



# 2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

## Summary sheet for the Rural City of Benalla

### Local demographics for young children aged 0 to 8 years and their families.<sup>1</sup>

- There were 149 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in Benalla during 2008-09. This represents an increase of 8.7 per cent since 2006-07. This compares to an increase in birth notifications across Victoria of 2.3 per cent since 2006-07
- At 30 June 2008, there was an estimated 14,021 people residing in Benalla. Of these, 1,385 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 9.9 per cent of Benalla's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in Benalla is projected to decrease by 3.8 per cent by 2026, while the total population in Benalla is expected to increase by 11.2 per cent over this period.
- Using the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage, Benalla was ranked 17 out of 79 LGAs in Victoria. A rank of 1 was assigned to the most disadvantaged LGA in Victoria.
- Of the 784 families with children aged between 0 and 8 years in Benalla, 77.6 per cent were couple families and 22.4 per cent were one parent families.
- There were 131 Aboriginal persons in Benalla, representing 1.0 per cent of the total population. 16.0 per cent of the Aboriginal population in Benalla were aged 0 to 8 years.

### Health, learning, wellbeing, development and safety indicators for children in the local area.<sup>2</sup>

- 45.0 per cent of infants in Benalla were fully breastfed at 3 months and 31.4 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 88.3 per cent of children in Benalla were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 97.5 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 76.2 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 145 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in Benalla during 2009. Of these, 22.1 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 10.0 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 79.5% students enrolled in government schools in Benalla were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 82.9% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 91.0% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

### Families in Benalla.

- Based on the 2009 VCHWS survey results, 47.2% of children aged 6 months to 12 years were reported to have been read to almost every day in the Hume 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, 4.3% of main carer's of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Hume 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, 25 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in Benalla, representing a rate of 18.1 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, 81.0% of families with children aged 0 to 8 in Benalla 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.<sup>3</sup>

- 95.6% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Hume 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%).
- 97.3% of parents of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Hume 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%).
- 96.0% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Hume 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 Benalla.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 13.4 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in Benalla. This is greater than the rate of hospital separations in Victoria (9.5 per 1,000 children aged under 1) .
- In 2008 - 2009, 99.3 per cent of infants in Benalla received a home consultation visit and 54.8 per cent of children in Benalla attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in Benalla during 2009 was 94.9%. This was greater than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in Benalla were absent for an average 14.0 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 15.4 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 10.9 days over the 2009 school year.

## Early childhood services for families in Benalla.

- As at August 2010, there were 10 primary school education providers in Benalla - 8 government, 1 Catholic and 1 independent.
- In 2009, there were 4 funded kindergarten programs in Benalla. Of these, 1 were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, Benalla had no multi-service Children's Centres completed or under development, funded by state and local government.

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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