



2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

Summary sheet for the Loddon Mallee region

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

- There were 3,864 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in the Loddon Mallee region during 2008-09. This represents a decrease of 1.0 per cent since 2006-07 and an increase of 2.7 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 311,855 people residing in the Loddon Mallee region. Of these, 36,192 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 11.6 per cent of the region's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in Loddon Mallee is projected to increase by 6.6 per cent by 2026, while the total population in the Loddon Mallee region is expected to increase by 21.7 per cent over this period.
- Of the 20,293 families in the Loddon Mallee region with children aged between 0 and 8 years, 79.3 per cent were couple families and 20.7 per cent were one parent families.
- According to the 2006 Census, there were 4,614 Aboriginal persons in the Loddon Mallee region, representing 1.6 per cent of the region's total population. 23.9 per cent of the Aboriginal population in the Loddon Mallee region were aged 0 to 8 years.

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

- 48.1 per cent of infants in the Loddon Mallee region were fully breastfed at 3 months and 35.4 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 91.7 per cent of children in the Loddon Mallee region were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 94.4 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 84.6 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 3,648 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in the Loddon Mallee region during 2009. Of these, 22.0 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 12.0 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 79.6% students enrolled in government schools in the Loddon Mallee region were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 84.2% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 93.4% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

Families in the Loddon Mallee region.

- 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, 501 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in the Loddon Mallee region, representing a rate of 13.8 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, 79.0% of families with children aged 0 to 8 in the Loddon Mallee 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



- 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 the Loddon Mallee region.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 10.8 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in the Loddon Mallee region. This is greater than the rate of hospital separations in Victoria (9.5 per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1) .
- In 2008 - 2009, 95.3 per cent of infants in the Loddon Mallee region received a home consultation visit and 62.0 per cent of children in Loddon Mallee attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in the Loddon Mallee region during 2009 was 89.6%. This was less than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in the Loddon Mallee region were absent for an average 14.5 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 13.8 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 14.1 days over the 2009 school year.

Early childhood services for families in the Loddon Mallee region.

- As at August 2010, there were 184 primary school education providers in the Loddon Mallee region - 134 government, 35 Catholic and 15 independent.
- In 2009, there were 102 funded kindergarten programs in the Loddon Mallee region. Of these, 6 were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, the Loddon Mallee region had 6 multi-service Children's Centres completed or under development, funded by state and local government. These were:

Name of Children's Centre

- Sea Lake Children's Centre
- Berrimba Children's Centre
- Kerang and District Children's Centre
- Comet Hill Children Centre
- Strathdale Children's Centre
- Woodend Community Centre

Status

- Licensed and Operating
- In planning stage
- Licensed and Operating
- In planning stage
- Licensed and Operating
- 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