



2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

Summary sheet for the Rural City of Swan Hill

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

- There were 348 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in Swan Hill during 2008-09. This represents an increase of 9.5 per cent since 2006-07 and an increase of 3.0 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 21,765 people residing in Swan Hill. Of these, 2,645 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 12.2 per cent of Swan Hill's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in Swan Hill is projected to decrease by 14.8 per cent by 2026, while the total population in Swan Hill is expected to increase by 3.8 per cent over this period.
- Using the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage, Swan Hill was ranked 13 out of 79 LGAs in Victoria. A rank of 1 was assigned to the most disadvantaged LGA in Victoria.
- Of the 1,442 families with children aged between 0 and 8 years in Swan Hill, 81.1 per cent were couple families and 18.9 per cent were one parent families.
- There were 803 Aboriginal persons in Swan Hill, representing 3.9 per cent of the total population. 22.2 per cent of the Aboriginal population in Swan Hill were aged 0 to 8 years.

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

- 50.0 per cent of infants in Swan Hill were fully breastfed at 3 months and 36.3 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 88.5 per cent of children in Swan Hill were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 94.5 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 84.6 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 274 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in Swan Hill during 2009. Of these, 23.3 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 13.0 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 67.0% students enrolled in government schools in Swan Hill were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 75.1% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 88.3% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

Families in Swan Hill.

- 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, 39 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in Swan Hill, representing a rate of 14.7 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, 78.1% of families with children aged 0 to 8 in Swan Hill 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 Swan Hill.

- Due to small numbers of hospital separations for gastroenteritis among children aged 0 to 8 in Swan Hill, the rate of hospital separations for gastroenteritis during 2008 - 2009 could not be derived. During 2008 - 2009, there were 10.8 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in the broader Loddon Mallee
- In 2008 - 2009, 91.3 per cent of infants in Swan Hill received a home consultation visit and 49.7 per cent of children in Swan Hill attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in Swan Hill during 2009 was 80.7%. This was less than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in Swan Hill were absent for an average 16.5 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 15.0 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 17.2 days over the 2009 school year.

Early childhood services for families in Swan Hill.

- As at August 2010, there were 13 primary school education providers in Swan Hill - 10 government, 2 Catholic and 1 independent.
- In 2009, there were 9 funded kindergarten programs in Swan Hill. Of these, none were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, Swan Hill 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 Swan Hill.

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