The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) measures the development and learning of around 300,000 children aged 0-5 across Australia across five domains: language and cognitive skills; communication and general knowledge; emotional maturity; social competence; and physical health and wellbeing. Results from the 2021 collection cycle show that the language and cognitive skills domain has seen the most significant shift.

**National Percentage of Children Developmentally Vulnerable***

- **Physical health and wellbeing**: 9.6% in 2018, 9.8% in 2021
- **Social competence**: 9.6% in 2018, 9.8% in 2021
- **Emotional maturity**: 8.4% in 2018, 8.5% in 2021
- **Language and cognitive skills (school-based)**: 6.6% in 2018, 7.3% in 2021
- **Communication skills and general knowledge**: 8.2% in 2018, 8.4% in 2021

*Developmentally vulnerable' means children are facing some significant challenges in their development.

Between 2018 and 2021, there has been an increase in the % of children classified as developmentally vulnerable in the language and cognitive skills domain for all equity groups identified by the AEDC.