



Aboriginal 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 families¹

- There were 803 Aboriginal persons counted in Swan Hill (RC), representing 3.9 per cent of the local population.
- 178 young children made up 22.2 per cent of the Aboriginal population of Swan Hill (RC).
- Of the 2,483 families counted in Swan Hill (RC) with children under 15 and/or dependent students aged 15-24 years, 58.1 per cent had at least one child aged 0 to 8 years. 122 (8.5 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 Swan Hill (RC), 45.1 per cent of Aboriginal families with young children were couple families and 54.9 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 Swan Hill (RC) was \$788 for couple families and \$328 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 Loddon Mallee region was 48.9 per cent, compared to 40.3 per cent across Victoria.
- 47.6 per cent of Aboriginal young children in the Loddon Mallee 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 Swan Hill (RC) was 127.2 per 1000 Aboriginal children aged 0 to 8 years, compared to a rate of 68.2 for Aboriginal young children across Victoria.
- 85.7 per cent of children in Swan Hill (RC) were fully immunised at age 1, 94.1 per cent were fully immunised at age 2 and 100.0 per cent were fully immunised at age 5.
- In 2008, there were 24 Aboriginal children enrolled in four year old kindergarten in Swan Hill (RC).
- Over the three year period from 2006 to 2008, 66.7 per cent of Aboriginal students enrolled in government schools in Swan Hill (RC) were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 1 texts in Prep, 82.8 per cent of Aboriginal Year 1 students were reading Level 5 texts with 90-100% accuracy and 69.7 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 Loddon Mallee region was 9.6 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 young children.
- Over the three year period from 2004-05 to 2006-07, the teenage birth rate in Aboriginal women in Swan Hill (RC) was near to 4 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.

** Data for the broader region which contains the local government area may be supplemented where there are quality or confidentiality issues with the local area data.*

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.