

# 2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

## Summary sheet for the City of Greater Bendigo



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

- There were 1,309 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in Greater Bendigo during 2008-09. This represents an increase of 0.2 per cent since 2006-07 and an increase of 12.8 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 100,054 people residing in Greater Bendigo. Of these, 11,555 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 11.5 per cent of Greater Bendigo's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in Greater Bendigo is projected to increase by 32.2 per cent by 2026, while the total population in Greater Bendigo is expected to increase by 40.0 per cent over this period.
- Using the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage, Greater Bendigo was ranked 33 out of 79 LGAs in Victoria. A rank of 1 was assigned to the most disadvantaged LGA in Victoria.
- Of the 6,460 families with children aged between 0 and 8 years in Greater Bendigo, 76.7 per cent were couple families and 23.3 per cent were one parent families.
- There were 1,020 Aboriginal persons in Greater Bendigo, representing 1.1 per cent of the total population. 23.5 per cent of the Aboriginal population in Greater Bendigo were aged 0 to 8 years.

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

- 46.2 per cent of infants in Greater Bendigo were fully breastfed at 3 months and 33.2 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 92.4 per cent of children in Greater Bendigo were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 94.8 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 87.5 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 1,144 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in Greater Bendigo during 2009. Of these, 23.2 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 12.6 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 82.1% students enrolled in government schools in Greater Bendigo were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 87.7% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 93.8% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

### Families in Greater Bendigo.

- Based on the 2009 VCHWS survey results, 48.6% of children aged 6 months to 12 years were reported to have been read to almost every day in the Loddon Mallee region. This was similar to the proportion of children being read to almost every day across Victoria (48.3%).
- Based on the 2009 VCHWS, 4.4% of main carer's of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Loddon Mallee 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, 138 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in Greater Bendigo, representing a rate of 11.9 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, 84.3% of families with children aged 0 to 8 in Greater Bendigo 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>

- 95.4% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Loddon Mallee 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%).
- 97.9% of parents of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Loddon Mallee region reported that having someone they could turn to for advice when having problems. This proportion was higher than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (97.1%).
- 96.6% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Loddon Mallee 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 Greater Bendigo.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 14.9 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in Greater Bendigo. This is greater than the rate of hospital separations in Victoria (9.5 per 1,000 children aged under 1) .
- In 2008 - 2009, 97.4 per cent of infants in Greater Bendigo received a home consultation visit and 66.8 per cent of children in Greater Bendigo attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in Greater Bendigo during 2009 was 95.3%. This was greater than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in Greater Bendigo were absent for an average 13.5 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 12.8 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 12.9 days over the 2009 school year.

### Early childhood services for families in Greater Bendigo.

- As at August 2010, there were 44 primary school education providers in Greater Bendigo - 31 government, 10 Catholic and 3 independent.
- In 2009, there were 27 funded kindergarten programs in Greater Bendigo. Of these, 3 were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, Greater Bendigo had 2 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>
Comet Hill Children Centre	In planning stage
Strathdale Children's Centre	Licensed and Operating

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