

INPUT FROM VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT TO AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO THE PROVISION OF SERVICES UNDER THE NDIS EARLY CHILDHOOD EARLY INTERVENTION APPROACH

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Background

Katy Haire, Deputy Secretary, ECSEG and Kim Little, Assistant Deputy Secretary Early Childhood, presented on behalf of the Victorian Government at a public hearing of the Joint Standing Committee on 19 September 2017.

Maternal and Child Health

Question on Notice from Jenny Macklin (*Hansard p40*)

Participation rates of families accessing Maternal and Child Health services by region/LGA

Response:

Detailed historical data about Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services including participation rates by region/LGA is available in annual reports available [online here](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/support/Pages/mchannualreportarchive.aspx) (<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/support/Pages/mchannualreportarchive.aspx>). Please note that 2015/16 data is not available by LGA.

2014/15 participation rates for MCH services by LGA:

Local government area/agency	0-1 years %	1-2 years %	2-3 years %	3-4 years %	4-5 years %	5-6 years %
Alpine	100.0	97.1	92.6	56.1	54.3	6.7
Ararat	100.0	87.6	70.7	33.6	53.0	35.2
Ballarat	100.0	92.7	80.6	30.9	48.4	3.4
Banyule	100.0	97.6	92.9	45.2	56.1	3.3
Bass Coast	100.0	84.8	59.0	19.9	38.9	3.3
Baw Baw	100.0	92.6	76.9	34.6	47.0	9.3
Bayside	100.0	95.2	87.8	43.8	46.8	3.5
Benalla	100.0	97.2	89.0	46.7	48.4	3.3
Boroondara	100.0	94.9	89.2	42.5	54.9	1.6
Brimbank	100.0	85.9	66.8	28.5	43.4	2.2
Buloke	100.0	100.0	88.1	69.2	86.7	97.2
Campaspe	100.0	85.2	74.9	27.3	51.6	6.3
Cardinia	100.0	91.8	79.9	30.0	43.7	3.0

Casey	100.0	90.3	74.8	24.5	40.1	2.3
Central Goldfields	100.0	96.3	86.1	33.3	77.8	10.1
Colac-Otway	100.0	91.6	72.2	37.1	46.4	6.7
Corangamite	100.0	92.1	79.4	35.2	66.1	11.4
Darebin	100.0	91.2	73.5	27.6	44.4	3.2
East Gippsland - GLCH	100.0	88.5	72.9	25.9	38.2	2.0
East Gippsland - ORH	100.0	96.1	73.2	51.7	79.3	29.0
Frankston	100.0	92.3	77.3	35.0	46.6	4.8
Gannawarra	100.0	89.5	71.1	31.0	45.8	11.0
Glen Eira	100.0	99.0	94.0	52.2	58.4	3.7
Glenelg	100.0	96.4	86.0	37.4	67.0	9.3
Golden Plains	100.0	90.2	75.4	38.5	49.8	1.1
Greater Bendigo	100.0	89.8	78.9	44.3	55.9	8.3
Greater Dandenong	100.0	93.8	81.4	29.9	53.4	4.9
Greater Geelong	100.0	92.4	81.0	31.1	41.6	1.9
Greater Shepparton	100.0	90.5	79.7	33.4	51.0	6.1
Hepburn	100.0	95.6	94.9	44.0	51.6	6.6
Hindmarsh	100.0	100.0	75.3	32.2	68.1	1.8
Hobsons Bay	100.0	90.2	76.0	34.6	44.1	4.0
Horsham	100.0	91.7	84.3	44.6	61.3	13.9
Hume	100.0	86.2	63.4	23.3	42.4	5.9
Indigo	100.0	88.8	81.9	46.3	54.3	14.7
Kingston	100.0	92.3	79.2	32.9	43.6	2.5
Knox	100.0	96.8	88.9	39.4	52.1	3.4
Latrobe	100.0	89.0	67.3	33.0	48.8	4.6
Loddon	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Macedon Ranges	100.0	98.0	90.5	47.2	60.6	3.7
Manningham	100.0	94.0	81.3	35.7	48.8	1.6
Mansfield	100.0	90.7	63.6	33.0	42.2	4.2
Maribyrnong	100.0	93.8	73.1	29.3	35.9	3.1
Maroondah	100.0	93.0	83.1	31.0	48.6	3.5
Melbourne	100.0	93.7	80.5	32.1	43.5	3.8
Melton	100.0	88.4	67.9	24.3	48.8	3.6
Mildura	100.0	93.3	74.4	36.4	48.1	4.0
Mitchell	100.0	92.5	83.8	36.8	50.3	5.8
Moira	100.0	98.0	90.7	48.5	54.6	4.8
Monash	100.0	93.6	84.9	29.2	48.1	1.4
Moonee Valley	100.0	96.0	87.5	35.3	54.0	4.3
Moorabool	100.0	98.0	96.1	42.2	72.7	8.5
Moreland	100.0	88.8	72.6	29.0	43.4	3.5
Mornington Peninsula	100.0	89.1	73.0	34.3	42.0	3.4
Mount Alexander	100.0	93.8	83.4	51.4	72.5	13.6
Moyne	100.0	87.2	67.2	25.7	48.6	6.9
Murrindindi	100.0	97.0	87.9	41.4	76.6	13.3
Nillumbik	100.0	96.1	89.7	35.6	54.7	3.2
Northern Grampians	100.0	93.3	87.7	62.6	57.7	9.9

Port Phillip	100.0	95.4	86.8	47.9	49.2	6.4
Pyrenees	100.0	96.8	88.2	62.0	61.0	8.2
Queenscliffe	100.0	100.0	80.0	29.4	51.5	0.0
South Gippsland	100.0	92.1	81.4	40.5	48.3	5.2
Southern Grampians	100.0	98.6	86.8	32.9	82.9	5.1
Stonnington	100.0	94.9	82.0	32.4	44.9	5.8
Strathbogie	100.0	96.6	90.0	55.3	55.1	5.8
Surf Coast	100.0	87.6	70.0	31.3	41.9	3.7
Swan Hill	100.0	85.8	67.9	34.6	45.7	7.0
Towong	100.0	93.5	85.1	70.1	80.0	31.3
Wangaratta	100.0	89.3	81.0	39.0	49.3	4.1
Warrnambool	100.0	92.4	79.2	32.5	52.5	3.7
Wellington - CGHS	100.0	93.2	80.8	34.7	54.2	7.6
Wellington - YDHS	100.0	93.5	74.0	53.6	37.5	6.3
West Wimmera	100.0	97.2	90.7	55.6	66.7	0.0
Whitehorse	100.0	94.7	82.7	36.3	47.7	1.7
Whittlesea	100.0	92.3	81.7	28.1	50.4	1.2
Wodonga	100.0	88.5	73.0	36.1	48.3	9.2
Wyndham	100.0	84.3	65.2	26.6	41.1	3.5
Yarra	100.0	95.3	85.5	42.1	50.2	3.9
Yarra Ranges	100.0	93.5	81.3	31.5	47.7	3.1
Yarriambiack	100.0	94.3	93.0	74.0	62.9	5.0

Question on Notice from Jenny Macklin (Hansard p40)

Participation by families with children with identified disabilities.

Response:

MCH Services do not collect information about children with identified disability. However data is collected about the numbers of referrals (and reasons for referrals) made by MCH nurses to other services. For example, reasons for referral include 'potentially disabling conditions' (refer page 13 of the 2015/16 Maternal and Child Health Annual Report).

Question on Notice from the Chair (Hansard p40)

Research on why people don't continue to engage?

Response:

Anecdotal information indicates that disengagement from the MCH Service is a result of women returning to work. This may also be a result of parents who have a second or third child who feel confident in their parenting and that they do not need the support of the MCH Service.

A review of Aboriginal participation in MCH Services found that while many Koorie families move between mainstream MCH services and those provided by Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs), many families have a clear preference for ACCHO based MCH services.

The factors that inhibit CALD and refugee families' engagement with services are well documented. Recent research suggests that families often experience multiple and interconnected barriers,

including language and literacy, experience of trauma and loss, access to transportation, culturally inappropriate services and lack of confidence (Brotherhood of St Laurence 2015; Riggs et al. 2012). It is important to note that even if CALD families have an awareness of the MCH Service and what it offers, they may be dealing with multiple other issues (for example, housing and employment issues) that may lower the immediate priority to engage with MCH services (Riggs et al. 2012).

The birth notification system works well to initially engage CALD families who give birth in Victorian hospitals with the MCH Service. However, there is currently no system by which MCH services are formally notified of refugee or newly-arrived migrant families moving to LGAs in Victoria (Riggs et al. 2012). Therefore, it is not always possible for the MCH Service to identify families from refugee backgrounds (Riggs et al. 2012; Yelland et al. 2013), and means that CALD and refugee families with children born outside of Australia are often unaware of the services available, and services are unaware of the families (Riggs et al. 2012).

Question on Notice from Jenny Macklin (Hansard p41)

It would be useful to get the data by LGA where you are doing something different that has generated a better response, particularly for little children with disabilities.

Response:

MCH Services do not collect data about children with identified disability.

Question on Notice from Jenny Macklin (Hansard p41)

What about children with disability—are you doing anything specific for them?

Response:

Children who are identified with a developmental delay or have a disability by the MCH Service are referred to other practitioners including Early Childhood Intervention Services. In areas that have transitioned to the NDIS, children are referred to Early Childhood Partners.

Question on Notice from Jenny Macklin (Hansard p42)

How long has the enhanced approach (Enhanced Home Visiting Service) been going?

Response:

The Enhanced Home Visiting Service commenced in 2000. Current intake criteria include amongst others, parents with an intellectual disability and children with a physical and intellectual disability.

Question on Notice from Jenny Macklin (Hansard p42)

Has it been evaluated and if so, is there anything to do with children with disability in the evaluation.

Response:

The Enhanced Home Visiting Service has not been formally evaluated.

Three/Four Year Kindergarten

Question on Notice from Jenny Macklin (Hansard p40)

We'd also like to know the same thing for your three- and four-year-old kindergarten data—so your overall participation by region or by local government area.

Response:

The State provides funding for 3-year-old kindergarten by way of the Early Start Kindergarten (ESK) program. This is a targeted program that provides eligible three year old children with access to up to 15 hours of kindergarten per week. ESK is available for children who are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, known to Child Protection or have been referred by Child Protection to Child FIRST. A participation rate is not available as there is no comparable denominator.

In 2016, there were 1,283 children who accessed the ESK program.

A breakdown of kindergarten enrolment rates is detailed by local government area (LGA) below.

Department of Education & Training Region	LGA Name	No. of children attending 1st year kgn who live in the LGA	Kindergarten Participation Rate ¹
NORTH-EASTERN	Alpine	111	100%
NORTH-EASTERN	Benalla	135	95%
NORTH-EASTERN	Boroondara	1722	97%
NORTH-EASTERN	Greater Shepparton	857	97%
NORTH-EASTERN	Indigo	156	88%
NORTH-EASTERN	Knox	1771	97%
NORTH-EASTERN	Manningham	1180	104%
NORTH-EASTERN	Mansfield	91	88%
NORTH-EASTERN	Maroondah	1359	92%
NORTH-EASTERN	Mitchell	577	100%
NORTH-EASTERN	Moira	351	98%
NORTH-EASTERN	Monash	1884	95%
NORTH-EASTERN	Murrindindi	135	95%
NORTH-EASTERN	Strathbogie	94	93%
NORTH-EASTERN	Towong	51	94%
NORTH-EASTERN	Wangaratta	343	108%
NORTH-EASTERN	Whitehorse	1819	94%
NORTH-EASTERN	Wodonga	553	93%
NORTH-EASTERN	Yarra Ranges	1862	95%
NORTH-WESTERN	Banyule	1584	96%
NORTH-WESTERN	Buloke	52	85%
NORTH-WESTERN	Campaspe	456	105%
NORTH-WESTERN	Central Goldfields	141	100%
NORTH-WESTERN	Darebin	1621	87%
NORTH-WESTERN	Gannawarra	105	106%
NORTH-WESTERN	Greater Bendigo	1466	100%
NORTH-WESTERN	Hume	2880	97%
NORTH-WESTERN	Loddon	60	75%
NORTH-WESTERN	Macedon Ranges	645	106%

¹ In some cases, LGAs will have estimated participation rates higher than 100%. This may be due to a number of issues including: - Population data for small LGAs may be less accurate, particularly for single age groups in small rural LGAs; - First year enrolments in funded kindergarten can include children of different ages although the majority of the children are 4 and 5yos. The denominator uses ERP for 4 and 5yos only, therefore the estimated participation rate may be inflated.

Department of Education & Training Region	LGA Name	No. of children attending 1st year kgn who live in the LGA	Kindergarten Participation Rate ¹
NORTH-WESTERN	Mildura	652	94%
NORTH-WESTERN	Moreland	1864	90%
NORTH-WESTERN	Mount Alexander	177	96%
NORTH-WESTERN	Nilumbik	739	103%
NORTH-WESTERN	Swan Hill	280	100%
NORTH-WESTERN	Whittlesea	2983	96%
NORTH-WESTERN	Yarra	687	87%
SOUTH-EASTERN	Bass Coast	376	98%
SOUTH-EASTERN	Baw Baw	616	100%
SOUTH-EASTERN	Bayside	1124	95%
SOUTH-EASTERN	Cardinia	1522	99%
SOUTH-EASTERN	Casey	4547	99%
SOUTH-EASTERN	East Gippsland	453	93%
SOUTH-EASTERN	Frankston	1737	94%
SOUTH-EASTERN	Glen Eira	1720	90%
SOUTH-EASTERN	Greater Dandenong	1949	96%
SOUTH-EASTERN	Kingston	1804	94%
SOUTH-EASTERN	Latrobe	915	96%
SOUTH-EASTERN	Mornington Peninsula	1842	105%
SOUTH-EASTERN	Port Phillip	762	82%
SOUTH-EASTERN	South Gippsland	328	103%
SOUTH-EASTERN	Stonnington	841	91%
SOUTH-EASTERN	Wellington	498	101%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Ararat	110	88%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Ballarat	1334	97%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Brimbank	2499	96%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Colac-Otway	265	107%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Corangamite	196	104%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Glenelg	206	105%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Golden Plains	311	102%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Greater Geelong	2913	102%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Hepburn	162	93%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Hindmarsh	48	86%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Hobsons Bay	1190	93%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Horsham	236	89%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Maribyrnong	983	85%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Melbourne	576	83%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Melton	2379	101%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Moonee Valley	1296	92%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Moorabool	423	91%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Moyne	231	102%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Northern Grampians	111	116%

Department of Education & Training Region	LGA Name	No. of children attending 1st year kgn who live in the LGA	Kindergarten Participation Rate ¹
SOUTH-WESTERN	Pyrenees	81	122%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Queenscliffe	25	155%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Southern Grampians	177	99%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Surf Coast	428	97%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Warrnambool	413	100%
SOUTH-WESTERN	West Wimmera	40	120%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Wyndham	3893	98%
SOUTH-WESTERN	Yarriambiack	71	115%
	TOTAL	73074	

Question on Notice from Jenny Macklin (Hansard p40)

Then your data for children with disability (attending kindergarten).

Response:

In 2016, there were 3,499 children with a disability or developmental delay attending a funded kindergarten program in the year before school in Victoria. This data is based on observations and information provided by teachers. The Department is not able to produce a participation rate as there is no comparable denominator available.