



Latest news and more

Welcome to the second edition of the Department for Communities' Children and Family Services Division regular email updates. Thank you to all who provided feedback on our first email update sent in December 2008 which focused on the COAG early childhood agenda.

Two common themes in the feedback were that readers appreciated the COAG update, and would also like more information on other related issues for children and families and the work of the Department for Communities. As a result we have expanded the focus of the updates to encompass the work of the Children and Family Services Division. This and future updates will include information on COAG and early childhood more generally, issues for older children, parenting and children's services

We look forward to receiving further feedback. Please feel free to circulate to your networks.

Parenting WA

Minister McSweeney officiated at the launch of **Parenting WA** which brings together the previous Parent Help Centre and regional parenting services.

This new initiative has a broader role and will be the "first port of call" for families wanting information about parenting, early years programs and child care services. The phone line support (6279 1200 or 1800 654 432) provides a valuable service and in addition there is an excellent library that provides a free home postal delivery service.

A state wide strategic plan will be developed in consultation with external stakeholders and this will see the service re-developed as a contemporary and high profile resource centre for practitioners and service providers. More at www.parenting.wa.gov.au.

Reminder of the **free** forum on **Integrated child and family centers**

Presented by
Dr Susan Irvine, CEO of The Gowrie,
Queensland

When : Wednesday 4 February

Where: The Theatre at the
Alexander Library Building,
Francis Street
Northbridge

Afternoon tea: from 3pm

Seminar: 3.30 to 5pm

Click on the highlighted and underlined words in this update to find out more information.

More news on the **Early Years Learning Framework**

The revised draft Early Years Learning Framework has now been written, after broad and inclusive consultation. This framework links to the development of National Quality Standards and it is anticipated that trials of the framework will begin in the near future. There will be a total of 29 trial sites throughout Australia, with 4 in WA and will occur in school based kindergartens, child care services and an Indigenous service.

The centres trialling the framework will be supported by Charles Sturt University and it is planned that the framework will be implemented by July 2009.

Practitioners will be able to register for an on-line forum through the DEEWR website to access the framework and provide feedback on its' implementation. It will be a managed Blog site for those interested in being involved.

For more information go to www.deewr.gov.au/eylf

Removal of TAFE fees

From 2009 TAFE fees will be waived for students enrolling in TAFE delivered Diplomas & Advanced Diplomas of Children's Services. More at www.tafe.wa.edu.au.

2009 Western Australian Childcare and Early Childhood Education Conference

"Quality and Collaboration Matter"

The Department for Communities congratulates CHILD Australia, YMCA Perth and Edith Cowan University for bringing together the exciting program for the conference to be held in Perth on
3rd - 5th April.

Keynote speakers will be –

- **Prof Ron Lally**, Centre for Child and Family Studies, West Ed, San Francisco
- **Prof Jane Bertrand**, School Early Childhood, George Brown, Toronto
- **Prof Frank Oberklaid**, Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne
- **Dr. Jennifer Sumsion**, Early Childhood, Charles Sturt, Bathurst

The opening address will be by **Maxine McKew MP**, Parliamentary Secretary for Early Childhood Education and Child Care.

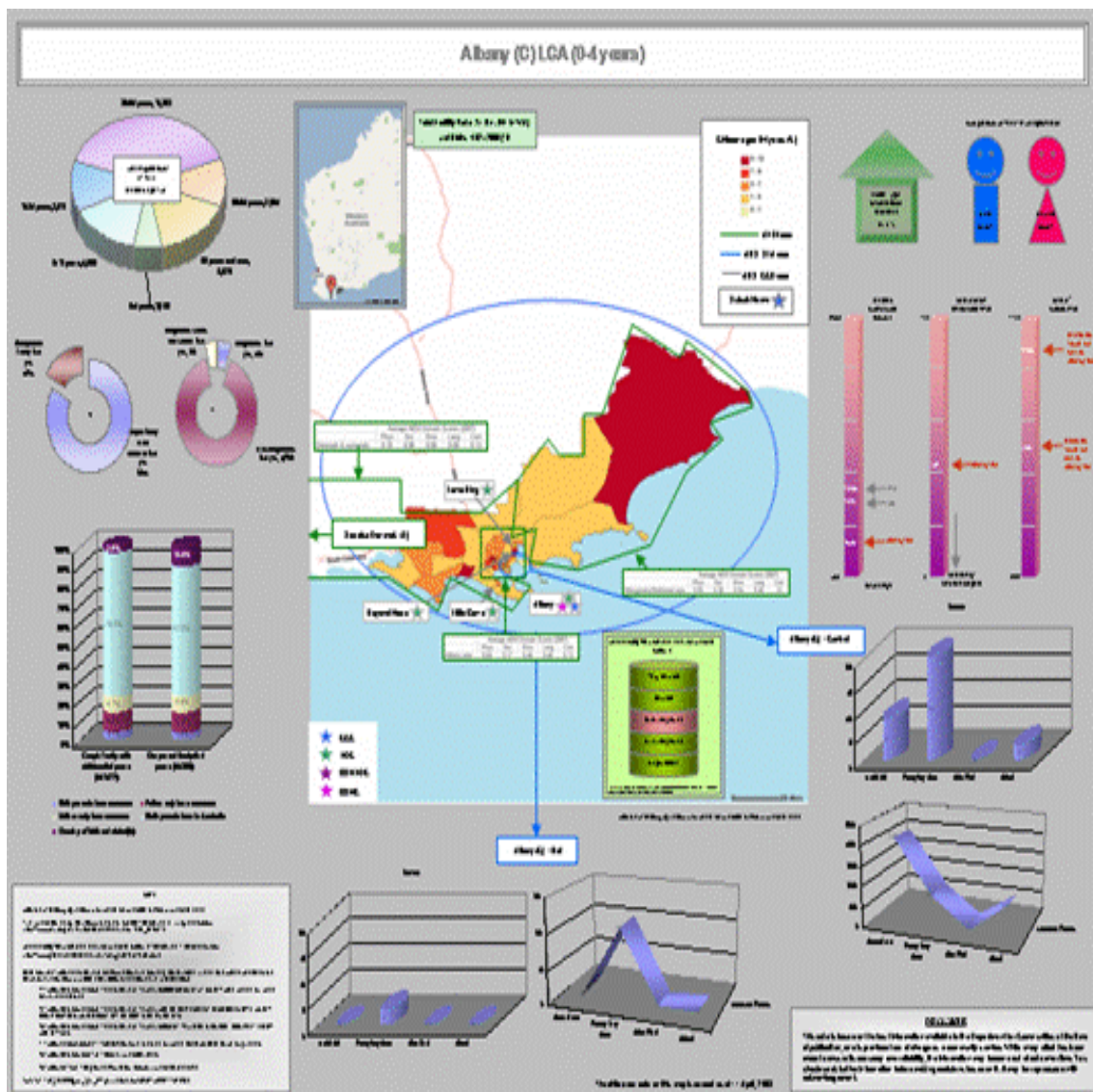
For further details go to www.waecec.com.au

Children and Families Mapping

The Children and Family Services Division at the Department for Communities is working on a Social Mapping project for all local government areas in Western Australia. The maps developed are in two categories; children aged 0-4 and those aged 5-14 years.

Social Mapping is a tool to improve the quality of life in communities by providing an overview of a community at a certain point in time. This overview typically includes demographics, family composition, CALD, socio-economic data, local services etc. This can then provide the basis for future action plans for a community.

The following is **sample** of the Division's Social Maps. In the near future this information will be readily available through our website for the children and family services sector.



Categories that will be shown on the maps include

- Population age breakdown
- Fertility
- AEDI scores
- Family composition
- Parental birth country
- Indigenous
- Education level
- Tenure of housing
- SEIFA rank
- Medium income
- Accessibility/remoteness index
- Location of ;
 - Child Care centres
 - Family Day Care
 - OSHC Family Day Care
 - Outside School Hours Care

Metropolitan Child Care Services New Applicant Assessment process

A three month pilot is being trialled in the metro area to streamline the child care licence assessment process. Applicants can attend different locations at a variety of times. The goal is to increase industry support by Children Services Officers by reducing the time they currently spend conducting assessments. For more information telephone 0437 151714.

This is the second in a series of Early Childhood Updates.

Have we got it right? Send feedback or questions to judith.kenny@communities.wa.gov.au.

Copies of this update are available on the Departments' website at www.communities.wa.gov.au

You are also welcome to email or make copies and distribute to your networks