Position Description

Lead, Country Education Strategy

Why work with us

Every child and young person deserves a great education.

We have a strategy that aims to unlock every child's potential now and into the future, one that in partnership with learners, students, parents and the wider South Australian community will build a world-leading public education system. One that is equitable and prioritises learning and wellbeing.

Together we will make our education system the best it can be.

When our children and young people thrive, so do our communities and our state.

Our values

We are part of the South Australian public sector and share the values of:

SERVICE	PROFESSIONALISM	TRUST	RESPECT	COLLABORATION & ENGAGEMENT	HONESTY & INTEGRITY	COURAGE & TENACITY	SUSTAINABILITY
We proudly service the community and the South Australian Government.	We strive for excellence.	We have the confidence in the ability of others.	We value every individual.	We create solutions together.	We act truthfully, consistently, and fairly.	We never give up.	We work to get the best results for current and future generations of South Australians.

About this role

The Country Education Strategy sets out our vision for country education where every child and young person across our diverse state receives an education that allows them to grow, learn, and thrive.

The Strategic Policy Directorate is a team of respected advisers and analysts who combine perspective, direction, and rigorous policy thinking to improve outcomes for children and young people. We collaborate across the department to identify and shape existing and emerging policy issues and opportunities in public education in South Australia. We also support the department in high-quality strategic policy design, implementation, and evaluation.

Reporting to the Director, Strategic Policy, the Lead, Country Education Strategy is responsible for providing high-level policy leadership and program management to achieve impact under the Country Education Strategy. The position will work across the department to ensure the specific needs of country education are considered as part of broader strategies, plans and reforms.

The position will lead engagement with country education stakeholders to ensure diverse country voices

are central to strategic policy decisions.

Position title	Lead, Country Education Strategy
Classification	ASO8
Division	Strategic Policy and External Relations
Directorate	Strategic Policy
Location	31 Flinders Street, Adelaide, with flexible working arrangements available
Reports to	Director, Strategic Policy
Direct reports	Up to 2
Role description date	September 2024

What you will do (key outcomes)

1. Lead the provision of high-quality analysis and advice on a range of policy issues and complex matters connected with current and future opportunities to improve country education in South Australia.
2. Establish and maintain a range of strategic relationships and collaborative partnerships across the department, including with the Country Education Reference Group to embed a country focus, shape and implement reforms and design future approaches.
3. Provide holistic advice to the Chief Executive, Strategy Sponsor and other executives on the strategic approach to improving country education in South Australia.
4. Identify opportunities and drive strategic alignment of reform and other relevant departmental and governmental strategies, programs or services which impact country.
5. Provide reflective leadership of a small team including, including embedding cultural responsiveness in ways of thinking and working.
6. Provide overarching management of the Country Education Strategy across the department, including advice to the Director, Strategic Policy and the Strategy Sponsor on implementation progress, budget expenditure, issues, risks and opportunities.
7. Lead or represent the department in various committees and working groups, engaging with intra-agency, interagency, intergovernmental, and external partners as needed.
8. Help to maintain a safe and healthy working environment by proactively reporting incidents, hazards and injuries.

The capabilities you will bring (key competencies)

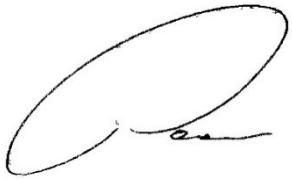
- Research and evaluation: A track record of conducting thorough research and analysis on complex issues, delivering evidence-based, strategically aligned advice that is clearly articulated and effectively communicated.
- Communication and stakeholder engagement: Exceptional interpersonal skills, with a proven ability to engage, consult, and negotiate with senior government officials on sensitive issues to achieve strategic objectives.

- **Expert advice**: Extensive experience in providing concise, thoughtful, and actionable advice to senior executives, ensuring clarity and strategic alignment.
- **Discipline knowledge**: Proficiency in operating within policy frameworks, demonstrating innovative thinking, creativity, and the ability to exercise independent judgment with significant delegated authority.
- **Leading work**: Demonstrated leadership in managing work programs, task allocation, and team motivation to meet objectives in a dynamic environment, adapting to shifting priorities without sacrificing quality. Knowledge of contemporary education issues, trends and policies, including knowledge of departmental policy, education systems nationally and internationally.
- **Safe work practice**: Demonstrated knowledge of and commitment to promoting and creating a safe and inclusive work environment, and the legislative requirements of Equal Opportunity and Work Health and Safety legislation.

Who you will work with (key relationships)	Qualifications
Direct working relationship: • Reports to Director, Strategic Policy • Strategy Sponsor (Chief Operating Officer) • Executive Director, Strategic Policy and External Relations • Executive and policy leads • Country Education Reference Group members • Schools and preschools Internal working relationships: • Strategic Policy and External Relations • Other departmental Divisions, Directorates and Business Units • Offices of the Chief Executive and of the Minister for Education, Training and Skills External working relationships: • State government agencies • Other jurisdictional government agencies • National committees, secretariats, working groups and agencies	**Essential:** Nil **Desirable:** A tertiary qualification in law, economic, evaluation, public policy, early childhood or education, or similar. • Knowledge of contemporary education issues, trends and policies, including knowledge of departmental policy, education systems nationally and internationally.

Corporate responsibilities	Special conditions
Keep accurate and complete records	You may be asked to work out of hours You may need to travel within or outside South

Act appropriately in line with the Public Sector Code of Ethics at all times Support diversity and promote an inclusive workplace for everyone Maintain a commitment to Work Health and Safety legislative requirements	Australia You need to achieve mutually agreed performance goals You must have a current Working with Children Check You must do Responding to Risks of Harm, Abuse and Neglect – Education and Care training You must be an Australian resident or provide evidence you have a current work permit

Assessed by: Tazeen Adnan People and Culture Consultant P&C Operations		**Approved by**: Peter Meere Director, Strategic Policy	
Date: 12 September, 2024		**Date:** 12 September 2024	