

# 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 have a plan to help improve the wellbeing of children prior to school (from birth to five years old).

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

The department's Partnership Facilitators (Early Years) 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 and the whole of government Early Years Plan, the Department of Education is partnering with non-government organisations (NGOs), community members and other government agencies to strengthen integration and drive innovation that responds to community and government priorities in the early years.



**The Connect 4 Children strategy** is supporting our children's early learning, health and wellbeing by embedding each agency's commitments from the Early Years Plan into community Birth to five plans.





# 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.

- Implement 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.



**If we**

Work together to increase the protective factors

Reduce the risk factors

Analyse our data to determine local priorities

Develop local responses

**we will**

Develop and enact evidence-based, integrated Birth to five plans

**which results in**

A decrease in vulnerability experienced by children and families

**so that**

Children's wellbeing prior to school is improved

