

2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

Summary sheet for the Shire of Bass Coast



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

- There were 281 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in Bass Coast during 2008-09. This represents an increase of 0.7 per cent since 2006-07 and an increase of 20.1 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 28,802 people residing in Bass Coast. Of these, 2,822 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 9.8 per cent of Bass Coast's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in Bass Coast is projected to increase by 41.2 per cent by 2026, while the total population in Bass Coast is expected to increase by 52.3 per cent over this period.
- Using the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage, Bass Coast was ranked 28 out of 79 LGAs in Victoria. A rank of 1 was assigned to the most disadvantaged LGA in Victoria.
- Of the 1,527 families with children aged between 0 and 8 years in Bass Coast, 77.7 per cent were couple families and 22.3 per cent were one parent families.
- There were 157 Aboriginal persons in Bass Coast, representing 0.6 per cent of the total population. 15.9 per cent of the Aboriginal population in Bass Coast were aged 0 to 8 years.

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

- 56.9 per cent of infants in Bass Coast were fully breastfed at 3 months and 43.1 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 92.5 per cent of children in Bass Coast were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 91.9 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 81.0 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 321 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in Bass Coast during 2009. Of these, 22.1 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 12.1 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 84.7% students enrolled in government schools in Bass Coast were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 88.5% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 97.2% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

Families in Bass Coast.

- Based on the 2009 VCHWS survey results, 47.0% of children aged 6 months to 12 years were reported to have been read to almost every day in the Gippsland region. This was less than, but not significantly different to the proportion of children being read to almost every day across Victoria (48.3%).
- Based on the 2009 VCHWS, 6.3% of main carer's of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Gippsland 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, 31 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in Bass Coast, representing a rate of 11.0 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, the number of families with children aged 0 to 8 years in Bass Coast who remained in public housing 12 months or more after initial allocation was suppressed due to small numbers.



Indicators relating to the local community.³

- 95.2% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Gippsland 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%).
- 97.4% of parents of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Gippsland 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%).
- 95.3% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Gippsland region were from households where the parent or guardian agreed that their neighbourhood was safe. This proportion was similar to the proportion reported across Victoria (95.1%).

Supports and services in Bass Coast.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 8.0 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in Bass Coast. This is less than the rate of hospital separations in Victoria (9.5 per 1,000 children aged under 1) .
- In 2008 - 2009, 94.4 per cent of infants in Bass Coast received a home consultation visit and 49.4 per cent of children in Bass Coast attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in Bass Coast during 2009 was 90.1%. This was less than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in Bass Coast were absent for an average 17.6 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 19.0 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 16.0 days over the 2009 school year.

Early childhood services for families in Bass Coast.

- As at August 2010, there were 10 primary school education providers in Bass Coast - 8 government, 1 Catholic and 1 independent.
- In 2009, there were 7 funded kindergarten programs in Bass Coast. Of these, 1 were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, Bass Coast 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 Bass Coast.

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