

# THINK GLOBAL ACT LOCAL

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN EARLY YEARS**



# Workbook



Real World Learning

# Welcome...

Welcome to the Think GLOBAL Act LOCAL - Sustainable Development Goals in Early Childhood Workshop.

Together we will explore the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how they can support early childhood educators to:

- Better understand and embed sustainability in their policies, practices and programs – recognising their important contributions to creating a more sustainable planet.
- Understand how the SDGs align with the National Quality Framework and Early Years Learning Framework, and how the important work you do educating children contributes on a larger scale.
- Discover what implementing the SDG's might look like in your setting, program and daily practice.

We'll brainstorm, share ideas and create an action plan that supports you to reflect on your current practice, identify sustainability in what you're already doing and how to move forward using the SDG's as a framework to help guide your thinking as you work towards embedding sustainability.

## I'm Bron...

In case we haven't met... I'm Bron, from [Real World Learning](http://www.realworldlearning.com.au) - sustainability educator & scientist, passionate about all things sustainability & STEM.



I have specialised in working with early years services for over 10 years, after discovering the power of little people in changing the world!

I had this revelation when my son asked for a water tank for his 4th birthday - they are hard to wrap, let me tell you!

I love supporting educators to build knowledge, develop skills and fill their toolboxes with practical things they can do to make the world a more sustainable place - in turn passing on the knowledge and skills to the next generation of sustainability leaders and change makers!

I look forward to getting to know you as we take these next steps in your sustainability journey together.

## What does sustainability mean to you?

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### Why is it important to you as an educator?

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## What is sustainability?

Sustainability is defined in the Dictionary as (noun) - *the ability to be sustained, supported, upheld, or confirmed*. The most common definition of sustainability comes from the United Nations Bruntland Commission Report - *“meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”*

The recently revised Early Years Learning Framework - Belonging, Being & Becoming has introduced a broader definition of sustainability than previously.

***Sustainability: seeking to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations (Brundtland Report 1987).***

*Contemporary understandings of sustainability span environmental, social and economic dimensions.*

- *Environmental sustainability focuses on helping children to recognise they are part of ecosystems and have a role to play in preserving, protecting and improving the environment.*
- *Social sustainability addresses issues of social justice and equity, respect for diversity and inclusion, active citizenship and sense of community.*
- *Economic sustainability focuses on fair and equitable access to resources, conserving resources and reducing consumption and waste.*

***The 3 dimensions are interconnected and necessary for a sustainable world.***

*- BELONGING, BEING & BECOMING: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia – V2.0, 2022 p 68*

I define sustainability as an integrated concept that explores the inter-relationships between different aspects of life on Earth, both now, and in the future. There are lots of models but the main domains include: Environment Governance and Leadership Culture Society & Community Life Economy It looks like this...

Sustainability is about understanding cause and effect. When we do something in one domain there will be either positive or negative effects in many, if not all others.

Sustainability means achieving an outcome that has least negative and most positive impacts across all domains. It is not a trade off between domains. Think AND not OR.

People can have very different understandings of sustainability. Our understanding is influenced by our lived experiences / context; culture; values; education and knowledge.

Understanding how everyone defines sustainability differently and **creating a common understanding** helps get everyone on the same page so that you know you're talking about the same thing!



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Connecting with something bigger...



## What are the United Nations Global Sustainable Development Goals?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were developed by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to address some of the largest and most complex issues we face. Environmental, social, economic, cultural and political issues are all interconnected and require an integrated approach to develop solutions. 2020 marked the start of a **Decade of Action** accelerating sustainable solutions to all the world's biggest challenges. We all can play a role in transforming the world - ending poverty, protecting the planet and improving the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere - it starts with us.

There are **17 Goals**, and the UN member nations aim to achieve these by **2030**. The Goals are:

Goal 1: No Poverty  
Goal 2: Zero Hunger  
Goal 3: Good Health & Wellbeing  
Goal 4: Quality Education  
Goal 5: Gender Equality  
Goal 6: Clean Water & Sanitation  
Goal 7: Affordable & Clean Energy  
Goal 8: Decent Work & Economic Growth  
Goal 9: Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure

Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities  
Goal 11: Sustainable Cities & Communities  
Goal 12: Responsible Consumption & Production  
Goal 13: Climate Action  
Goal 14: Life Below Water  
Goal 15: Life on Land  
Goal 16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions  
Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals



## The SDGs and Early Childhood

While these Goals are big picture, global goals; we can all take action and make a contribution. The Goals can be used as a framework for action, covering all aspects of sustainability.

Early years services are in a unique position of being able to support the **creation and development** of children's values, behaviours and habits so that they align with sustainability, rather than changing them! Creating a future generation that lives, works and plays sustainably!

The Goals also align well with the **Early Years Learning Framework** and the **National Quality Standards**, helping services to meet those objectives at the same time.

## The SDGs in Practice

This Workshop will give you some ideas about what the SDGs might look like in **Policies, Programs and Practices**. It is not about adding more to your already long to-do list, but rather giving you another tool for your sustainability toolbox to help you align your actions and see how what you do every day, contributes to our **global response** to sustainability.

You and your team will soon see the important contributions you can make, in partnership with children, families and your local community. **Think Global, Act Local!**



**1 NO POVERTY**



This Goal addresses the need for us to ensure everyone has enough. Ending poverty in all its forms so that people have all of their basic needs met.

**What could you / your service do in support of this goal?**

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**2 ZERO HUNGER**



This Goal addresses food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture. Ensuring everyone has access to sufficient food to meet their nutritional requirements.

**What could you / your service do in support of this goal?**

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**3 GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING**



This Goal addresses the need for us to ensure everyone lives a healthy life and we promote mental and physical well-being.

**What could you / your service do in support of this goal?**

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**4 QUALITY  
EDUCATION**



This Goal addresses access to quality and equitable education and lifelong learning opportunities.

**What could you / your service do in support of this goal?**

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**5 GENDER  
EQUALITY**



This Goal addresses the need for us to ensure gender equity and treat everyone equally.

**What could you / your service do in support of this goal?**

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**6 CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION**



This Goal addresses the availability of water, water quality and sanitation as well as sustainable management of water.

**What could you / your service do in support of this goal?**

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**7 AFFORDABLE AND  
CLEAN ENERGY**



This Goal addresses the need for access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

**What could you / your service do in support of this goal?**

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**8 DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH**



This Goal promotes sustainable economic growth that supports decent work for all.

**What could you / your service do in support of this goal?**

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**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



This Goal addresses the need for resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industry and to encourage innovation.

**What could you / your service do in support of this goal?**

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**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



This Goal addresses inequality within and between countries.

**What could you / your service do in support of this goal?**

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11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES  
AND COMMUNITIES



This Goal supports the development of safe, resilient and sustainable cities and communities.

**What could you / your service do in support of this goal?**

12 RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION  
AND PRODUCTION



This Goal addresses sustainable consumption and production, minimising impacts on natural resources and environments.

**What could you / your service do in support of this goal?**



13 CLIMATE ACTION



This Goal addresses the urgent action required to address climate change and its impacts.

**What could you / your service do in support of this goal?**

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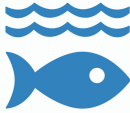
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14 LIFE BELOW WATER



This Goal addresses conservation and the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources.

**What could you / your service do in support of this goal?**

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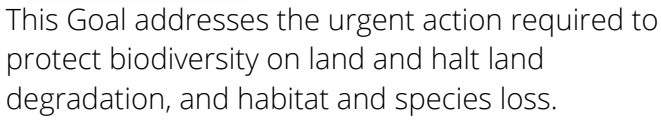
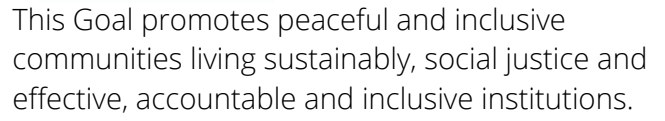
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### What could early childhood services do in support of this goal?

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## Action Plan

What does sustainability mean to you / your service?

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What's your sustainability vision? What does it look and feel like in your setting?

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How does sustainability align with your personal philosophy, values & practice?

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What are your Sustainability Superpowers?

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**Which SDG's align best with your strengths? Who could support you with others?**

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**Opportunities for embedding sustainability in our service:**

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**Priority Areas of Focus:**

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**Action Plan**

Goal	Action	Who	When	Measure of Success / Progress	Progress / Comments	NQS	EYLF	SDGs