



Aboriginal Early Childhood Community Profile

Summary sheet for the Southern Metropolitan region

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

- There were 4,269 Aboriginal persons counted in the Southern Metropolitan region, representing 0.4 per cent of the region's population.
- 927 young children made up 21.7 per cent of the Aboriginal population of the Southern Metropolitan region.
- Of the 147,527 families counted in the Southern Metropolitan region with children under 15 and/or dependent students aged 15-24 years, 54.7 per cent had at least one child aged 0 to 8 years. 675 (0.8 per cent) of these families were Aboriginal.
- The family composition of Aboriginal families in Victoria with young children was almost equally divided between couple families and one parent families. In the Southern Metropolitan region, 56.9 per cent of Aboriginal families with young children were couple families and 43.1 per cent were one parent families.
- The median weekly income for Aboriginal couple families in Victoria with young children (\$1,073) was more than double that of Aboriginal one parent families (\$510). The median weekly family income for Aboriginal families with young children in the Southern Metropolitan region was \$1,177 for couple families and \$539 for one parent families.

Early childhood indicators of how young Aboriginal children are faring²

- The percentage of Aboriginal children seen at the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit in the Southern Metropolitan region was 56.4 per cent, compared to 40.3 per cent across Victoria.
- 45.8 per cent of Aboriginal young children in the Southern Metropolitan region were re-reported to child protection services within 12 months of a notification, compared to 40.9 per cent in Victoria.
- The rate of child protection substantiations in the Southern Metropolitan region was 41.8 per 1000 Aboriginal children aged 0 to 8 years, compared to a rate of 68.2 per 1000 Aboriginal children across Victoria.
- 91.1 per cent of children in the Southern Metropolitan region were fully immunised at age 1, 93.1 per cent were fully immunised at age 2 and 89.6 per cent were fully immunised at age 5.
- In 2008, there were 34 Aboriginal children enrolled in four year old kindergarten in the Southern Metropolitan region.
- In 2008, 89.8 per cent of Aboriginal students enrolled in government schools in the Southern Metropolitan region were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 1 texts in Prep, 87.8 per cent of Aboriginal Year 1 students were reading Level 5 texts with 90-100% accuracy and 88.9 per cent of Aboriginal Year 2 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy.
- Over the three year period from 2005-06 to 2007-08, the rate of asthma separations for Aboriginal children aged 0 to 8 years in the Southern Metropolitan region was 3.5 per 1000 Aboriginal children aged 0 to 8 years. The rate of hospital separations for asthma across Victoria during this period was 7.7 per 1000 Aboriginal children.
- Over the three year period from 2004-05 to 2006-07, the teenage birth rate in Aboriginal women in the Southern Metropolitan region was near to 2 times higher than that of non-Aboriginal women.

Note: Due to the small population of Aboriginal young children and their families in the local area, large percentage variations may be the result of minor changes in the actual numbers.

All data sourced from the Aboriginal Early Childhood Community Profiles - DEECD

1. 2006 Census of Population and Housing, ABS.

2. 2007-08 financial year administrative data, unless otherwise stated.