great start.

Through the department's Connect 4 Children strategy, communities in Queensland will develop a plan to help improve the wellbeing of children prior to school (from birth to five years old).

The Birth to five plans will value and incorporate child, family and community perspectives in decision-making, and will reflect the priorities and next steps for communities.

The department's Partnerships Facilitators (Early Years) will support Queensland communities to identify what matters most for children in the early years and to mobilise action to achieve their goals.

Responsive government

Through the Birth to five plans, the Department of Education will partner with other government agencies to strengthen integration and drive innovation that responds to community and government priorities in the early years.



Our government's priorities

Increase the number of babies born healthier

Increase childhood immunisation rates

Improve wellbeing prior to school



Strategic platforms

Places

Locations focused on early years priorities across Queensland.

- Identify what matters most to children and families including what the strengths, barriers and enablers are at a local level.
- Mobilise innovative whole-of-government responses to Birth to five plans.



Partnerships

Local community and services working together to improve the wellbeing of children.

- Ensure services, programs and systems are driven by the priorities of the local community.
- Strengthen integration and responsiveness of services for young children and their families through implementation of priority actions.



Precision

The agreed priorities and evidence-based next steps for a community that are captured in a unique Birth to five plan.

- Develop plans that reflect the unique priorities of each community and its children.
- Utilise evidence and research to inform the design of local actions.
- Embed a cycle of monitoring, evaluation and learning to capture the progress and next steps for each community.



Pathways

Enhanced support for early learning priorities including playgroup, kindergarten and early years transitions.

- Improve children's access to quality early learning programs such as playgroup and kindergarten.
- Support successful transitions in the early years.
- Align with other whole-of-government responses focused on giving all children a great start.



Connect 4 Children strategy priorities:

