



2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

Summary sheet for the Shire of Central Goldfields

Local demographics for young children aged 0 to 8 years and their families.¹

- There were 138 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in Central Goldfields during 2008-09. This represents a decrease of 3.6 per cent since 2006-07 and an increase of 8.7 per cent since 2000-01. This compares to an increase in birth notifications across Victoria of 2.3 per cent since 2006-07 and 18.6 per cent since 2000-01.
- At 30 June 2008, there was an estimated 12,766 people residing in Central Goldfields. Of these, 1,242 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 9.7 per cent of Central Goldfields's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in Central Goldfields is projected to decrease by 11.6 per cent by 2026, while the total population in Central Goldfields is expected to increase by 5.5 per cent over this period.
- Using the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage, Central Goldfields was ranked 2 out of 79 LGAs in Victoria. A rank of 1 was assigned to the most disadvantaged LGA in Victoria.
- Of the 749 families with children aged between 0 and 8 years in Central Goldfields, 71.7 per cent were couple families and 28.3 per cent were one parent families.
- There were 112 Aboriginal persons in Central Goldfields, representing 0.9 per cent of the total population. 27.7 per cent of the Aboriginal population in Central Goldfields were aged 0 to 8 years.

Health, learning, wellbeing, development and safety indicators for children in the local area.²

- 46.9 per cent of infants in Central Goldfields were fully breastfed at 3 months and 35.9 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 89.4 per cent of children in Central Goldfields were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 95.2 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 84.5 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 127 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in Central Goldfields during 2009. Of these, 35.7 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 17.9 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 85.1% students enrolled in government schools in Central Goldfields were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 82.9% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 86.1% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

Families in Central Goldfields.

- Based on the 2009 VCHWS survey results, 48.6% of children aged 6 months to 12 years were reported to have been read to almost every day in the Loddon Mallee region. This was similar to the proportion of children being read to almost every day across Victoria (48.3%).
- Based on the 2009 VCHWS, 4.4% of main carer's of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Loddon Mallee region were classified as being of high risk of psychological distress. This proportion was higher, but not significantly different to that reported across Victoria (3.7%).
- In 2008 - 2009, 27 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in Central Goldfields, representing a rate of 21.7 per 1,000 children aged 0 to 8 years in the area. This compares to a rate of 7.0 per 1000 children across Victoria.
- Over 2007 - 2008, 80.0% of families with children aged 0 to 8 in Central Goldfields remained in public housing 12 months or more after initial allocation. This was less than the percentage in Victoria (87.3%).



Indicators relating to the local community.³

- 95.4% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Loddon Mallee region were from households who reported being able to get support from friends, family and neighbours in times of crisis/need. This proportion was similar to the proportion reported across Victoria (95.2%).
- 97.9% of parents of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Loddon Mallee region reported that having someone they could turn to for advice when having problems. This proportion was higher than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (97.1%).
- 96.6% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Loddon Mallee region were from households where the parent or guardian agreed that their neighbourhood was safe. This proportion was higher than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (95.1%).

Supports and services in Central Goldfields.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 10.8 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in Central Goldfields. This is greater than the rate of hospital separations in Victoria (9.5 per 1,000 children aged under 1) .
- In 2008 - 2009, 85.3 per cent of infants in Central Goldfields received a home consultation visit and 72.1 per cent of children in Central Goldfields attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in Central Goldfields during 2009 was 113.3%. This was greater than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in Central Goldfields were absent for an average 15.4 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 12.9 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 14.9 days over the 2009 school year.

Early childhood services for families in Central Goldfields.

- As at August 2010, there were 7 primary school education providers in Central Goldfields - 6 government, 1 Catholic and 0 independent.
- In 2009, there were 5 funded kindergarten programs in Central Goldfields. Of these, none were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, Central Goldfields had no multi-service Children's Centres completed or under development, funded by state and local government.

- There is a Best Start partnership operating in the LGA of Central Goldfields.

Data sourced from the 2010 Early Childhood Community Profiles - DEECD

1 2006 Census data unless otherwise specified

2 Reporting period is 2008-09 financial year unless otherwise specified

3 Sourced from 2009 VCHWS survey