



2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

Summary sheet for the Grampians region

Local demographics for young children aged 0 to 8 years and their families¹.

- There were 2,774 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in the Grampians region during 2008-09. This represents an increase of 4.0 per cent since 2006-07 and an increase of 24.1 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 220,160 people residing in the Grampians region. Of these, 24,572 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 11.2 per cent of the region's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in Grampians is projected to increase by 10.6 per cent by 2026, while the total population in the Grampians region is expected to increase by 22.0 per cent over this period.
- Of the 13,988 families in the Grampians region with children aged between 0 and 8 years, 79.8 per cent were couple families and 20.2 per cent were one parent families.
- According to the 2006 Census, there were 1,765 Aboriginal persons in the Grampians region, representing 0.9 per cent of the region's total population. 21.3 per cent of the Aboriginal population in the Grampians region were aged 0 to 8 years.

Indicators relating to health, learning, wellbeing, development and safety of children in the

- 50.3 per cent of infants in the Grampians region were fully breastfed at 3 months and 38.8 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 93.0 per cent of children in the Grampians region were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 94.8 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 84.4 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 2,621 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in the Grampians region during 2009. Of these, 19.3 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 9.6 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 78.1% students enrolled in government schools in the Grampians region were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 83.9% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 92.9% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

Families in the Grampians region.

- 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, 187 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in the Grampians region, representing a rate of 7.6 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, 79.2% of families with children aged 0 to 8 in the Grampians region 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 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 the Grampians region.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 6.9 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in the Grampians region. This is less than the rate of hospital separations in Victoria (9.5 per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1).
- In 2008 - 2009, 100.3 per cent of infants in the Grampians region received a home consultation visit and 63.0 per cent of children in Grampians attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in the Grampians region during 2009 was 95.4%. This was greater than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in the Grampians region were absent for an average 14.1 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 14.3 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 13.1 days over the 2009 school year.

Early childhood services for families in the Grampians region.

- As at August 2010, there were 146 primary school education providers in the Grampians region - 110 government, 27 Catholic and 9 independent.
- In 2009, there were 84 funded kindergarten programs in the Grampians region. Of these, 9 were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, the Grampians region had 9 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>
- Ararat North KinderCare	Licensed and Operating
- Girrabunya Children's Services Hub	Licensed and Operating
- Wendouree Children's Centre (Yuille Park P-8 Community College)	Licensed and Operating
- Bannockburn Community Centre	Licensed and Operating
- Dimboola Children's Centre	Licensed and Operating
- St Arnaud Children's Precinct	Licensed and Operating
- Taylors Gully Children's Centre, Stawell	Licensed and Operating
- Beaufort Children's Centre	In planning stage
- Warracknabeal Children's Centre	Licensed and Operating

Data sourced from the 2010 Early Childhood Community Profiles - DEECD

- 1 2006 Census data unless otherwise stated
- 2 Reporting period is 2008-09 financial year
- 3 Sourced from 2009 VCHWS survey