



2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

Summary sheet for the Shire of Melton

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

- There were 1,864 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in Melton during 2008-09. This represents an increase of 10.5 per cent since 2006-07 and an increase of 131.3 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 92,465 people residing in Melton. Of these, 14,412 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 15.6 per cent of Melton's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in Melton is projected to increase by 127.1 per cent by 2026, while the total population in Melton is expected to increase by 145.1 per cent over this period.
- Using the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage, Melton was ranked 51 out of 79 LGAs in Victoria. A rank of 1 was assigned to the most disadvantaged LGA in Victoria.
- Of the 7,461 families with children aged between 0 and 8 years in Melton, 81.9 per cent were couple families and 18.1 per cent were one parent families.
- There were 506 Aboriginal persons in Melton, representing 0.6 per cent of the total population. 18.0 per cent of the Aboriginal population in Melton were aged 0 to 8 years.

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

- 33.6 per cent of infants in Melton were fully breastfed at 3 months and 21.3 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 92.2 per cent of children in Melton were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 95.5 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 85.3 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 1,495 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in Melton during 2009. Of these, 20.4 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 8.8 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 82.2% students enrolled in government schools in Melton were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 85.0% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 93.3% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

Families in Melton.

- Based on the 2009 VCHWS survey results, 52.3% of children aged 6 months to 12 years were reported to have been read to almost every day in the Western 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, 4.0% of main carer's of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Western Metropolitan 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, 78 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in Melton, representing a rate of 5.4 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 Melton who remained in public housing 12 months or more after initial allocation was suppressed due to small numbers.

Indicators relating to the local community.³



- 92.9% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Western 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%).
- 95.8% of parents of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Western 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%).
- 92.6% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Western Metropolitan region were from households where the parent or guardian agreed that their neighbourhood was safe. This proportion was lower than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (95.1%).

Supports and services in Melton.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 12.5 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in Melton. This is greater than the rate of hospital separations in Victoria (9.5 per 1,000 children aged under 1) .
- In 2008 - 2009, 85.8 per cent of infants in Melton received a home consultation visit and 47.0 per cent of children in Melton attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in Melton during 2009 was 84.8%. This was less than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in Melton were absent for an average 17.5 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 16.3 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 15.2 days over the 2009 school year.

Early childhood services for families in Melton.

- As at August 2010, there were 23 primary school education providers in Melton - 13 government, 6 Catholic and 4 independent.
- In 2009, there were 29 funded kindergarten programs in Melton. Of these, 11 were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, Melton had 4 multi-service Children's Centres completed or under development, funded by state and local government. These were:

Name of Children's Centre

Parkwood Green Community Centre Hillside

Springside Children's Centre

Brookfield Children's Services Centre

Kororoit Creek Early Learning Centre

Status

Licensed and Operating

Licensed and Operating

Licensed and Operating

Under construction.

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

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