

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Plan 2010-2014
Information and resources**

Longitudinal Studies on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (including details of early childhood education and care)

Source	Relevant research undertaken, or documents/resources available	Details
New South Wales	<p>Childcare choices of Indigenous families</p> <p><i>Researchers:</i> Jennifer Bowes and Rosalind Kitson Children and Families Research Centre, Institute of Early Childhood, Macquarie University</p> <p><i>Web link:</i> http://www.iec.mq.edu.au/research/cfrc/research_approaches/education_giftedness_disadvantage/child_care_choices_of_indigenous_families/</p>	<p>This longitudinal study was commissioned by the Department of Family and Community Services in 2004 to look at the care choices of Aboriginal families in urban, regional and remote New South Wales. It was undertaken by researchers from Macquarie University and Charles Sturt University and concluded in 2010.</p> <p>There were 107 families involved in the study, including 309 children across the three urban, five rural and four remote study sites.</p> <p>Themes in the research included the emphasis that many Aboriginal families place on learning at home and the strong cultural attachment to this type of learning, and that many who participated in the study were unaware of the breadth of services available to them.</p>

Queensland and Victoria	<p>E4Kids – Effective Early Educational Experiences</p> <p><u>Researchers:</u> Professor Collette Tayler, University of Melbourne, Professor Karen Thorpe, Queensland University of Technology</p> <p><u>Web link :</u> http://www.e4kids.org.au/</p>	<p>This is a five year Australian Research Council Linkage Partnership longitudinal study which is examining the impacts over time of pre-prep educational experiences on the cognitive, social, emotional and physical development of children. The study involves approximately 3,000 children and their families across Victoria and Queensland. The research includes a sub-sample of several Indigenous children and their families in the greater Mt Isa area. The study commenced in 2010 and will conclude in 2014 when the participating children will complete Year 3. Initial findings are available from the E4Kids web site (under Research Bulletins) and further findings will be released as the study continues over the next two and a half years.</p>
South Australia	<p>South Australian Aboriginal 3YO programme/Family Literacy/ Learning Together</p> <p><u>Web link :</u> http://www.earlyyears.sa.edu.au/pages/Programs</p>	<p>The Aboriginal 3YO program that began in 2005 has a focus on learning and literacy for three year old Aboriginal children. At the end of 2011, after analysis of the data to date, the focus of the program changed to <i>Family Literacies</i>. This strength based approach draws on and develops in local contexts, the work of <i>Learning Together</i>. <i>Learning Together</i> is a support program for families with children from birth to four years of age. Children learn about literacy from the moment they are born. Parents and other family members play an important role in helping children learn. In <i>Learning Together</i> family members work with early childhood teachers in child and family friendly settings to support their child’s learning. This program is accessed by many Aboriginal families.</p>

Tasmania	<p><i>Launching into Learning (LiL) Longitudinal Study 2007-2014 Progress Report 2010</i></p> <p><u>Researchers:</u> Department of Education, Tasmania</p> <p><u>Web link :</u> http://www.education.tas.gov.au/_data/sets/pdf_file/0003/350580/2009_LiL_Report_FINAL.pdf</p>	<p>The Launching into Learning Longitudinal (LiL) Study 2007-2014 Progress Report 2011 is part of the ongoing longitudinal study of the Launching into Learning (LiL) program. It is a progress report that concentrates on the 2009 LiL cohort, the third cohort to be evaluated. The longer term impact of LiL will be evaluated in the future through NAPLAN results for these LiL cohorts.</p> <p>This study, looked at 1235 students who regularly participated in LiL programs in 2009 across 114 schools, and the effect their participation had on their performance at Government schools as measured by the Kindergarten Development Check (KDC), Performance Indicators in Primary Schools (PIPS) in 2011. In the future Year 3 National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results will also be included in the study.</p>
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<p>Australian Government</p>	<p>Footprints in Time: The Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children (LSIC)</p> <p><i>Web links:</i> http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/about-fahcsia/publications-articles/research-publications/longitudinal-data-initiatives/footprints-in-time-the-longitudinal-study-of-indigenous-children-lsic</p> <p>Research material using LSIC data: http://flosse.fahcsia.gov.au/.</p>	<p>The Longitudinal Study of Indigenous Children (LSIC) is an initiative of the Australian Government, managed by the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), under the guidance of the <i>Footprints in Time</i> Steering Committee. Funding for this study is ongoing.</p> <p>The LSIC is a long-term research project following two groups of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (1,677 aged between 6 to 18 months and 3½ - 4½ years in 2008) and their families from 11 sites across Australia.</p> <p>The main objective of the study is to follow the children throughout their childhood and teenage years to improve understanding of, and policy response to, the diverse circumstances faced by these children, their families and communities. It collects data every year from parents or carers of the participant children covering: (i) children’s environment and services such as child care, education, health; and (ii) developmental outcomes, such as health, social and cognitive development. Data collection for Wave 4 was completed in 2011.</p> <p>The first LSIC Research Conference was held in conjunction with the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) in November 2011. Findings from the latest wave were presented on a range of topics including preschool participation, school readiness and educational outcomes. Research materials using LSIC data can be accessed via FaHCSIA’s Longitudinal Surveys’ Electronic (FLoSse) Research Archive.</p>
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<p>Australian Government</p>	<p>Growing Up in Australia: The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC)</p> <p><i>Management Partnership:</i> The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS), and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) with advice from a consortium of leading child development experts from across Australia.</p> <p><i>Web links:</i> Main Study Website: http://www.aifs.gov.au/growingup/</p> <p>Research material using LSAC data: http://flosse.fahcsia.gov.au/</p>	<p>The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children (LSAC) is another initiative of the Australian Government managed by FaHCSIA.</p> <p>It is a national study of 10,000 children (aged 3-19 months and 4-5 years old when the study began in 2004) and their families across Australia, and funding for this study is also ongoing. Wave 4 data was released in September 2011. Wave 5 data collection is taking place in 2012 with a large number of new items for the adolescents in the older cohort, including items on mental health, employment, relationships and technology.</p> <p>In 2011 LSAC/LSIC Research Conference covered a wide range of topics and presented findings from the latest wave of interviews. Summary data is also presented in an Annual Statistical report. Note that the Indigenous sample in LSAC is not fully representative due to the exclusion of remote areas, and the rate of attrition in later waves has been high compared with the non-Indigenous sample. Whilst LSAC has a fairly small sample of indigenous children (just over 400) they can be tracked over time.</p>
	<p>Study of Environment of Aboriginal Resilience and Child Health (SEARCH)</p> <p><i>Researchers:</i> The SAX Institute</p> <p><i>Web links:</i> http://www.saxinstitute.org.au/researchassetsprograms/ImprovingAboriginalHealththroughResearch/SEARCH.cfm?objid=410.</p>	<p>SEARCH is a longitudinal study of the health of urban Aboriginal children attending Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services. It is designed to describe the health and disease trajectories of these children, to identify precursors of health and disease and critical periods of intervention. This information is essential for the development of effective early intervention programs to improve adverse trajectories.</p> <p>To date, data collection has been completed from 1372 children aged 0-17 years and 597 parents/carers. Analysis on factors relevant to school readiness, health and developmental outcomes is currently underway.</p>