

Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) Fact Sheet

Collecting, Protecting and Using AEDC Data

What information is collected?

Data collected as part of the AEDC will include personal information about your child, including names, addresses, cultural and linguistic background, and information about their health. This information may be taken from school records, to help teachers complete the AEDC.

When completing the AEDC, teachers may be supported by cultural consultants who are employees or contractors of our school and can help them understand the cultural context of First Nations children.

How is AEDC data managed?

The AEDC is managed in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs). The APPs regulate the collection, use, disclosure and storage of personal information by Australian government agencies, and some private sector organisations, and is part of the *Privacy Act 1998*.

Personal information about your child will be used to link AEDC data with information from other organisations, such as health departments, which will keep it confidential. Your child's AEDC results will be kept separate from their identifying information and no-one will be able to access both at the same time.

AEDC results for individual children are never reported, and all published AEDC data is anonymised, meaning that names, ages, addresses and other identifying information are removed before the data is published.

You can see how data is collected and presented by visiting www.aedc.gov.au/data. Data from the 2024 collection will be presented in a similar way.

Who is AEDC data shared with and how is it shared?

Schools

Eligible schools receive a summary of the AEDC results in the form of school profiles. School profiles do not report any AEDC results about individual children.

Schools may share their profiles with other organisations or people in confidence for purposes like better supporting children, but cannot make the profiles public. To further protect the privacy of children, schools with less than six children participating in the AEDC will not receive a school profile.

Governments and school sector peak bodies

State and Territory government departments and Catholic and Independent schools' peak bodies will receive anonymised information for all children in their school sector.

Integrating authorities and data linkage units

Selected agencies will receive personal information about children participating in the AEDC to link their AEDC results with other data. Depending on the mechanisms used for data linkage, they may also receive anonymised AEDC results. These agencies include Commonwealth agencies, State and Territory governments, universities and research institutes that have demonstrated to have secure enough systems to protect the privacy of children.

Researchers

Researchers can request anonymised AEDC data, and AEDC data that is linked to other data to answer research questions. For examples on how researchers have used AEDC data visit <https://www.aedc.gov.au/snapshots>

Anonymised AEDC data is also shared with research institutes that contribute to the AEDC program. In some cases, anonymised data may be provided to overseas research institutes.

AEDC Data Management Agency

Personal information and anonymised AEDC results are held and managed on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Education by a nominated Data Management Agency. The AEDC Data Management Agency is carefully selected to ensure that AEDC data are managed in accordance with the highest security standards. The current AEDC Data Management Agency is the Social Research Centre.