



Our vision for change

Improving child wellbeing and school readiness for our children and learning what it takes to create change for all Western Australian children.



EARLY YEARS PARTNERSHIP
Armadale West

Koorlangkas Danjoo Koorliny

(Children coming together)

Early Years Community Plan

2023



Department of Communities

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Why we need change

In Armadale West

more than **1 in 4**



children are considered developmentally vulnerable.¹



How we will create change

Four key priorities have been identified locally to improve the wellbeing and school readiness of children living in Armadale West:



Child Development

To increase the number of children meeting developmental milestones and entering school developmentally ready.²



Family Safety

To reduce the number of children aged 0-4 who have interactions with family and domestic violence.



Maternal Health

To improve access to and attendance at antenatal services to ensure mothers are healthy and babies have the best possible start to life.



Financial Wellbeing

To increase the number of families with children aged 0-4 who have a stable home and regular, nutritional meals.

Change will be supported through focusing on improving these areas of child and family wellbeing and ensuring that services are connected, coordinated and culturally responsive.



Who will be involved

The Armadale community, State Government, the Minderoo Foundation and Telethon Kids Institute (TKI) as evidence and evaluation partner, are working in partnership to create change. The Western Australian Government participates via the Department of Communities (lead partner), Department of Education and the Department of Health.

What we will do to create change

The detailed Koorlangkas Danjoo Koorliny – early years plan that outlines action for change can be found at earlyyearspartnership.org.au

1 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>

2 As measured by the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ3) and Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) tools (adjusted for cultural relevance as appropriate).





Child Development

Aim: To increase the number of children meeting developmental milestones and entering school developmentally ready.

1. Recognition and support for cultural parenting practises

Local level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome Baby to Country Community events.
Systems level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve support for kinship carers including Aboriginal grand-carers, informally caring for their grandchildren.³

2. Early identification and intervention of childhood developmental delays

Local level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a Local Services directory for families. Child Health Services to deliver drop-in services at the Champion Centre. Investigate transport options to early learning activities (playgroups, KindiLink, day care).
Systems level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate an evidence informed program to support parents with the knowledge and skills to support their child's development during the waiting period for child development services.
Local level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion and active bookings of health checks at family and community events. Develop a marketing campaign with key messages for families on the importance of child health checks.
Systems level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Health to share data on attendance at child health checks with Local Working Group. Collaborate with WA Primary Health Alliance to increase General Practitioners education/awareness of the process to refer families to child health nurses. Develop key messages and tools for wider Early Years workforce in child development and referral pathways to child health nurses.
Systems level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the Challis Parent and Early Learning Centre model and implement recommendations.

3. Parent knowledge of importance of the early years

Local level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an education tool (Brain Boxes) to be distributed to professionals working with families, in early years settings.
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4. Timely and affordable access to medical services

Local level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action to be developed.
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Armadale West Priorities



Family Safety

Aim: To reduce the number of children (aged 0-4) who have interactions with family and domestic violence.

1. Distrust of Child Protection services

Local level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an opportunity for local community members to share lived experience with the Department of Communities (Child Protection) and provide feedback on service delivery to support improved practice.
Systems level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where practical and where not already occurring, provide opportunities for the lived experience of families to influence child protection policy.

2. Support for good parenting practises

Local level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building including workshops and training to support good parenting practises.
Systems level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify evidence-based perpetrator accountability programs and adapt to Armadale community context.

3. Systemic disadvantage and discrimination

Local level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early childhood professionals to complete Trauma Education programs, with a focus on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Early identification of signs of abuse and how to respond Engagement strategies and techniques to support the learning of children who have experienced trauma.
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Maternal Health

Aim: To improve access to and attendance at antenatal services to ensure mothers are healthy and babies have the best possible start to life.

1. Cultural aspects

Local level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions to be developed.
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2. Mental wellbeing

Local level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in local services who provide antenatal and postnatal support completing Maternal Mental Health training.
Systems level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved access of services locally (Health and other). Access to a consistent child health nurse, to support trust and continuity of care between mothers and health professionals.

3. Physical wellbeing

Local level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with the Department of Education Participation Coordinators to strengthen the response to the needs of teenage parents/pregnant women.
Systems level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the current local antenatal care system/support services and how well this is accessed by families.



Financial Wellbeing

Aim: To increase the number of families with children aged 0-4 who have a stable home and regular, nutritious meals.

1. Supporting access to income support

Local level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide opportunities for relevant services to hot desk at the Champion Centre and facilitate networking opportunities.
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2. Supporting access to housing

Local level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate possibility for Department of Communities Housing Officers to be based at the Champion Centre to provide opportunities to exchange information with community.
Systems level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for the Housing Support Program (First Nations Homelessness).

3. General cost of living

Local level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extension of the existing food security program to reach all families in need.
Systems level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EYP Board to advocate to Federal Early Childhood Minister to trial eliminating the activity test for childcare subsidy.

4. Culturally appropriate service delivery

Local level action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action to be developed.
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³ Armadale West Local Working Group identified Grandcarers, however EYP acknowledges that kinship networks play an important role in families and therefore there may be other family members caring for children that also require support.