

# The AEDI Indigenous adaptation study

Sven Silburn<sup>1,2</sup>, Sally Brinkman<sup>2,3</sup>, Bonnie Moss<sup>1,2</sup>,  
Anne Hanning<sup>1,2</sup>, Sue Fergusson<sup>1</sup> & Adele Austin<sup>1</sup>

1. Menzies School of Health Research, Darwin
2. Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Perth
3. University of Adelaide, Adelaide

A partnership between



An Australian Government Initiative



# What is the AEDI?

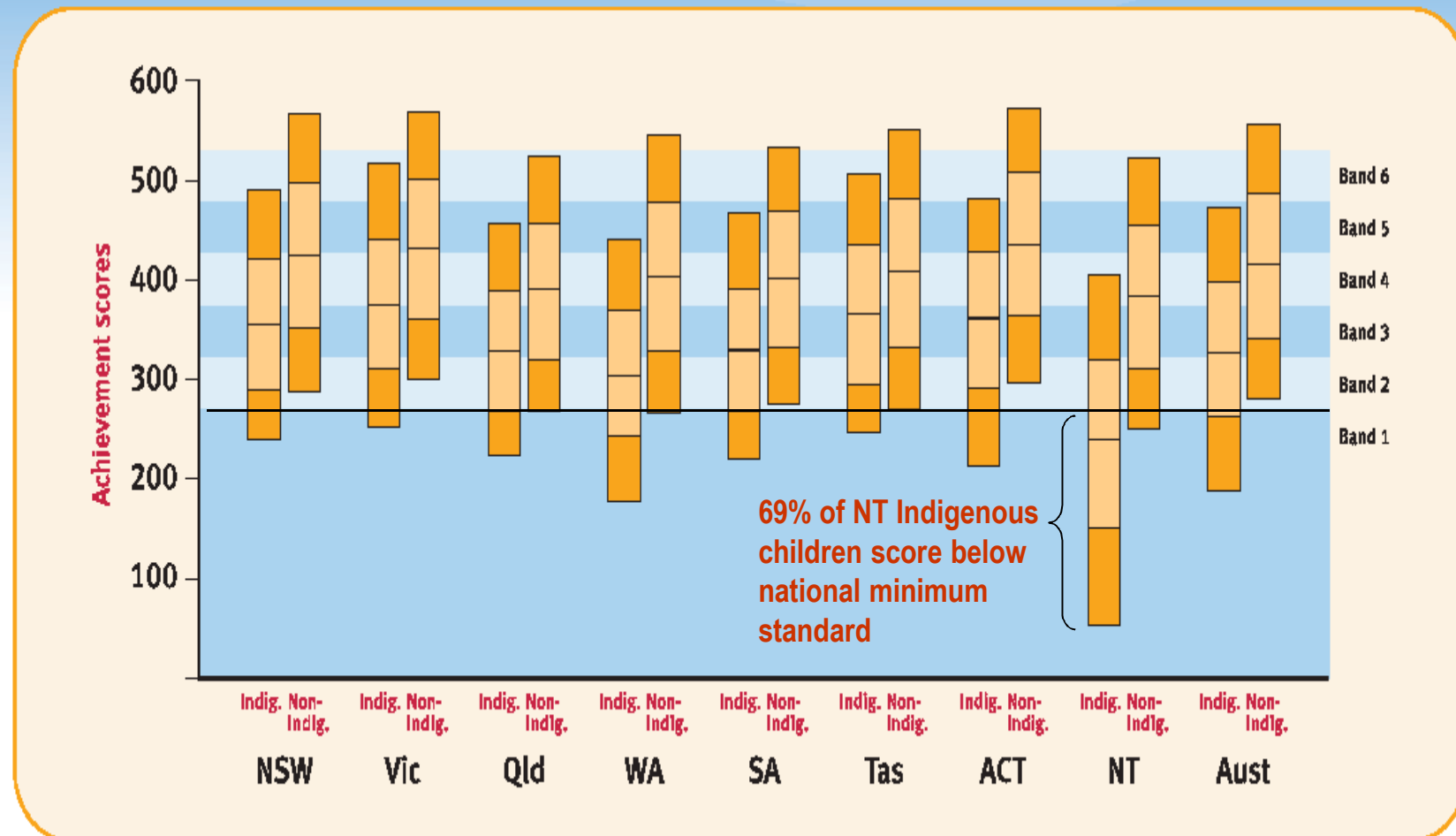
- The Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) is a community measure of young children's development.
- The AEDI Checklist consists of around 100 questions completed by the child's teacher based on their knowledge of the child
- It is designed for use with whole populations of children (based on geographical or administrative boundaries)
- The checklist was originally designed in Canada to measure child development between 4 and 6 years of age.



Australian Early Development Index  
Building better communities for children

# NAPLAN Year 3 Reading

Figure 3.R3: Achievement of Year 3 Students in Reading, by Indigenous Status, by State and Territory, 2009.



# Four converging strands of research...

## Brain development

- Extreme sensitivity of developing brain to effects of caretaking environment

## Life course

- What happens in early years impacts on outcomes later in life

## Ecology of early childhood

- Families and environments matter

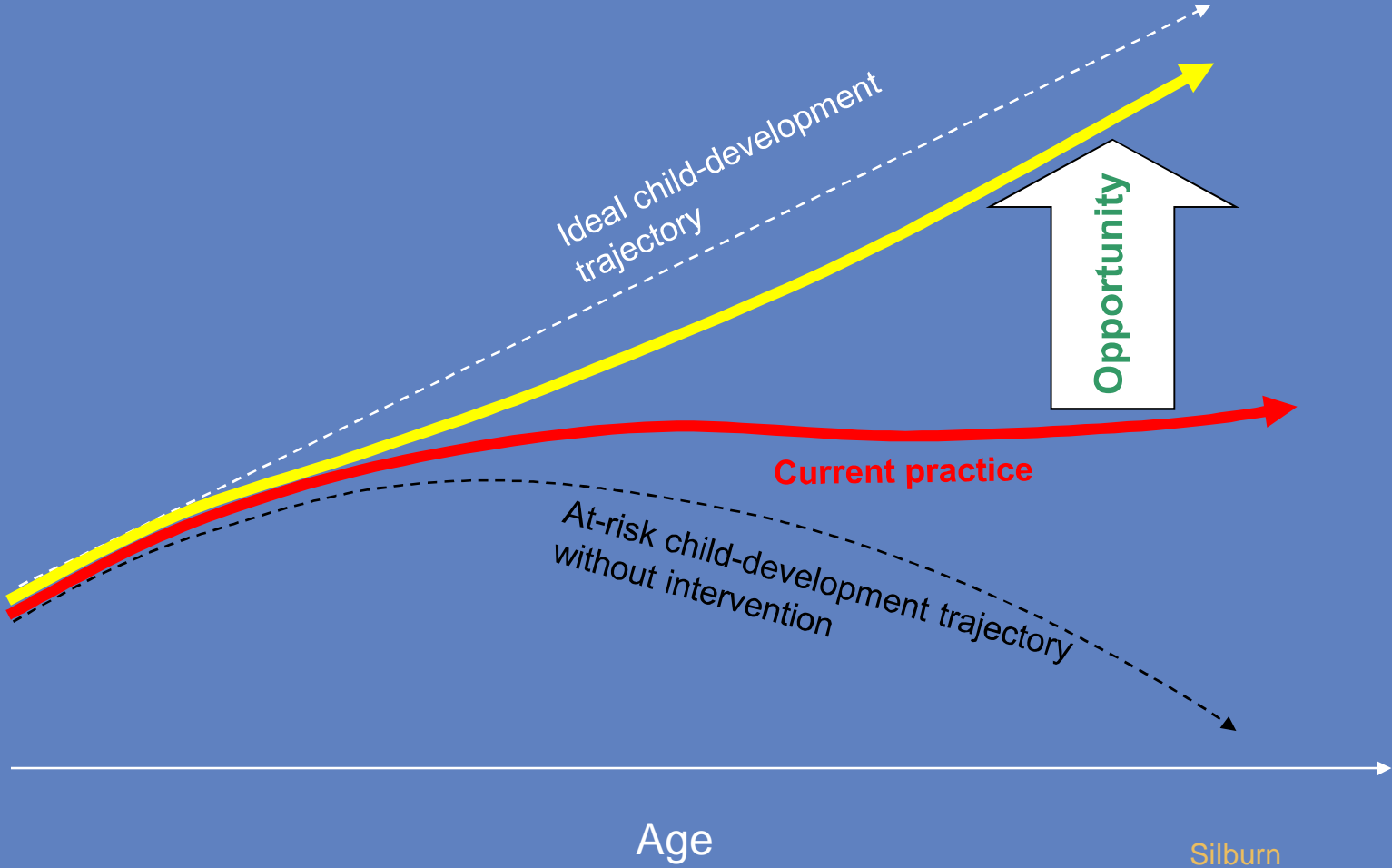
## Benefits of early childhood programs

- The best investment any society can make



Australian Early Development Index  
Building better communities for children.

# Developmental health - opportunity

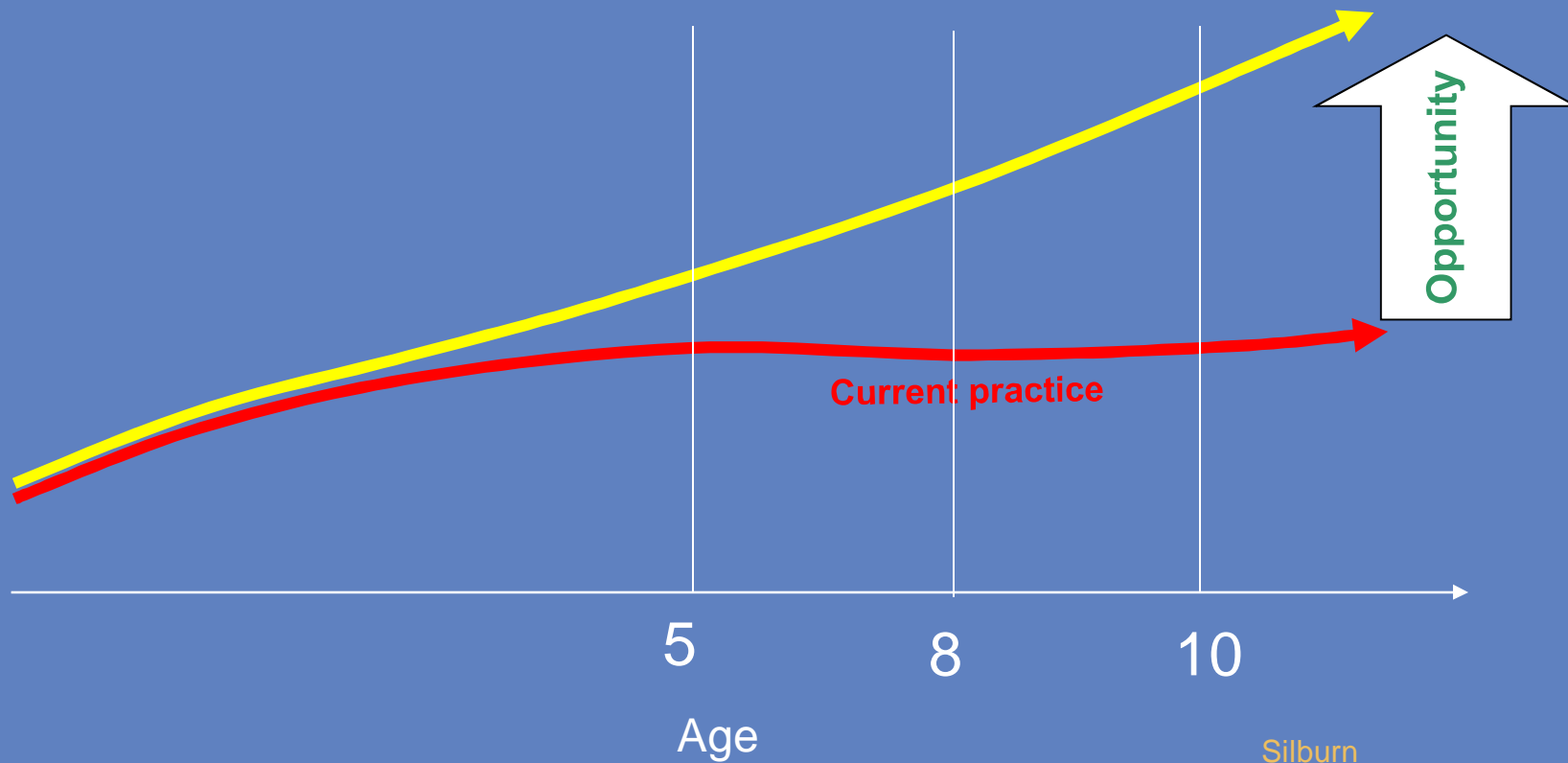


# Developmental health - opportunity

AEDI  
Developmental  
readiness for  
school learning

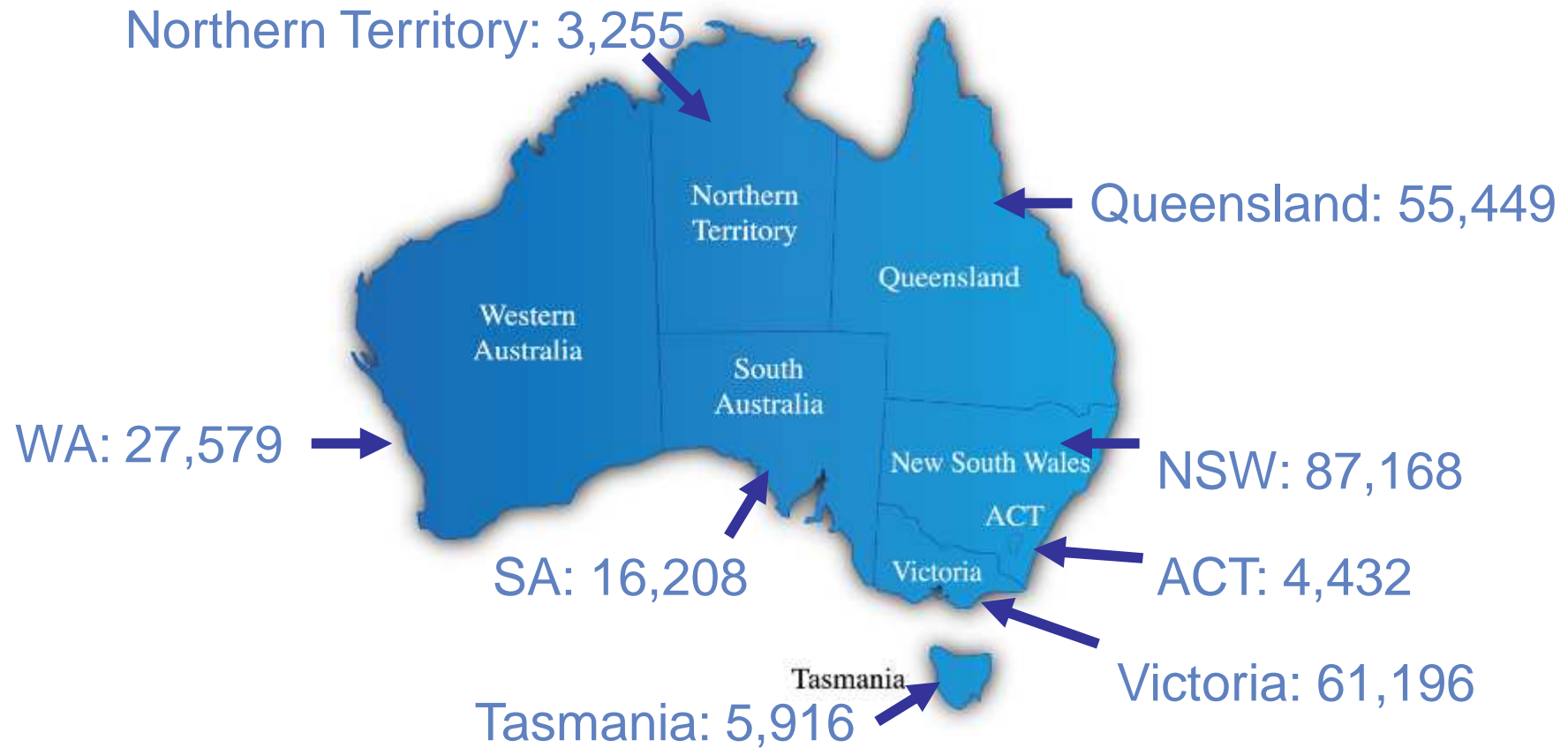
YR3  
NAPLAN  
Literacy &  
numeracy

YR5  
NAPLAN  
Literacy &  
numeracy



# 2009 snapshot of Australia's children: a developmental census of five year-olds

Northern Territory: 3,255



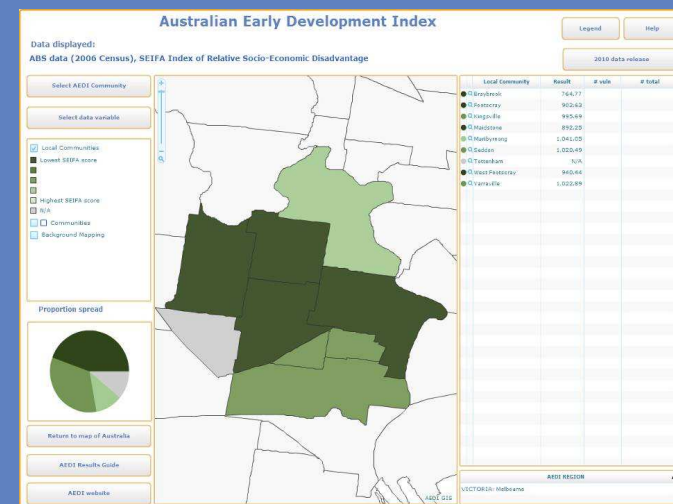
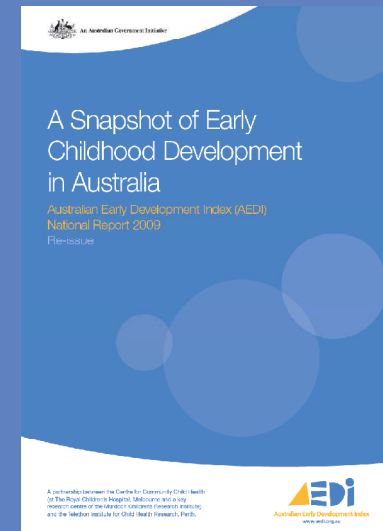
**Total = 261,203 children (97.5% of estimated population)**



Australian Early Development Index  
Building better communities for children

# Reporting the AEDI results

- **National results:**  
A Snapshot of Early Childhood Development in Australia (Dec 2009)
- **Community results:**  
AEDI Community Maps (Dec 2009)  
AEDI Community Profiles (May 2010)
- **School results:**  
AEDI School Profiles (Dec 2009)





# Supporting the AEDI Implementation and community use of local results

The screenshot shows the AEDI Results Guide website. At the top left is the AEDI logo (a stylized 'A' and 'E' in blue and orange) and the text 'Australian Early Development Index'. To the right are navigation tabs: 'Go to AEDI Results', 'Key Questions', 'Resources', 'Glossary', and 'Feedback'. Below these is a 'Results Guide' section with a dropdown menu under 'Key Questions' containing: 'Question to go here', 'Another one to go here', 'When one is highlighted it looks like', 'Then there is one here', and 'And just one more...'. The main content area features a welcome message: 'Welcome to the AEDI Results Guide. The Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) is a population measure of children's development. The three parts of the AEDI Results Guide will explain how to understand and then use the AEDI results in your community. Click the circle '1: Understanding' to learn about the AEDI and how to understand your community's results.' Below this is a large graphic with three numbered circles: '2 Engaging' (with sub-points: 'Engaging your community', 'Coming in March 2010'), '1 Understanding' (with sub-points: 'About the AEDI', 'What influences children's development', 'How to understand the AEDI results'), and '3 Planning' (with sub-points: 'Planning actions in your community', 'Coming in March 2010'). The graphic also includes images of three children on the left and one child on the right. At the bottom right of the graphic is a 'START' button with a right-pointing arrow. The footer contains logos for 'An Australian Government Initiative', 'Child Health Research', 'Murdoch Childrens Research Institute', and 'The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne Centre for Community Child Health'.

**AEDI**  
Australian Early Development Index

Go to AEDI Results | Key Questions | Resources | Glossary | Feedback

Question to go here  
Another one to go here  
When one is highlighted it looks like  
Then there is one here  
And just one more...

**Results Guide**

Welcome to the AEDI Results Guide. The Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) is a population measure of children's development. The three parts of the AEDI Results Guide will explain how to understand and then use the AEDI results in your community. Click the circle '1: Understanding' to learn about the AEDI and how to understand your community's results.

**2 Engaging**  
> Engaging your community  
Coming in March 2010

**1 Understanding**  
> About the AEDI  
> What influences children's development  
> How to understand the AEDI results

**3 Planning**  
> Planning actions in your community  
Coming in March 2010

**START**

An Australian Government Initiative | Child Health Research | Murdoch Childrens Research Institute | The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne Centre for Community Child Health

# Changing the social discourse on early childhood development



Australian Early Development Index  
Building better communities for children

# Today's Presentation

- Share the work undertaken in the Aboriginal Adaptation Study of the AEDI
- Communication Approach
- Resources under development



Australian Early Development Index  
Building better communities for children

# NT Work :Communication

Culture is the lens people use and see their children through, communication around what influences development is a key starting point

- Communities are overwhelmed by more negative news, they want to know what is and can be done to give children the ‘best start’



Australian Early Development Index  
Building better communities for children

# The AEDI Measures

- *PHYSICAL KID*
- *SOCIAL KID*
- *FEELING KID*
- *TALKING & THINKING KID*
- *CULTURAL KID*



Australian Early Development Index  
Building better communities for children



# Resources under development

- *'Cultural Eye'* communication resource and activities

We need to develop a clear strong story about AEDI and what stories it has to share ( western child development story about domains and benefits of building babies brains, ecological model, investment in the early years)  
Main aim is to improve community and of what Aboriginal children and young people need to develop in healthy ways.



Australian Early Development Index  
Building better communities for children

## DVD

Production of a DVD discussion resource a longer story (evidence based) and community workshop which outline what “ prompts, facilitates & constrains” child development

## TV Community Service Announcements

Key message *Its just so important*

Early Years, nutrition and breastfeeding, building brains & bodies, growing in strong caring relationships, early language and connections



Australian Early Development Index  
Building better communities for children





© Anne Hanning-Kangwarre





Australian Early Development Index  
Building better communities for children

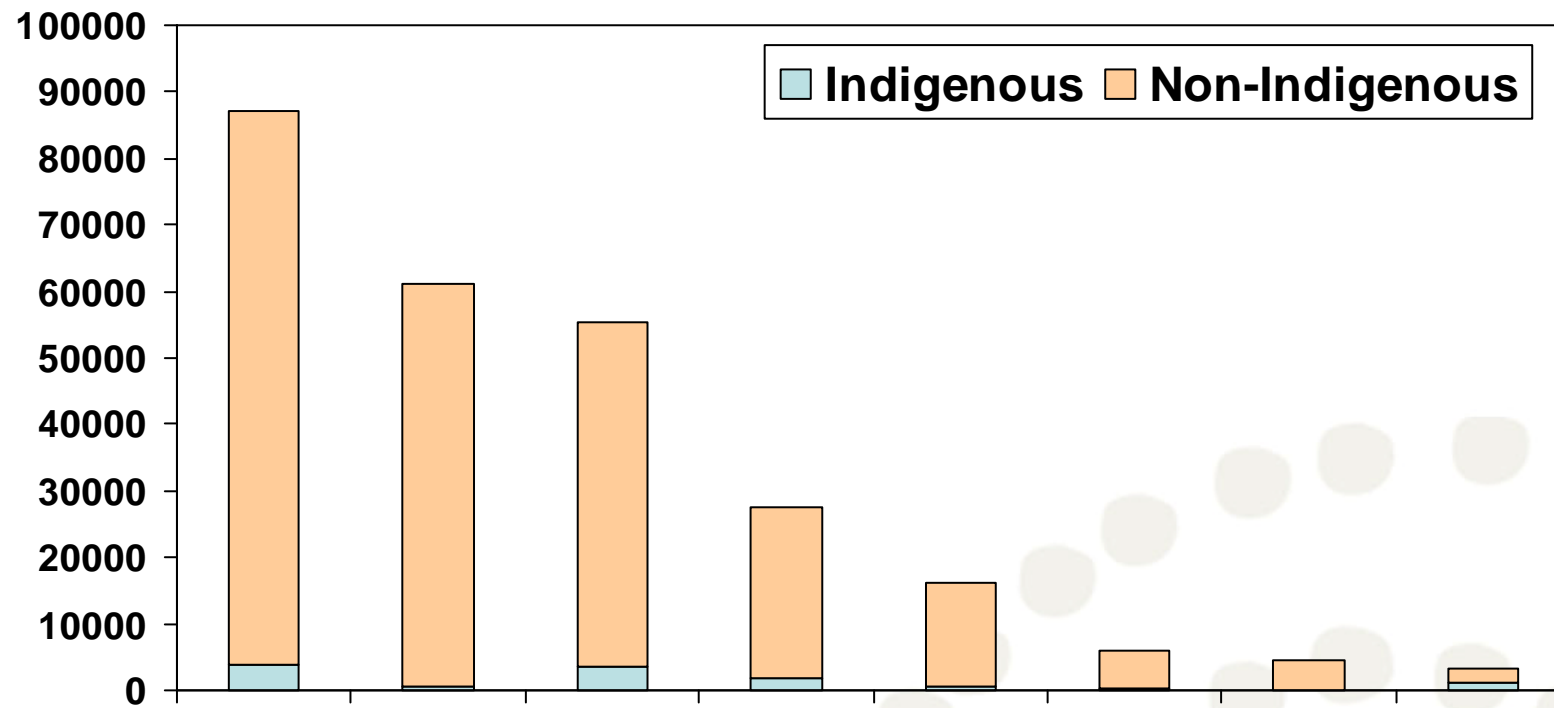
# Why these resources?

- Encourage dialogue around awareness and education for the early years
- Provide mentoring opportunities about 'evidence based brain development'
- Emphasise what parents/communities 'can do'
- Protect against toxic / harmful environment



Australian Early Development Index  
Building better communities for children

# Children's Indigenous status by State & Territory (AEDI national sample - mean age 5 yr 7 mo )



	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT
<b>% Indigenous</b>	4.5%	1.1%	6.7%	6.5%	3.8%	4.8%	2.5%	40.5%
<b>% LBOTE</b>	4.4%	6.8%	25.5%	36.2%	36.6%	1.8%	18.3%	77.7%

# Languages spoken by the 22.3% of Indigenous children who speak languages other than English at home



## Other Indigenous languages (15%)

Walmajarri (0.8%)

Wik Mungkan (1.0%)

Luritja (1.1%)

Nyungar (1.6%)

Martu Wangka (1.6%)

Kalaw Kawaw (1.7%)

Alyawarr (2.1%)

Djambarrpuyngu (2.6%)

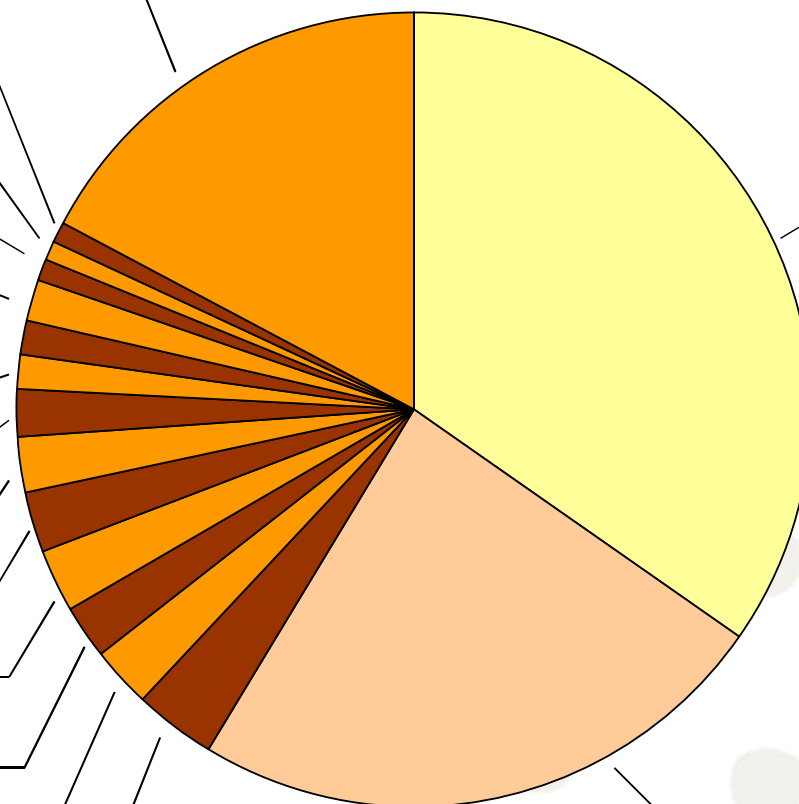
YoIngu Matha (2.6%)

Pitantjatjara (2.7%)

Walpiri (2.7%)

Arrernte (2.8%)

Torres Strait Creole (3.6%)



Aboriginal English (35%)

Kriol/Creole(24%)



# Key Findings



## Percentage of children developmentally vulnerable (DV) across Australia by jurisdiction

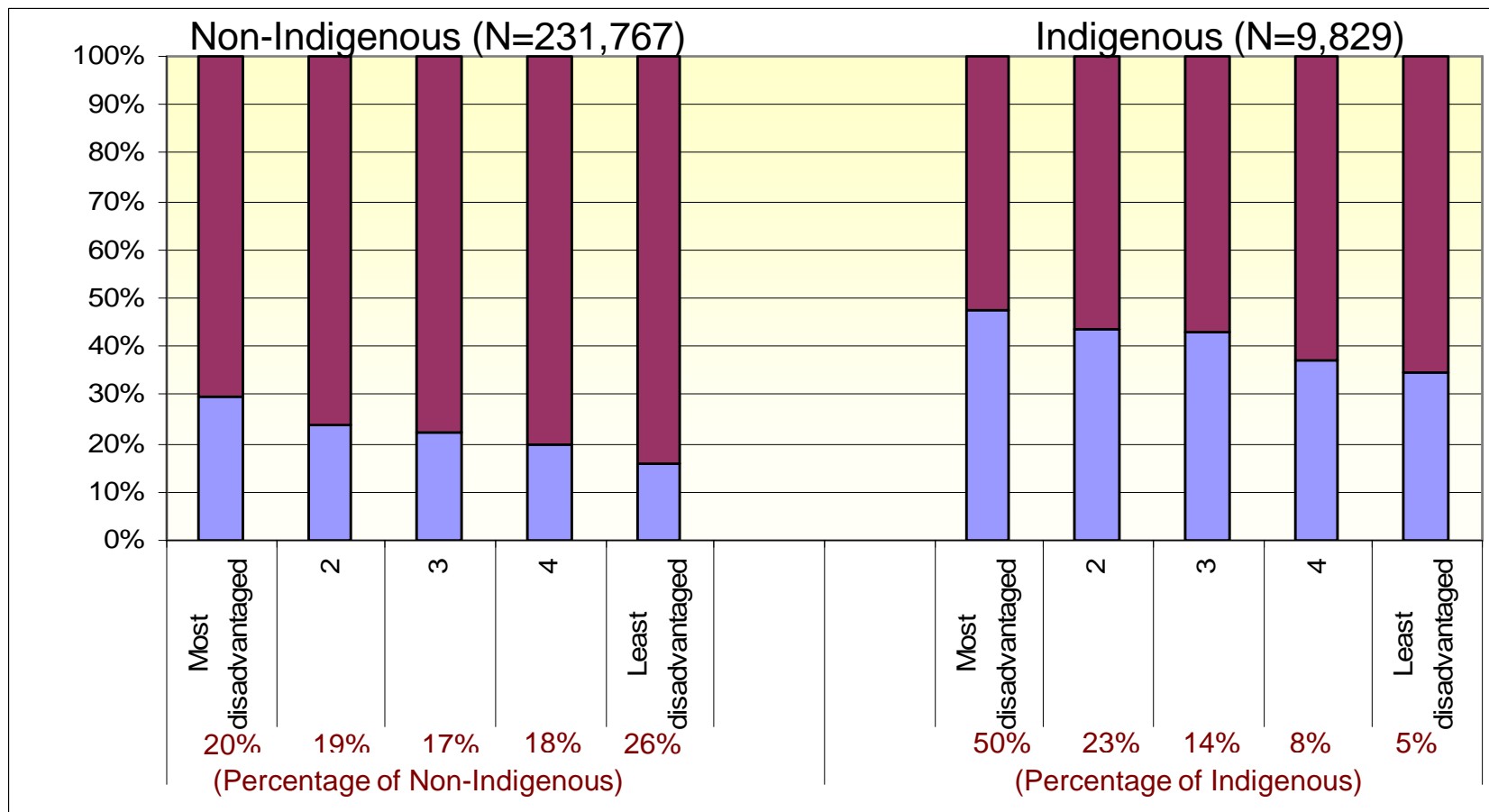
	DV on one or more domains (%)	DV on two or more domains (%)
<b>Australia</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>11.7</b>
New South Wales	21.2	10.2
Victoria	20.1	9.9
Queensland	29.2	15.6
Western Australia	24.3	12.0
South Australia	22.5	11.4
Tasmania	21.7	10.8
Northern Territory	36.3	22.1
Australian Capital Territory	21.9	10.8

## Results: subpopulations



		Vulnerable on $\geq 2$ domains (%)
<b>Australia</b>		<b>11.8</b>
Gender	Girls	7.4
	Boys	16.2
Indigenous		29.5
LBOTE		16.7
	Prof in English	9.4
	Not prof in English	58.3
English only		10.8
	Prof in English	8.7
	Not prof in English	74.8

# Social gradients in the developmental status of Australian children on entry to primary school



Blue = Vulnerable on one or more AEDI domains,  
 Purple = 'On Track' - no vulnerability on any AEDI domain

# Mapping community resources for child development

Rate the following resources for children in your community (1=very poor, 2=poor, 3=adequate, 4=good & 5=excellent)

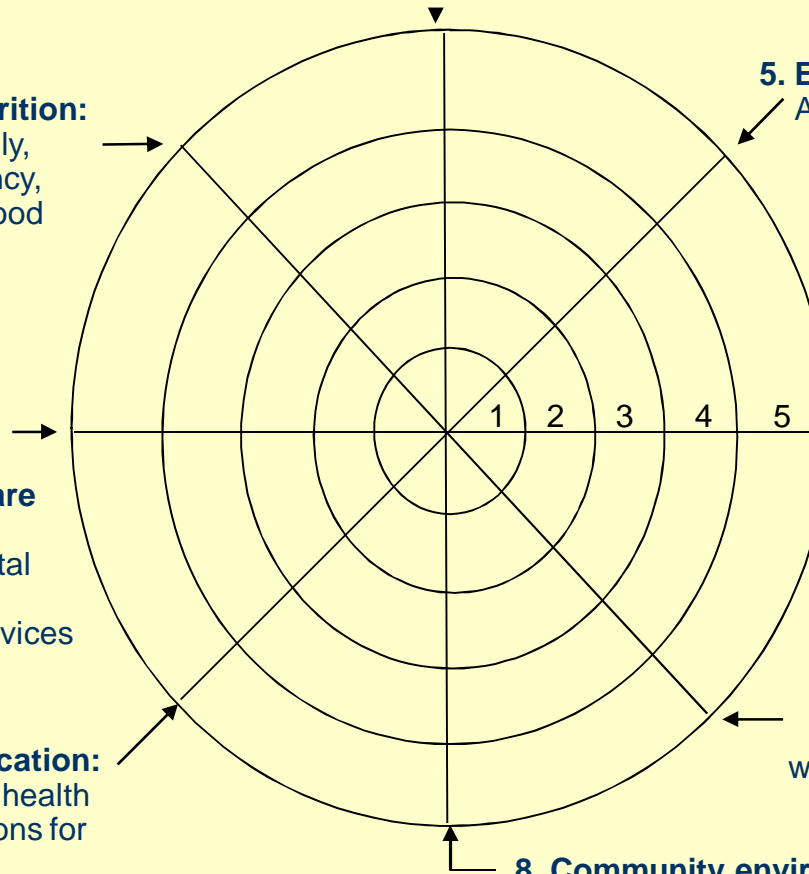
**Community resources supporting healthy child development**

**4. Responsive families & parenting:** Secure attachment, interactive care; safety and monitoring, stimulation of language, cognitive & social skills

**3. Healthy nutrition:** pre-conceptually, during pregnancy, infancy, childhood & through adolescence

**2. Maternal & child health care**  
Reproductive health, ante-natal care, maternal & children's services

**1. Parents' education:** Parental health, health literacy, aspirations for their children



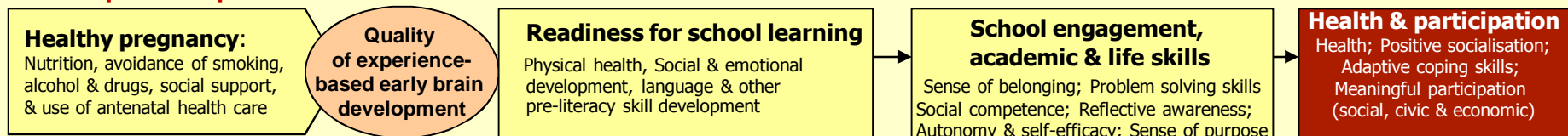
**5. Early childhood care & family support:** Access to good quality day-care, play-based pre-literacy activities & learning, family & parenting support

**6. Parents involvement with school & child's learning:** Aspirations & encouragement school of attendance and participation

**7. Responsive schools** i.e. High expectations, engaging curriculum, opportunities for skill development & responsibility, acknowledgement of achievements, provide for students with special needs

**8. Community environment supportive of child-rearing**  
Absence of poverty & violence, availability of affordable & nutritious food; commitment to family & child well-being

## Developmental processes







**Thank you**

For more information visit  
[www.australianedi.org.au](http://www.australianedi.org.au)