



# **The 'here and now' for little kids and families in Armadale West, 2022:**

Situational analysis to inform local plans for  
the Early Years Initiative in Armadale West

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## Executive Summary

This Situational Analysis Report for the Early Years Initiative (EYI) provides an overview of the ‘here and now’ for young children and their families in the ‘Armadale West community’. For the purposes of the EYI, the Armadale West community comprises the school catchment zones for Challis Community Primary School, Neerigen Brook Primary School and Willandra Primary School, plus families who use services provided through the Child and Parent Centre - Westfield Park but reside in other school catchment zones.

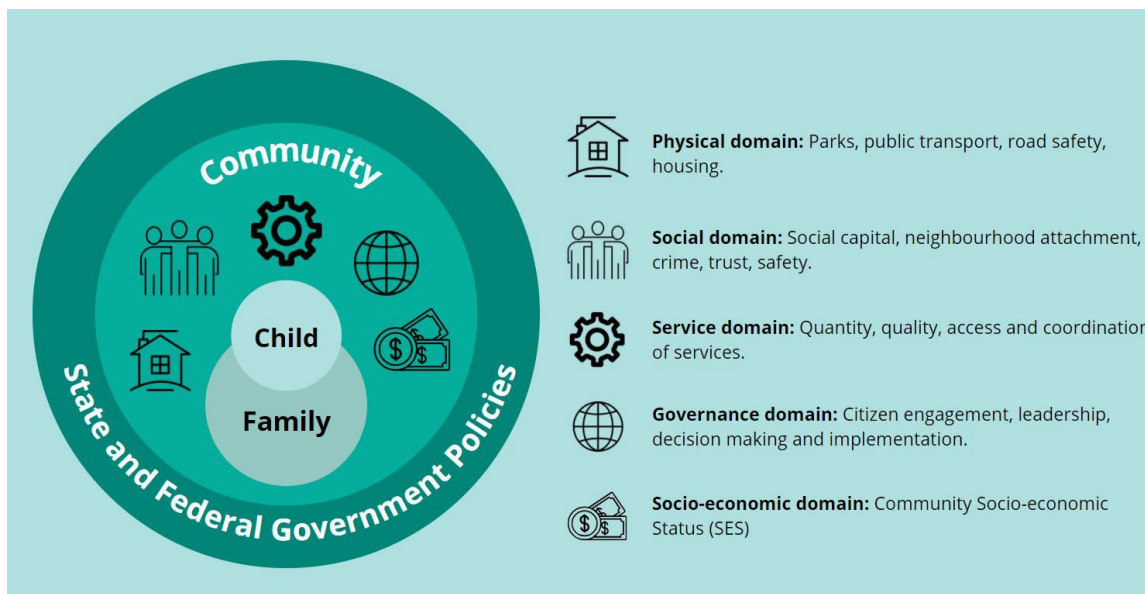
This report has been prepared by Telethon Kids Institute so solid and up-to-date information can be placed into the hands of community members to help them decide on early childhood priorities and actions to carry forward. It contains a summary of key themes identified in a range of recent reports and a curated selection of data on young children, families, services and circumstances in and around Armadale West in 2022.

Section 2 of this report contains quantitative data with supporting commentary on how very young children and their families are faring in and around Armadale West. To avoid providing so much data that it becomes overwhelming, the data selected for Section 2 focus on key indicators that, according to research evidence, have a large impact on children’s long-term health, development and learning.

Section 3 outlines contextual aspects of the community found via desktop research, drawing on recent reports and planning documents that refer to Armadale West. The reports have been reviewed from the perspective of what it might be like to be a very young child (or to raise a very young child) in this place at this time, with the analysis framed around the following five key aspects of community:

- Physical environment – the natural and built environment including geography, parks and infrastructure
- Socio-economic context – community income levels and distribution, employment and cost of living, etc.
- Social environment –community connectedness, belonging and sense of personal and property safety
- Services – the quantity, range and quality of services including cultural, financial and physical access
- Governance – the extent and spread of citizen engagement, empowerment, inclusivity and leadership

**Figure 1. Infographic of key elements of this Situational Analysis Report**



Adapted from the Kids in Communities Study (KICS)<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Goldfeld, S., Villanueva, K., Lee, J.L., Robinson, R., Moriarty, A., Peel, D., Tanton, R., Giles-Corti, B., Woolcock, G., Brinkman, S., Katz, I. (2017). A report on the Kids in Communities Study. Accessed 23 December 2021 via <https://www.rch.org.au/uploadedFiles/Main/Content/ccch/CCCH-KICS-Final-Report-April-2018.pdf>

## 1 Introduction

Community leaders in the Armadale West community have accepted an invitation to work alongside the Western Australian State Government<sup>2</sup> and the Minderoo Foundation on the Early Years Initiative (EYI) which will run until 2028. The EYI aims to co-design more effective ways to nurture the health, development and learning of all local children from conception to four years of age.

For the purposes of the EYI, the 'Armadale West community' comprises the school catchment zones for Challis Community Primary School, Neerigen Brook Primary School and Willandra Primary School, plus families who use services provided through the Child and Parent Centre - Westfield Park. Armadale West is one of only four communities invited to participate and is the EYI's 'metropolitan' community. The other three communities are the 'very remote' community of Bidyadanga, the 'remote' community of Derby and the 'regional' community of Central Great Southern.

The EYI is focused on very young children because the first 2000 days of life from conception to four years of age are vital in shaping each child's long-term health, learning, social and language skills, culture and identity. A solid start in this period before children start school lays the groundwork for them to become strong, proud grown-ups who have a good life.

While the EYI is focused on improving outcomes in early childhood, it recognises that children are raised by families who live within dynamic communities so it is intended that actions taken through the EYI will be driven by the community and will be holistic, culturally responsive and strengths based. It is hoped that through the EYI over the next few years, insights will emerge about how the State Government and other organisations can better support families and very young children in the four EYI partner communities, and that these insights can be applied at scale, including through systems reform, to other places in the future.

People living and working in the Armadale community are best placed to understand local needs and strengths, and to decide what actions are most likely to work in this unique place. To assist with these decisions, this report provides a summary of the current 'here and now' on how children and families in this community are faring.

This Situational Analysis Report has been prepared by Telethon Kids Institute so solid information can be placed into the hands of community members to help them decide on early childhood priorities and actions to carry forward. It contains a selection of publicly available statistics on factors that, according to research evidence, may impact children's outcomes plus desktop analysis of numerous reports and regional plans from the Armadale area over the past decade.

This report provides a summary of key themes and data on young children, families, services and circumstances in and around the Armadale West community in 2022. It is a statement of the 'here and now' for young children and their families in Armadale West, and a point of reference to track any changes that occur in coming years.

It is anticipated that follow-up situational analysis reports for Armadale West will be prepared every three years, incorporating three-yearly collections of Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) data for the Armadale community and findings from the independent evaluation of the EYI conducted by Telethon Kids Institute.

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<sup>2</sup> The key State Government departments participating in the EYI are the departments of Communities, Education and Health, with the Department of Communities as lead agency.

## 2 Children and families in the Armadale community

This section contains a curated selection of quantitative data on young children and families in and around the Armadale West community near the start of 2022. The data have been selected for inclusion because evidence shows that they are strong predictors of children’s long-term health, development and learning.

Section 2 begins with an explanation of the sources, nature and limitations of the data; this explanation will support accurate interpretation of the statistics. Following the explanation, a summary ‘snapshot’ of key quantitative data for the Armadale community is provided, followed by a more detailed table (Table 1) which is elaborated in subsequent notes that outline the evidence base behind each data item.

### 2.1 Data sources and limitations

Three main types of data are provided in this report - administrative, Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) and National Census data. Each has strengths and limitations which mean that some caution needs to be applied in how the data are interpreted.

One important limitation across all these data types is that some data may only be publicly available when combined with data for surrounding regions. This is done to ensure individuals cannot be identified when counts or percentages are very small. Particularly sensitive data (e.g.: on the use of illicit drugs or children in out-of-home-care) are often only publicly available for the whole State (although agencies may be able to provide summaries of these types of data at a local level for restricted use if requested by local groups), or may not be routinely collected at all.

A further limitation of health and socio-economic data is that it may not reflect world views of people from different cultures, including those of Aboriginal peoples or people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, reducing the availability of data that is important to the lives and wellbeing of Aboriginal and/or culturally diverse peoples. This means that the ‘picture’ that data presents may not tell the whole story of a community, or may be culturally ‘skewed’.

There is not an exact match between the school catchments used to define the EYI’s Armadale West community (see Figure 2 in Appendix A) and the boundaries used in the provision of most administrative or Census data. Rather, most administrative and Census data are provided according to Local Government Areas (LGAs) or Statistical Areas of various levels defined as part of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard. Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) is the smallest level of Statistical Areas (comprising approximately 200 households) and can be aggregated to Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2), which can be further aggregated to Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3). For the purposes of extracting data, the Armadale West community boundary has been approximated by combinations of SA1s and SA2s. Where data were not available at SA1 or SA2 level, they are reported for the City of Armadale LGA.

Appendix A provides more detailed information about the data used in this report, including maps showing the Statistical Areas used to define the Armadale West community, and the City of Armadale LGA. Detailed data sources for Table 1 are also provided in Appendix A.

### 2.2 Quantitative data on children and families in Armadale West

Based on 2021 Census data, it is estimated that the total population of Armadale West is approximately 22,341 which has increased by over 13 per cent since 2016. Approximately 4.7 per cent of people in the community identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person and 27.5 per cent speak a language other than English at home. There are approximately 1,823 children in the 0-4 years age-range, and

approximately 622 babies born into the community each year, reflecting a fertility rate of 2.4 births per woman, which is higher than the rate for the Greater Perth metropolitan area of 1.72 births per woman<sup>3</sup>.

The data 'snapshot' (overleaf) for Armadale West contains a selection of data on factors that, according to research evidence, may impact children's outcomes. The data sources include the ABS's Census of Population and Housing, the Western Australian Child Development Atlas<sup>4</sup> and the Western Australian Department of Education's Schools OnLine<sup>5</sup> website.

Where possible, the data provided snapshot are specific to the Armadale West community, however in some cases, they are only available for wider areas. In the snapshot:

- cells with an **A1** are for the Armadale West community defined by a bespoke combination of selected SA1s (Figure 3 in Appendix A)
- cells with **A2** are for Armadale West\* defined by selected SA2s (Figure 4)
- cells with **AC** are for the City of Armadale Local Government Area (Figure 5).

In pages following the snapshot, Table 1 provides further details on these data. To assist comparison, it includes a column with the Greater Perth metropolitan region and Western Australian for each data item.

In section 2.3 following Table 1, a summary of research evidence relevant to each key line-item in the table is provided to explain the importance of each data item for early childhood health, development and learning.

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<sup>3</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics Catalogue 33010DO02 Births, Australia 2019, released Dec 2020

# ARMADALE WEST COMMUNITY DATA SNAPSHOT

Key:  
Data availability

- A1 Data available for Armadale West at SA1 level
- A2 Data available for Armadale West at SA2 level
- AC Data available for the City of Armadale LGA



### CHILDREN

- 1,883** Number of children aged 0-4  
Source: ABS (2016)
- 22.6%** of children 0-4 are in a sole parent family  
Source: ABS (2016)
- 9.5%** of children 0-4 in Armadale West don't speak English well or not at all  
Source: CDA (2016)
- 3,485** Families with children  
Source: ABS (2016)
- 622** Estimated births per year to residents of Armadale West  
Source: ABS (2019)
- 46.0%** couple with children
- 29.4%** couple no children
- 22.3%** one parent
- 1.8%** other families  
Source: ABS (2016)

### EDUCATION

- 51- 66%** of students at local schools attend school more than 90% of the time  
Source: My School's website (2019) (Neerigen Brook PS, Challis Community PS, Wilkandra PS)
- 30.3%** of children are developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains  
Source: AEDC (2021)

### DIVERSITY

- 4.2%** of all residents and **5.9%** of children aged 0-4 are Aboriginal  
Source: ABS (2016)
- 25.0%** of residents speak a language other than English at home similar to the Perth average of 26.5% (includes people who also speak English)  
Source: ABS (2016)

### COMMUNITY

- 55.0%** have a post-school qualification
- 11.5%** Bachelor Degree or higher
- 33.6%** Certificate level (I to IV)  
Source: ABS (2021)
- Index of relative socio-economic disadvantage**
- Armadale-Wungong-Brookdale SA2 is in the **lowest decile**
- Seville Grove SA2 is in the **2nd lowest decile**  
Source: ABS (2021)

### CHILD HEALTH

- 6.6%** of babies had low birth weight (<2,500g)  
Source: CDA (2018)
- 8.7%** of babies born pre-term (<37 weeks)  
Source: CDA (2018)
- 91.7%** of children in the City of Armadale are fully immunised at 2 years old  
Source: CDA (2018) City of Armadale (LGA)
- In Armadale West children 0-4 have more hospitalisations than the WA average for Respiratory Disease  
Source: CDA 2018

### MATERNAL HEALTH

- 5.2%** double the WA average of 2.6% Births to women aged 15-19  
Source: CDA (2018)
- 18.0%** of women smoked during pregnancy, compared to 7.9% in WA  
Source: CDA (2018)

### HOUSING

- 2.9%** live in over-crowded conditions, similar to the WA average of **2.4%**  
Source: CDA(2016)

### INCOME

- 26.6%** less than \$1,000
- 33.2%** more than \$2,000  
Source: ABS (2016)

### WORKFORCE

- 55.4%** work full-time
- 30.1%** work part-time
- 8.4%** are unemployed
- 5.9%** are away  
Source: ABS (2021)
- 71.9%** of children 0-4 have at least one parent employed compared to **82.0%** in WA  
Source: ABS (2021)

**Table 1. Quantitative data for Armadale West including averages for Greater Perth and Western Australia**

Item	Location	Location Value	Greater Perth	WA Average	Comments
<b>Children</b>					
% children 0-4 in sole-parent family	Armadale West	20.9%	11.6%	12.8%	See note 1
% children 0-4 who don't speak English well or not at all	Armadale West*	9.5%	NA	9.0%	
<b>Family make-up</b>					
Couple family with children	Armadale West	45.3%	45.7%	44.6%	
Couple family no children	Armadale West	30.3%	37.6%	46.5%	
Sole-parent family	Armadale West	22.5%	15.1%	15.1%	See note 2
Other family	Armadale West	1.8%	1.6%	1.6%	
<b>Child Health</b>					
% babies with low birth weight	Armadale West*	6.6%	NA	6.5%	
% babies born pre-term	Armadale West*	8.7%	NA	8.6%	
% fully immunised at 2 years old	City of Armadale	91.7%	NA	91.4%	
0-4 yr old hospitalisation rates (per 100 children)					<i>Hospitalisation rates are the number of hospitalisations per 100 children in the community</i>
Ear and hearing	Armadale West*	1.4	NA	1.9	
Respiratory disease	Armadale West*	1.1	NA	0.8	
Vaccine preventable diseases	Armadale West*	0.2	NA	0.2	
Injury	Armadale West*	2.1	NA	2.3	
<b>Maternal Health</b>					
% births to women aged 15-19	Armadale West*	5.2%	NA	2.6%	See note 3
% women who smoked at any time during pregnancy	Armadale West*	18.0%	NA	7.9%	See note 4
<b>Children's Education</b>					
Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) (2021)					See note 5
% children on track on all five domains	Armadale West*	46.6%	58.5%	57.5%	
% children vulnerable on one or more domains	Armadale West*	30.3%	19.2%	20.3%	
% children vulnerable on two or more domains	Armadale West*	17.0%	9.4%	10.2%	
% students who attend school more than 90% of time (Yr 1-10)					See note 6
Neerigen Brook PS	Armadale West	51%	75.0%	72.1%	
Challis Community PS	Armadale West	66%	75.0%	72.1%	
Willandra PS	Armadale West	63%	75.0%	72.1%	
<b>Year 3 NAPLAN results, 2021</b>					
% achieving Reading benchmark	Armadale West	95%	NA	96.0%	See note 7
% achieving Numeracy benchmark	Armadale West	89%	NA	95.3%	
% homes with internet access	Armadale West	82.1%	86.6%	85.1%	
<i>Figures below include people who speak English and another language plus people who only speak another language at home</i>					
<b>Language</b>					
% people who speak a language other than English at home (2016)	Armadale West	27.5%	26.0%	19.4%	



Item	Location	Location Value	Greater Perth	WA Average	Comments
<b>Family functioning</b>					
Income					
Time					
Human capital					See note 8
Psychological capital					
Social capital					
Community					
<i>Measures for these vital resources and risks are not easy to find in publicly available data, but they are included in the proposed survey of parent-caregivers for the EYI Evaluation</i>					
<b>Community</b>					
<i>Below figures don't add up to 100% due to not stated and rounding</i>					
Highest level of school completed					See note 9
% < Yr 10	Armadale West	9.0%	6.3%	6.7%	
% Yr 10	Armadale West	25.0%	17.7%	19.2%	
% Yr 11	Armadale West	10.8%	8.2%	8.8%	
% Yr 12	Armadale West	47.4%	61.8%	58.0%	
Post-school qualifications					See note 9
% Certificate/Diploma	Armadale West	33.6%	30.0%	30.5%	
% Bachelors degree or higher	Armadale West	11.5%	26.5%	23.8%	
% With a post-school qualification	Armadale West	55.0%	64.4%	63.5%	
<b>Socio-economic index</b>					
SEIFA IRSD Score	Armadale-	897			See note 10
Percentile (within WA)	Wungong-	7	<i>bottom 7% SA2s in WA</i>		
Rank (within WA)	Brookdale SA2	17	<i>17th lowest SA2 in WA</i>		
SEIFA IRSD Score		962			
Percentile (within WA)	Seville Grove SA2	19	<i>bottom 19% SA2s in WA</i>		
Rank (within WA)		45	<i>45th lowest SA2 in WA</i>		
<b>Economy</b>					
Workforce					See note 11
% work Full Time	Armadale West	55.4%	56.8%	57.1%	
% work Part Time	Armadale West	30.1%	32.5%	32.0%	
% unemployed	Armadale West	8.4%	4.1%	5.1%	
% temporarily away from work	Armadale West	5.9%	5.4%	5.8%	
<i>Below figures don't add up to 100% due to not stated and rounding</i>					
Parental employment					See note 11
% children 0-4 with at least one parent employed	Armadale West	71.9%	82.9%	82.0%	
% children 0-4 with no parent employed	Armadale West	18.0%	9.3%	10.2%	
Income					See note 11
% family households with income less than \$500 per week	Armadale West	2.1%	3.1%	3.3%	
% family households with income \$500 to less than \$1,000 per week	Armadale West	17.0%	12.2%	12.9%	
% family households with income \$3,000 or more per week	Armadale West	13.9%	31.4%	30.1%	

**Note:** The location of Armadale West is based on a combination of SA1s and the location of Armadale West\* is based on a combination of SA2s, as described in Section 2.1 and Appendix A.

## 2.3 Notes on research evidence about quantitative data in Table 1

### 1 Sole-parent families

In the Armadale West community, more than one-fifth (20.9 per cent) of children in the 0-4 years age range live in a sole-parent family, almost double the Western Australian average of 12.8 per cent. Sole parents with young children may face multiple layers of adversity: they are typically on a low income, have very little spare time to focus on themselves or their children, are under constant pressure and stress (no money, no time and lots of responsibility), may have few resources to draw on (i.e.: no partner to help, limited life experience and educational opportunities which limit employment and other opportunities) and are often socially isolated<sup>6</sup>. Support for sole-parent families has to be multi-faceted, simultaneously working towards reducing any sense of social isolation they may experience while also addressing their material needs (food, clothing, other cost items), providing opportunities for them to 'give back' and feel worthwhile (reciprocity) and providing clear and accessible information that builds their sense of empowerment and confidence<sup>7</sup>.

### 2 Family make-up

These categories of 'family make-up' are set by the ABS and may not be meaningful for definitions of 'family' among some cultural groups, including for Aboriginal peoples and CaLD community members. Further, in ABS Census data, a lot of the available tables are based on 'couple' families, 'sole-parent' families, or 'other' family types, the latter of which includes grandparent families. This means it is not possible to look specifically at grandparent families in detailed ABS tables an important dimension of family types in the Armadale West community may be invisible in the data. Advice from the community on whether this is something that should be considered more closely will be valuable.

### 3 Teen mothers

The incidence of teen mothers in Armadale West is double the Western Australian average. Infants born to teenage mothers are more likely to be preterm and have low birthweight, both of which predict poor long-term health outcomes for the child<sup>8</sup>. Teen mothers are strongly associated with sole-parent families and compounding adversity associated with household poverty, limited time, reduced day-to-day support and challenging home circumstances (as per note 1 above). Socioeconomic and educational disadvantage associated with teen pregnancy can endure across generations, however the adverse maternal and neonatal impact can be reduced with targeted antenatal and postnatal support<sup>7</sup>. The relatively high incidence of teen pregnancy in Armadale West likely contributes to normalisation of such circumstances among teenagers and makes it more difficult to change because young women are especially motivated to 'fit in' and pregnancy may entail kudos and attention among their peers. However, studies have also found that young women often show high levels of resilience and use any resources available to them to make their lives, and their children's lives, happy and meaningful<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> Zubrick, S., Williams, A.A., Silburn, S. and Vampani, G., 2000. Indicators of Social and Family Functioning, Department of Family and Community Services, Commonwealth of Australia

<sup>7</sup> Zubrick, S., 2018. *Circumstances for healthy children and empowered communities*, Early Years Initiative Workshop for the Department of Communities, Port Hedland, 28 November 2018

<sup>8</sup> Mann, L, Bateson, D. and Black, K (2021). "Teenage pregnancy" in Australian Journal of General Practice Vol 49, No 6., June 2020. Accessed 15 February 2022 via Infants born to teenage mothers are more likely to be preterm, have low birthweight and be small for gestational age

<sup>9</sup> Hoffmann, H., Lam, J. and Baxter, J. (2021). Young Mothers in Australia: prioritising motherhood and resisting stereotypes. Life Course Centre Working Papers Series, 25 November 2021. Accessed 14 February 2022 via <https://lifecoursecentre.org.au/working-papers/young-mothers-in-australia-prioritising-motherhood-and-resisting-stereotypes/>

#### 4 Smoking during pregnancy

Pregnant women in Armadale West are more than twice as likely to smoke during pregnancy compared with the Western Australian average. Smoking in pregnancy is a modifiable risk factor for low birthweight, pre-term birth and placental complications because tobacco smoke reduces the flow of oxygen to the placenta and exposes the foetus to a number of toxins. Exposure to these toxins during the first 20 weeks of pregnancy are especially harmful and are associated with sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), childhood cancers, high blood pressure, asthma, skin infections, obesity and lowered cognitive development<sup>10</sup>. As with teen pregnancy (note 3, above) normalisation of this behaviour among young women in Armadale West may make it especially difficult to change.

#### 5 Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)

The AEDC is conducted across Australia every three years when children are in their first year of full-time schooling. Pre-primary teachers complete the AEDC for each child in their class, contributing to a community-level measure of local children's development on five domains: physical health and wellbeing; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive skills (school based); communication skills; and general knowledge. These areas of child development are important predictors of adult health, education and social outcomes<sup>11</sup>. Results from the 2021 AEDC show that five-year-olds in Armadale West are more likely than their Western Australian peers to be developmentally vulnerable on one or more domains (i.e.: 30.3 per cent for Armadale West compared with a Western Australian average of 20.3 per cent) and on two or more domains (17.0 per cent compared with a Western Australian average of 10.2 per cent). Conversely, children in Armadale West are less likely to be on track on all five domains than the Western Australian average (46.6 per cent and 57.5 per cent respectively). Children who start school behind with developmental vulnerabilities tend to stay behind. These data reiterate the importance of the EYI for this community, especially in light of strong evidence that it is possible for communities to 'restack' the odds of children achieving favourable outcomes through a combination of health, early learning and family supports<sup>12</sup>.

#### 6 School attendance

There is a direct relationship between school attendance and school achievement – children who attend regularly do better at school<sup>13</sup>. Between 51 and 66 percent of students in the Armadale West community in Years 1 – 10 attend school at least 90 per cent of the time<sup>14</sup>. These levels are low compared with a Western Australian average of 72.1 per cent and Greater Perth average of 75 per cent. Research points to the importance of children being supported by schools and their families to establish the *habit* of regular attendance from Kindergarten onwards<sup>15</sup> and for schools to have strategies in place

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<sup>10</sup> Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2021. Australia's mothers and babies; Smoking during pregnancy. Accessed 15 February via <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/mothers-babies/australias-mothers-babies/contents/antenatal-period/smoking-during-pregnancy>

<sup>11</sup> Commonwealth of Australia and Department of Education, Western Australia, 2019. Early childhood development for children living in Western Australia by region: Australian Early Development Census 2018. Accessible via <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/dl/vnm73>

<sup>12</sup> Goldfeld, S., Villanueva, K., Lee, J.L., Robinson, R., Moriarty, A., Peel, D., Tanton, R., Giles-Corti, B., Woolcock, G., Brinkman, S., Katz, I. (2017). Foundational Community Factors (FCFs) for Early Childhood Development: A report on the Kids in Communities Study. Accessed 23 December 2021 via <https://www.rch.org.au/uploadedFiles/Main/Content/ccch/CCCH-KICS-Final-Report-April-2018.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> ACARA. (2019). Student attendance. Retrieved February 1, 2022, from <http://www.acara.edu.au/reporting/national-report-on-schooling-in-australia-data-portal/student-attendance>

<sup>14</sup> My School. (2019). Retrieved February 22, 2022, from <https://www.myschool.edu.au/>

<sup>15</sup> Hancock, K. J., Shepherd, C. C. J., Lawrence, D., & Zubrick, S. R. (2013). Student attendance and educational outcomes: Every day counts. Report for the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Canberra. <https://doi.org/10.13140/2.1.4956.6728>.

to ensure they are interesting and engaging for students, culturally safe and provide prompt follow-up on all unexplained absences to emphasise the importance of regular attendance.

#### 7 National Assessment Program for Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)

While the measure of a child's success at school (and life beyond school) is far more complex than his or her score in NAPLAN tests, literacy and numeracy are essential foundational skills for success in life and there is strong evidence that children who do not achieve the National Minimum Standard (the benchmark) for Reading and Numeracy when they are in Year 3 are unlikely to catch-up with their age-group peers and will struggle throughout their education<sup>16</sup>. 2021 NAPLAN results from the three primary schools in Armadale West for Year 3 Reading were comparable to Western Australian averages (i.e.: 95 per cent for Armadale West met or bettered the National Minimum Standard (NMS) score compared with 96 per cent for Western Australia), however corresponding results for Numeracy were substantially lower (i.e.: 89 per cent for Armadale West compared with a Western Australian average 95.3 per cent meaning the proportion of Year 3 children in Armadale West who did not meet the NMS for Numeracy was almost twice the Western Australian average).

#### 8 Family functioning

While data are available about child development, health and education outcomes, limited amounts of robust data are available on the social and family factors that influence positive or negative child outcomes. To help address this gap, a collaborative national project developed an evidence-based framework for tracking social and family factors that jointly influence children's outcomes<sup>17</sup>. The 'social and family functioning' framework includes five inter-related elements: family income; family time (i.e.: time caregivers have for themselves or their children); human capital (i.e.: caregiver's knowledge, experience and skills about healthy choices and how the world works); psychological capital (i.e.: life satisfaction, confidence, worries, self-efficacy and conflict); and social capital (i.e.: sense of connectedness, civic engagement, safety and community cohesion). Unfortunately, quantitative data on these five social factors are not readily available at this time, so data items such as 'sole-parent families' are often used as a proxy (see note 1 in this section). To help address these gaps in the quantitative data available for the Armadale West community, the Evaluation of the EYI will address these factors via the parent-caregiver survey that will be conducted in each of 2022, 2024 and 2027 to track changes over time.

#### 9 Levels of education in the community

Fewer than half (47.4 per cent) of Armadale West community members completed Year 12 (or equivalent). This is, considerably lower than the 58.0 per cent for Western Australia overall and 61.8 per cent for the Greater Perth metropolitan area. Conversely, the proportion who only completed Year 10 is higher than the Western Australian average (Year 10 attainment 25.0 per cent in Armadale compared with 19.2 per cent in Western Australia). Also, a lower proportion of people from Armadale West have a post-school qualification from TAFE or university (i.e.: 55.0 per cent compared to 63.5 per cent for the state). These data should be considered in light of landmark longitudinal research which found that the primary caregiver's (usually the mother's) level of education is a strong predictor of that child's lifetime success<sup>18</sup>. However, the same research found two other important things. Firstly, that

<sup>16</sup> de Carvalho, D. (2019). 'ACARA: NAPLAN and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students' in Education Matters Magazine, online version accessed 12 December 2021 via <https://www.educationmattersmag.com.au/acara-naplan-and-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-students/>

<sup>17</sup> Zubrick, S., Williams, A.A., Silburn, S. and Vampani, G., 2000. Indicators of Social and Family Functioning, Department of Family and Community Services, Commonwealth of Australia

<sup>18</sup> Sylva, K., Melhuish, E., Sammons, P., Siraj-Blatchford, I. & Taggart, B. (2004). The Effective Provision of Pre-school Education (EPPE) Project: Findings from pre-school to end of key stage 1. Nottingham, United Kingdom: Department for Education and Skills. Accessible via <https://ro.uow.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3155&context=sspapers>

participating in high quality preschool (through early learning centres, playgroups and Kindergarten) before children start full-time Pre-primary is particularly beneficial for disadvantaged children, especially in groups of children with a blend of different social backgrounds. Secondly, the study found that the child's home learning environment is extremely important: *"For all children, the quality of the home learning environment is more important for intellectual and social development than parental occupation, education or income. What parents do is more important than who parents are"*<sup>19</sup>. It follows that multi-generational early learning programs such as supported playgroups through the Child and Parent Centre, Champion Centre, KindiLink and local schools may be especially effective in simultaneously building the confidence and capability of families while also focusing on children's learning.

Creating a rich home learning environment does not mean turning home into a school; rather, it means making home a fun, calm, secure and cognitively stimulating place, shared with people the child trusts and feels a strong attachment to. Key features include predictable routines, frequent sustained 'serve and return'<sup>20</sup> conversations with children (from birth, even when the child can only 'babble'), engaging the child in daily household activities (e.g.: cooking, cleaning, shopping, etc.), consistent and calm responses to behaviour, playing and reading with the child daily, stimulating out-of-home experiences with friends, family and other children (e.g.: in parks, the bush, a library or at a river) and having a regular bedtime<sup>21</sup>.

- 10 Socio-economic index for areas – index of relative socio-economic disadvantage (SEIFA IRSD)
- The SEIFA-IRSD<sup>22</sup> is a statistic generated for every statistical area across Australia by the ABS using selected data items from that national Census conducted every five years. The SEIFA-IRSD summarises key information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within a specified geographical area. A low score indicates that cumulative and compounding features of economic and social disadvantage are prevalent within the community including many households with low-income and many people with low qualifications and low-skill occupations. While there is variation in SEIFA-IRSD scores across the City of Armadale (LGA), the two SA2s comprising the EYI community of Armadale West both have relatively low SEIFA-IRSD scores (in the bottom 7 per cent and bottom 19 per cent of scores across Western Australia). A low SEIFA-IRSD is strongly associated with poor AEDC results for a community (see note 5), and points to the entrenched disadvantage faced by families and children in the community. However, this index does not define a community and many communities perform better (or worse) than their SEIFA-IRSD score might predict. The EYI exists to work alongside the Armadale West community to implement strategies which will enable it to perform better than might be predicted by its low SEIFA-IRSD.

#### 11 Workforce participation and income levels

Data on workforce participation for the Armadale West community show a higher rate of unemployment

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- <sup>19</sup> Quote from p.1 of Sylva, K., Melhuish, E., Sammons, P., Siraj-Blatchford, I. & Taggart, B. (2004). *The Effective Provision of Pre-school Education (EPPE) Project: Findings from pre-school to end of key stage 1*. Nottingham, United Kingdom: Department for Education and Skills. Accessible via <https://ro.uow.edu.au/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3155&context=sspapers>
- <sup>20</sup> Harvard Center on the Developing Child, December (2009). Working Paper No. 1: Young children develop in an environment of relationships, accessed 7 February 2022 via <https://www.albertafamilywellness.org/resources/doc/working-paper-1-young-children-develop-in-an-environment-of-relationships>
- <sup>21</sup> Yu, M. and Daraganova, G. (2014). "Children's early home learning environment and learning outcomes in the early years of school", Chapter 4, *Longitudinal Survey or Australian Childre Annual Statistical Report 2014*. Accessed 7 February 2022 via <http://talkingtogether.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/childrens-early-home-learning-environment-and-learning-outcomes-in-the-early-years-of-school.pdf>
- <sup>22</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2023. Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia, 2021. From ABS website at <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/socio-economic-indexes-areas-seifa-australia/latest-release>

than the Western Australian average (8.4 per cent compared to 5.1 per cent). In addition, only 71.9 per cent of children aged 0-4 in Armadale West have at least one parent employed, compared to 82.0 per cent for Western Australia. Unemployment and the associated lack of financial resources can create stress for families and may perpetuate intergenerational disadvantage because parental workforce participation and daily modelling of the 'habit' of going to work (or not) can impact their children's future joblessness<sup>23</sup>. It is also important to note, however, that the impact of parental employment is not one-dimensional. While working parents can provide a positive role model for their children and their employment income can pay for more items and benefits, some jobs may entail poor working conditions, low pay, job insecurity or having to work away from home and can lead to increased stress levels in households. Also, families require assured access to affordable, quality childcare<sup>24</sup>.

The proportion of family households in the Armadale West community with income below \$500 per week is similar to that of the Western Australian average, but only 13.9 per cent have an income of at least \$3,000 per week, compared to 30.1 per cent across the state. This indicates a universal modest level of income across the community and limited access to discretionary expenditure or to savings for a 'rainy day'.

### 3 Context for this Community

This section of the report summarises key contextual features of the Armadale community and the affect they may have on raising young children in this unique place. The community of Armadale West sits within the larger City of Armadale and the Perth metropolitan area more broadly, so its residents have access to services and networks that sit outside Armadale West's somewhat artificial boundary.

Content for this section has been drawn from numerous reports and plans that include reference to the Armadale West community and have been written in the past decade. This section is organised around five community-level aspects: the physical, socio-economic, social, service and governance.

#### 3.1 Physical environment aspect

Armadale (along with Bullsbrook, Chidlow, Fremantle, Joondalup, Perth, Toodyay and Wundowie) is on Whadjuk Noongar boodja (country). The approximate size of the Whadjuk region is 5,580 km<sup>25</sup>. The Noongar boodja was generous to its people who lived near the coastline eating food supplied by lakes through the warmer months, then moved to drier inland areas including Gargangara (north of Armadale) and Goolamrup (Kelmescott) before Makuru (the cold, wet season) arrived<sup>26</sup>.

The City of Armadale is located 28 kilometres southeast of Perth's central business district, covers an area of 560 square kilometres, and consists of 19 suburbs and localities. It contains 1431 hectares of parks and reserves providing a range of lifestyles from the coastal plain suburbs to the picturesque hills. It is linked via

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<sup>23</sup> Tanton, R., Dare, L., Miranti, R., Vidyattama, Y., Yule, A. and McCabe, M. (2021), *Dropping Off the Edge 2021: Persistent and multilayered disadvantage in Australia*, Jesuit Social Services: Melbourne

<sup>24</sup> Heinrich CJ. Parents' employment and children's wellbeing. *The future of children*. 2014 Apr 1:121-46.

<sup>25</sup> Scafidas, J. (2020). The Aboriginal heritage of our West Australian region, accessed 15 February 2020 via <https://www.kidscollege.com.au/the-aboriginal-heritage-of-our-west-australian-region/>

<sup>26</sup> City of Armadale (2022). Traditional land ownership accessed 15 February via <https://www.armadale.wa.gov.au/traditional-land-ownership>

the metropolitan rail and road network. The City of Armadale is the fourth fastest growing local government in Western Australia and the fifteenth fastest in Australia.<sup>27</sup>

The post war population boom after 1945 saw a sustained increase in residential growth associated with state and national migration programs. In 1961 Armadale-Kelmscott became a Shire Council and the population doubled between 1966 to 1971. The 2001 Armadale Redevelopment Act paved the way for the extensive commercial and residential development over the past two decades.<sup>28</sup>

### 3.1.1 Natural Environment

Armadale has a mix of urban hills developed with orchards and vineyards and coastal plains which (until recent decades) supported dairy and market gardening. Farm holdings are rapidly being sub-divided for residential suburbs. The area has a mild Mediterranean climate (cold/wet winters, warm/dry summers) and reliable rainfall, with two large rivers running through the City of Armadale: the Wungong and Canning Rivers, the latter of which was dammed in 1940 to form the Canning Dam. The area includes several reserves including Araluen Botanic Park and Wungong regional park.

### 3.1.2 Built Environment

The Armadale City Centre is a designated Strategic Metropolitan Activity Centre and has been identified as an area of significant growth and infrastructure investment, including retail, commercial, tourism and civic precincts<sup>29</sup>. Several strategic documents from the Western Australian Planning Commission guide the development or reinvigoration of residential areas in Perth, including the City of Armadale, and is reflected in several infrastructure developments outlined in the *City of Armadale plan for the future: 2008-2023*<sup>30</sup>.

Affordable residential and commercial land in the City of Armadale is significantly boosting the area's population and businesses, creating demand for additional health, education, transport and recreation infrastructure and employment requirements.

Key public infrastructure in the Armadale region include:

- 92 playgrounds within the City of Armadale<sup>31</sup>
- 26 primary schools, 12 secondary schools
- libraries
- 12 childcare centres
- Armadale Train Station and substantial public bus infrastructure
- Armadale Hospital operated by East Metropolitan Health Services
- Child Health clinics operated by Child and Adolescent Health Services
- Armadale Fitness and Aquatic Centre
- Champion Lakes Regatta Centre
- Armadale Shopping City and Armadale Central
- Minnawarra House
- The Armadale Health Service incorporating the Armadale Hospital and Armadale Mental Health Service
- The Armadale Community Family Centre (ACFC)
- The Champion Centre

<sup>27</sup> City of Armadale. Strategic Community Plan 2016-2031. Reviewed 2018.

<sup>28</sup> City of Armadale. 2019. European Settlement. <https://www.armadale.wa.gov.au/european-settlement>

<sup>29</sup> City of Armadale. Armadale City Centre Structure Plan and Car Parking Strategy <https://www.armadale.wa.gov.au/armadale-city-centre-structure-plan-and-car-parking-strategy>

<sup>30</sup> City of Armadale. City of Armadale plan for the future: 2008-2023.

<sup>31</sup> City of Armadale. Parks, renewals and Upgrades. 2022. <https://www.armadale.wa.gov.au/upgrades>

## 3.2 Socio-economic aspect

The socio-economic index for areas index of relative socio-economic disadvantage (SEIFA IRSD) scores for the two SA2s comprising Armadale West are relatively low (i.e.: in the bottom 5 per cent and bottom 34 per cent of scores across Western Australia). Key factors found via desktop that may contribute to the Armadale West community's socio-economic profile are elaborated below.

### 3.2.1 Housing

The City of Armadale has several new and rapidly growing suburbs, including Harrisdale, Haynes, Hilbert and Piara Waters. While these high-growth suburbs sit outside the boundaries for Armadale West, the entire area will likely be impacted by the projected influx of approximately 30,000 people between 2016 and 2036<sup>32</sup>. On average 14 new homes are built per week in the City of Armadale<sup>33</sup>.

According to the latest available national census, there were 8,299 private dwellings in the Armadale West community in 2021, of which 7,668 were occupied. The proportion of unoccupied dwellings in the community (i.e.: 7.7 per cent) is lower than the Western Australian average of 10.9 per cent.

Negligible difference exists between Armadale West and the Western Australian average for each of the following statistics:

- proportion of dwellings rented (28.4 per cent in Armadale West; 27.3 per cent for Western Australia)
- proportion of occupied private dwellings which are owned or being purchased (69.2 per cent in Armadale West; 69.1 per cent for Western Australia)
- proportion of dwellings that do not have a registered vehicle (5.1 per cent in Armadale West; 4.9 per cent for Western Australia)

Real-estate data from February 2022 indicate that the median weekly rent in the Armadale area (defined by postcode 6112) is \$330 per week, and the median price of a house is \$280,000<sup>34</sup>. This compares with Perth medians of \$450 per week rent and \$530,000 to purchase a house, making housing costs in Armadale relatively low.

It was not possible to identify from desktop analysis how prevalent household overcrowding is in the Armadale West community, however anecdotal evidence suggests that it may be an issue for some local families and children. Overcrowding may impact children's school performance, lead to behavioural contribute to mental health problems such as anxiety or depression. Overcrowding is also associated with family conflict, family and domestic violence and poor physical health outcomes such as asthma. Those living in overcrowded conditions are considered at risk of homelessness, and in fact, people living in situations where three or more extra bedrooms are required are considered homeless.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>32</sup> City of Armadale. 2020. Community and economic profiles. <https://www.armadale.wa.gov.au/community-and-economic-profiles>

<sup>33</sup> City of Armadale. 2020. Community and economic profiles. <https://www.armadale.wa.gov.au/community-and-economic-profiles>

<sup>34</sup> realestate.com.au Pty Limited website accessed on 1 March 2022 via <https://www.realestate.com.au/>

<sup>35</sup> SCRGSP (Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision) 2019. [Report on Government Services; Part G: Housing and Homelessness](#). Productivity Commission. Viewed 20 September 2019.



### 3.2.2 Industry and employment

The City of Armadale's population growth has consistently exceeded the state and national average over the last 10 years, and the labour force is expected to climb, driving the need for 130,000 extra jobs (from 94,600 to 224,000 by 2035)<sup>36</sup>. Major local industries include health care and social assistance, retail, education and training, construction and manufacturing. The construction industry is currently thriving in Armadale, with new housing, commercial projects, sporting facilities and schools being built, fuelled by recent and projected population growth<sup>37</sup>.

For the Armadale West community in particular, the most prominent industries of employment for its 9,555 employed residents (as of the 2021 National Census) were health care and social assistance (15.0 per cent); retail and trade (10.6 per cent); construction (9.0 per cent); manufacturing (7.7 per cent); transport postal and warehousing (7.4 per cent); and education and training (6.5 per cent).<sup>38</sup> It is understood that a number of families include a 'fly-in-fly-out' (FIFO) worker, however the incidence of this is not available in current Census data from the ABS. The majority of employed residents were in non-professional occupations, i.e.: technicians and trade workers (17.1 per cent); community and personal service workers (14.3 per cent); machinery operators and drivers (13.9 per cent); labourers (13.3 per cent); and clerical and administrative workers (12.0 per cent).<sup>38</sup> The prevalence of non-professional occupations among residents (and parents) in Armadale West may have implications for children's home learning environments. A child's primary caregiver's level of education is a strong predictor of children's long-term educational success, however multi-generational early learning programs such as supported playgroups can positively influence the home learning environment and mitigate the impact of low levels of parental education.

### 3.3 Social aspect

This community-level aspect relates to the extent of community harmony, connectedness, belonging and perceptions of personal and property safety. It includes social capital which refers to "the quality and depth of relationships between people in a family or community"<sup>39</sup> and includes four complementary constructs: trust (that an individual, group, or organisation can be relied upon to act in a consistent, fair, rational and expected manner); civic involvement (in activities that directly or indirectly contribute to a community's well-being); social engagement (interactions that foster connections among community members or organisations) and reciprocity (faith that an action or good deed will be returned in some form in the future). Research evidence shows that social and family functioning associated with the social aspect is a strong predictor of outcomes for children<sup>40</sup>.

The overall population of Armadale West is younger than Greater Perth; the proportion of Armadale West residents aged under 35 years is 55.5 per cent age<sup>41</sup> compared with 47.9 per cent for Greater Perth. During 2017 and 2018, the school aged population in Armadale increased by 23 per cent, and it is projected that zero- to four-year olds will become the community's largest age cohort by 2036, representing 8.3 per cent of the population. This rapid population growth, and the diverse range of cultural and linguistic perspectives that they bring, presents a unique set of challenges and opportunities for the Armadale West community.

<sup>36</sup> City of Armadale. 2020. Economic development. <https://www.armadale.wa.gov.au/economic-development>

<sup>37</sup> City of Armadale. 2020. Economic development. <https://www.armadale.wa.gov.au/economic-development>

<sup>38</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2022. 2021 Census of Population and Housing General Community Profile Tables <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/datapacks> accessed 24 July 2023.

<sup>39</sup> Quote from page 1, Zubrick, S., Williams, A.A., Silburn, S. and Vampani, G., 2000. Indicators of Social and Family Functioning, Department of Family and Community Services, Commonwealth of Australia

<sup>40</sup> Shonkoff, J. P., and Phillips, D. A. (Eds.). (2000). *From neurons to neighbourhoods: The science of early childhood development*. National Academy Press.

<sup>41</sup> City of Armadale. 2020 Community and economic profiles. <https://www.armadale.wa.gov.au/community-and-economic-profiles>

High levels of transiency or a poorly-established sense of ‘belonging’ for recent arrivals can undermine social cohesion or a sense of ‘voice’ in the community, however families with young children have shared needs and perspectives which can transcend cultural differences. Programs that focus on bringing families together to focus on their shared interests of growing happy, healthy children can help to build cohesion and connections across the community and to help families to navigate the service system<sup>42</sup>.

### 3.3.1 Cultural diversity

Amongst the City of Armadale’s rapid population growth, many new residents are born overseas and speak languages other than English at home. Of the 25% per cent of those who speak a language other than English in Armadale, Mandarin, Filipino/Tagalog, Punjabi and Malayalam are the most common languages<sup>43</sup>.

Approximately 4.9 per cent of the City’s population identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people<sup>44</sup> and in Armadale West, 4.2 per cent of the population identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Further, 5.9 per cent of zero to four years olds in Armadale West are Aboriginal or Tores Strait Islander.

A strength of the Armadale community identified via desktop research is the focus on programs designed to improve social cohesion. A number of initiatives designed to encourage social cohesion and inclusion include:

- *Welcoming Cities*: A national network of cities, shires, towns and municipalities who are committed to an Australia where everyone can belong and participate in social, cultural, economic and civic life<sup>45</sup>.
- *Multicultural Advisory Group*: A forum where diverse members of the City can raise concerns and provide ideas and suggestions to the City.
- *Humans of Armadale*: A program that aims to tell local stories through the Humans of Armadale booklet available at libraries, on the City of Armadale website, and via social media.
- *Proud Children Project*: Proud Literacy Backpacks with culturally diverse dolls and stories were made available in City of Armadale libraries. Their aim is to have dolls from different cultures that promote interesting stories of diversity from around the world.
- *Lounge Conversation*: A culturally safe space for individuals who identify as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) or Black, Aboriginal, and Other People of Colour (BIPOC) provided by The City of Armadale, in partnership with headspace and Befriend.
- *Harmony Week*: celebrated in March each year and provides the opportunity for community members to embrace and explore our various cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnically diverse communities.
- *Southeast Multicultural Network (SEMN)*: a network where local service providers and representatives from Local, State and Federal Governments can share knowledge of community services, offer support, exchange ideas and discuss opportunities to support multicultural communities.

<sup>42</sup> Scanlon Foundation (2022). Community Hubs Australia – building the community. Accessed 14 February 2022 via <https://scanlonfoundation.org.au/projects/community-hubs-australia/>

<sup>43</sup> City of Armadale. Languages spoken at home. <https://profile.id.com.au/armadale/language>

<sup>44</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2016 Census quickstats. [https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/24016/quickstat/SSC50026](https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/24016/quickstat/SSC50026)

<sup>45</sup> City of Armadale. 2022 Cultural diversity. <https://www.armadale.wa.gov.au/cultural-diversity>

### 3.3.2 Connectedness

Connectedness is an important aspect of social capital and relates to the networks of interpersonal relationships within a community. Good social networks help a community to function smoothly, and lots of opportunities for individuals to gather and bond with others they feel a 'connection' with is beneficial for their well-being. The research literature identifies three important elements of connectedness: *bonding* (between individuals of 'like' cultural orientation); *bridging* (between individuals of diverse cultural orientations); and *linking* (social ties between community members and those in leadership/authority roles)<sup>46</sup>.

Bonding between individuals within the same cultural, ethnic, geographic or religious groups can be strengthened through shared activities – doing and making things together such as artwork or team-play. The Child and Parent Centre – Westfield Park (operated by Parkerville Children's Home for the Department of Education), the Champion Centre (operated by the City of Armadale) and the Challis Parent and Early Learning Centre are three such examples and important assets for the Armadale West community. For example, in addition to providing a culturally safe gathering places for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in Armadale, the Champion Centre offers a local base for service providers such as Palmerston Drug and Alcohol Counselling; Foodbank; Mooditj Djena Bus; Anglicare; Advanced Personnel Management National Disability Insurance Scheme (APM NDIS); Communicare; Centrelink; Coolabaroo Housing; The Fathering project; Save the Children; Better Health and Nutrition; and Hope Community Services. Supported playgroups for children aged 0 – 5 and their parents/carers are also held at the Centre. Foodbank reports that approximately 60 families per week currently seek emergency food support in the Armadale region.

Further information about services available in the Armadale West area will be included in the service mapping component of this report (Appendix C) and information describing some key local services listed in this report are provided in Section 3.4.

### 3.3.3 Social and cultural well-being

Consultations undertaken by the City of Armadale in 2015<sup>47</sup>, 2021<sup>48</sup>, 2022<sup>49</sup> to ascertain residents' perceptions of things they like and dislike about the community have consistently found that they like the natural environment and sense of community, however have concerns about crime and antisocial behaviour, especially associated with illicit drug use. It is anticipated that direct input from members of the community will significantly bolster this section of this report, particularly with respect to volunteering in the community, evidence of different cultural and religious perspectives being embraced and valued (or not), and the day to day impact of intergenerational trauma from various sources including the Stolen Generations, culture-shock for new-arrival immigrant families (particularly through refugee camps) and challenges associated with a relatively low community-level SEIFA-IRSD.

### 3.3.4 Sense of community safety and perceived rates of crime

Western Australian Police statistics<sup>50</sup> for the Police District of Armadale show a steady increase in personal crime from 2007 to 2020. Of the 4,088 personal crime offences in 2021, 44.7 per cent were family assault (compared to 40.0 per cent for the metropolitan region as a whole), 25.1 per cent were non-family assault

<sup>46</sup> Claridge, T., 2018. 'Functions of social capital – bonding, bridging, linking' in Social Capital Research (2018). Accessed online 21 December 2021 via <https://www.socialcapitalresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Functions-of-Social-Capital.pdf>

<sup>47</sup> City of Armadale. 2015. Growing Armadale. <https://www.armadale.wa.gov.au/media-releases/have-your-say-growing-armadale>

<sup>48</sup> City of Armadale. 2021. Growing our community

<sup>49</sup> City of Armadale. Community Health and Wellbeing Project 2020: Community Engagement Results

<sup>50</sup> Western Australian Police Force website, Crime Time Series Data, accessed 2 March 2022 via <https://www.police.wa.gov.au/Crime/CrimeStatistics#/>

(compared to 28.4 per cent for the metropolitan region) and 14.2 per cent were threatening behaviour (compared to 12.9 per cent for the metropolitan region). This indicates that family and domestic violence in Armadale West is slightly higher than in the rest of Perth. The Department of Communities have been working with a consultant from the Innovations Unit on a report relating to family and domestic violence in Armadale West. It is anticipated that this report will be available in June 2022 and may further inform community plans for this aspect of community cohesion.

In parallel, property crimes in the Police District of Armadale increased from 2010 to 2015, stabilized for several years, then dropped considerably in 2020. This drop may be associated with COVID-19 – there were fewer opportunities for property crime during lockdowns when people were more likely to be at home during the day. The overall trend, including the large drop in 2020, has been similar across the Metropolitan area.

Crime statistics only include offences that are reported to Police, so changes in numbers of offences may in part reflect changes in reporting levels. For example, reporting rates might increase if Police were to conduct a campaign targeting specific crimes and encouraging residents to report such crimes. This could lead to an apparent increase in crime levels, even if the underlying levels were stable or decreasing.

### 3.4 Service aspect

The service aspect of community relates to the quality, scope, range, quantity, access (cost, location, frequency and cultural safety) and coordination of services that support families in the community to raise happy, healthy children. The range of relevant services include (but are not limited to) maternal and child health support, supported and community-based playgroups, early learning services, libraries, Kindergarten, transport services that enable families to attend services, mental health services, crisis accommodation services, etc.

This aspect of the Situational Analysis Report is being prepared initially via desktop analysis by the EYI Project Team and will require significant ‘on the ground’ review and input from members of the Armadale community who are best placed to identify the full range of services and supports that should be included and the extent to which they are valued and utilised by families (plus any barriers to usage). As information on the service aspect is collected, it will be useful to consider the following factors which research evidence indicates are important determinants of how effective services are likely to be:

- Cultural security - this is particularly important for Aboriginal families and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- Quality – services must be thorough, delivered through well-maintained and equipped facilities and staff must be properly qualified and supported.
- Continuity and collaboration – it is important that each family experiences the service system as a coherent, sensible and convenient journey as their child grows and their needs and abilities change over time. Wherever possible, this includes long-term staff appointments within services, so families don’t have to deal with a different person each time they use the service, and information-sharing across services wherever possible. Relationships are key, with long term trust/history building with staff. Longevity of funding for providers is another factor.
- Family centric and non-judgemental – the most prevalent reason given by families for choosing to not follow-up services is that they feel they are being told off or being judged for the things they have and have not done. Whether these perceptions are real or not is irrelevant – people act on their perceptions.
- Easy to access - easy to get to, low/no cost, and open at convenient times, preferably a drop-in centre rather than reliant on making and keeping appointments.

### 3.5 Governance aspect

This aspect of community includes not only formal systems of decision making and authority within the community, but also the extent to which citizen engagement and day-to-day empowerment is distributed across the community's diverse groups (across ethnicity, genders, ages, disabilities, etc.) and whether civic leadership across the community is inclusive, visionary and of high quality.

#### 3.5.1 Formal local governance

Armadale West has several community governance, coordination, consultation and engagement networks, though it has taken some time to establish a Local Working Group for the EYI's 'Armadale West' community.

Existing formal networks include:

- *City of Armadale*, which provide a range of community services in the Armadale area. The City's *Strategic Community Plan 2020-2030* is informed by consultation with more than 3000 people representing a cross-section of the community. The community identified four goals: (1) fostering and strengthening community spirit; (2) improving community wellbeing; (3) ensuring community facilities meet community needs; and (4) an inclusive and engaged community.
- *The Armadale Early Years Network (AEYN)* is led by the City of Armadale and comprises 395 members from local groups involved in early years activities. The AEYN was established by service stakeholders including school principals and other agency representatives concerned that students beginning school were not ready for the formal learning environment. The AEYN has facilitated dozens of free presentations to workers and coordinated numerous events and activities for families and developed resources.
- *The Armadale District Leadership Group (ADLG)* is chaired by the Department of Communities and includes representation from the Department of Education, the City of Armadale, the WA Police and the Department of Justice. Health services are not represented on the Armadale DLG, so effort will be needed to continue the relationship with the East Metropolitan Health Service and Child and Adolescent Health which administers child health nurses.

There is also a range of informal and semi-formal networks that exist around the Champion Centre and schools.

#### 3.5.2 Broader government policy environment

Two complementary policy themes that are prominent among State and Federal priorities which closely align with the EYI include **early childhood** (via national initiatives including the Australian Early Development Census, National Partnership on Early Childhood Education, National Quality Agenda for Education and Care Services, Children's Headline Indicators, , etc.) and **Indigenous advancement** (via initiatives including the recently revised *Closing the Gap in Partnership*, Indigenous Parenting and Family Wellbeing initiative, and the Connected Beginnings Strategy).

More recently, the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early childhood strategy*<sup>51</sup> was released, building upon these policies. This Strategy aims to support governments to work more closely with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) to improve cultural competency in services funded

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<sup>51</sup> Australian Federal Government and SNAICC- National Voice for our Children. 2021. *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early childhood strategy*

by the Department of Social Services; provide support to ACCOs to address family violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families; and work with states to redesign services to better support families and their children.

State-specific reflections of these national initiatives include the Early Years Initiative (in collaboration with the Minderoo Foundation), the Our Priorities targets<sup>52</sup> (deferred indefinitely while the State Government focuses on its response to COVID-19), Child and Parent Centres, KindiLink, and the Sustainable Health Review. These policy directions recognise that harmonious and healthy family functioning arises from solid and holistic community strengths, culturally responsive procedures, two-way relationships and shared ownership.

### 3.5.3 Representation and community involvement in decision making

The City of Armadale has a history of community consultation in City decisions. For example, in 2015 it launched *Growing Armadale*<sup>53</sup> to hear the opinions of residents, business and visitors. Through this process, the City sought to engage with 'hard to reach' groups within the community via focus groups, in-depth interviews and an online survey that garnered more than over 3,000 responses. Safety, anti-social behaviour and improvements to parks and streetscapes featured in responses.

This was continued in 2021, in the *Growing our community project*<sup>54</sup>, where 711 residents, member of local organisations and services provided feedback on questions about Armadale. The natural environment and sense of community where the top "likes" respondents gave, while the top concerns were crime and antisocial behaviour.

More recently, the *Community Engagement Survey*<sup>55</sup> was completed by more than 1000 residents in response to a survey allowing them to provide input into the *Community Health and Wellbeing Plan*<sup>56</sup>. The findings from the Growing Community project were mirrored in this survey, with respondents stating that feeling safe in the community as a barrier to physical activity and illicit drug use and a key health concern.

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<sup>52</sup> State Government of Western Australia, 2021. Our Priorities website accessed 21 December 2021 via <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/our-priorities-sharing-prosperity>

<sup>53</sup> City of Armadale. 2015. Growing Armadale. <https://www.armadale.wa.gov.au/media-releases/have-your-say-growing-armadale>

<sup>54</sup> City of Armadale. 2021. Growing our community

<sup>55</sup> City of Armadale. Community Health and Wellbeing Project 2020: Community Engagement Results

<sup>56</sup> City of Armadale. [n.d.]. Strategic Community Plan: 2020-2030.

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## 5. Appendices

### Appendix A: Data strengths and limitations

Three main types of data are utilised in this report - administrative, Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) data and Census data collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

- Administrative data is collected by agencies as part of their operations when administering services. Examples include age, gender, marital status, and information needed to administer the specific service, such as the diagnostic code for a person admitted to a hospital. To protect the privacy of individuals, only limited administrative data are publicly available and only in summary form (i.e.: the data cannot be linked to individuals). A strength of administrative data is its completeness because it is collected as part of standard operating procedures so information is recorded for everyone who uses the relevant service.
- The AEDC is conducted across Australia every three years when children are in their first year of full-time schooling. Pre-primary teachers complete the AEDC for each child in their class, contributing to a community-level measure of local children's development on five domains: physical health and wellbeing; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive skills (school based); communication skills; and general knowledge. These areas of child development are important predictors of adult health, education and social outcomes<sup>57</sup> and the revised *Closing the Gap in Partnership*<sup>5</sup> targets include one based on the AEDC: Target 5 is that "by 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally each on track in all five domains of the AEDC to 55 per cent".
- The Census of Population and Housing (the Census) is a national survey undertaken every five years by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Examples of Census data include the number of people in the household, household income, education level and employment status and the number and ages of children in the household. Census data are publicly available for geographically small areas of approximately 200 households, however if a natural geographical community has fewer than 200 households, arrangements are in place to protect the privacy of individuals in those small communities.

A key limitation of Census data is that there are five-year gaps between each collection and it takes a long time to prepare the data for public release. Data collected at the (most recent) 2021 Census were released in 2022 and have been provided in this report. Data on internet access were not collected in the 2021 Census, so data from the 2016 Census are provided instead. See Appendix B for details of data sources.

To protect the privacy of individuals, the geographic level at which data are made publicly available varies depending on the type of information. Where data were not available at Statistical Area Level 1 Level 2, they are reported for the whole of the City of Armadale.

Census data are available based on the location at which a person was counted on Census night (referred to by the ABS as the place of enumeration) or based on the location at which a person usually resides (referred to by the ABS as the place of usual residence). Census data included in this report was extracted from General Community Profile tables<sup>5</sup>, which are based on the location at which a person usually resides. Therefore, visitors to the community on Census night are not included in the counts in this report.

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<sup>57</sup> Commonwealth of Australia and Department of Education, Western Australia, 2019. Early childhood development for children living in Western Australia by region: Australian Early Development Census 2018. Accessible via <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/dl/vnm73>

## Geographic boundaries

There is not an exact match between the school catchments used to define the EYI's Armadale West community (Figure 2) and the boundaries used in the provision of most administrative or Census data. Rather, most administrative and Census data are provided according to Local Government Areas (LGAs) or Statistical Areas of various levels defined as part of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard. Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) is the smallest level of Statistical Areas (comprising approximately 200 households) and can be aggregated to Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2), which can be further aggregated to Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3).

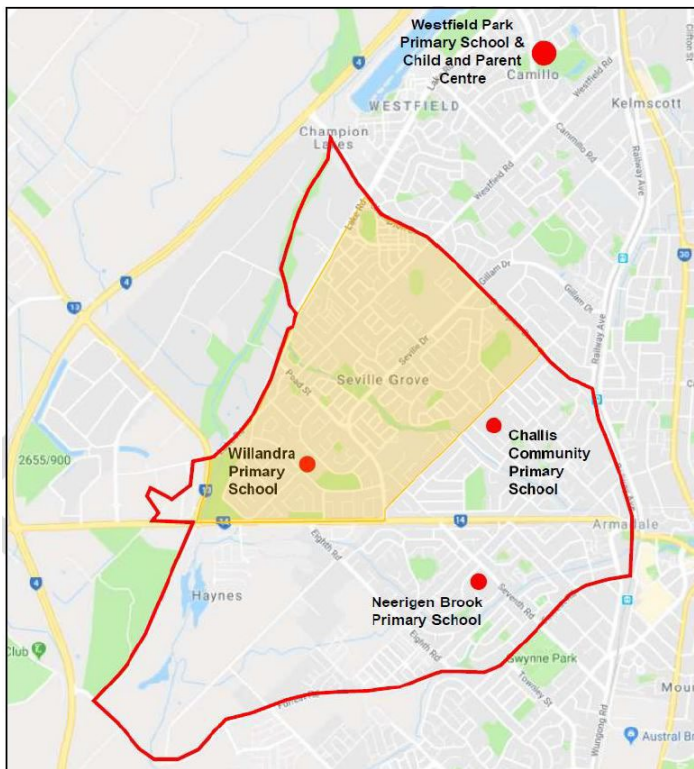
Due to this lack of exact alignment between the EYI's Armadale West boundary and routine Statistical Area boundaries, the administrative and Census data in this INTERIM report have been provided for the geographic region that best approximates the Armadale West boundary, based on the level at which data were available. When describing the location for each data item in tables:

- *Armadale West* indicates the use of a bespoke combination of SA1s (see Figure 3)
- *Armadale West\** (with an asterisk) indicates the use of a combination of two SA2s (see Figure 4).

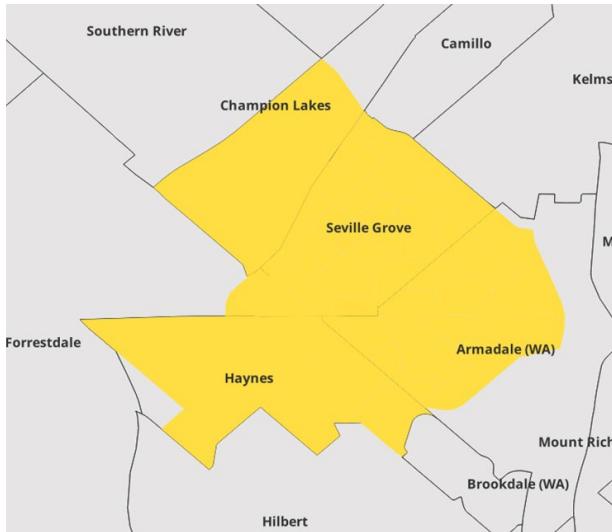
As these two geographic regions are quite similar, in commentary, we refer simply to *Armadale West*.

When data were only available for all of Armadale (a much larger region as shown in Figure 5), we refer to the *City of Armadale*.

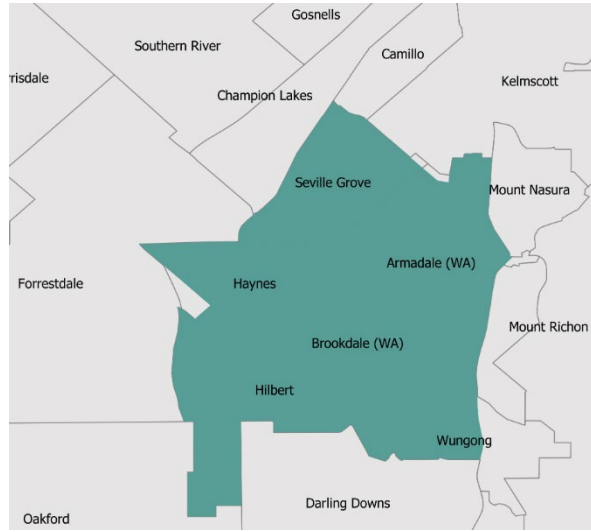
**Figure 2. Armadale West EYI partner community boundaries**



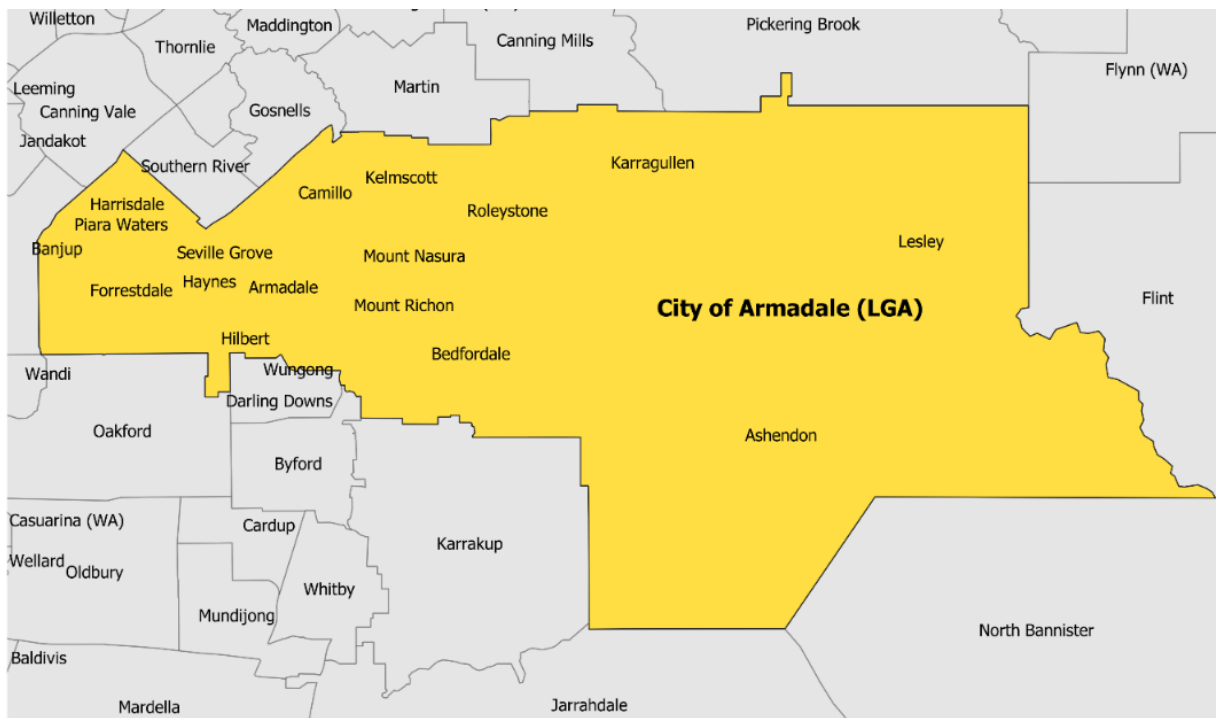
**Figure 3. Combination of Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) that approximates the EYI partner community of Armadale West**



**Figure 4. Combination of Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) that approximates the EYI partner community of Armadale West**



**Figure 5. City of Armadale Local Government Area**



## Appendix B: Detailed data sources

Item	Data Currency	Source	Website
<b>Children</b>			
% children 0-4 in sole parent family	2021	ABS Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles	<a href="https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/">https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/</a>
% children 0-4 who don't speak English well or not at all	2016	Western Australian Child Development Atlas	<a href="https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/">https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/</a>
Family make-up	2021	ABS Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles	<a href="https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/">https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/</a>
<b>Child Health</b>			
% babies with low birth weight	2018	Western Australian Child Development Atlas	<a href="https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/">https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/</a>
% babies born pre-term	2018	Western Australian Child Development Atlas	<a href="https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/">https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/</a>
% fully immunised at 2 years old	June 2020	Western Australian Child Development Atlas	<a href="https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/">https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/</a>
0-4 yr old hospitalisation rates (per 100 children)	2018	Western Australian Child Development Atlas	<a href="https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/">https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/</a>
<b>Maternal Health</b>			
% births to women aged 15-19	2018	Western Australian Child Development Atlas	<a href="https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/">https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/</a>
% women who smoked at any time during pregnancy	2018	Western Australian Child Development Atlas	<a href="https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/">https://childdevelopmentatlas.com.au/</a>
<b>Children's Education</b>			
Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) (2021)	2021	Australian Early Development Census	<a href="https://www.aedc.gov.au/data">https://www.aedc.gov.au/data</a>
% students who attend school more than 90% of time (Yr 1-10)	2019	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	<a href="https://www.myschool.edu.au/">https://www.myschool.edu.au/</a> <a href="https://www.det.wa.edu.au/schoolsonline/home.do">https://www.det.wa.edu.au/schoolsonline/home.do</a>
Year 3 NAPLAN results, 2021	2021	WA Department of Education	<a href="https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/">https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/</a>
% homes with internet access	2016	ABS Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles	<a href="https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/">https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/</a>
<b>Language</b>			
% people who speak a language other than English at home	2021	ABS Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles	<a href="https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/">https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/</a>
<b>Community</b>			
Highest level of school completed	2021	ABS Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles	<a href="https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/">https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/</a>
Post-school qualifications	2021	ABS Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles	<a href="https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/">https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/</a> <a href="https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/socio-economic-indexes-areas-seifa-australia/latest-release#data-downloads">https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/socio-economic-indexes-areas-seifa-australia/latest-release#data-downloads</a>
Socio-economic index	2021	ABS Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas	<a href="https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/">https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/</a>
<b>Economy</b>			
Workforce Participation	2021	ABS Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles	<a href="https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/">https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/</a>
Parental employment	2021	ABS Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles	<a href="https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/">https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/</a>
Income	2021	ABS Census of Population and Housing General Community Profiles	<a href="https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/">https://datapacks.censusdata.abs.gov.au/datapacks/</a>

## Appendix C: Service Mapping

Program	Service Provider	Description	Target	Funding Agency	Location
<b>Child</b>					
<b>Child Development</b>					
<b>Challis Primary School Integrated Early Childhood and Family Support Service</b>	Challis Primary School	This service provides targeted, light touch and long term, cumulative support commencing soon after birth and extending through the primary years to ensure more children start school 'ready to learn'. The Challis Primary School Early Childhood Education Centre is a landmark model of early childhood and family service delivery which has demonstrated rapid and significant success. Challis delivers an integrated early childhood and family service on a school site in one of Western Australia's most disadvantaged metropolitan communities.	Birth through primary school years	State Government (Education)	Armadale
<b>Westfield Park Child and Parent Centres</b>	Westfield Park Child and Parent Centres	<p>The Child and Parent Centre – Westfield Park offers a variety of programs and services for families and children in the Armadale area. Conveniently located at Westfield Park Primary School, we are open to all families in the community, including surrounding areas.</p> <p>Our centre supports families with young children by providing access to early learning, maternal, health, developmental and parenting support services and programs in what are considered to be a child's most busy and important formative years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• antenatal education and child health checks and referrals, including monthly immunisation clinics</li> <li>• a variety of parenting information and programs during school terms including Triple P workshops</li> <li>• allied health services, including speech and occupational therapy, psychology and paediatric service</li> <li>• information sessions on supporting children's physical, cognitive, language, and social and emotional development</li> <li>• early learning and development programs with parental involvement, such as playgroups which include transition to Kindergarten, mental health support, and baby playgroups</li> <li>• popular school holiday programs</li> </ul>	Birth through primary school years	State Government (Education)	Camillo
<b>Armadale Early Years Network</b>	Armadale Council	<p>The network is made up of service providers/agencies who have a focus on children 0-4 years. The Armadale Early Years Network plays an important role in connecting a community by working collaboratively to develop and implement initiatives, services and activities.</p> <p>Early Years Networks provide opportunities to share knowledge and experiences, discuss emerging early years issues, gain insights and perspectives from community representatives, and explore initiatives to improve outcomes for young children and families.</p>	Birth through primary school years		Armadale

<b>Parenting Support Service (SEMPSS)</b>	Communicare and Save the Children	SEMPSS offers programs and accredited workshops across a range of parenting topics including parent-child relationships, attachment, behaviour, emotional regulation, sleep, feeding, toileting and play and development	0-18		Armadale
<b>Razzle Dazzle Play Group</b>	Armadale Uniting Church	Razzle Dazzle is an exciting programme for children aged from babies to four years old that will be starting at the Armadale Uniting Church. Razzle Dazzle will commence in September 2020 and is a movement to music programme that will be led by a professional dance teacher. The whole session runs for one and a half hours, with half an hour of music and story time followed by fruit for the children and tea or coffee for the parents. The session will be on Mondays during school terms from 9.30 am to 11.00 am and the cost will be \$5 per family per session	0-4		Armadale
<b>Kelmscott Play Group</b>		At Kelmscott Playgroup we provide a stimulating play experience for children from 0 – 5 years of age, with the assistance of our Play leader. Kelmscott Playgroup is a not-for-profit organisation run by a voluntary parent committee. Fees and Fundraising are used to directly benefit members by providing play and craft equipment, funding incursions/excursions and covering rent of the premises	0-5		Kelmscott
<b>Byford Baptist Church Play Group</b>		Incorporating a developmental program for 2 and a half to 4 year old's on a Tuesday morning. Coordinated by an experienced teacher. Tuesday 9:30am to 11:30am.	2-4		Byford
<b>Roleystone Gumnut Play Group</b>		Roleystone Gumnut Playgroup is a fun environment for children 0-5 years and their parents/carers to enjoy play, craft and friendship. We run Monday to Friday 9am-11am during school term.	0-5		Roleystone
<b>Armadale Community Family Centre</b>		-Chatter Time Play group (free supported playgroup with support workers and counsellors)  -Playaways Playgroup (This is a supportive, relaxed and friendly group of parents with young children. Children grow and develop through playful craft and activities run by an experienced play leader. Stories and songs, laughter and friendships are to be had here. Suitable for 0-5yrs.)  Play In The Park (Free supported playgroup, access to structured, planned early childhood activities that promote child development, time to develop social connections, songs, stories and mat time.	0-5		Armadale
<b>Parenting Support Service (SEMPSS)</b>	Communicare and Save the Children	SEMPSS offers programs and accredited workshops across a range of parenting topics including parent-child relationships, attachment, behaviour, emotional regulation, sleep, feeding, toileting and play and development.	Birth through primary school years		Armadale
<b>Nature Passport</b>	Armadale Council	The City of Armadale in conjunction with Nature Play WA, has produced a unique City of Armadale Nature Passport for children and families to use to play, explore and learn outdoors!	All ages		Armadale
<b>Social inclusion services</b>	Communicare	Creating a community in which everyone feels welcome, is respected and recognised for having a valuable contribution.	0-4		Armadale

<b>My World Child Care</b>	Early Learning, Kindy Program, before and After School Care, School Holiday Program	Child Care	Babies-12 years		Seville Grove
<b>Fifth Road Child Care Centre</b>	Long Day Care	Child Care	0-8		Armadale
<b>Excel Academy Champion lakes</b>	Child Care, Before and After School, In Home Care	Child Care	Babies-12 years		Champion Lake
<b>MercyCare early learning</b>	Long Day Care Before and after school Vacation care	Child Care	Babies-12 years		Kelmscott
<b>Armadale Childcare Centre</b>	Long Day Care Before and after school Vacation care	Child Care	Babies-12 years		Armadale
<b>Good Start Armadale</b>	Long Day Care Before and after school Vacation care	Child Care	Babies-12 years		Armadale
<b>Sparrow Early Learning Seville Grove</b>	Long Day Care Before and after school Vacation care	Our Service offers freshly prepared meals cooked daily on site by our qualified Chef in our kitchen, which is the hub of the Service.	6 weeks to 12 years		Seville Grove
<b>Tiny Tribes Early Education</b>	Long Day Care Occasional, Casual or flexible care Before school	Child Care	Babies to 12 years		Brookdale
<b>Kids Active</b>	Long Day Care Kindy Toddles Pre Kindy Senior Kindy Before and after school care	Child Care	4 months to 5 years  Afterschool care – to 12 years		Hilbert
<b>Little Learners Place Haynes</b>	Long Day Care Occasional, Casual or Flexible Care Before and After school Vacation Care	Child Care	8 weeks to 12 years		Haynes
<b>Child and Parent Care Centres</b>	Parkerville	Child and Parent centres (Challis and Brookeman)-7-week term starting. 0-4 years focus on parenting programs along with Communicare	0-4 years		Challis
<b>Hippy</b>	Communicare	The Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) is a free two-year, at-home early learning and parenting program that supports parents to be their child's first teacher.	Pre kindy		City of Armadale
<b>Mundarda</b>	Long Day Care Occasional, Casual or Flexible Care Before and After school	Child Care	4 to 12 years		



	Vacation Care				
<b>Child Health</b>					
<b>Challis parent and child centre</b>	Child Health Nurse	Provide universal health checks Monday to Tuesday 8:30-3:30 Appointment required	Birth through primary school years	State Government	Armadale
<b>Challis parent and child centre</b>	Speech Pathologist	Speech Pathologist Checks Wednesday (even weeks) 8:30-4:00	Birth through primary school years	State Government	Armadale
<b>Allied Health Service: Physiotherapy</b>	Armadale Community Health Centre	Provides ancillary medical services in physiotherapy for children. Referred by General medical practitioner, child health nurse or teacher.	Birth through primary school years	State Government	Armadale
<b>Allied Health Service: Speech Pathology</b>	Armadale Community Health Centre	Provides ancillary medical services in speech pathology for children. Referred by General medical practitioner, child health nurse or teacher.	Birth through primary school years	State Government	Armadale
<b>Allied Health Service: Occupational Therapy</b>	Armadale Community Health Centre	Provides ancillary medical services in occupational therapy for children. Referred by General medical practitioner, child health nurse or teacher.	Birth through primary school years	State Government	Armadale
<b>Specialist Medical Service: Paediatrics</b>	Armadale Community Health Centre	Provides specialist medical services in paediatrics.	Birth through primary school years	State Government	Armadale
<b>Allied Health Service: Child &amp; Adolescent Occupational Therapy</b>	Child & Adolescent Community Health	Provides specialist medical services in occupational therapy.	Provides specialist medical services in paediatrics.	State Government	Armadale
<b>Neerigen Brooke Dental Health Clinic</b>	WA Health	This Dental Therapy Centre provides dental examinations and treatment to eligible school age children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Xavier Cath Sch</li> <li>• Dale Chrst Sch</li> <li>• Neerigen Brook PS</li> <li>• Challis Community PS</li> <li>• Gwynne Pk PS</li> <li>• Gwynne Pk ESC</li> </ul>	School Age	State Government	Neerigen Brooke PS
<b>Armadale Dental Health Clinic</b>	WA Health	This Dental Therapy Centre provides dental examinations and treatment to eligible school age children.	School Age	State Government	Armadale PS
<b>Roleystone Mobile</b>	WA Health	This Dental Therapy Centre provides dental examinations and treatment to eligible school age children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good Shepherd Cath PS (Kelmescott)</li> <li>• Kelmescott PS</li> <li>• Clifton Hills PS</li> <li>• Roleystone Com Col</li> </ul>	School Age	State Government	Armadale area

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forrestdale PS</li> </ul>			
<b>Allied Health Service: Audiology</b>	Armadale Community Health	<p>Provides ancillary medical services in audiology for children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Southern Hills Chrst Col</li> <li>Pioneer Village Sch</li> <li>Australian Christian College - Darling Downs</li> <li>Armadale PS</li> <li>Kingsley PS</li> <li>Willandra PS</li> <li>Sth East Metro Lang Dev (Armadale)</li> </ul>	School Age	State Government	Armadale area
<b>Allied Health Service: Social Worker</b>	Armadale Community Health Service	Provides services in social work for children.	School Age	State Government	Armadale
<b>Family</b>					
<b>Maternal health</b>					
<b>Lactation Clinic</b>	Child & Adolescent Community Health	A visiting lactation nurse provides support, counselling and information for mothers who are breast-feeding	Universal	State Government	Armadale
<b>Lactation Consultation</b>	Child and Parent Centre Westfield Park	Visiting lactation consultant every Friday 8:30-4:00	Universal	State Government	Armadale
<b>Boodjarri Yorgas</b>	Armadale Health service	The Boodjarri Yorgas Midwifery Group Practice (BYMGP) is a program run by the Armadale Health Service (AHS) for women who prefer to be cared for by the same midwife in a culturally safe way throughout their pregnancy journey.	Universal	State Government	Mount Nasura
<b>Derbarl Yerrigan</b>	Derbal Yerrigan	<p>The Maternal and Child Health Program aims to improve the health of women before they become pregnant by increasing awareness of the importance of folate in the diet and decreasing the use of alcohol, tobacco and other substances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-pregnancy including sexual health, pap smears</li> <li>Antenatal</li> <li>Postnatal</li> <li>Parent Education</li> <li>Child health 0-5 years</li> <li>Health Promotion</li> </ul>	Universal		Maddington
<b>Parental (includes substance use, mental and emotional health)</b>					
<b>Wungening</b>	Wungening	Individual counselling for drugs and alcohol and family members affected by drugs and alcohol support and manage	Universal		Armadale
<b>Wungening</b>	Solid Ground	Supporting people who struggle with alcohol and drug issues. Train parents to administer medication.	Universal		Armadale
<b>Methadone Treatment Program</b>	Atkinson Armadale Pharmacy	Provides methadone doses for patients undergoing drug treatment			Armadale
<b>Hope Community</b>	Hope Springs Community Farm	D&C counselling- Hope Springs community farm is a rehabilitation program for adults affected by their alcohol and other drug misuses.	Universal		Armadale
<b>Assessment &amp; Treatment Team</b>	Armadale Kalamunda Group	The Assessment and Treatment Team (ATT), is the first point of contact for all referrals for adults 18 to 65 years old to community mental health services	18-65		Armadale

<b>(ATT), Mead Centre</b>					
<b>Counselling Service</b>	Palmerston	Counselling services for individual, couples, families and youth; referrals required.	Universal		Armadale
<b>360 Street Doctor</b>	360 health services	360 Street Doctor is a mobile GP clinic aiming to improve the health & wellbeing of homeless, transient & disadvantaged people in identified suburbs around Perth, W	Universal		Champion centre
<b>Hope Community</b>	AOD support	Our programs, services and interventions are delivered in collaboration with local providers to help individuals, families and communities break free from negative cycles and take the first steps towards being back in control of their lives.	Universal		Armadale
<b>Family financial well-being (including financial counselling, employment services and housing/homelessness)</b>					
<b>Family Support Service- Financial counselling</b>	Communicare	Workshop and individual consultations free of charge	Universal		Armadale
<b>Emergency Relief</b>	Communicare	All ER appointments are done electronically via phone and email as we provide coles food e-vouchers for eligible clients	Universal		Armadale
<b>Financial Support</b>	Mercycare	Our financial counselling service is the provision of free, independent and confidential support to individuals and families experiencing financial difficulties providing information and support advocacy.	Universal		Armadale
<b>Emergency Assistance: Material Aid</b>	Crossways Community Service	Emergency relief is available for individuals and families in financial distress, as well as those impacted by natural disasters, including bushfires.	Universal		Kelmscott
<b>Doorways Emergency Relief</b>	Salvation Army-Doorways	Emergency relief is available for individuals and families in financial distress, as well as those impacted by natural disasters, including bushfires.	Universal		Gosnells
<b>Provision of Aboriginal Housing First Services Under The Housing First Homelessness Initiative</b>	Noongar Mia Mia Pty Ltd	A Housing First Approach prescribes safe and permanent housing as a first priority for people experiencing homelessness, with support services put in place to address the complex needs of the client once housed.	Universal		Metro wide
<b>Provision of Aboriginal Housing First Services Under The Housing First Homelessness Initiative</b>	Ruah Community Services	A Housing First Approach prescribes safe and permanent housing as a first priority for people experiencing homelessness, with support services put in place to address the complex needs of the client once housed.	Universal		Metro wide
<b>Anglicare Family Housing</b>	Anglicare WA Inc	Homeless Accommodation and Support Services provide a range of support and/or accommodation to adults and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This service	Universal		Metro wide

		group also includes services that provide free or low cost meals.			
<b>Red Cross Soup Patrol Service</b>	Australian Red Cross Society (WA Division)	Same as above	Universal		Metro wide
<b>Centrecare Family Accommodation Service - CFAS</b>	Centrecare Inc	Same as above	Universal		Metro wide
<b>SKY</b>	Centrecare Inc	Same as above	Universal		Metro wide
<b>Mission Australia Family Support and Accommodation Service</b>	Mission Australia	Same as above	Universal		Metro wide
<b>Support and Counselling Services - SACS</b>	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Incorporated	Same as above	Universal		Metro wide
<b>Ruah Centre</b>	Ruah Community Services	Same as above	Universal		Metro wide
<b>UnitingCare West Tranby Day Centre</b>	UnitingCare West trading as Uniting WA	Same as above	Universal		Metro wide
<b>Champion Centre</b>	City of Armadale	Support around service providers. Champion centre also provide a food bank truck once a week as well as free food parcels and clothing.	Universal		Armadale
<b>Centrelink</b>	Champion centre	Centrelink provides services from the Champion Centre	Universal		Armadale
<b>Family connection (includes family advocacy and cultural services)</b>					
<b>PUP-Parents under pressure</b>	Palmerston	This program combines psychology principles relating to parenting, child behaviour and parental emotion regulations within a case management model. This program is home based and designed for families in which there are many difficult life circumstances that impact on family functioning- such as depression, anxiety, substance misuse, family conflict and sever financial stress.	Parents		Armadale
<b>Mercycare</b>	Family Wellbeing Support Service	Provides early intervention support to assist vulnerable families with children and young people aged 0-18 years who are at risk, or illness.	Universal		Armadale
<b>Community Treatment Team (CTT)</b>	Armadale Kalamunda Group	A multidisciplinary team, comprised of doctors, nurses, social workers and clinical psychologists, receives referrals from the Assessment & Treatment Team (ATT) and provides assessment and care coordination for adults 18 to 65 years old with mental health problems, living in the Armadale district and who require more than ten weeks of care.	18-65		Armadale
<b>Hope Community</b>	Circle of Security	Circle of Security is an 8-week program for parents, caregivers and children up to the age of 5.	Parents and caregivers		Armadale
<b>Holyoake</b>	Holyoake	Ongoing programs below-the wait time for the intake foe these sessions is currently 4 weeks. -Men's Program -Women's Program	Universal		Statewide

		-Relationships in Focus Program -Parent's Program -Young Adult Program (delivered 1 on 1)- young adults enter into the Men's/Women's group if they would like to attend.			
<b>Therapeutic Family Service</b>	Parkerville	Therapeutic Family Service-Trauma and abuse related issues (10 sessions)	Families		Armadale
<b>The Fathering Project</b>	Westfield Park	The Fathering Project aims to inspire and equip dads and father-figures to be the best they can be, with options to engage in workshops, programs, and supports to help them in their role as "dad."	Fathers		Armadale
<b>Young Parents Program</b>	Anglicare	A program designed for young people up to 25 years old who have children aged birth to 3 years. Provides an opportunity for young parents and their children to have fun and meet others in the community. This is a closed group that requires referral and registration through Anglicare	Up to 25		Armadale
<b>Caring Dads</b>	Communicare	A group work program that supports better parenting practices and enhances the safety & well-being of children and their mothers	Fathers		Armadale
<b>Aboriginal In Home Support Services</b>	Aboriginal In-Home Support Service	The Aboriginal In-home Support Services provide intensive in-home support to Aboriginal families across the Metropolitan areas to address safety issues, strengthen family functioning and parenting skills and create possibilities for significant change within high risk families.	Universal		Metro wide
<b>Make your move</b>	Communicare	Make Your Move utilises sport and physical activities to help improve people's health and wellbeing and foster a strong sense of community belonging. By supporting people who are less likely to participate in regular sport or physical activity, our Make Your Move program will:	women and girls, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) groups (namely newly arrived migrants and refugees), Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people and; people with disabilities.		Armadale
<b>The Settler Program</b>	Communicare	The settler program works alongside humanitarian entrants and migrants to build their capacity to navigate life in Australia.	Humanitarian entrants and migrants		Armadale
<b>Familyn Together Program</b>	Communicare	Our Family Relationship Services provide primary early intervention and prevention services to all types of families at any stage in their relationships to support them through change such as when they form, extend or separate.	Universal		Armadale
<b>Family and relationship services</b>	Communicare	Strengthening family relationships ensuring the wellbeing and safety of children	Parents of children up to 18 years		Armadale
<b>Fathering Project</b>	Westfield Park	Supporting Fathers and Children. A place where they can drop in, meet other Dads and feel supported so that they can be the best	Fathers		Armadale

<b>Attachment and Bonding</b>	Westfield Park with The Department of Education	This workshop covers different attachment styles and ways to help create secure attachments	Parents/Caregivers		Armadale
<b>Family safety (includes FDV, child abuse and neglect)</b>					
<b>Family and Domestic Violence Hub</b>	Family and Domestic Violence Hub	The "one stop hub" service will make it easier for people experiencing or at risk of experiencing FDV in and around Armadale area to access the services they need in one place. Armadale was selected as the location for the new hub after Govt data and local insight showed Armadale and the broader east metro corridor is an area of high demand, and a priority for investment in additional family and domestic violence services. The hub model provides a range of specialist family and domestic violence and other community services in one location, prioritising ease of access for victims who are seeking help and support. By co-locating key support with other services, the hubs create a "soft entry" point that also reduces stigma attached to seeking assistance. Part of a \$60 million package of election commitments providing a comprehensive response to family and domestic violence in WA.	Universal	State Government (Communities)	Armadale
<b>Centrecare Inc</b>	Centrecare	Family and Domestic Violence Counselling, Advocacy and Support Services assist adults, young people and children to find solutions to both practical and personal problems that have arisen where family and domestic violence has occurred or is likely to occur. Services recognise the importance of the safety and wellbeing of women and children.	Universal		Metro wide
<b>Relationships Australia (Western Australia) Inc</b>	Relationships Australia	Same as above	Universal		Metro wide
<b>Women's Health Care Association Inc</b>	Women's Health Care Association Inc	Same as above	Universal		
<b>The Centre for Community</b>	Starick Services Inc	Family and Domestic Violence	Universal		State Wide
<b>Ruah Community Services</b>	Ruah	The Family and Domestic Violence Coordinated Response Service (FDV CRS) is part of a partnership between the Department, Western Australia (WA) Police and other non government family and domestic violence (FDV) service providers contracted by the Department. This partnership is known as the Family and Domestic Violence Response Team (FDVRT). The FDVRT jointly triages Domestic Violence Incident Reports and provides risk assessment and appropriate responses for families and individuals in incidences of family and domestic violence. Responses may include facilitating multi-agency responses on a needs basis. The FDV Coordinated Response Services will provide services as planned through the triage process.	Universal	State Government	Armadale
<b>Intensive Family Support Services – Armadale</b>	Centrecare Inc	The Intensive Family Support Services provide intensive in-home support services to families who are the most at risk of child protection intervention or families who require support to reunify their children back into their care. The Service will provide intensive in-home support for families currently working with the Department (and with an existing open case) or where	Universal	State government	Armadale

		there is a need for extra support to be provided to improve family wellbeing or safety.			
<b>Anglicare WA Inc</b>	Anglicare	Child Sexual Abuse Therapeutic Services provide healing, support, counselling and therapeutic responses to children and young people and their families affected by child sexual abuse, people who have experienced childhood sexual abuse and children and/or young people who are responsible for, or at risk of sexually abusing other children.	Universal		Armadale
<b>Phoenix Support &amp; Advocacy Service Inc</b>	Phoenix Support & Advocacy Service Inc	Same as above	Universal		Metro Wide
<b>UnitingCare West trading as Uniting WA</b>	Uniting Care	Same as above	Universal		Metro Wide
<b>Yorgum Healing Services</b>	Yorgum Healing Services	Indigenous Healing Services provide healing, support, counselling and therapeutic responses to children, young people and families affected by child sexual abuse and/or family domestic violence. Services assist children, young people and families to recover from harmful impacts of child sexual abuse and/or family and domestic violence, and assist families and communities to support children and young people in the healing process.	Universal		Metro wide
<b>Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services - East Corridor - Kira House</b>	Rise Network Inc	Family & Domestic Violence Accommodation & Support Services provide supported and/or safe accommodation to women, with/or without accompanying children, who as a result of family and domestic violence or other crisis. Breaking the cycle of domestic violence and homelessness, and assisting clients to maintain existing safe accommodation where appropriate or move to stable safe long term accommodation is a key role of Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services. The Therapeutic Women's Refuge Peel is tailored to provide person-centred integrated responses for family and domestic violence victims with co-occurring mental health concerns and/or harm from alcohol or other drugs.	Universal		Metro wide
<b>Mercycare</b>	Coolock Units	Provides medium term accommodation (6 months) for young mothers between the age of 16-25 years.	16-25		Armadale
<b>Family and Domestic Violence Accommodation and Support Services - Metropolitan Wide - Multicultural Women's Advocacy Service</b>	Women's Health Care Association Inc	Same as above	Universal		Metro wide

<b>Supporting Women Experiencing Family and Domestic Violence in Public Tenancy</b>	Zonta House Refuge Association Inc	Same as above	Universal		Metro wide
<b>The Centre for Community</b>	Starick Services Inc	Family and Domestic Violence Counselling, Advocacy and Support Services assist adults, young people and children to find solutions to both practical and personal problems that have arisen where family and domestic violence has occurred or is likely to occur. Services recognise the importance of the safety and wellbeing of women and children.	Universal	State Government (Communities)	Armadale
<b>Coolabaroo Housing Service</b>	Moorditch Gurlongga Association Inc	Homeless Accommodation and Support Services provide a range of support and/or accommodation to adults and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This service group also includes services that provide free or low cost meals.	Universal	State Government (Communities)	Armadale
<b>Ruah Tenancy Support</b>	Ruah Community Services	Homeless Accommodation and Support Services provide a range of support and/or accommodation to adults and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This service group also includes services that provide free or low cost meals.	Universal	State Government (Communities)	Armadale
<b>Homelessness Accommodation Support Worker - South East Metropolitan Area</b>	Centrecare Inc	Homelessness Accommodation Support Workers work in collaboration with National Affordable Housing Assistance (NAHA) specialist accommodation service providers to assist people who have experienced homelessness. The program provides support to clients moving from temporary accommodation into long term, secure, stable accommodation. Workers assist and support clients to re-establish social networks, and to access a range of services including employment, health, and financial management.	Universal	State Government (Communities)	Armadale
<b>Multicultural Women's advocacy &amp; support</b>	Women's Health and Family Service	MWAS promotes the safety of women, with or without children, from migrant and refugee backgrounds. The service is available to women who are recent arrivals or long-term residents.  Women may be in crisis situations, in refuges, still remaining in their relationships or re-establishing themselves in the community after leaving refuges.	Universal		Gosnells
<b>Support for Young Women Leaving Child Protection Services</b>	Parkerville Children and Youth Care Incorporated	Housing Support Worker – Young Women Leaving Care Service will be provided with independent living options and the development of living skills to assist young women leaving child protection services, including young mothers to live independently long term. The program will include education programs, mediation, family support and parenting support programs. Access to specialist services including employment, education and training and counselling is an essential element of the program.	18+	State Government (Communities)	Armadale
<b>Housing Support Workers;</b>	Centrecare Inc	Housing Support Workers – Corrective Services assist adults and young people exiting Corrective Services facilities, Transitional Accommodation Support Services (TASS) or	Universal	State Government (Communities)	Armadale



<b>Corrective Services - Men</b>		prisoner Re-entry programs, to secure and maintain stable accommodation and avoid homelessness.			
<b>Minnawarra House Family Support program</b>	Minnawarra house	Counselling, Outreach legal Advice, Food bank, Social groups, arts and craft groups Muse kids,	Universal		Armadale
<b>Roleystone Family centre</b>	Roleystone Family centre	The Roleystone Neighbourhood Family Centre is a community managed not-for-profit organisation providing a focus for all people gathering together for friendship, exchange of information and mutual support in learning. We welcome all people from all areas.	Universal		Roleystone
<b>Wungening</b>	Wooree Miya	Wooree Miya Women's refuge is a 24/7 crisis service that provides safe, culturally secure, short termed accommodation for women & children who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless due to family and domestic abuse			Armadale
<b>State-wide or national services available to Armadale West Community</b>					
<b>Ngala</b>	Ngala	Nagala Residential Parenting Service- Ngala Residential Parenting Service provides the opportunity for parents and caregivers to do this in a safe, nurturing environment, either through a day stay or an extended stay at our private hospital in Kensington. Ngala Parenting Line- A free service for WA parents and caregivers of children from conception to 18 years ForWhen- Mental health support for expecting and new parents	Birth to 10		Kensington
<b>Rise Network</b>	Rise Network	People with disabilities Ages care Housing Arts hub Family and domestic violence Young people Mental Health	Universal		Midland
<b>Indigo Junction</b>	Indigo Junction	We work together with people to build skills, capacity and independents.  The Family Service offers housing, support and education. Our team focuses on empowering families to build on their parenting and independent living skills. We also assist families to connect to specialist supports such as counselling, health and employment services where required. Families are encouraged to set personal goals as well creating a plan towards long term stable housing	Universal		Midland
<b>CLAN</b>	Community Link and Network	CLAN Midland Inc. is a non-government, not-for-profit, community-based organisation, successfully providing support to enhance skills and the quality of the home environment for parents and families with children under the age of 18 years and individuals in the community, with a focus on Altone, Midland, Ellenbrook, Bullsbrook and surrounding areas	Universal		Midland
<b>Mission Australia</b>	Mission Australia	-Homeless and social housing support -Children, youth, families & communities -Mental health, alcohol & other drugs -Disability inclusion & support -Employment, skills and Training	Universal		Midland

<b>Relationship Australia</b>	Relationships Australia	-Counselling -Mediation -Aboriginal Community Support -Family and Domestic Violence -In the workplace -Parenting and Family Relationships -Mental Health -Couple Relationships -Personal Development -Support for Older People -Separation -Specialist Support -Children and Young People -CaLD Services LBGTQIA+	Universal		Midland
<b>Meerilinga</b>	Meerilinga	-Parenting Courses and Services -Children and Family Centre -Training and Education -Early Learning Program and Bindi Kids	Universal		Cockburn
<b>Wanslea</b>	Wanslea	-Early Childhood Education and Care -Early Childhood Intervention -Parenting Support -Out of Home Care -Grandparent Carer Support -Leaving Care -Mental Health Program -School Based Programs -Housing Support	Universal		Belmont
<b>Young parents support</b>	Anglicare	The young parent support service providers assistance and advocacy for at risk young people up to 25 years, who are pregnant or have children	Universal		Armadale