

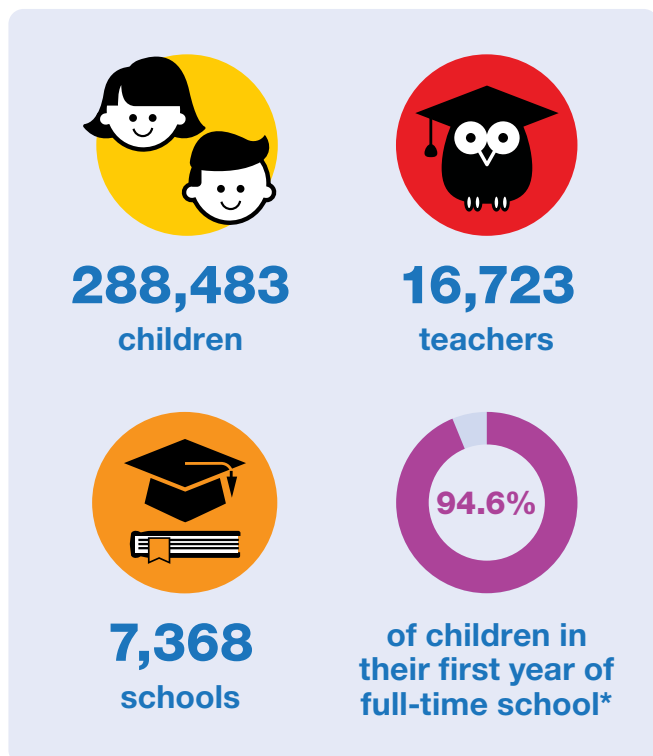
AEDC Key Findings 2024

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) is a national measure of children's development as they enter their first year of full-time school. Data has been collected nationally since 2009, making it one of the most comprehensive data collections on early childhood development in the world.

The 2024 collection

The 2024 collection was the sixth national AEDC data collection. It took place between 1 May and 31 July 2024, and involved children, teachers and schools throughout Australia (Figure 1).

Figure 1 – 2024 AEDC participation



*94.6% of children from in-scope schools only.

When children thrive in their early years, they have a strong foundation for lifelong learning, health, development, and wellbeing. By revealing trends in early childhood development, the AEDC can indicate what is working well to support children, and where opportunities exist for further action.

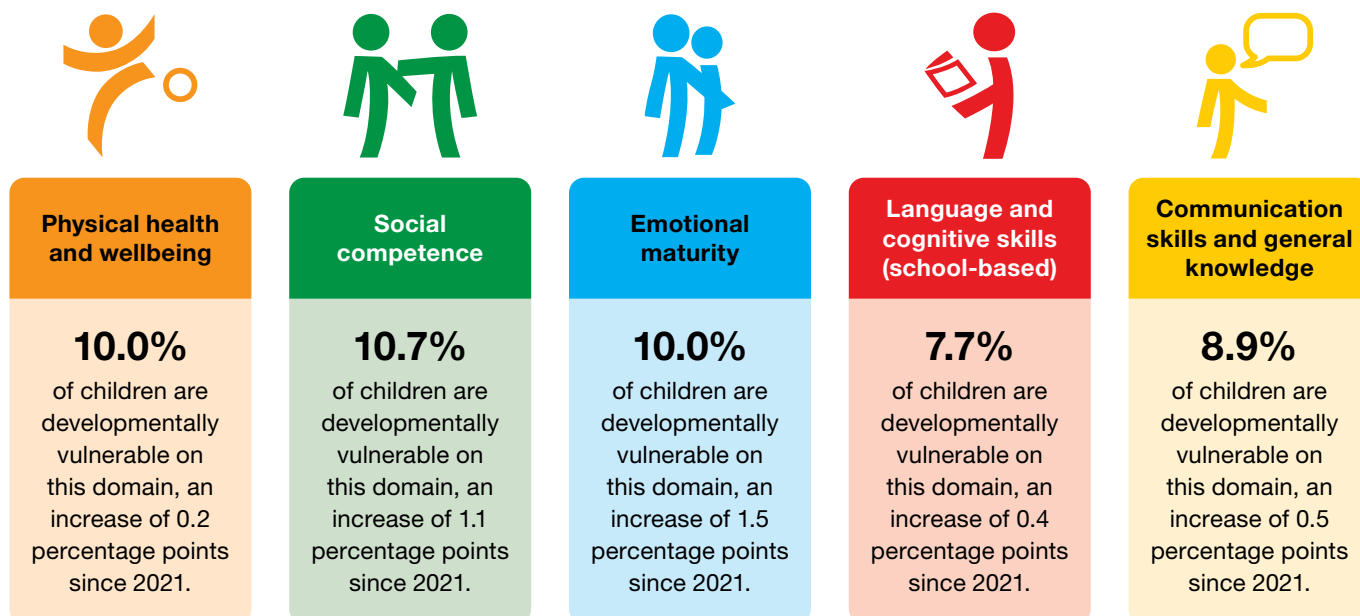


National results

AEDC domains

The percentage of children developmentally vulnerable has increased across all five AEDC domains in 2024 (Figure 2).

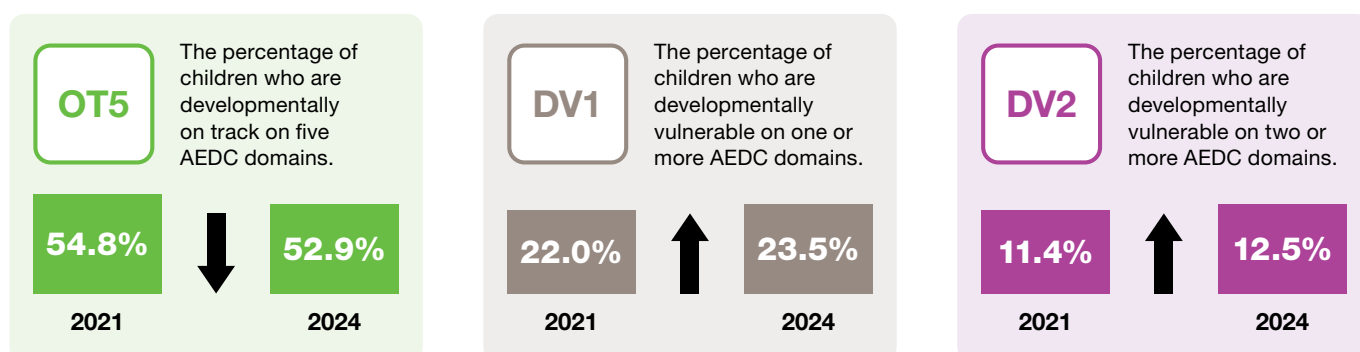
Figure 2 – Developmental vulnerability on AEDC domains in 2024



AEDC summary indicators

The percentage of children developmentally on track on five domains (OT5) has decreased, while the percentage of children developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains (DV1) and developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains (DV2) has increased in 2024 (Figure 3).

Figure 3 – Changes in AEDC summary indicators from 2021 to 2024



Priority groups

First Nations children



OT5

The percentage of First Nations children[^] **developmentally on track on five domains** stabilised, with a non-significant decline, from 2021 to 2024.

34.3%

2021



33.9%

2024

Language diversity



OT5

The percentage of children with a language background other than English (LBOTE) who are **developmentally on track on five domains** decreased from 2021 to 2024.

50.3%

2021



48.0%

2024

Geographic location



OT5

The percentage of children **developmentally on track on five domains** decreased across major cities, inner/outer regional areas, and remote/very remote areas from 2021 to 2024.

2021

2024

Major cities



56.0% ↓ 54.0%

Inner/Outer regional



52.2% ↓ 50.5%

Remote/Very remote



44.1% ↓ 43.1%

Socio-economic status



OT5

The percentage of children **developmentally on track on five domains** decreased in all SEIFA quintiles from 2021 to 2024.

Most disadvantaged geographical areas

	2021		2024*
Q1	42.5%	↓	41.2%
Q2	51.0%	↓	49.4%
Q3	56.1%	↓	54.1%
Q4	59.7%	↓	57.7%
Q5	63.7%	↓	61.1%

Least disadvantaged geographical areas

[^] The 2024 Australian version of the Early Development Instrument (AEDI) and its supporting materials used the term 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children' when referring to First Nations children.

* In 2024 AEDC data was updated to reflect the most recent area-based SEIFA at the time of data collection. This applies to all collection cycles. In previous collections, SEIFA was applied retrospectively. This means previously published AEDC SEIFA results may differ from those published in 2024.

For more information see the **AEDC National Report 2024** or visit the **AEDC website**

