



2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

Summary sheet for the City of Greater Dandenong

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

- There were 2,137 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in Greater Dandenong during 2008-09. This represents an increase of 7.3 per cent since 2006-07 and an increase of 21.4 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 135,243 people residing in Greater Dandenong. Of these, 15,502 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 11.5 per cent of Greater Dandenong's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in Greater Dandenong is projected to increase by 18.2 per cent by 2026, while the total population in Greater Dandenong is expected to increase by 19.8 per cent over this period.
- Using the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage, Greater Dandenong was ranked 1 out of 79 LGAs in Victoria. A rank of 1 was assigned to the most disadvantaged LGA in Victoria.
- Of the 8,746 families with children aged between 0 and 8 years in Greater Dandenong, 77.6 per cent were couple families and 22.4 per cent were one parent families.
- There were 487 Aboriginal persons in Greater Dandenong, representing 0.4 per cent of the total population. 24.0 per cent of the Aboriginal population in Greater Dandenong were aged 0 to 8 years.

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

- 46.0 per cent of infants in Greater Dandenong were fully breastfed at 3 months and 30.6 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 91.7 per cent of children in Greater Dandenong were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 91.6 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 82.9 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 1,570 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in Greater Dandenong during 2009. Of these, 33.5 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 16.6 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 73.1% students enrolled in government schools in Greater Dandenong were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 78.9% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 91.5% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

Families in Greater Dandenong.

- Based on the 2009 VCHWS survey results, 49.9% of children aged 6 months to 12 years were reported to have been read to almost every day in the Southern 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, 3.2% of main carer's of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Southern 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, 142 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in Greater Dandenong, representing a rate of 9.2 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, 97.8% of families with children aged 0 to 8 in Greater Dandenong 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 local community.³

- 95.2% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Southern 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 similar to the proportion reported across Victoria (95.2%).
- 96.6% of parents of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Southern Metropolitan region reported that having someone they could turn to for advice when having problems. This proportion was lower than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (97.1%).
- 94.7% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Southern Metropolitan region were from households where the parent or guardian agreed that their neighbourhood was safe. This proportion was similar to the proportion reported across Victoria (95.1%).

Supports and services in Greater Dandenong.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 10.9 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in Greater Dandenong. This is greater than the rate of hospital separations in Victoria (9.5 per 1,000 children aged under 1) .
- In 2008 - 2009, 98.6 per cent of infants in Greater Dandenong received a home consultation visit and 48.6 per cent of children in Greater Dandenong attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in Greater Dandenong during 2009 was 90.0%. This was less than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in Greater Dandenong were absent for an average 17.8 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 15.9 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 15.1 days over the 2009 school year.

Early childhood services for families in Greater Dandenong.

- As at August 2010, there were 31 primary school education providers in Greater Dandenong - 19 government, 6 Catholic and 6 independent.
- In 2009, there were 35 funded kindergarten programs in Greater Dandenong. Of these, 8 were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, Greater Dandenong had 1 multi-service Children's Centres completed or under development, funded by state and local government. These were:

Name of Children's Centre

Paddy O'Donoghue Centre (Noble Park Community Services Centre)

Status

Licensed and Operating

- There is a Best Start partnership operating in the LGA of Greater Dandenong.

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