



# Adolescent Community Profiles

## Summary sheet for the Loddon Mallee Region

*This resource is intended to compliment the Adolescent Community Profiles. Please refer to the relevant pages in the profile for explanation of terms used and data caveats.*

### Population and projections

- At 30 June 2009, there was an estimated 37,181 adolescents aged 10 to 17 residing in the Loddon Mallee Region, representing 11.7 per cent of the area's total population.
- Based on DPCD projections, the population aged 10 to 17 years in Loddon Mallee is expected to increase by 0.1 per cent from 37,058 in 2006 to 37,083 by 2026.

### Physical health and wellbeing

- In 2009, 21.3 per cent of adolescents in Loddon Mallee Region reported eating the minimum recommended serves of fruit and vegetables each day. This was higher than the proportion reported across Victoria (19.0 per cent).
- During 2009 - 2010, the top three causes of hospitalisations for adolescents in the Loddon Mallee region were: 'Chronic tonsillitis' (rate of 363.1 per 100,000 adolescents), 'Acute appendicitis unspecified' (rate of 260.9 per 100,000 adolescents) and 'Extracorporeal dialysis' (rate of 252.8 per 100,000 adolescents).
- In 2009, 14.5 per cent of adolescents surveyed in Loddon Mallee Region did the recommended amount of physical activity every day. This was higher than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (12.3 per cent).
- In 2009, 58.6 per cent of adolescents surveyed in Loddon Mallee Region used electronic media for more than two hours per day. This was lower than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (58.7 per cent).

### Behaviour and mental health

- In 2009, 50.0 per cent of adolescents in Loddon Mallee Region reported being recently bullied. This was higher than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (44.6 per cent).
- During 2008 - 2009, the hospitalisation rate for intentional self harm was 1.0 per 1,000 adolescents in the Loddon Mallee region. This was higher than the rate in Victoria (0.6 per 1,000 adolescents).
- During 2009 - 2010, there were 6.0 psychiatric hospitalisations per 1,000 adolescents in the Loddon Mallee region. This was lower than the rate in Victoria (6.7 per 1,000 adolescents).
- In 2009, 16.1 per cent of adolescents in Loddon Mallee Region reported very high levels of psychological distress. This was higher than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (13.0 per cent).
- In 2009, 58.5 per cent of adolescents surveyed in Loddon Mallee Region had positive psychological development. This was lower than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (61.1 per cent).



## Learning

- In the Loddon Mallee Region, 90.5 per cent of Year 5 students, 94.2 per cent of Year 7 students and 90.5 per cent of Year 9 students achieved the national minimum standard in reading in the 2010 NAPLAN.
- 91.6 per cent of Year 5 students, 89.5 per cent of Year 7 students and 85.8 per cent of Year 9 students in the Loddon Mallee Region achieved the national minimum standard in writing in the 2010 NAPLAN.
- In the Loddon Mallee Region, 93.9 per cent of Year 5 students, 95.1 per cent of Year 7 students and 93.2 per cent of Year 9 students achieved the national minimum standard in numeracy in the 2010 NAPLAN.
- In 2010, the Year 10 - 12 apparent retention rates of full-time equivalent students in the Loddon Mallee region was 77.6 per cent. This was lower than the apparent retention rate across Victoria (82.4 per cent).
- In 2009, 70.7 per cent of young people aged 19 years in the Loddon Mallee Region had attained Year 12 or its equivalent. This was lower than the proportion across Victoria (79.8 per cent).
- Based on the 2010 On Track cohort, 13.6 per cent of early school leavers in Loddon Mallee region were looking for work six month later. This was lower than the percentage across Victoria (16.6 per cent).

## Safety

- In 2009 - 2010, 21.1 per 1000 adolescents in the Loddon Mallee region were victims of a reported crime. This was higher than the rate across Victoria (17.5 per 1000 adolescents).
- In 2009 - 2010, 90.4 per 1000 adolescents in the Loddon Mallee region were alleged offenders of crime. Of the 3363 alleged offences committed by an adolescent in the Loddon Mallee region, 15.8 per cent were crimes against the person and 67.0 per cent were crimes against property.
- During 2009 - 2010, 2.1 per 1000 adolescents in the Loddon Mallee region were placed on community based orders. This was higher than the rate across Victoria (1.5 per 1000 adolescents).

## Teenage lifestyle

- In 2008, the rate of babies born to teenage women in the Loddon Mallee region was 19.1 per 1000 women aged 15 to 19 years. This was higher than the rate in Victoria (10.6 per 1000 teenage women).
- In 2009, 56.6 per cent of adolescents aged 12 to 14 surveyed in Loddon Mallee Region had ever consumed alcohol, while 30.6 per cent had consumed alcohol in the past 30 days. Among older adolescents aged 15 to 17 years, the proportions were significantly higher, with 78.3 per cent having ever consumed alcohol and 61.2 per cent having done so in the last 30 days.
- In 2009, 20.8 per cent of adolescents aged 12 to 14 years in Loddon Mallee Region and 34.3 per cent of older adolescents (aged 15 to 17 years), reported that they had smoked cigarettes.
- In 2009, 7.6 per cent of adolescents aged 12 to 14 years in Loddon Mallee Region had tried marijuana, 11.1 per cent had sniffed glue or chromed and 2.1 per cent had tried another form of illegal drugs. Among older adolescents aged 15 to 17 years in Loddon Mallee Region, 12.8 per cent had tried marijuana, 9.9 per cent had sniffed glue or chromed and 3.2 per cent had tried another form of illegal drugs.
- In 2009, 7.0 per cent of 12-14 year old students and 22.4 per cent of 15-17 year old students in Loddon Mallee Region reported that they have had sexual intercourse. The mean age of initiation of sexual intercourse for adolescents in Victoria was 15 years old.



### Teenage lifestyle ... continued

- In 2009, 63.2 per cent of sexually active adolescents surveyed in Loddon Mallee Region reported that they practiced safe sex by using a condom. This was higher than, but not significantly different to that reported across Victoria (58.1 per cent).
- In 2009, 69.4 per cent of sexually active adolescent females in Loddon Mallee Region have used contraception to avoid pregnancy. This was lower than, but not significantly different to that reported across Victoria (78.9 per cent).
- In 2009, 68.2 per cent of adolescents surveyed in Loddon Mallee Region had a trusted adult in their life. This proportion was lower than, but not significantly different to that reported across Victoria (70.8 per cent).

### Promoting adolescent wellbeing

- In 2009 - 2010, the rate of child protection substantiations in the Loddon Mallee region was 7.3 per 1000 adolescents. This was higher than the rate across Victoria (4.4 per 1000 adolescents).

### Financial hardship and family functioning

- In Loddon Mallee region, there were 142 public housing allocations to household with adolescents during 2008 - 2009. Of these, 84.5 per cent remained in that public housing allocation 12 months after the initial allocation.
- In 2009, 81.5 per cent of adolescents surveyed in Loddon Mallee Region were living in families with healthy family functioning. This was lower than, but not significantly different to the proportion across Victoria (83.1 per cent).

### Physical and social environment

- In 2009, 84.6 per cent of adolescents surveyed in Loddon Mallee Region said they had someone to turn to for advice. This was lower than, but not significantly different to that reported across Victoria (86.1 per cent).
- In 2009, 71.5 per cent of adolescents surveyed in Loddon Mallee Region were satisfied with the quality of their life. This was significantly lower than that reported across Victoria (77.1 per cent).
- In Loddon Mallee Region, 57.1 per cent of adolescents reported that they help make decisions at school, while 57.6 per cent reported that they helped make decisions at home.

### Neighbourhood facilities and safety

- In 2009, 11.4 per cent of adolescents in Loddon Mallee Region felt that lack of access to transport impacted on their ability to work, study, see a doctor or socialise. This was higher than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (9.3 per cent).
- In 2009, 82.1 per cent of adolescents in Loddon Mallee Region reported feeling safe in their neighbourhood. This was lower than, but not significantly different to that reported across Victoria (82.4 per cent).
- In 2009 - 2010, there were 20,303 reported crimes in the Loddon Mallee Region, representing a rate of 64.0 per 1000 population. This was lower than the crime rate in Victoria during this period.



### Children attend and enjoy school

- On average, adolescent students attending government schools in Loddon Mallee Region were absent 18.3 days during the 2009 school year. In 2009, the average number of absence days was highest for Year 9 students (25.1 average absence days), and lowest for Year 12 students (13.2 average absence days).
- In 2010, the highest mean school connectedness results for adolescent students in Loddon Mallee Region was observed for Year 5 students (mean school connectedness score of 4.35) and the lowest mean score observed for Year 10 students (mean school connectedness score of 3.28).

### Adequate supports for vulnerable teenagers

- In 2009, 77.2 per cent of adolescents in Loddon Mallee Region felt that they could access physical health services if needed. This was lower than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (79.4 per cent).
- In 2009, 70.3 per cent of adolescents in Loddon Mallee Region felt that they could access mental health services if needed. This was lower than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (70.4 per cent).
- In 2009, 78.8 per cent of adolescents in Loddon Mallee Region felt that they could access dental health services if needed. This was higher than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (78.3 per cent).