

# Empowering Young Minds

## Report Card on Australia's Education System

### Where Australia is doing well:



- High participation in early childhood education (ECEC) with **90% of four-year-olds** enrolled.



- Development of a **comprehensive Early Years Strategy**.



- **Above-average performance** in international assessments (PISA).



- Strong reading habits in children aged 5-14, with **72% reading for pleasure**.



- **High attainment rates in Year 12, vocational, and tertiary education**.

### Where Australia is lagging:



- **Unequal ECEC access** for disadvantaged and remote communities.



- **Severe workforce shortages** in ECEC services.



- **One in three students not proficient** in literacy or numeracy (NAPLAN 2024).



- **Declining school attendance** rates (down to 89% for Years 1-10)



- **High stress among teenagers**. School stress is the top concern for 15-19-year-olds



## Top 3 challenges

1. **Cost-of-Living Crisis:** 761,000 children below the poverty line.
2. **Climate Change:** Disruptions from natural disasters affecting education and wellbeing.
3. **Digital Divide:** 50% of low-income families lack digital devices.

## Top 5 areas for action

1. **Holistic Education Reform:** Align with Reinventing Australian Schools principles.
2. **Tackle Inequality:** Ensure all children, especially in disadvantaged communities, access quality education.
3. **Support Wellbeing:** Strengthen connections between schools, health services, and communities.
4. **Address Cost-of-Living Impact:** Provide targeted support to low-income families.
5. **Improve Early Childhood Education Access:** Build universal access to quality early education.

