

South Australia Pilot Evaluation (2020-2021)

Aim

The SA Pilot Evaluation aims to test and evaluate the whole-school social and emotional wellbeing and bullying intervention, Friendly Schools, across 10 SA schools.

The findings of this report intend to inform the development and refinement of the forthcoming Telethon Kids Online Assessment Support and Implementation System (OASIS) project. OASIS intends to provide both primary and secondary schools with the necessary support to effectively implement the best evidence-based whole-schools mental health and wellbeing policies and practices that best address the needs of the students' and that best fit the schools context.

Methods

School staff data will be collected via online surveys (using Qualtrics survey software), telephone interviews. Teachers and school-based Friendly Schools teams will be provided with a link to the online survey. Telephone interviews with system-level staff including the state coordinator and FS coaches, school Principals and school teams will also be conducted.

The Department for Education will provide 2018-2019 individual student non-identifiable Wellbeing and Engagement Collection (WEC) data for the schools participating in the evaluation. The research team will provide questions to be added to the WEC student survey to measure outcomes (e.g. bullying perpetration and additional questions related to bullying victimization such as help-seeking and bystander behaviour) required for this evaluation

Presented with an OASIS prototype, the SA schools were also asked to identify needed features and functions of an ideal OASIS. A series of workshops with school leaders and other staff were conducted.

Results/Findings

In progress: Intervention impact will be assessed by comparing the trends in (primarily) student wellbeing in the Yr4-6 students in the intervention and the comparison schools (i.e. comparing the schools implementing and not implementing Friendly Schools).