



2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

Summary sheet for the Shire of South Gippsland

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

- There were 310 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in South Gippsland during 2008-09. This represents an increase of 8.4 per cent since 2006-07 and an increase of 18.8 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 27,165 people residing in South Gippsland. Of these, 2,857 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 10.5 per cent of South Gippsland's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in South Gippsland is projected to decrease by 5.2 per cent by 2026, while the total population in South Gippsland is expected to increase by 16.3 per cent over this period.
- Using the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage, South Gippsland was ranked 48 out of 79 LGAs in Victoria. A rank of 1 was assigned to the most disadvantaged LGA in Victoria.
- Of the 1,579 families with children aged between 0 and 8 years in South Gippsland, 84.6 per cent were couple families and 15.4 per cent were one parent families.
- There were 125 Aboriginal persons in South Gippsland, representing 0.5 per cent of the total population. 21.6 per cent of the Aboriginal population in South Gippsland were aged 0 to 8 years.

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

- 52.0 per cent of infants in South Gippsland were fully breastfed at 3 months and 38.4 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 92.4 per cent of children in South Gippsland were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 95.8 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 89.0 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 341 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in South Gippsland during 2009. Of these, 19.5 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 8.2 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 84.4% students enrolled in government schools in South Gippsland were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 91.9% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 97.6% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

Families in South Gippsland.

- Based on the 2009 VCHWS survey results, 47.0% of children aged 6 months to 12 years were reported to have been read to almost every day in the Gippsland region. This was less 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, 6.3% of main carer's of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Gippsland 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, 24 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in South Gippsland, representing a rate of 8.4 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 South Gippsland 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

- 95.2% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Gippsland 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%).
- 97.4% of parents of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Gippsland 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%).
- 95.3% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Gippsland region were from households where the parent or guardian agreed that their neighbourhood was safe. This proportion was similar to the proportion reported across Victoria (95.1%).

Supports and services in South Gippsland.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 8.0 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in South Gippsland. This is less than the rate of hospital separations in Victoria (9.5 per 1,000 children aged under 1).
- In 2008 - 2009, 101.0 per cent of infants in South Gippsland received a home consultation visit and 69.8 per cent of children in South Gippsland attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in South Gippsland during 2009 was 102.6%. This was greater than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in South Gippsland were absent for an average 12.6 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 13.6 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 14.1 days over the 2009 school year.

Early childhood services for families in South Gippsland.

- As at August 2010, there were 16 primary school education providers in South Gippsland - 13 government, 2 Catholic and 1 independent.
- In 2009, there were 12 funded kindergarten programs in South Gippsland. Of these, 1 were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, South Gippsland 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>
Mirboo North Children's Centre (St Andrews Child Care Centre)	Licensed and Operating
Corner Inlet Early Learning and Care Center (Foster)	In planning stage

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

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