



2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

Summary sheet for the Southern Metropolitan region

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

- There were 17,793 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in the Southern Metropolitan region during 2008-09. This represents an increase of 2.9 per cent since 2006-07 and an increase of 24.8 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 1,272,588 people residing in the Southern Metropolitan region. Of these, 144,856 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 11.4 per cent of the region's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in Southern Metropolitan is projected to increase by 28.3 per cent by 2026, while the total population in the Southern Metropolitan region is expected to increase by 34.2 per cent over this period.
- Of the 80,706 families in the Southern Metropolitan region with children aged between 0 and 8 years, 83.9 per cent were couple families and 16.1 per cent were one parent families.
- According to the 2006 Census, there were 4,269 Aboriginal persons in the Southern Metropolitan region, representing 0.4 per cent of the region's total population. 21.7 per cent of the Aboriginal population in the Southern Metropolitan region were aged 0 to 8 years.

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

- 52.0 per cent of infants in the Southern Metropolitan region were fully breastfed at 3 months and 37.3 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 91.6 per cent of children in the Southern Metropolitan region were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 93.1 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 82.8 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 14,802 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in the Southern Metropolitan region during 2009. Of these, 21.3 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 10.1 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 81.7% students enrolled in government schools in the Southern Metropolitan region were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 87.3% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 94.8% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

Families in the Southern Metropolitan region.

- Based on the 2009 VCHWS survey results, 49.9% of children aged 6 months to 12 years were reported to have been read to almost every day in the Southern 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, 3.2% of main carer's of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Southern Metropolitan 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, 735 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in the Southern Metropolitan region, representing a rate of 5.1 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, 93.2% of families with children aged 0 to 8 in the Southern Metropolitan region remained in public housing 12 months or more after initial allocation. This was greater than the percentage in Victoria (87.3%).

Indicators relating to the community.³



- 95.2% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Southern 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%).
- 96.6% of parents of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Southern 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%).
- 94.7% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Southern Metropolitan 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 the Southern Metropolitan region.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 11.2 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in the Southern Metropolitan 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, 99.7 per cent of infants in the Southern Metropolitan region received a home consultation visit and 57.4 per cent of children in Southern Metropolitan attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in the Southern Metropolitan region during 2009 was 88.6%. This was less than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in the Southern Metropolitan region were absent for an average 14.5 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 14.1 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 13.7 days over the 2009 school year.

Early childhood services for families in the Southern Metropolitan region.

- As at August 2010, there were 307 primary school education providers in the Southern Metropolitan region - 184 government, 72 Catholic and 51 independent.
- In 2009, there were 363 funded kindergarten programs in the Southern Metropolitan region. Of these, 109 were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, the Southern Metropolitan region had 15 multi-service Children's Centres completed or under development, funded by state and local government. These were:

Name of Children's Centre

- Hihett Children's Centre (Livingston Kindergarten)
- Beaconsfield Community Centre
- Lakeside Children's Centre
- Pakenham Springs Children's Centre
- Cardinia Lakes Children's Centre
- Littlecroft Family Resource Centre
- Hunt Club Integrated Learning Centre
- Yooralla Narre Warren Central Children's Centre
- Karingal PLACE (People, Learning, Activities, Community Education)
- Paddy O'Donoghue Centre (Noble Park Community Services Centre)
- Bentons Square Community Centre
- Poets Grove Family & Children's Services Centre
- St Kilda Child Care Centre
- Port Melbourne Children's Centre
- Phoenix Park Children's Centre

Status

- Licensed and Operating
- Licensed and Operating
- Licensed and Operating
- Licensed and Operating
- In planning stage
- Licensed and Operating
- Licensed and Operating
- Licensed and Operating
- Licensed and Operating
- Licensed and Operating
- Licensed and Operating
- Licensed and Operating
- In planning stage
- In planning stage
- Under construction

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