



2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

Summary sheet for the Western Metropolitan region

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

- There were 12,201 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in the Western Metropolitan region during 2008-09. This represents an increase of 8.8 per cent since 2006-07 and an increase of 40.4 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 760,987 people residing in the Western Metropolitan region. Of these, 87,975 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 11.6 per cent of the region's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in Western Metropolitan is projected to increase by 55.1 per cent by 2026, while the total population in the Western Metropolitan region is expected to increase by 59.6 per cent over this period.
- Of the 48,269 families in the Western Metropolitan region with children aged between 0 and 8 years, 81.0 per cent were couple families and 19.0 per cent were one parent families.
- According to the 2006 Census, there were 2,880 Aboriginal persons in the Western Metropolitan region, representing 0.4 per cent of the region's total population. 19.8 per cent of the Aboriginal population in the Western Metropolitan region were aged 0 to 8 years.

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

- 45.0 per cent of infants in the Western Metropolitan region were fully breastfed at 3 months and 33.2 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 92.1 per cent of children in the Western Metropolitan region were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 93.4 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 83.8 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 8,938 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in the Western Metropolitan region during 2009. Of these, 22.1 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 11.0 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 76.4% students enrolled in government schools in the Western Metropolitan region were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 81.5% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 92.7% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

Families in the Western Metropolitan region.

- Based on the 2009 VCHWS survey results, 52.3% of children aged 6 months to 12 years were reported to have been read to almost every day in the Western 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, 4.0% of main carer's of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Western Metropolitan 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, 496 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in the Western Metropolitan region, representing a rate of 5.6 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, 93.8% of families with children aged 0 to 8 in the Western 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



- 92.9% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Western 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%).
- 95.8% of parents of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Western 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%).
- 92.6% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Western Metropolitan region were from households where the parent or guardian agreed that their neighbourhood was safe. This proportion was lower than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (95.1%).

Supports and services in the Western Metropolitan region.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 10.4 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in the Western 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, 97.5 per cent of infants in the Western Metropolitan region received a home consultation visit and 46.1 per cent of children in Western Metropolitan attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in the Western Metropolitan region during 2009 was 92.0%. This was less than the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in the Western Metropolitan region were absent for an average 16.1 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 15.6 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 15.1 days over the 2009 school year.

Early childhood services for families in the Western Metropolitan region.

- As at August 2010, there were 173 primary school education providers in the Western Metropolitan region - 100 government, 56 Catholic and 17 independent.
- In 2009, there were 211 funded kindergarten programs in the Western Metropolitan region. Of these, 86 were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, the Western 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

- Deer Park Preschool
- Derrimut Community Centre
- Laverton Children's Centre
- Altona North Early Childhood Centre
- Yarraville Children's Centre
- Western Bulldogs Children's Centre
- The Harbour Family and Children's Centre
- Showground Children's Centre
- Parkwood Green Community Centre Hillside
- Springside Children's Centre
- Brookfield Children's Services Centre
- Kororoit Creek Early Learning Centre
- Milleraa Integrated Learning and Development Centre for Children
- Strathmore Childcare Centre
- Tarneit Community Children's Service/Tarneit Kindergarten

Status

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

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