

2010 Early Childhood Community Profile

Summary sheet for the City of Whitehorse



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

- There were 1,995 births notified to the local Maternal and Child Health services in Whitehorse during 2008-09. This represents an increase of 0.4 per cent since 2006-07 and an increase of 4.8 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 153,407 people residing in Whitehorse. Of these, 16,891 were aged between 0 to 8 years, representing 11.0 per cent of Whitehorse's total population.
- The population aged 0 to 8 years in Whitehorse is projected to increase by 5.7 per cent by 2026, while the total population in Whitehorse is expected to increase by 11.1 per cent over this period.
- Using the Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage, Whitehorse was ranked 72 out of 79 LGAs in Victoria. A rank of 1 was assigned to the most disadvantaged LGA in Victoria.
- Of the 9,768 families with children aged between 0 and 8 years in Whitehorse, 89.0 per cent were couple families and 11.0 per cent were one parent families.
- There were 297 Aboriginal persons in Whitehorse, representing 0.2 per cent of the total population. 16.5 per cent of the Aboriginal population in Whitehorse were aged 0 to 8 years.

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

- 62.3 per cent of infants in Whitehorse were fully breastfed at 3 months and 50.0 per cent of infants were fully breastfed at 6 months.
- 93.3 per cent of children in Whitehorse were fully immunised at 12-<15 months, 93.6 per cent were fully immunised at 24-<27 months and 85.3 per cent were fully immunised at 60-<63 months.
- 1,614 Prep children were surveyed in the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) in Whitehorse during 2009. Of these, 13.7 per cent were vulnerable on one or more domains and 5.8 per cent were vulnerable on two or more domains.
- In 2008, 88.6% students enrolled in government schools in Whitehorse were achieving a reading accuracy score of 90% or more on Level 5 texts, 92.8% of Year 1 students were reading Level 15 texts with over 90% accuracy and 97.1% of Year 2 students were achieving 90% accuracy or higher on Level 20 texts.

Families in Whitehorse.

- Based on the 2009 VCHWS survey results, 49.1% of children aged 6 months to 12 years were reported to have been read to almost every day in the Eastern 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, 2.2% of main carer's of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Eastern 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, 87 substantiated cases of child abuse were recorded in Whitehorse, representing a rate of 5.2 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, 94.7% of families with children aged 0 to 8 in Whitehorse 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 local community.³

- 96.4% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Eastern 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 higher than, but not significantly different to the proportion reported across Victoria (95.2%).
- 97.4% of parents of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Eastern Metropolitan 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%).
- 98.1% of children aged 0 to 12 years in the Eastern Metropolitan region were from households where the parent or guardian agreed that their neighbourhood was safe. This proportion was significantly higher than the proportion reported across Victoria (95.1%).

Supports and services in Whitehorse.

- During 2008 - 2009, there were 8.9 hospital separations for gastroenteritis per 1,000 children aged 0 to 1 in Whitehorse. This is less than the rate of hospital separations in Victoria (9.5 per 1,000 children aged under 1) .
- In 2008 - 2009, 99.2 per cent of infants in Whitehorse received a home consultation visit and 71.2 per cent of children in Whitehorse attended the 3.5 year key ages and stages visit.
- The kindergarten participation rate in Whitehorse during 2009 was 92.8%. This was similar to the kindergarten participation rate in Victoria (92.7%).
- Prep students attending government schools in Whitehorse were absent for an average 12.2 days over the 2009 school year. Year 1 students were absent for an average 12.4 days and Year 2 students were absent for an average 12.3 days over the 2009 school year.

Early childhood services for families in Whitehorse.

- As at August 2010, there were 39 primary school education providers in Whitehorse - 23 government, 11 Catholic and 5 independent.
- In 2009, there were 52 funded kindergarten programs in Whitehorse. Of these, 17 were kindergarten programs located within a long day care setting.
- As at 22 July 2010, Whitehorse had 1 multi-service Children's Centres completed or under development, funded by state and local government. These were:

Name of Children's Centre

Mitcham Children & Family Centre

Status

Licensed and Operating

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