Our vision

Young people* in South Australia achieve a positive social and economic future.

* Young people refers to children, students and youth
We recognise that young people in South Australia face the future in an increasingly changing and complex world. We aim to give them the best opportunities to secure a future within a globalised economy, always recognising that it is individuals we are here to benefit.

We will improve our relationships with families and communities, so that we can best help young people develop and succeed.

Gino DeGennaro
Chief Executive
November 2010

We are responsible for ensuring the provision of high quality children’s services and public education throughout South Australia.

The Department of Education and Children’s Services (DECS) is a large organisation with some 25,000 people working in just over 1,000 locations.

Our schools and preschools provide services to more than 180,000 young people and their families.

Our strategic planning sets the overall direction for the organisation.

This plan for 2011 aims to:

• put young people at the centre of all that we do
• state what is important throughout our organisation
• be clear and relevant to all areas of the department, as well as young people, families and communities
• capture the key drivers such as South Australia’s Strategic Plan, and agreements and partnerships with the Australian Government.

We will also support ongoing policy reform that will include a focus on:

• valuing teachers, child carers and public education
• supporting principals to be education leaders
• providing leadership in early childhood development and education
• listening to young people
• developing schools and preschools that are connected with their communities, and founded on social inclusion
• responding to the needs of young Aboriginal people and families
• responding better to the needs of young people with disability.
Strategic overview

To meet our strategic objectives it is important that all levels of our organisation support those in schools and preschools who have direct relationships with young South Australians.

Our goals

Connecting with communities
We will improve relationships with families and communities, and work together to meet individual care and education needs.

Developing young people
We will engage with and listen to young people as we nurture their development in a way that provides a basis for lifelong learning.

Aiming for a better future
We will help young people gain the academic and social skills necessary to become capable, confident and productive members of society.

Our strategic objectives

We will be accountable to young people, families and communities throughout South Australia. We will be transparent about our levels of achievement. We will foster a culture of evaluation and review to better direct our services.

Access
There will be improved access to quality services, and the people using the services will have a say about how they are delivered.

Connections
Services will focus on the individual learning needs of young people from diverse cultural and social backgrounds, particularly Aboriginal people.

Early Foundation
Families and communities will have the confidence, knowledge and capacity to support the early development of their children.

Maximising Potential
Young people will have access to services that provide the opportunity for them to reach their potential.

Focus on Learning
Young people will be effective learners and will be supported to achieve their best.

Future Opportunity
Young people will be guided through learning pathways that equip them for citizenship, employment and a strong future within a globalised economy.

Supporting schools and preschools

All levels throughout DECS will support staff in schools and preschools to focus on the learning needs of young people. We will empower principals to lead, teachers to teach and children to learn.

Recognising schools and preschools
We will recognise, value and promote the status of teachers, child carers and public education.

Staying in touch
We will further develop and strengthen relationships with parents, teachers and other key stakeholders.

Business systems
We will cut ‘red tape’ inefficiencies, streamline administration tasks and improve IT systems to support school and preschool staff.
Organisational Commitments –
DECS Strategic Directions 2011

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<td>Access:</td>
<td>Schools and preschools will be more responsive to the needs of young people with a disability.</td>
<td>Including Aboriginal cultural studies in the school curriculum with involvement of Aboriginal people in design and delivery.</td>
<td>All children to have access to affordable, quality early childhood education in the year before formal schooling.</td>
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<td>Connections:</td>
<td>Increasing the engagement of families to be partners in their children’s learning.</td>
<td>Increasing the proportion of Aboriginal children reading at age-appropriate levels at the end of Year 1.</td>
<td>Quality early childhood education and care supports the workforce participation choices of parents with children in the year before formal schooling.</td>
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<td>Early Foundation:</td>
<td>Improving and expanding children’s centres.</td>
<td>Improving South Australia’s performance on the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI).</td>
<td>Children will benefit from better social inclusion and reduced disadvantage, especially Indigenous children.</td>
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- **DECS Strategic Priorities 2011**
  - Recognising schools and preschools: We will recognise, value and promote the status of teachers, child carers and public education.
  - Staying in touch: We will further develop and strengthen relationships with parents, teachers and other key stakeholders.
  - Business systems: We will cut ‘red tape’ inefficiencies, streamline administration tasks and improve IT systems to support school and preschool staff.

- **SA Strategic Plan Priorities**
  - All children to have access to affordable, quality early childhood education in the year before formal schooling.
  - Quality early childhood education and care supports the workforce participation choices of parents with children in the year before formal schooling.

- **National Priorities**
  - Children will benefit from better social inclusion and reduced disadvantage, especially Indigenous children.
  - Schooling promotes the social inclusion and reduces the educational disadvantage of children, especially Aboriginal children.
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- Addressing bullying, truancy and behaviour management
- Implementing the Australian Curriculum
- Working towards a whole-of-school approach to literacy
- There will be accelerated educational outcomes for young Aboriginal people
- Improving the number of children reading at an age-appropriate level by the end of Year 1
- Improving years 3, 5, 7 & 9 students’ performance against the national minimum standard in reading, writing and numeracy
- Increasing yearly the proportion of 15-19 year olds who achieve the SACE or comparable senior secondary qualification
- Increasing the proportion of students receiving a Tertiary Entrance Rank (TER) or equivalent in one or more of mathematics, physics or chemistry

- Children acquire the basic skills for life and learning
- All children are engaged and benefiting from schooling
- Young people are meeting the basic literacy and numeracy standards, and the overall levels of literacy and numeracy achievement are improving
- Australian students excel by international standards
- Young people make a successful transition from school to work and further study

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For copies of this and other strategic planning documents please visit www.decs.sa.gov.au/strategicplanning or call the DECS Policy Directorate on 8226 1000.

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