

# 2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

## Summary sheet for the Shire of Cardinia



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

- There were 1,052 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in Cardinia during 2008-09. This represents an increase of 13.5 per cent since 2006-07 and an increase of 64.4 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 64,310 people residing in Cardinia. Of these, 9,066 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 14.1 per cent of Cardinia's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in Cardinia is projected to increase by 157.8 per cent by 2026, while the total population in Cardinia is expected to increase by 152.7 per cent over this period.
- Using the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage, Cardinia was ranked 62 out of 79 LGAs in Victoria. A rank of 1 was assigned to the most disadvantaged LGA in Victoria.
- Of the 4,739 families with children aged between 0 and 8 years in Cardinia, 84.0 per cent were couple families and 16.0 per cent were one parent families.
- There were 236 Aboriginal persons in Cardinia, representing 0.4 per cent of the total population. 20.8 per cent of the Aboriginal population in Cardinia were aged 0 to 8 years.

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

- 47.4 per cent of infants in Cardinia were fully breastfed at 3 months and 29.7 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 91.6 per cent of children in Cardinia were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 92.6 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 82.2 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 952 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in Cardinia during 2009. Of these, 17.4 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 7.2 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 75.5% students enrolled in government schools in Cardinia were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 82.2% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 92.4% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

### Families in Cardinia.

- Based on the 2009 VCHWS survey results, 49.9% of children aged 6 months to 12 years were reported to have been read to almost every day in the Southern Metropolitan region. This was more 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, 3.2% of main carer's of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Southern Metropolitan 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, 38 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in Cardinia, representing a rate of 4.2 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 Cardinia who remained in public housing 12 months or more after initial allocation was suppressed due to small numbers.



### Indicators relating to the local community.<sup>3</sup>

- 95.2% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Southern Metropolitan 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%).
- 96.6% of parents of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Southern Metropolitan region reported that having someone they could turn to for advice when having problems. This proportion was lower than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (97.1%).
- 94.7% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Southern Metropolitan 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 Cardinia.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 9.5 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in Cardinia. This is similar to the rate of hospital separations in Victoria (9.5 per 1,000 children aged under 1) .
- In 2008 - 2009, 99.5 per cent of infants in Cardinia received a home consultation visit and 60.2 per cent of children in Cardinia attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in Cardinia during 2009 was 95.4%. This was greater than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in Cardinia were absent for an average 14.2 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 15.3 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 13.9 days over the 2009 school year.

### Early childhood services for families in Cardinia.

- As at August 2010, there were 27 primary school education providers in Cardinia - 17 government, 5 Catholic and 5 independent.
- In 2009, there were 25 funded kindergarten programs in Cardinia. Of these, 5 were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, Cardinia had 4 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>
Beaconsfield Community Centre	Licensed and Operating
Lakeside Children's Centre	Licensed and Operating
Pakenham Springs Children's Centre	Licensed and Operating
Cardinia Lakes Children's Centre	In planning stage

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

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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