



2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

Summary sheet for the Eastern Metropolitan region

Local demographics for young children aged 0 to 8 years and their families¹.

- There were 11,894 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in the Eastern Metropolitan region during 2008-09. This represents a decrease of 0.6 per cent since 2006-07 and an increase of 5.1 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 1,013,694 people residing in the Eastern Metropolitan region. Of these, 105,790 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 10.4 per cent of the region's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in Eastern Metropolitan is projected to increase by 2.4 per cent by 2026, while the total population in the Eastern Metropolitan region is expected to increase by 11.7 per cent over this period.
- Of the 62,684 families in the Eastern Metropolitan region with children aged between 0 and 8 years, 87.7 per cent were couple families and 12.3 per cent were one parent families.
- According to the 2006 Census, there were 2,584 Aboriginal persons in the Eastern Metropolitan region, representing 0.3 per cent of the region's total population. 19.5 per cent of the Aboriginal population in the Eastern Metropolitan region were aged 0 to 8 years.

Indicators relating to health, learning, wellbeing, development and safety of children in the

- 58.0 per cent of infants in the Eastern Metropolitan region were fully breastfed at 3 months and 43.7 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 91.7 per cent of children in the Eastern Metropolitan region were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 93.2 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 84.1 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 11,042 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in the Eastern Metropolitan region during 2009. Of these, 15.7 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 7.0 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 86.9% students enrolled in government schools in the Eastern Metropolitan region were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 91.7% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 96.7% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

Families in the Eastern Metropolitan region.

- Based on the 2009 VCHWS survey results, 49.1% of children aged 6 months to 12 years were reported to have been read to almost every day in the Eastern Metropolitan region. This was more than, but not significantly different to the proportion of children being read to almost every day across Victoria (48.3%).
- Based on the 2009 VCHWS, 2.2% of main carer's of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Eastern Metropolitan region were classified as being of high risk of psychological distress. This proportion was lower, but not significantly different to that reported across Victoria (3.7%).
- In 2008 - 2009, 562 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in the Eastern Metropolitan region, representing a rate of 5.3 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, 96.7% of families with children aged 0 to 8 in the Eastern Metropolitan region remained in public housing 12 months or more after initial allocation. This was greater than the percentage in Victoria (87.3%).

Indicators relating to the community.³



- 96.4% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Eastern Metropolitan region were from households who reported being able to get support from friends, family and neighbours in times of crisis/need. This proportion was higher than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (95.2%).
- 97.4% of parents of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Eastern Metropolitan region reported that having someone they could turn to for advice when having problems. This proportion was similar to the proportion reported across Victoria (97.1%).
- 98.1% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Eastern Metropolitan region were from households where the parent or guardian agreed that their neighbourhood was safe. This proportion was significantly higher than the proportion reported across Victoria (95.1%).

Supports and services in the Eastern Metropolitan region.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 7.2 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in the Eastern Metropolitan region. This is less than the rate of hospital separations in Victoria (9.5 per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1) .
- In 2008 - 2009, 100.1 per cent of infants in the Eastern Metropolitan region received a home consultation visit and 63.0 per cent of children in Eastern Metropolitan attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in the Eastern Metropolitan region during 2009 was 96.5%. This was greater than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in the Eastern Metropolitan region were absent for an average 13.2 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 13.0 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 12.8 days over the 2009 school year.

Early childhood services for families in the Eastern Metropolitan region.

- As at August 2010, there were 283 primary school education providers in the Eastern Metropolitan region - 185 government, 61 Catholic and 37 independent.
- In 2009, there were 333 funded kindergarten programs in the Eastern Metropolitan region. Of these, 94 were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, the Eastern Metropolitan region had 12 multi-service Children's Centres completed or under development, funded by state and local government. These were:

| <i>Name of Children's Centre</i> | <i>Status</i> |
|---|------------------------|
| - Craig Family Centre | In planning stage |
| - Hawthorn Library Precinct Community Hub | In planning stage |
| - Glen Iris Road Uniting Church Kindergarten | Licensed and Operating |
| - Murrindal Family Centre, Rowville | Licensed and Operating |
| - Doncaster Hill Civic Precinct Community Hub | In planning stage |
| - Eastern Access Community Centre, Ringwood | Licensed and Operating |
| - Clayton Community Centre | Licensed and Operating |
| - Best Chance (Child and Family Care Network) | Licensed and Operating |
| - Oakleigh Primary School Kindergarten | Licensed and Operating |
| - Mitcham Children & Family Centre | Licensed and Operating |
| - Sherbrooke Family and Children's Centre (Upwey Children's Services Hub) | In planning stage |
| - Yarra Junction Community Hub - Upper Yarra Integrated Family & Children's Centr | Licensed and Operating |

Data sourced from the 2010 Early Childhood Community Profiles - DEECD

- 1 2006 Census data unless otherwise stated
- 2 Reporting period is 2008-09 financial year
- 3 Sourced from 2009 VCHWS survey