

# 2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

## Summary sheet for the Shire of Surf Coast



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

- There were 306 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in Surf Coast during 2008-09. This represents a decrease of 2.0 per cent since 2006-07 and an increase of 23.9 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 24,442 people residing in Surf Coast. Of these, 3,041 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 12.4 per cent of Surf Coast's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in Surf Coast is projected to increase by 28.9 per cent by 2026, while the total population in Surf Coast is expected to increase by 52.5 per cent over this period.
- Using the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage, Surf Coast was ranked 74 out of 79 LGAs in Victoria. A rank of 1 was assigned to the most disadvantaged LGA in Victoria.
- Of the 1,543 families with children aged between 0 and 8 years in Surf Coast, 88.7 per cent were couple families and 11.3 per cent were one parent families.
- There were 80 Aboriginal persons in Surf Coast, representing 0.4 per cent of the total population. 25.0 per cent of the Aboriginal population in Surf Coast were aged 0 to 8 years.

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

- 64.6 per cent of infants in Surf Coast were fully breastfed at 3 months and 53.7 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 90.2 per cent of children in Surf Coast were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 95.0 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 80.9 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 359 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in Surf Coast during 2009. Of these, 13.2 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 4.7 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 88.1% students enrolled in government schools in Surf Coast were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 92.4% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 97.0% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

### Families in Surf Coast.

- 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, the number of substantiated cases of child abuse in Surf Coast were suppressed due to small numbers and therefore a rate of child abuse substantiations could not be derived. 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 Surf Coast 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>

- 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 Surf Coast.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 9.9 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in Surf Coast. This is similar to the rate of hospital separations in Victoria (9.5 per 1,000 children aged under 1) .
- In 2008 - 2009, 100.3 per cent of infants in Surf Coast received a home consultation visit and 70.3 per cent of children in Surf Coast attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in Surf Coast during 2009 was 94.6%. This was greater than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in Surf Coast were absent for an average 17.6 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 16.7 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 15.2 days over the 2009 school year.

### Early childhood services for families in Surf Coast.

- As at August 2010, there were 9 primary school education providers in Surf Coast - 7 government, 1 Catholic and 1 independent.
- In 2009, there were 8 funded kindergarten programs in Surf Coast. Of these, none were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, Surf Coast had 1 multi-service Children's Centres completed or under development, funded by state and local government. These were:

*Name of Children's Centre*

Torquay Children's Services Hub

*Status*

Licensed and Operating

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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