

2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

Summary sheet for the City of Ballarat



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

- There were 1,288 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in Ballarat during 2008-09. This represents an increase of 3.5 per cent since 2006-07 and an increase of 55.6 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 91,787 people residing in Ballarat. Of these, 10,411 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 11.3 per cent of Ballarat's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in Ballarat is projected to increase by 29.1 per cent by 2026, while the total population in Ballarat is expected to increase by 34.3 per cent over this period.
- Using the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage, Ballarat was ranked 32 out of 79 LGAs in Victoria. A rank of 1 was assigned to the most disadvantaged LGA in Victoria.
- Of the 5,834 families with children aged between 0 and 8 years in Ballarat, 76.2 per cent were couple families and 23.8 per cent were one parent families.
- There were 853 Aboriginal persons in Ballarat, representing 1.0 per cent of the total population. 23.8 per cent of the Aboriginal population in Ballarat were aged 0 to 8 years.

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

- 46.7 per cent of infants in Ballarat were fully breastfed at 3 months and 34.9 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 91.8 per cent of children in Ballarat were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 94.4 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 85.1 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 1,051 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in Ballarat during 2009. Of these, 20.6 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 9.9 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 76.8% students enrolled in government schools in Ballarat were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 81.8% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 91.4% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

Families in Ballarat.

- Based on the 2009 VCHWS survey results, 48.2% of children aged 6 months to 12 years were reported to have been read to almost every day in the Grampians region. This was similar to the proportion of children being read to almost every day across Victoria (48.3%).
- Based on the 2009 VCHWS, 3.3% of main carer's of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Grampians region were classified as being of high risk of psychological distress. This proportion was lower, but not significantly different to that reported across Victoria (3.7%).
- In 2008 - 2009, 107 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in Ballarat, representing a rate of 10.3 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, 80.9% of families with children aged 0 to 8 in Ballarat 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

- 96.5% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Grampians region were from households who reported being able to get support from friends, family and neighbours in times of crisis/need. This proportion was higher than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (95.2%).
- 97.3% of parents of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Grampians region reported that having someone they could turn to for advice when having problems. This proportion was similar to the proportion reported across Victoria (97.1%).
- 97.2% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Grampians 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 Ballarat.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 6.5 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in Ballarat. This is less than the rate of hospital separations in Victoria (9.5 per 1,000 children aged under 1) .
- In 2008 - 2009, 101.4 per cent of infants in Ballarat received a home consultation visit and 65.1 per cent of children in Ballarat attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in Ballarat during 2009 was 99.0%. This was greater than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in Ballarat were absent for an average 12.8 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 12.8 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 12.9 days over the 2009 school year.

Early childhood services for families in Ballarat.

- As at August 2010, there were 40 primary school education providers in Ballarat - 26 government, 10 Catholic and 4 independent.
- In 2009, there were 27 funded kindergarten programs in Ballarat. Of these, 2 were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, Ballarat had 2 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>
Girrabunya Children's Services Hub	Licensed and Operating
Wendouree Children's Centre (Yuille Park P-8 Community College)	Licensed and Operating

- There is a Best Start partnership operating in the LGA of Ballarat.

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