



2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

Summary sheet for the Northern Metropolitan region

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

- There were 12,430 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in the Northern Metropolitan region during 2008-09. This represents an increase of 1.0 per cent since 2006-07 and an increase of 16.8 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 845,762 people residing in the Northern Metropolitan region. Of these, 97,095 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 11.5 per cent of the region's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in Northern Metropolitan is projected to increase by 35.0 per cent by 2026, while the total population in the Northern Metropolitan region is expected to increase by 36.6 per cent over this period.
- Of the 54,736 families in the Northern Metropolitan region with children aged between 0 and 8 years, 84.1 per cent were couple families and 15.9 per cent were one parent families.
- According to the 2006 Census, there were 4,397 Aboriginal persons in the Northern Metropolitan region, representing 0.6 per cent of the region's total population. 20.5 per cent of the Aboriginal population in the Northern Metropolitan region were aged 0 to 8 years.

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

- 51.8 per cent of infants in the Northern Metropolitan region were fully breastfed at 3 months and 39.2 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 91.8 per cent of children in the Northern Metropolitan region were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 93.2 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 86.2 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 9,446 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in the Northern Metropolitan region during 2009. Of these, 21.5 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 10.8 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 79.7% students enrolled in government schools in the Northern Metropolitan region were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 85.4% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 94.2% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

Families in the Northern Metropolitan region.

- Based on the 2009 VCHWS survey results, 43.8% of children aged 6 months to 12 years were reported to have been read to almost every day in the Northern Metropolitan region. This was less 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, 5.5% of main carer's of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Northern Metropolitan 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, 548 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in the Northern Metropolitan region, representing a rate of 5.6 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, 90.3% of families with children aged 0 to 8 in the Northern 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



- 95.2% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Northern 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%).
- 97.8% of parents of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Northern Metropolitan 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%).
- 91.5% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Northern Metropolitan region were from households where the parent or guardian agreed that their neighbourhood was safe. This proportion was significantly lower than the proportion reported across Victoria (95.1%).

Supports and services in the Northern Metropolitan region.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 7.8 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in the Northern 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 Northern Metropolitan region received a home consultation visit and 58.4 per cent of children in Northern Metropolitan attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in the Northern Metropolitan region during 2009 was 93.2%. This was greater than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in the Northern Metropolitan region were absent for an average 15.5 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 15.3 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 14.9 days over the 2009 school year.

Early childhood services for families in the Northern Metropolitan region.

- As at August 2010, there were 225 primary school education providers in the Northern Metropolitan region - 140 government, 59 Catholic and 26 independent.
- In 2009, there were 255 funded kindergarten programs in the Northern Metropolitan region. Of these, 103 were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, the Northern Metropolitan region had 14 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>
- Village Learning Hub	Under construction
- Autism Children's Centre (La Trobe Centre)	Completed in early July
- Clifton Street Children's Centre	Under construction
- Malcolm Creek Children Centre	Licensed and Operating
- Craigieburn Child & Family Centre	Under construction
- Dimboola Rd Early Learning Centre	Under construction
- Gowanbrae Children's Centre	Under construction
- Hurstbridge Early Learning and Care Centre	In planning stage
- Mill Park Lakes Preschool, South Morang	Licensed and Operating
- Laurimar Community Activity Centre	Design phase is complete
- Mernda Villages Community Activity Centre	Licensed and Operating
- Whittlesea Child Care Centre and Laurel Street Preschool	In design stage
- Atherton Gardens Family and Children's Community Hub	In planning stage
- Boroondara Children's Centre	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