



# 2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

## Summary sheet for the Shire of Loddon

### Local demographics for young children aged 0 to 8 years and their families.<sup>1</sup>

- There were 85 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in Loddon during 2008-09. This represents a decrease of 8.2 per cent since 2006-07 and a decrease of 4.5 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 8,073 people residing in Loddon. Of these, 858 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 10.6 per cent of Loddon's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in Loddon is projected to decrease by 19.0 per cent by 2026, while the total population in Loddon is expected to decrease by 4.0 per cent over this period.
- Using the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage, Loddon was ranked 4 out of 79 LGAs in Victoria. A rank of 1 was assigned to the most disadvantaged LGA in Victoria.
- Of the 458 families with children aged between 0 and 8 years in Loddon, 81.4 per cent were couple families and 18.6 per cent were one parent families.
- There were 80 Aboriginal persons in Loddon, representing 1.0 per cent of the total population. 22.5 per cent of the Aboriginal population in Loddon were aged 0 to 8 years.

### Health, learning, wellbeing, development and safety indicators for children in the local area.<sup>2</sup>

- 55.3 per cent of infants in Loddon were fully breastfed at 3 months and 40.0 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 90.8 per cent of children in Loddon were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 92.0 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 87.0 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 91 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in Loddon during 2009. Of these, 23.6 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 16.9 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 77.9% students enrolled in government schools in Loddon were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 84.4% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 93.7% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

### Families in Loddon.

- 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, 12 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in Loddon, representing a rate of 14.0 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, the number of families with children aged 0 to 8 years in Loddon who remained in public housing 12 months or more after initial allocation was suppressed due to small numbers.



## Indicators relating to the local community.<sup>3</sup>

- 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 Loddon.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 10.8 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in Loddon. This is greater than the rate of hospital separations in Victoria (9.5 per 1,000 children aged under 1) .
- In 2008 - 2009, 106.5 per cent of infants in Loddon received a home consultation visit and 55.2 per cent of children in Loddon attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in Loddon during 2009 was 89.7%. This was less than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in Loddon were absent for an average 17.7 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 12.0 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 15.9 days over the 2009 school year.

## Early childhood services for families in Loddon.

- As at August 2010, there were 9 primary school education providers in Loddon - 7 government, 2 Catholic and 0 independent.
- In 2009, there were 5 funded kindergarten programs in Loddon. Of these, none were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, Loddon had no multi-service Children's Centres completed or under development, funded by state and local government.

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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