

Steps to take if you have a complaint...

Step 1: Talk to the school, preschool or other early childhood service first

We try to resolve concerns or complaints at the local level wherever possible. The care worker, teacher or staff member involved should always be your first point of contact. Make a time to talk to them to discuss your concerns, either in person or over the phone. You may want to put your concerns in a letter or email.

If your concern is about the staff member, then you may wish to contact the site leader. This will be the director in early childhood services, or the principal in schools. The leader will look into your concerns and get back to you. They will work with you and the staff member to resolve the issue.

Most complaints are resolved quickly, often within days. The local site leader will aim to resolve your complaint within four weeks, although complex and contentious matters may take longer. If this is the case we will advise you.

Step 2: Central resolution

If you are not satisfied that your complaint has been resolved at the local level, you may choose to seek support from our complaints resolution services:

Complaints about education and early childhood services

Education Complaint Unit

Phone: 1800 677 435

Email: DECD.EducationComplaint@sa.gov.au

We can help you by:

- providing advice and support about the issues behind the complaint
- advocating with local sites to ensure all options for resolution have been explored
- objectively reviewing complaints that have not been resolved at the local level, including through a formal review.

Step 3: Other ways to resolve your issue

If we can't resolve your issue through the previous steps, you may choose to seek independent advice and review by an external agency. The circumstances of your complaint will influence whether this option is available.

External agency contact point:

SA Ombudsman

Toll free: 1800 182 150

Phone: 8226 8699

Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.sa.gov.au

www.ombudsman.sa.gov.au

Steps for raising your concern or complaint

