



2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

Summary sheet for the Shire of East Gippsland

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

- There were 442 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in East Gippsland during 2008-09. This represents a decrease of 1.4 per cent since 2006-07 and an increase of 30.0 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 42,742 people residing in East Gippsland. Of these, 4,224 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 9.9 per cent of East Gippsland's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in East Gippsland is projected to increase by 10.5 per cent by 2026, while the total population in East Gippsland is expected to increase by 31.1 per cent over this period.
- Using the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage, East Gippsland was ranked 15 out of 79 LGAs in Victoria. A rank of 1 was assigned to the most disadvantaged LGA in Victoria.
- Of the 2,340 families with children aged between 0 and 8 years in East Gippsland, 77.1 per cent were couple families and 22.9 per cent were one parent families.
- There were 1,138 Aboriginal persons in East Gippsland, representing 2.8 per cent of the total population. 24.6 per cent of the Aboriginal population in East Gippsland were aged 0 to 8 years.

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

- 53.0 per cent of infants in East Gippsland were fully breastfed at 3 months and 43.2 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 89.9 per cent of children in East Gippsland were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 95.1 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 87.8 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 426 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in East Gippsland during 2009. Of these, 28.1 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 17.3 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 77.3% students enrolled in government schools in East Gippsland were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 82.7% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 89.7% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

Families in East Gippsland.

- 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, 57 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in East Gippsland, representing a rate of 13.5 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, 81.8% of families with children aged 0 to 8 in East Gippsland 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

- 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 East Gippsland.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 8.0 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in East Gippsland. This is less 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 East Gippsland received a home consultation visit and 55.8 per cent of children in East Gippsland attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in East Gippsland during 2009 was 95.1%. This was greater than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in East Gippsland were absent for an average 18.3 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 15.2 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 16.0 days over the 2009 school year.

Early childhood services for families in East Gippsland.

- As at August 2010, there were 33 primary school education providers in East Gippsland - 29 government, 3 Catholic and 1 independent.
- In 2009, there were 19 funded kindergarten programs in East Gippsland. Of these, none were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, East Gippsland 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 East Gippsland.

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