



2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

Summary sheet for the Shire of Southern Grampians

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

- There were 188 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in Southern Grampians during 2008-09. This represents a decrease of 6.9 per cent since 2006-07 and a decrease of 1.1 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 17,451 people residing in Southern Grampians. Of these, 1,850 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 10.6 per cent of Southern Grampians's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in Southern Grampians is projected to decrease by 8.5 per cent by 2026, while the total population in Southern Grampians is expected to increase by 3.0 per cent over this period.
- Using the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage, Southern Grampians was ranked 42 out of 79 LGAs in Victoria. A rank of 1 was assigned to the most disadvantaged LGA in Victoria.
- Of the 1,053 families with children aged between 0 and 8 years in Southern Grampians, 84.9 per cent were couple families and 15.1 per cent were one parent families.
- There were 110 Aboriginal persons in Southern Grampians, representing 0.7 per cent of the total population. 30.0 per cent of the Aboriginal population in Southern Grampians were aged 0 to 8 years.

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

- 54.7 per cent of infants in Southern Grampians were fully breastfed at 3 months and 39.6 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 95.5 per cent of children in Southern Grampians were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 96.1 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 93.8 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 197 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in Southern Grampians during 2009. Of these, 15.4 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 9.0 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 82.1% students enrolled in government schools in Southern Grampians were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 86.6% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 94.4% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

Families in Southern Grampians.

- Based on the 2009 VCHWS survey results, 44.6% of children aged 6 months to 12 years were reported to have been read to almost every day in the Barwon South West 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, 2.9% of main carer's of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Barwon South West region were classified as being of high risk of psychological distress. This proportion was lower, but not significantly different to that reported across Victoria (3.7%).
- In 2008 - 2009, 22 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in Southern Grampians, 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, 80.0% of families with children aged 0 to 8 in Southern Grampians 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.³

- 93.9% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Barwon South West 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 Barwon South West 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%).
- 94.7% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Barwon South West 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 Southern Grampians.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 9.9 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in Southern Grampians. This is similar to the rate of hospital separations in Victoria (9.5 per 1,000 children aged under 1).
- In 2008 - 2009, 94.3 per cent of infants in Southern Grampians received a home consultation visit and 75.5 per cent of children in Southern Grampians attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in Southern Grampians during 2009 was 118.5%. This was greater than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in Southern Grampians were absent for an average 13.7 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 14.4 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 15.3 days over the 2009 school year.

Early childhood services for families in Southern Grampians.

- As at August 2010, there were 16 primary school education providers in Southern Grampians - 10 government, 3 Catholic and 3 independent.
- In 2009, there were 11 funded kindergarten programs in Southern Grampians. Of these, none were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, Southern Grampians had no multi-service Children's Centres completed or under development, funded by state and local government.

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