

# 2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

## Summary sheet for the Shire of Mount Alexander



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

- There were 163 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in Mount Alexander during 2008-09. This represents a decrease of 9.8 per cent since 2006-07 and a decrease of 0.6 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 18,116 people residing in Mount Alexander. Of these, 1,731 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 9.6 per cent of Mount Alexander's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in Mount Alexander is projected to increase by 9.2 per cent by 2026, while the total population in Mount Alexander is expected to increase by 29.2 per cent over this period.
- Using the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage, Mount Alexander was ranked 30 out of 79 LGAs in Victoria. A rank of 1 was assigned to the most disadvantaged LGA in Victoria.
- Of the 1,039 families with children aged between 0 and 8 years in Mount Alexander, 76.9 per cent were couple families and 23.1 per cent were one parent families.
- There were 129 Aboriginal persons in Mount Alexander, representing 0.8 per cent of the total population. 17.8 per cent of the Aboriginal population in Mount Alexander were aged 0 to 8 years.

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

- 58.5 per cent of infants in Mount Alexander were fully breastfed at 3 months and 47.0 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 83.5 per cent of children in Mount Alexander were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 88.9 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 72.2 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 202 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in Mount Alexander during 2009. Of these, 18.4 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 11.6 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 68.3% students enrolled in government schools in Mount Alexander were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 72.8% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 91.7% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

### Families in Mount Alexander.

- 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, 19 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in Mount Alexander, representing a rate of 11.0 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 Mount Alexander who remained in public housing 12 months or more after initial allocation was suppressed due to small numbers.



### 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 Mount Alexander.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 10.8 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in Mount Alexander. This is greater than the rate of hospital separations in Victoria (9.5 per 1,000 children aged under 1) .
- In 2008 - 2009, 87.8 per cent of infants in Mount Alexander received a home consultation visit and 61.1 per cent of children in Mount Alexander attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in Mount Alexander during 2009 was 98.9%. This was greater than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in Mount Alexander were absent for an average 16.2 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 15.4 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 16.3 days over the 2009 school year.

### Early childhood services for families in Mount Alexander.

- As at August 2010, there were 16 primary school education providers in Mount Alexander - 13 government, 1 Catholic and 2 independent.
- In 2009, there were 7 funded kindergarten programs in Mount Alexander. Of these, 1 were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, Mount Alexander had no multi-service Children's Centres completed or under development, funded by state and local government.

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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