

# Bendigo Loddon Primary Care Partnership Community Wellbeing Profile 2010

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## Glossary

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics.
Bendigo	Refers to the township area of Bendigo and its urban surrounds that is located within the municipality of City of Greater Bendigo.
DPCD	Department of Planning & Community Development (State Government)
DSE	Department of Sustainability & Environment (State Government)
EP	Enumerated population. This is the population that was counted in that location on the night of the census. It may not be the same population that ordinarily lives in that location. For some locations, such as popular tourist towns, the enumerated population will be very different to the URP. Where possible, this EPs have been avoided in the profile.
ERP	Estimated resident population. The population that is estimated to reside in a given location. ERPs are usually conducted between census periods, based on birth and death data and migration estimates.
Family incident	A family incident is any situation where the police are requested to attend an incident involving a family. The incident may not involve violence.
Greater Bendigo	Abbreviation of City of Greater Bendigo
LGA	Local Government Area. An area defined by municipal boundaries, such as Buloke Shire, Gannawarra Shire and Swan Hill Rural City.
Loddon	Abbreviation of Loddon Shire
MDC	Major diagnostic category
Median	The median is the middle value of an ordered set of values- e.g. the median value of 12, 62, 33, 40 and 20 is 33 - as it is the middle point.
PCP	Primary Care Partnerships. A partnership of health and related service providers committed to strengthening the planning and delivery of primary care services within a defined region.
SLA	Statistical Local Area. The Australian Bureau of Statistics and some other agencies provide information at the Statistical Local Area level. A Local Government Area (LGA) is typically made up of one or more SLA.
UCL	Urban Centre/Locality. This is a term used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and typically refers to the area within the urban boundary of a town. Therefore, Swan Hill - Robinvale SLA would be a much larger area than the Swan Hill UCL.
URP	Usual resident population. The population that usually resides in a given location, as opposed to visiting that location on census night.
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Index for Areas
VAED	Victorian Admitted Episodes Dataset. This is the data from admissions into public or private hospitals in Victoria.
VEMD	Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset. This is data detailing presentations at Victorian public hospitals within 24-hour Emergency Departments.

## Demographic characteristics

The Bendigo Loddon Primary Care Partnership (PCP) region comprises the Local Government areas of Loddon Shire and City of Greater Bendigo. The region spans an area of approximately 9,700 square kilometres and, in 2007, had an estimated population of 106,400. The population, outside of Bendigo, is widely dispersed and takes in a number of small towns.

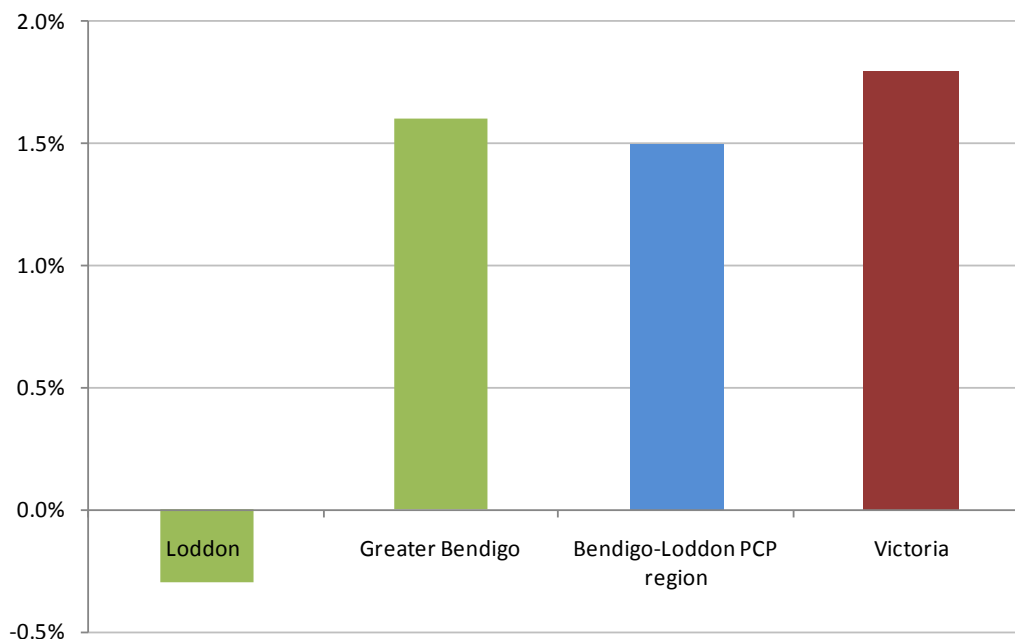
### Population

#### Estimated resident population by Local Government area

	Loddon	Greater Bendigo	Bendigo Loddon PCP region	Victoria
<b>June 2007</b>	8,050	98,456	106,506	5,221,310
<b>June 2008</b>	8,073	100,054	108,127	5,313,823
<b>Change 07-08</b>	-0.3%	1.6%	1.5%	1.8%

ABS 3218.0 (March 2009) [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

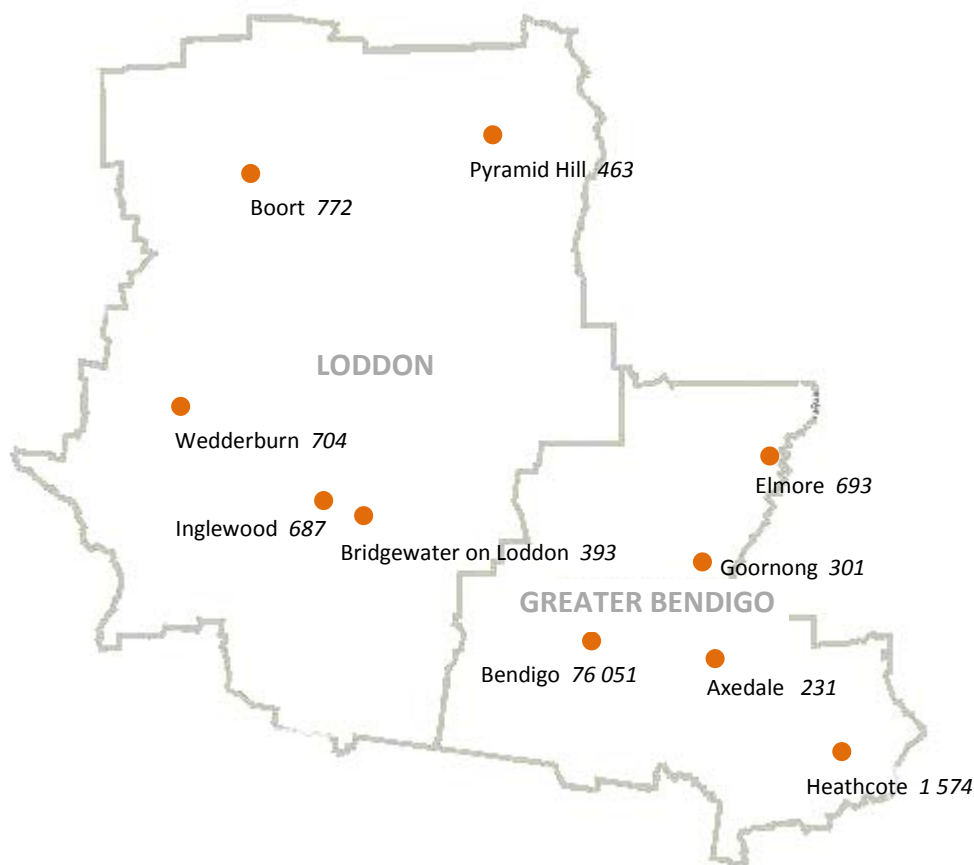
#### Population change - June 2007 to June 2008



ABS 3218.0 (March 2009) [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

## Population distribution

In 2006, around 19% of the region's usual resident population lived in rural areas and small settlements, with the balance living in towns. The map below sets out how the region's population was distributed across its towns.



ABS 2006 census [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

## Population forecast

The Victorian State Government developed population forecasts in 2008, *Victoria in Future*. These forecasts predict that the population of the Bendigo Loddon PCP region will reach 133,015 by 2021. Most population growth will take place in the City of Greater Bendigo.

### Bendigo-Loddon PCP region population forecast (based on *Victoria in Future* 2004 population projections)

Area	Year			
	2011	2016	2021	2026
Greater Bendigo	106,016	115,476	125,267	134,705
Loddon	7,990	7,874	7,749	7,674
<b>Total (PCP Region)</b>	<b>114,007</b>	<b>123,349</b>	<b>133,015</b>	<b>142,380</b>

[www.dse.vic.gov.au/victoriafuture/](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/victoriafuture/)

The City of Greater Bendigo has commissioned an independent population forecast and this forecast is lower than the 2008 *Victoria in Future* forecast. Based on this forecast, the population of the Bendigo Loddon PCP region would reach 128,848 by 2021.

### Bendigo-Loddon PCP region population forecast\*

Area	Year			
	2011	2016	2021	2026
Greater Bendigo	104,068	112,444	121,099	129,943
Loddon	7,990	7,874	7,749	7,674
<b>Total (PCP Region)</b>	<b>112,058</b>	<b>120,318</b>	<b>128,848</b>	<b>137,617</b>

Victoria in future population projections (2008) [www.dse.vic.gov.au/victoriainfuture/](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/victoriainfuture/) and [www.id.com.au/bendigo/forecastid/](http://www.id.com.au/bendigo/forecastid/)

\*(based on Victoria in Future 2008 population projections for Loddon and i.d. consulting population projections for City of Greater Bendigo)

### Age structure

The age structure of the Bendigo Loddon PCP region is similar to that of Regional Victoria, while it has a higher proportion of population aged 65 to 84 compared to Victoria. However, this pattern is influenced by the presence of the regional city of Bendigo in the PCP region and is not typical of most rural areas.

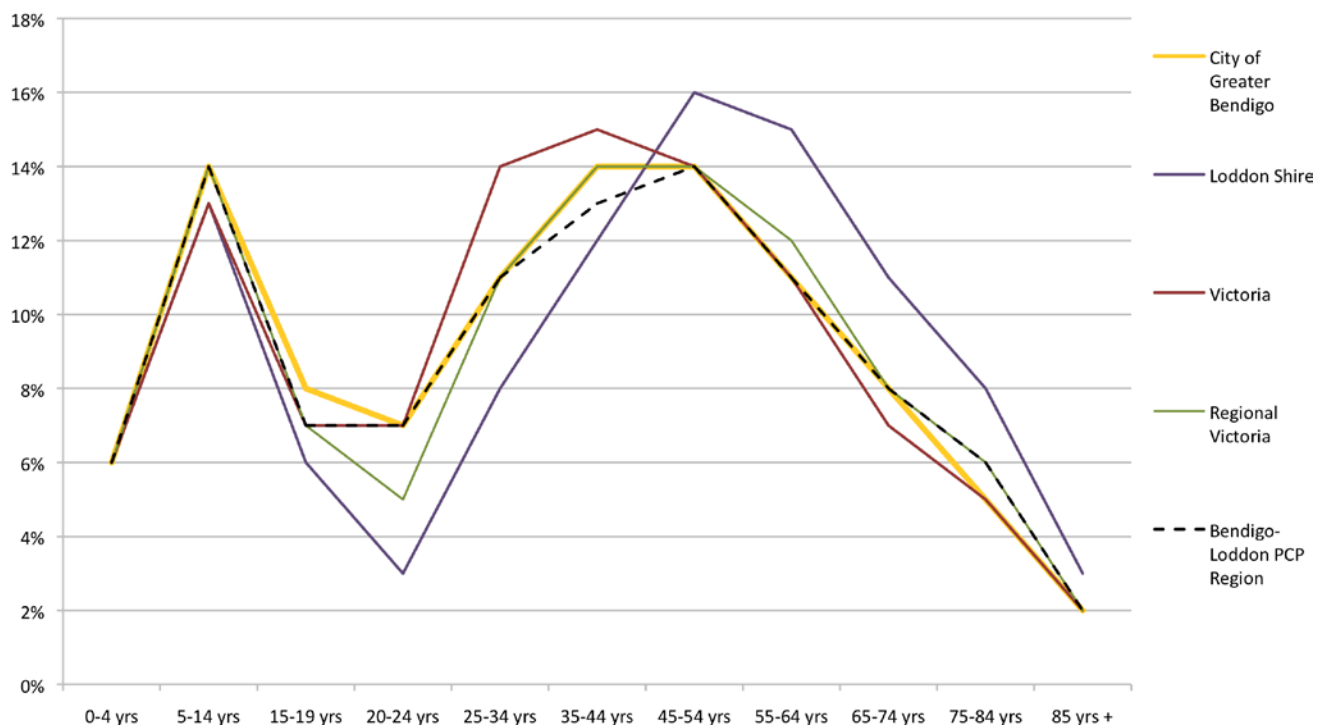
Loddon Shire's age structure is markedly different to City of Greater Bendigo, Regional Victoria and Victoria. A lower proportion of population in the 15 to 44 year old age brackets and a higher proportion of population aged in the 45 to 85+ age brackets reflects the trends in many rural areas of population leaving to seek education, employment and cultural opportunities.

### Age structure of population (2006)

Age in years	Greater Bendigo		Loddon		Bendigo Loddon PCP region		Regional Victoria		Victoria	
	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%
0-4	5,779	6%	434	6%	6213	6%	80873	6%	305938	6%
5-14	13,295	14%	1057	13%	14352	14%	191581	14%	644451	13%
15-19	7,013	8%	461	6%	7474	7%	94095	7%	335181	7%
20-24	6,454	7%	245	3%	6699	7%	71653	5%	338715	7%
25-34	10,710	11%	637	8%	11347	11%	142017	11%	677883	14%
35-44	12,637	14%	939	12%	13576	13%	184733	14%	741348	15%
45-54	13,179	14%	1235	16%	14414	14%	193215	14%	679516	14%
55-64	10,356	11%	1161	15%	11517	11%	162298	12%	534487	11%
65-74	7,030	8%	868	11%	7898	8%	109806	8%	345526	7%
75-84	4,998	5%	596	8%	5594	6%	77383	6%	245506	5%
85 +	1,802	2%	203	3%	2005	2%	25782	2%	83872	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,253</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7,836</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>101,089</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,333,436</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4,932,423</b>	<b>100%</b>

ABS 2006 census [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

### Age structure of Bendigo-Loddon PCP population 2006

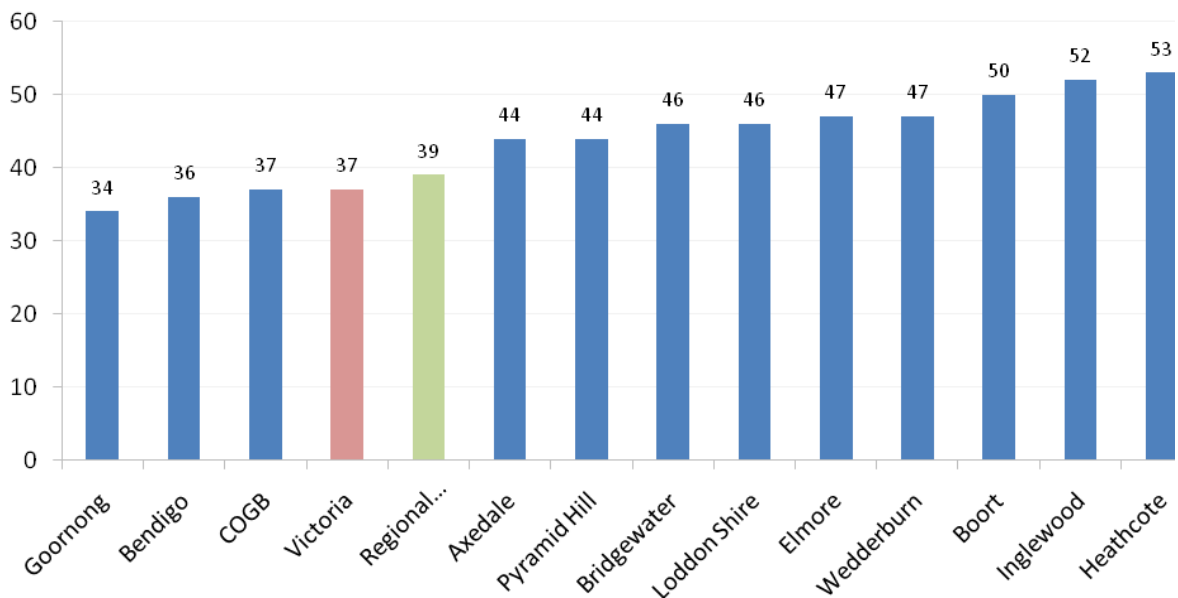


ABS 2006 census [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

### Median age

In 2006, the median age of Loddon Shire’s population was 46 and City of Greater Bendigo’s population was 37, compared to 37 for Victoria and 39 for regional Victoria. This reflects the general trend of aging population seen in many rural communities and the capacity of larger centres such as Bendigo to attract younger population.

### Median ages in towns of the Bendigo-Loddon PCP region 2006



2006 census [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

## Population aged 65 years and over

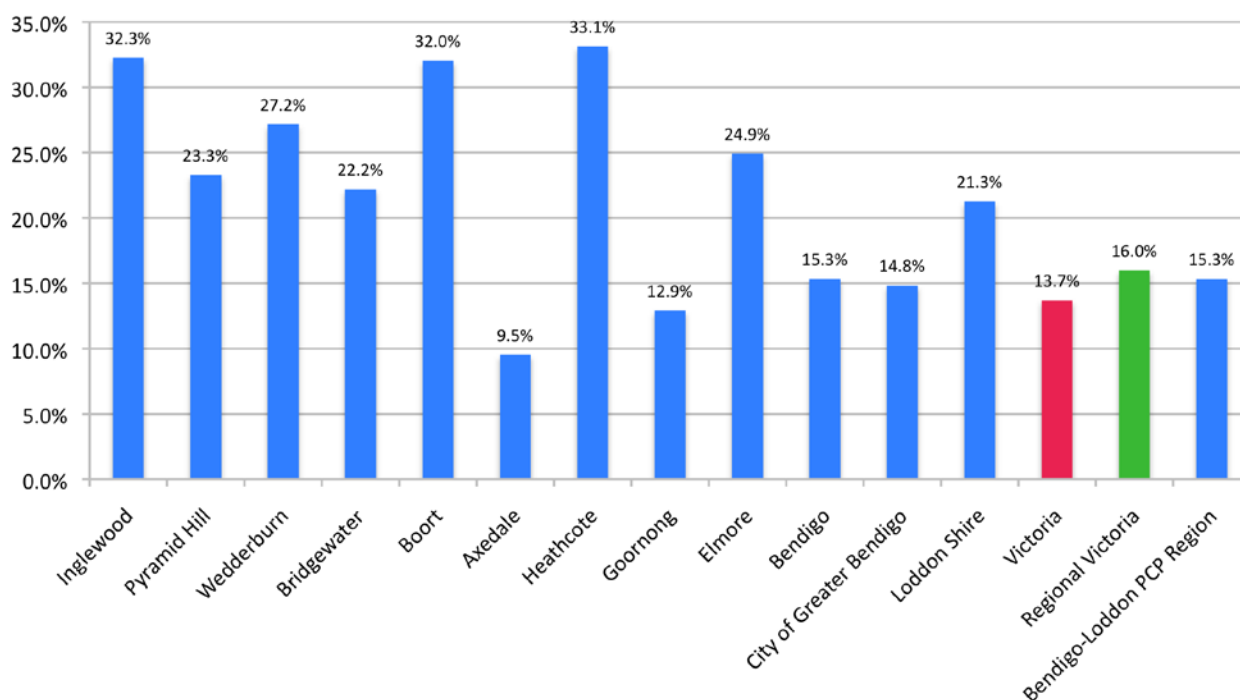
In 2006, 21% of Loddon Shire's population was aged over 65, compared to 15% in City of Greater Bendigo. Bendigo and neighbouring commuter towns, Goornong and Axedale, had a lower proportion of population in this age bracket, while more isolated towns had a higher proportion. This reflects the pattern of aging population seen across the PCP region and regional Victoria.

### 2006 Population aged 65+ (ranked)

	Number	% of Population
Axedale	22	9.5%
Goornong	39	12.9%
Victoria	674,904	13.7%
City of Greater Bendigo (LGA)	13 830	14.8%
Bendigo	11 665	15.3%
Regional Victoria	212,971	16.0%
Loddon Shire (LGA)	1,667	21.3%
Bridgewater	87	22.2%
Pyramid Hill	108	23.3%
Elmore	173	24.9%
Wedderburn	191	27.2%
Inglewood	221	32.3%
Boort	247	32.0%
Heathcote	521	33.1%

Source: ABS population of usual residence 2006

### Proportion of population aged 65+ in the Bendigo-Loddon PCP region (2006)



ABS population of usual residence 2006

## Population aged 0 - 4 years

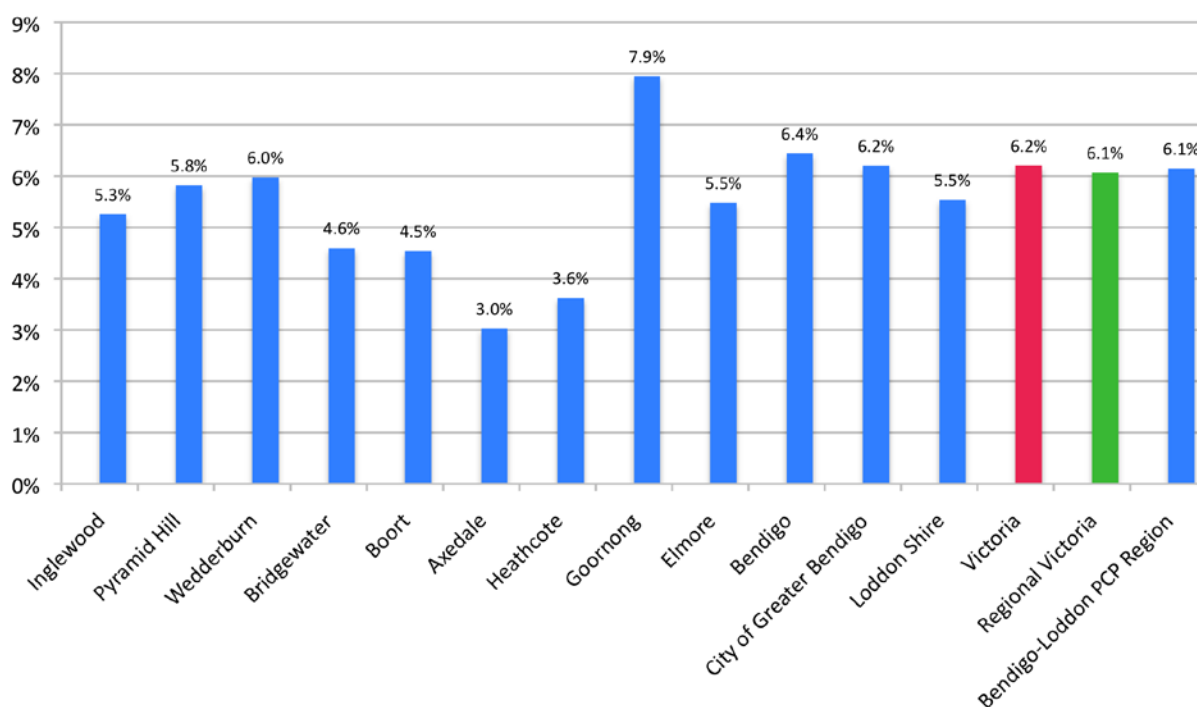
In 2006, 6% of Loddon Shire’s and City of Greater Bendigo’s population was aged 0-4 yrs. Most small towns in the region had a similar or lower proportion of population in this age cohort, reflecting the higher proportions of aging population seen in many small country towns. Goornong (8%) defied this trend.

### 2006 Population aged 0-4yrs

Location	Number	% of population
Axedale	7	3.0%
Heathcote	57	3.6%
Boort	35	4.5%
Bridgewater	18	4.6%
Inglewood	36	5.3%
Elmore	38	5.5%
Loddon Shire (LGA)	434	5.5%
Pyramid Hill	27	5.8%
Wedderburn	42	6.0%
Regional Victoria	80,873	6.0%
City of Greater Bendigo (LGA)	5,779	6.2%
Victoria	305,938	6.2%
Bendigo	4,899	6.4%
Goornong	24	7.9%

ABS population of usual residence 2006

### Proportion of population aged 0-4yrs in the Bendigo-Loddon PCP region (2006)



ABS population of usual residence 2006

## Population aged 15 - 19 years

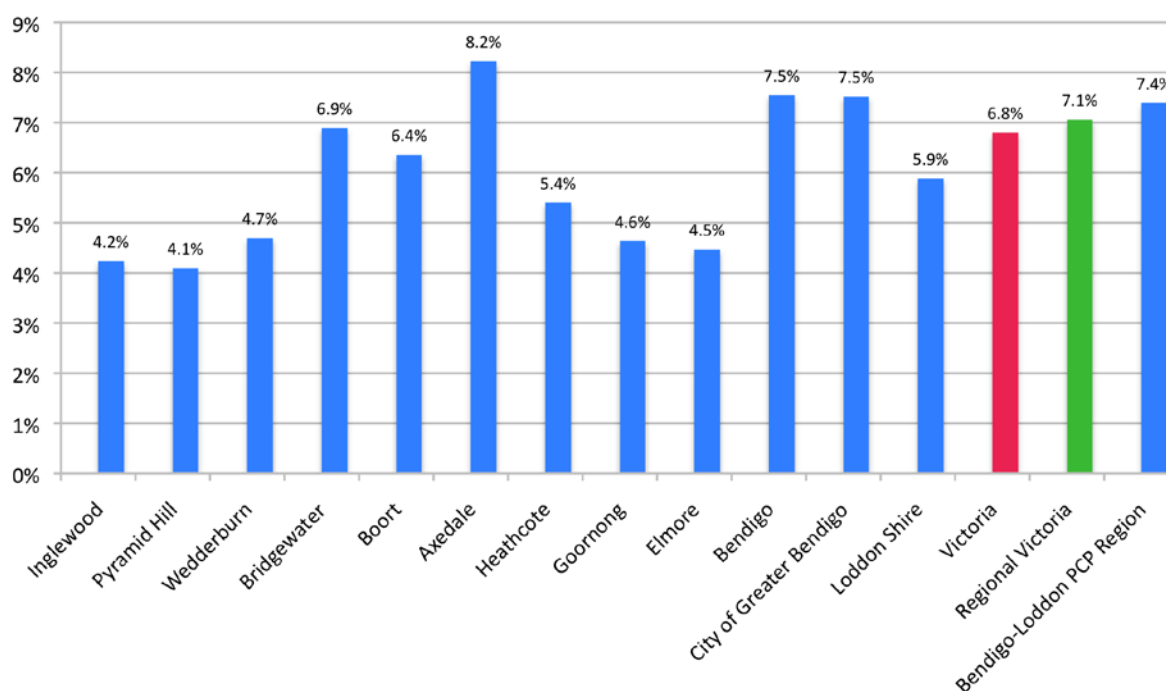
In 2006, 6% of Loddon's population was aged 15-19yrs, a figure slightly lower than those for Regional Victoria and Victoria (both 7%). Greater Bendigo had 8% of its population in this age cohort, a figure slightly higher than the Regional Victoria and Victoria average. Many small towns had a lower proportion of population in this age cohort, compared to the Regional Victorian average. However, Boort (6.4%) and Bridgewater (6.9%) were close to the average figures and Axedale (8.2%) had a much higher proportion of population in this cohort than either Local Government Area or the average for Regional Victorian and Victoria.

### 2006 Population aged 15-19rs

Location	Number	% of Population
Pyramid Hill	19	4.1%
Inglewood	29	4.2%
Elmore	31	4.5%
Goornong	14	4.6%
Wedderburn	33	4.7%
Heathcote	85	5.4%
Loddon Shire (LGA)	461	5.9%
Boort	49	6.4%
Victoria	335,181	6.8%
Bridgewater	27	6.9%
Regional Victoria	94,095	7.1%
City of Greater Bendigo (LGA)	7,013	7.5%
Bendigo	5,740	7.5%
Axedale	19	8.2%

ABS population of usual residence 2006

### Proportion of population aged 15-19yrs in the Bendigo-Loddon PCP region (2006)



ABS population of usual residence 2006

## Population aged 20-24 years

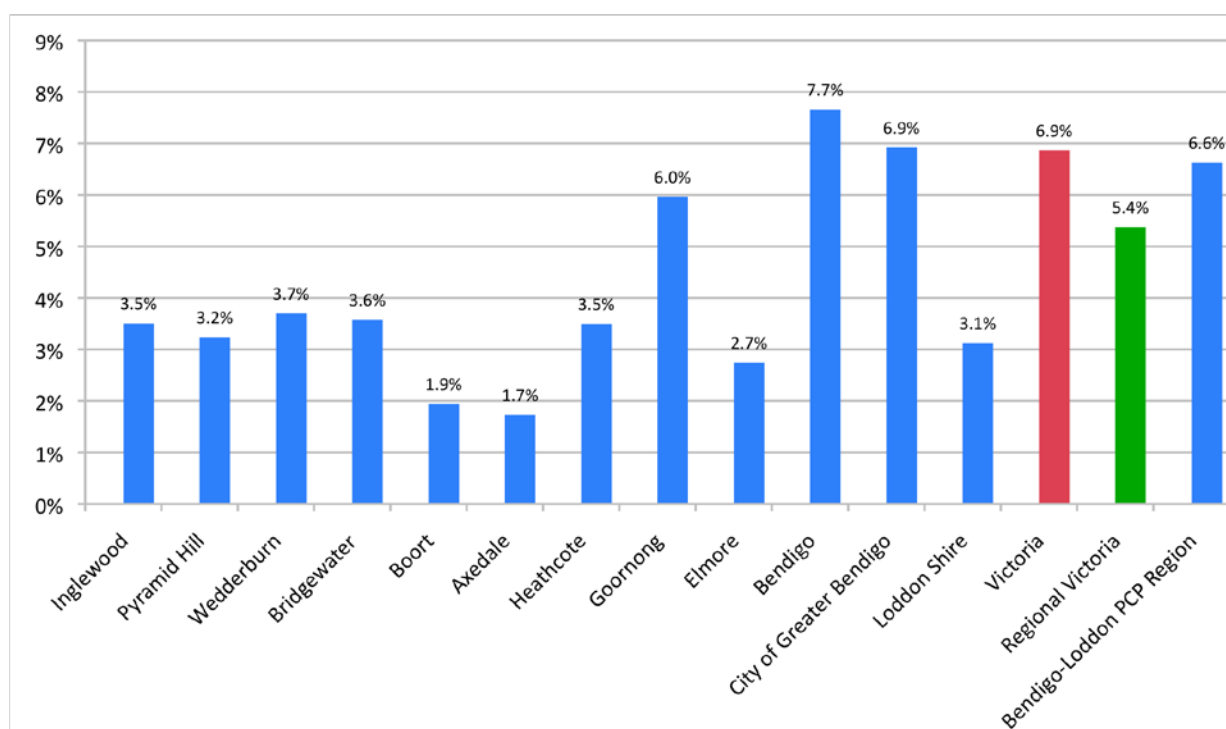
In 2006, 3% of Loddon’s population was aged 20-24yrs, while 7% of Greater Bendigo’s population fell in this age bracket. In most cases, Bendigo had at least double the proportion of population in this age bracket compared to small towns in the PCP region. The notable exception was Goornong, which had 6% of population in this age bracket. These figures reflect state population trends which illustrate the outward migration of young adults to larger cities.

### 2006 Population aged 20-24rs (ranked)

Location	Number	% of Population
Axedale	4	1.7%
Boort	15	1.9%
Elmore	19	2.7%
Loddon Shire (LGA)	245	3.0%
Pyramid Hill	15	3.2%
Heathcote	55	3.5%
Inglewood	24	3.5%
Bridgewater	14	3.6%
Wedderburn	26	3.7%
Regional Victoria	71653	5.4%
Goornong	18	6.0%
Victoria	338715	6.9%
City of Greater Bendigo (LGA)	6,454	6.9%
Bendigo	5,825	7.7%

ABS population of usual residence 2006

### Proportion of population aged 20-24yrs in the Bendigo-Loddon PCP region 2006



ABS population of usual residence 2006

## Projected change to population age structure

The *Victoria in Future* population projections set out the projected change in population structure by year. As the table below illustrates, the proportion of population aged 65 or over is projected to increase significantly. The projected proportion of population aged 65 or over for the PCP region is higher than for Victoria. Within the PCP region, there is a marked and growing difference in population structure between City of Greater Bendigo and Loddon Shire. Age-based population projections are currently only available for metropolitan LGAs. As such, this data is from the 2004 Victoria in Future population forecast.

### Projected change to population age structure 2011 - 2021

	2011		2016		2021	
	number	% of population	number	% of population	number	% of population
City of Greater Bendigo	17 152	16.6%	21 366	19.5%	25 887	22.3%
Loddon Shire	1953	23.5%	2 249	27.5%	2505	31.2%
Regional Victoria	259 605	17.8%	316 240	20.9%	374 009	23.8%
Victoria	795 364	14.9%	948 577	17.0%	1 101 665	19.0%

*Victoria in future population projections (2004)* [www.dse.vic.gov.au/victoriainfuture/](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/victoriainfuture/)

### Projected proportion of population aged 65 and over



*Victoria in future population projections (2004)* [www.dse.vic.gov.au/victoriainfuture/](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/victoriainfuture/)

## People living alone

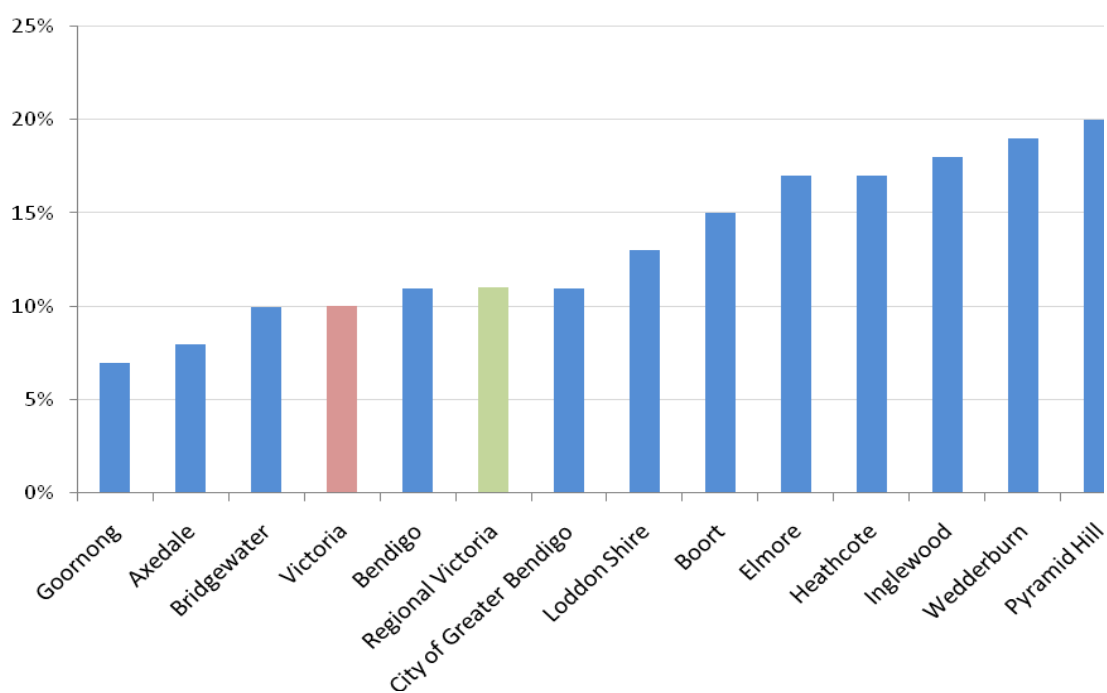
In 2006, there were 10,296 people living alone in the Bendigo-Loddon PCP region. Of these, 9 344 lived in Greater Bendigo and 952 lived in Loddon. The proportion of population living alone varied across the region, with Pyramid Hill recording 20% while Goornong recorded 7%. These patterns largely reflect the pattern of aging population.

### Proportion of lone person households (2006)

Location	Number	% of total population
Goornong	22	7%
Axedale	18	8%
Bridgewater	36	10%
Victoria	443 639	10%
Bendigo	8104	11%
Regional Victoria	132 737	11%
City of Greater Bendigo	9344	11%
Loddon Shire	952	13%
Boort	99	15%
Elmore	107	17%
Heathcote	251	17%
Inglewood	110	18%
Wedderburn	125	19%
Pyramid Hill	85	20%

2006 census [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

### Proportion of population living alone 2006



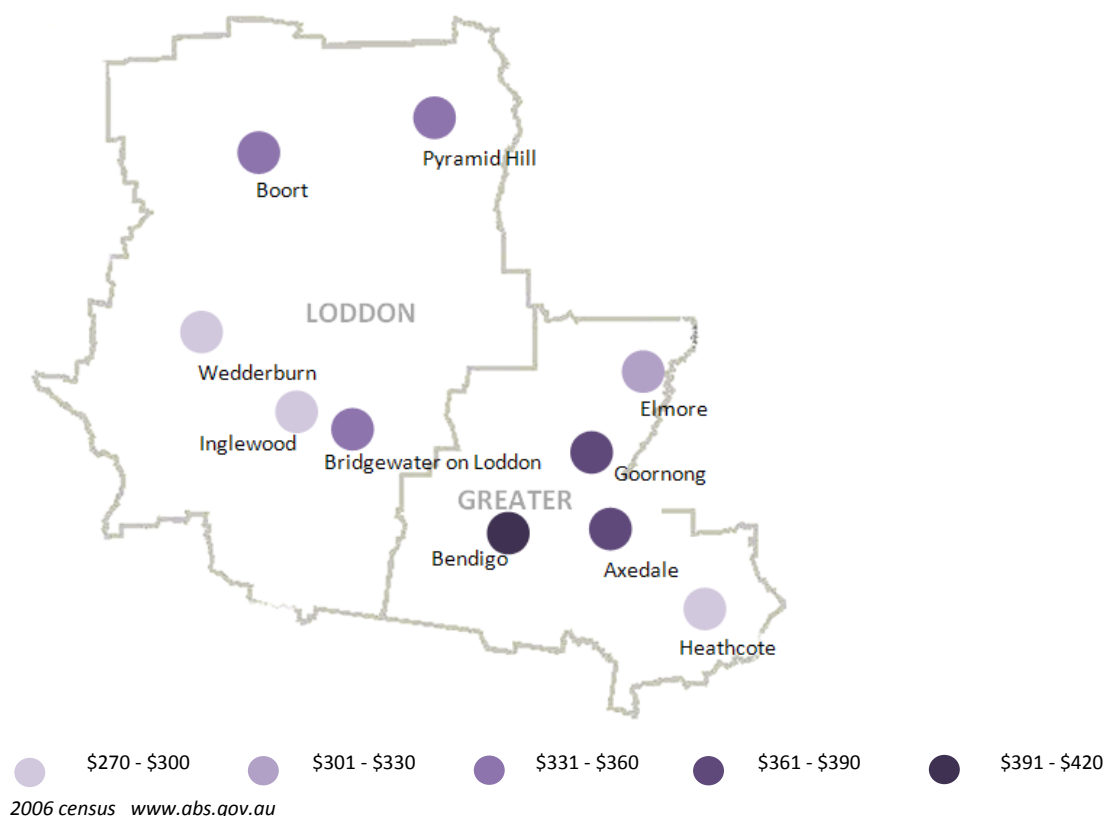
2006 census [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

## Income and employment

### Individual income

In 2006, the median individual income of Loddon Shire residents was \$324. This figure was lower than that of Regional Victoria (\$399) and Victoria (\$456). The median individual income of City of Greater Bendigo residents was \$403. This figure was slightly higher than that of Regional Victoria and was lower than the Victorian median. Towns within the Bendigo-Loddon PCP region varied, with Heathcote and Inglewood recording the lowest income and Bendigo recording the highest income.

### Median individual incomes by town 2006 - map



### Gross individual weekly income by LGA 2006

	Greater Bendigo	Loddon	Regional Victoria	Victoria
Negative/Nil income	1%	2%	1%	1%
\$1-\$149	1%	2%	2%	1%
\$150-\$249	6%	9%	6%	5%
\$250-\$349	9%	11%	9%	7%
\$350-\$499	6%	10%	6%	5%
\$500-\$649	13%	16%	13%	10%
\$650-\$799	7%	7%	7%	6%
\$800-\$999	8%	6%	7%	7%
\$1,000-\$1,199	12%	11%	11%	11%
\$1,200-\$1,399	6%	5%	6%	6%
\$1,400-\$1,699	7%	4%	7%	7%
\$1,700-\$1,999	5%	3%	5%	6%
\$2,000-\$2,499	4%	2%	4%	6%
\$2,500-\$2,999	3%	1%	3%	5%
\$3,000 or more	2%	1%	2%	5%

2006 census [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

### Gross individual weekly income by town 2006

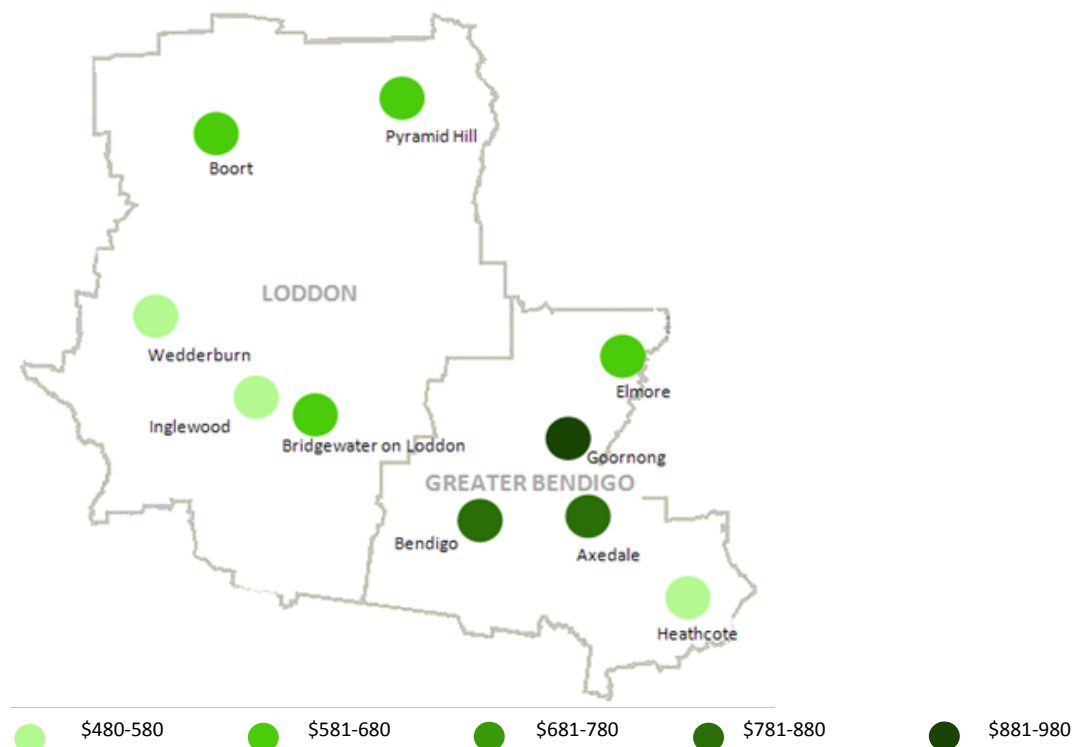
	Bridgewater	Boort	Wedderburn	Pyramid Hill	Inglewood	Axedale	Heathcote	Goornong	Elmore	Bendigo
Negative/Nil income	6%	7%	4%	5%	3%	11%	6%	5%	5%	5%
\$1-\$149	5%	9%	6%	3%	5%	9%	7%	8%	6%	8%
\$150-\$249	22%	17%	30%	23%	33%	20%	27%	19%	24%	17%
\$250-\$399	20%	18%	22%	22%	23%	7%	21%	16%	23%	16%
\$400-\$599	20%	14%	15%	19%	15%	16%	13%	17%	13%	16%
\$600-\$799	8%	9%	8%	9%	8%	14%	7%	14%	9%	11%
\$800-\$999	4%	6%	4%	4%	3%	10%	4%	6%	5%	7%
\$1,000-\$1,299	3%	5%	2%	5%	2%	4%	3%	7%	4%	6%
\$1,300-\$1,599	4%	2%	0%	0%	1%	4%	1%	1%	2%	3%
\$1,600-\$1,999	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
> \$2,000	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%
not stated	7%	12%	8%	7%	6%	3%	11%	5%	8%	7%

2006 census [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

## Household income

In 2006, the median household income in Loddon Shire was \$597, compared to \$820 across Regional Victoria and \$1022 for the Victorian average. The median household income in City of Greater Bendigo was \$833. Towns within the Bendigo-Loddon PCP region varied substantially.

### Median household income by town 2006 - map



2006 census [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

### Gross household weekly income by LGA 2006

	City of Greater Bendigo	Loddon Shire	Regional Victoria	Victoria
Negative/Nil income	1%	2%	1%	1%
\$1-\$149	1%	2%	2%	1%
\$150-\$249	6%	9%	6%	5%
\$250-\$349	9%	11%	9%	7%
\$350-\$499	6%	10%	6%	5%
\$500-\$649	13%	16%	13%	10%
\$650-\$799	7%	7%	7%	6%
\$800-\$999	8%	6%	7%	7%
\$1,000-\$1,199	12%	11%	11%	11%
\$1,200-\$1,399	6%	5%	6%	6%
\$1,400-\$1,699	7%	4%	7%	7%
\$1,700-\$1,999	5%	3%	5%	6%
\$2,000-\$2,499	4%	2%	4%	6%
\$2,500-\$2,999	3%	1%	3%	5%
\$3,000 or more	2%	1%	2%	5%

2006 census [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

### Gross household weekly income by town 2006

	Bridgewater	Boort	Wedderburn	Pyramid Hill	Inglewood	Axedale	Heathcote	Goornong	Elmore	Bendigo
Negative/Nil income	2.0%	2.3%	3.5%	0.0%	2.8%	0.0%	1.3%	3.7%	0.0%	0.7%
\$1-\$149	2.0%	2.6%	3.2%	2.1%	0.0%	6.7%	2.2%	0.0%	2.7%	1.2%
\$150-\$249	6.6%	9.5%	11.9%	9.7%	12.8%	3.4%	10.0%	5.6%	9.7%	6.4%
\$250-\$349	10.6%	11.8%	15.5%	12.3%	13.4%	5.6%	16.1%	2.8%	13.4%	9.2%
\$350-\$499	12.6%	4.9%	10.6%	8.2%	13.4%	6.7%	11.9%	3.7%	9.4%	5.6%
\$500-\$649	19.2%	14.4%	17.1%	17.4%	16.6%	14.6%	17.4%	13.0%	18.4%	13.4%
\$650-\$799	5.3%	9.2%	8.1%	5.6%	6.6%	7.9%	6.3%	6.5%	6.0%	7.6%
\$800-\$999	7.3%	6.9%	4.8%	6.7%	7.6%	0.0%	5.7%	12.0%	9.7%	8.0%
\$1,000-\$1,199	11.3%	13.4%	6.8%	12.8%	7.6%	14.6%	6.8%	13.0%	7.7%	11.7%
\$1,200-\$1,399	4.0%	2.3%	1.9%	6.7%	3.1%	5.6%	2.5%	7.4%	4.7%	6.2%
\$1,400-\$1,699	6.6%	3.6%	2.9%	3.6%	1.7%	7.9%	3.7%	8.3%	4.7%	6.7%
\$1,700-\$1,999	0.0%	2.3%	1.0%	3.1%	2.1%	6.7%	1.6%	2.8%	1.0%	4.8%
\$2,000-\$2,499	2.0%	4.6%	1.0%	0.0%	1.0%	5.6%	2.4%	2.8%	1.7%	4.2%
\$2,500 - \$2,999	2.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.5%
\$3,000 >	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.7%	2.3%	1.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

2006 census [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

### Age pensioners and carers

The Age Pension is an income support payment for people who have reached retirement age. Men must be aged 65 or over and women must be 63 ½ or over. In September 2009, both Loddon and Greater Bendigo had a higher proportion of population that was receiving the Age Pension when compared to the Victorian average. Loddon had a particularly high proportion. Between March and September 2009, the proportion of population receiving the age pension did not change in City of Greater Bendigo while it increased in Loddon Shire.

The Carer Payment is an income support payment for people who are unable to support themselves through participation in the workforce because they are caring for someone with a disability, severe medical condition or who is frail aged. In September 2009, compared to the Victorian average, Greater Bendigo and Loddon had a high proportion of population aged 15 years or over receiving the Carer Payment. Between March and September 2009, the proportion of population aged 15 years and over receiving the benefit decreased in Greater Bendigo and increased in Loddon Shire.

### Age pension and other pensions September 2009

Location		Age Pension		Carer Payment	
		No. of recipients	% of 2008 total est. LGA population	No. of recipients	% of LGA pop. aged ≥ 15yrs *
Gr. Bendigo	March 2009	12,462	12.7%	1,064	1.8%
	September 2009	12,748	12.7%	1,171	1.6%
Loddon Shire	March 2009	1,477	18.3%	114	1.8%
	September 2009	1,804	22.3%	161	2.5%
Victoria	March 2009	526,365	10.7%	36,027	0.9%
	September 2009	533,138	10.0%	39,089	1.0%

Commissioned data from Centrelink [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)

\* from 2006 census

## Labour force participation

In 2006, compared to City of Greater Bendigo and Victoria, Loddon Shire had a lower proportion of population aged 15-64 years that was participating in the labour force. City of Greater Bendigo and Loddon Shire had a lower proportion of population aged 15-64 years that was working full-time, compared to Victoria. City of Greater Bendigo had a higher proportion of population aged 15-64 years that was working part-time, compared to Victoria, while Loddon Shire had a lower proportion.

### Labour force participation 2006

	City of Greater Bendigo		Loddon Shire		Victoria
	No.	% of all total pop. Aged 15-64yrs	No.	% of all total pop. Aged 15-64yrs	% of all total pop. Aged 15-64yrs
Worked full-time(a)	24,141	40.0%	1,873	40.0%	43.0%
Worked part-time	13,228	21.9%	858	18.3%	19.8%
Employed, away from work(b)	1,571	2.6%	106	2.3%	2.4%
Hours worked not stated	1,090	1.8%	86	1.8%	1.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,030</b>	<b>66.3%</b>	<b>2,923</b>	<b>62.5%</b>	<b>67.1%</b>
Unemployed, looking for:	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%
Full-time work	1,789	3.0%	137	2.9%	2.4%
Part-time work	1,050	1.7%	56	1.2%	1.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,839</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
<b>Total labour force*</b>	<b>42,869</b>	<b>71.0%</b>	<b>3,116</b>	<b>66.6%</b>	<b>71.0%</b>
Not in the labour force	15,201	25.2%	1,404	30.0%	23.7%
Labour force status not stated	2,272	3.8%	157	3.4%	5.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,342</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4,677</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

www.abs.gov.au 2006

\*employed or looking for employment.

In 2006, the proportion of Indigenous population aged 15-64 years participating in the labour force (as registered unemployed or employed) was higher in City of Greater Bendigo than the Victorian average and the proportion of Indigenous population not in the labour force was the same for both areas. Compared to the total population figures, the proportion of Indigenous population aged 15 - 64 years participating in the labour force was much lower in City of Greater Bendigo, reflecting the Victorian average figures.

### Labour force participation by LGA and Indigenous status (aged 15-64yrs)

		Indigenous Population		All Population	
		No.	%	No.	%
<b>City of Greater Bendigo</b>	Total Labour force	326	58.1%	42,869	71.0%
	Not in labour force	215	38.3%	15,201	25.2%
	Not stated	25	4.4%	2,272	3.8%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>60,342</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Loddon</b>	Total Labour force	*	*	3,116	66.6%
	Not in labour force	*	*	1,404	30.0%
	Not stated	*	*	157	3.4%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>4,677</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Victoria</b>	Total Labour force		56.4%	2,347,793	71.0%
	Not in labour force		38.3%	784,913	23.7%
	Not stated		5.3%	174,425	5.3%

ABS Basic Community Profiles 2006

\* small population counts mean that cell sizes are too small to be reliable

## Occupation

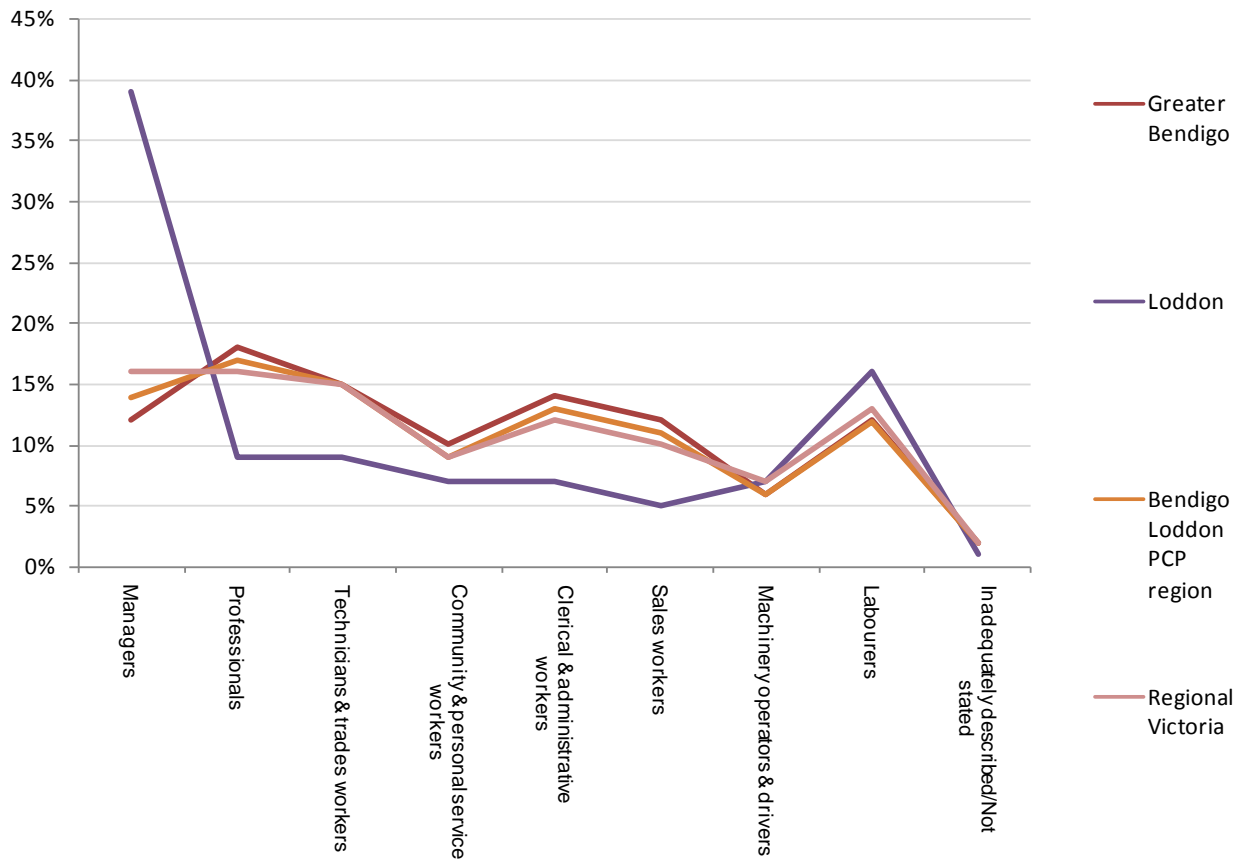
Occupations held by the labour force residing in the Bendigo-Loddon PCP region are largely similar to those for Regional Victoria, with a higher proportion of professionals and clerical and administration workers and a lower proportion of managers. Compared to the whole of Victoria, the PCP region has a lower proportion of professionals and a higher proportion of labourers. Compared to Regional Victoria, Loddon Shire had a significantly higher proportion of managers and labourers and a lower proportion of most other occupations, while City of Greater Bendigo had similar occupation proportions to Regional Victoria.

### Occupation of labour force table 2006

	City of Gr.Bendigo	Loddon Shire	Bendigo- Loddon PCP	Regional Victoria	Victoria
Managers	12%	39%	14%	16%	13%
Professionals	18%	9%	17%	16%	21%
Technicians & trades workers	15%	9%	15%	15%	14%
Community & personal service workers	10%	7%	9%	9%	8%
Clerical & administrative workers	14%	7%	13%	12%	15%
Sales workers	12%	5%	11%	10%	10%
Machinery operators & drivers	6%	7%	6%	7%	7%
Labourers	12%	16%	12%	13%	10%
Inadequately described/Not stated	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%
Total no.	40,955	3,176	44,131	585,989	2,274,447
Total %	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

### Occupation of labour force 2006



[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

## Industry of employment

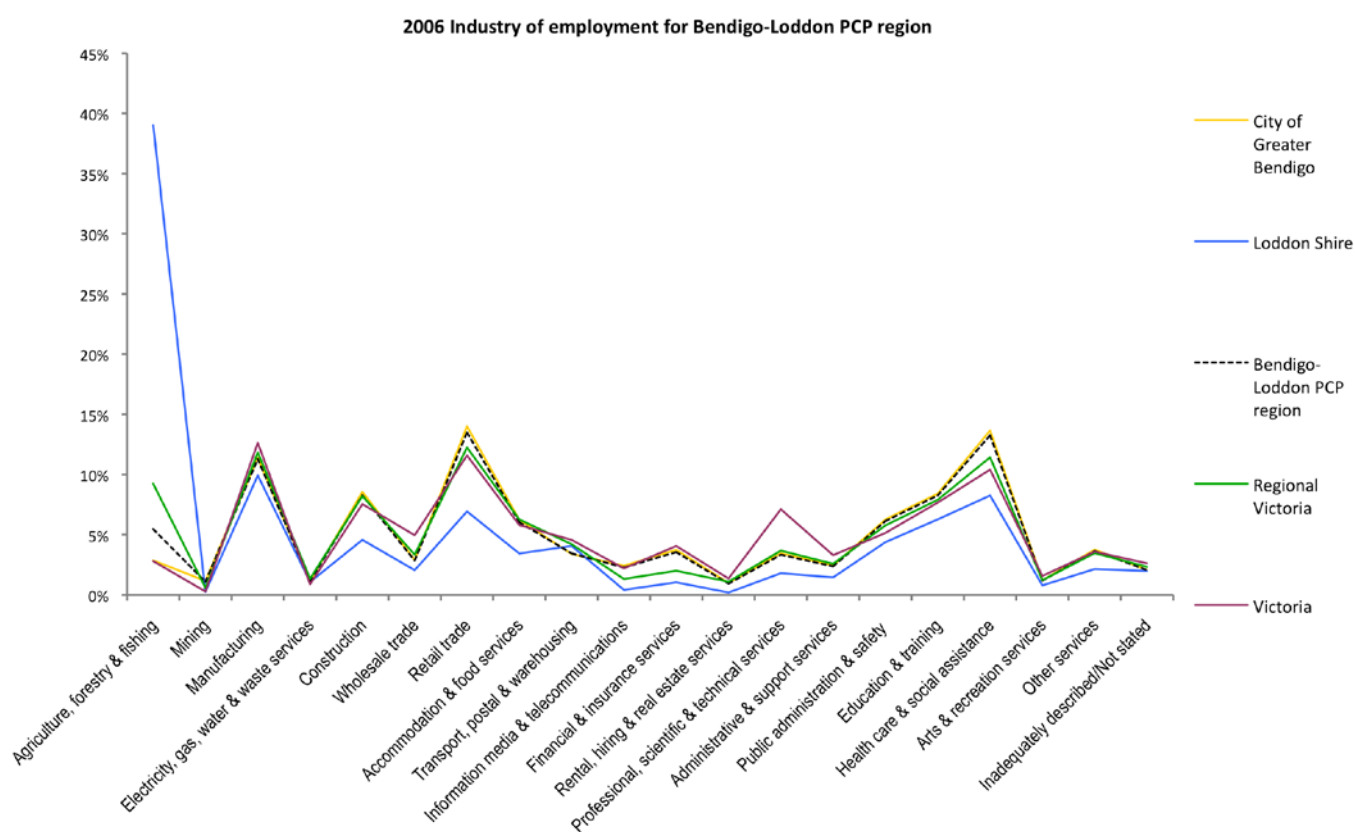
In 2006, the labour force residing in the Bendigo-Loddon PCP region worked in similar industries as the labour force across Regional Victoria. However the PCP region did have a lower proportion of labour force working in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector and this largely due to the influence of the regional centre of Bendigo. Compared to total Victorian figures, the PCP region had a notably lower proportion working in the professional, scientific and technical and the wholesale trade industry sectors, while it had a higher proportion working in the agriculture, forestry and fishing, the retail trade and the health care/social assistance sectors. As expected, Loddon Shire had a high proportion of labour force working in the agricultural sector and, generally, a lower proportion of labour force working across the other sectors.

### Industry of employment 2006

	City of Gr. Bendigo	Loddon Shire	BLPCP region	Regional Victoria	Victoria
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	2.9%	39.0%	5.5%	9.2%	2.8%
Mining	1.2%	0.3%	1.1%	0.6%	0.3%
Manufacturing	11.4%	9.9%	11.3%	11.8%	12.6%
Electricity, gas, water & waste services	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.3%	0.9%
Construction	8.6%	4.6%	8.3%	8.2%	7.5%
Wholesale trade	2.9%	2.0%	2.8%	3.3%	4.9%
Retail trade	14.0%	6.9%	13.5%	12.2%	11.6%
Accommodation & food services	6.2%	3.4%	6.0%	6.3%	5.8%
Transport, postal & warehousing	3.4%	4.1%	3.4%	4.2%	4.6%
Information media & telecommunications	2.4%	0.4%	2.3%	1.3%	2.2%
Financial & insurance services	3.7%	1.0%	3.5%	2.0%	4.1%
Rental, hiring & real estate services	1.0%	0.2%	0.9%	1.1%	1.4%
Professional, scientific & technical services	3.4%	1.8%	3.3%	3.7%	7.1%
Administrative & support services	2.4%	1.4%	2.4%	2.6%	3.3%
Public administration & safety	6.3%	4.4%	6.1%	5.8%	5.1%
Education & training	8.4%	6.3%	8.3%	7.9%	7.7%
Health care & social assistance	13.6%	8.3%	13.3%	11.4%	10.4%
Arts & recreation services	1.2%	0.8%	1.2%	1.2%	1.6%
Other services	3.8%	2.1%	3.6%	3.5%	3.6%
Inadequately described/Not stated	2.1%	2.0%	2.1%	2.3%	2.6%
<i>Total no.</i>	<i>40,952</i>	<i>3,175</i>	<i>44,127</i>	<i>585,993</i>	<i>2,274,447</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

ABS 2006 census [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

## Industry of employment 2006



ABS 2006 census [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

## Unemployment

Unemployment figures for the March 2010 quarter indicate that, compared to December 2009, rates decreased in City of Greater Bendigo and did not change in Loddon Shire. Compared to Regional Victoria and Victoria, Greater Bendigo Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) Inner East, Eaglehawk and Central had a higher rate of unemployment, as did the Loddon – South SLA. Within the Bendigo Loddon PCP region, Greater Bendigo - Eaglehawk SLA had the highest rate (8.7%) and Loddon - North SLA had the lowest (2.9%).

### Unemployment for the Bendigo-Loddon PCP Region (March 2010 quarter)

Location	Unemployment – number		Unemployment - rate		Total labour force
	Dec 09	Mar 10	Dec 09	Mar 10	
Gr. Bendigo – Central	610	593	6.9	6.6	8,949
Gr. Bendigo - Eaglehawk	349	344	8.9	8.7	3,948
Gr. Bendigo – Inner East	883	859	6.9	6.7	12,901
Gr. Bendigo – Inner North	278	274	5.1	5.0	5,446
Gr. Bendigo – Inner West	498	487	5.8	5.6	8,635
Gr. Bendigo – Part B	256	255	4.5	4.4	5,786
Gr. Bendigo – Strathfieldsaye	119	118	3.1	3.0	3,871
<b>Total Greater Bendigo</b>	<b>2993</b>	<b>2930</b>			<b>49,536</b>
Loddon - North	49	50	2.9	2.9	1,701
Loddon - South	136	137	6.5	6.5	2,106
<b>Total Loddon Shire</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>187</b>			<b>3807</b>
<b>Regional Victoria</b>	<b>39,300</b>	<b>39,900</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>714,100</b>
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>159,900</b>	<b>160,500</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>2,859,200</b>

Small Area Labour Markets - March quarter 2010 [www.workplace.gov.au](http://www.workplace.gov.au)

## NewStart recipients

Newstart is an income support payment for people who are looking for work. It allows them to participate in activities designed to increase their chances of finding work. A person must be aged 21 to 64 to qualify. In September 2009, compared to Victoria, Greater Bendigo and Loddon Shire had a higher proportion of females who were receiving a Newstart allowance and this figure had increased from March 2009, particularly in Loddon Shire.

In September 2009, Greater Bendigo and Loddon Shire had a significantly higher proportion (almost double) of male population aged 21 to 64 years that were receiving the Newstart benefit than the Victorian average. This proportion had increased from March 2009, particularly in Loddon Shire.

### Newstart recipients (September 2009)

		Female			Male			All persons		
		NewStart recipients	All females aged 21-64*	%	NewStart recipients	All males aged 21-64*	%	NewStart recipients	All persons aged 21-64*	%
Greater Bendigo	Mar 09	1,175	21,791	5.4	1,906	20,065	9.5	3,081	41,856	7.4
	Sep 09	1,254	21,791	5.8	2,053	20,065	10.2	3,307	41,856	7.9
Loddon	Mar 09	98	2,020	4.9	179	2,149	8.3	277	4,169	6.6
	Sep 09	129	2,020	6.4	234	2,149	10.9	363	4,169	8.7
Victoria	Mar 09	<b>46,519</b>	<b>1,476,300</b>	3.2	70,649	1,427,609	4.9	117,168	2,903,909	4.0
	Sep 09	<b>49,838</b>	<b>1,476,300</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>78,427</b>	<b>1,427,609</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>128,265</b>	<b>2,903,909</b>	<b>4.4</b>

Commissioned data from Centrelink [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)

\* from 2006 census

## Indigenous population

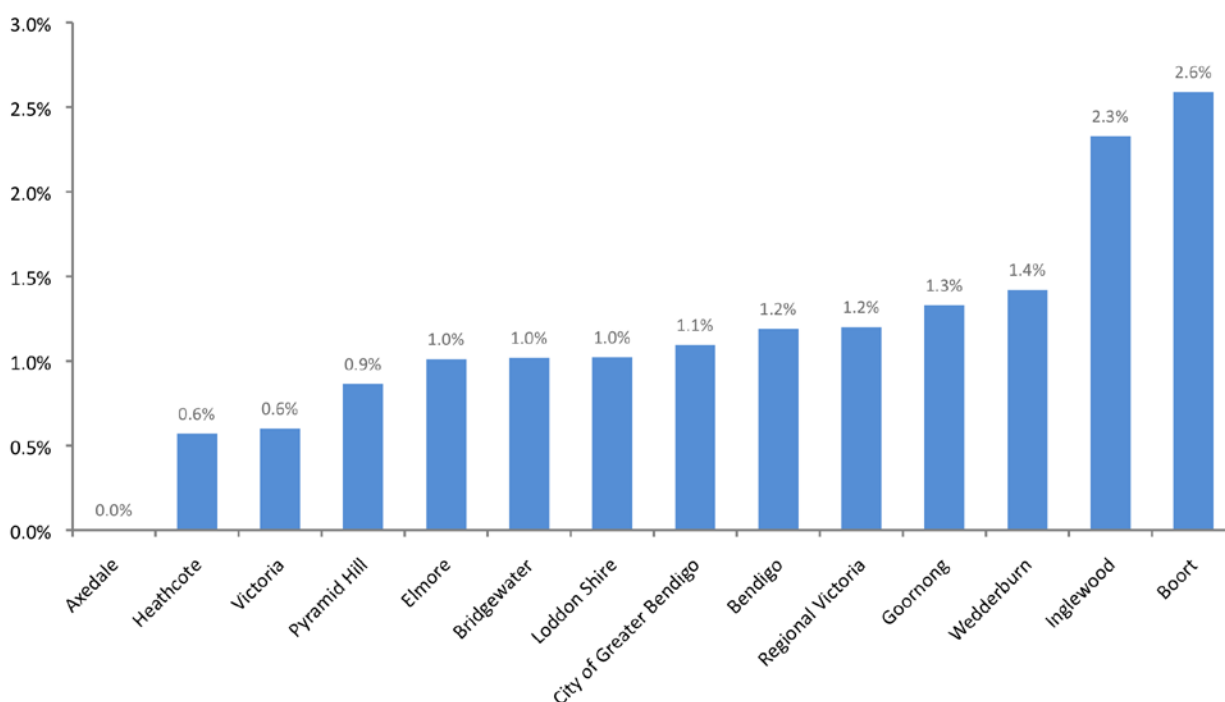
In 2006, an estimated 1.1% of the region's residents were of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin, compared to 0.6% across Victoria. The highest proportions of Indigenous population lived in Boort and Inglewood and the lowest lived in Axedale and Heathcote.

### Number and proportion of total population that are Indigenous persons - 2006 (ranked)

Location	Number	%
Axedale	0	0.0%
Heathcote	9	0.6%
Victoria	30,140	0.6%
Pyramid Hill	4	0.9%
Elmore	7	1.0%
Bridgewater	4	1.0%
Loddon Shire LGA	80	1.0%
Greater Bendigo LGA	1,020	1.1%
Bendigo	906	1.2%
Regional Victoria	15,925	1.2%
Goornong	4	1.3%
Wedderburn	10	1.4%
Inglewood	16	2.3%
Boort	20	2.6%

ABS 2006 census [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

## Proportion of total population that are Indigenous persons 2006



www.abs.gov.au 2006 basic community profiles

## Indigenous population - income

In 2006, median household incomes for the Indigenous population of the PCP region were significantly lower than those of the non-Indigenous population, reflecting state-wide patterns.

### Median household income (\$/weekly) 2006

	Greater Bendigo	Loddon Shire	Victoria
Indigenous households	\$645	\$528	\$763
Non indigenous households	\$836	\$598	\$1,023

ABS 2006 census www.abs.gov.au

## Indigenous population - education

In 2006, Indigenous population aged 15 years and over from Greater Bendigo and Loddon were significantly less likely to have finished school at year 12 or 11, compared to the non-Indigenous population.

### Year left school by Indigenous status 2006

	Gr. Bendigo Indig.		Gr. Bendigo Non Indig.	Loddon Indig.		Loddon Non Indig.
	No.	%	%	No.	%	%
Year 12 or equivalent	108	17.6%	33.7%	8	17.0%	23.5%
Year 11 or equivalent	71	11.6%	16.1%	3	6.4%	17.0%
Year 10 or equivalent	171	27.9%	20.9%	10	21.3%	22.8%
Year 9 or equivalent	104	16.9%	10.4%	4	8.5%	12.7%
Year 8 or below	88	14.3%	9.4%	13	27.7%	14.8%
Did not go to school	10	1.6%	0.3%	3	6.4%	0.3%
not stated	62	10.1%	9.2%	6	12.8%	8.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

www.abs.gov.au

## Cultural diversity

In 2006, most Bendigo-Loddon PCP region residents were born in Australia. After Australia, the most common countries of birth were United Kingdom, New Zealand, Netherlands and Germany.

### Country of Birth (2006)

	Greater Bendigo LGA		Loddon LGA		Regional Victoria	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Australia	82,848	89%	6,888	88%	1,124,362	84.3%
Austria	36	0%	3	0%	1,063	0.1%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	10	0%	0	0%	621	0.0%
Cambodia	6	0%	0	0%	145	0.0%
Canada	62	0%	0	0%	1,041	0.1%
Chile	0	0%	0	0%	147	0.0%
China (excl. SARs and Taiwan Province)	122	0%	0	0%	1,752	0.1%
Croatia	46	0%	12	0%	2,809	0.2%
Cyprus	14	0%	0	0%	371	0.0%
Egypt	21	0%	3	0%	418	0.0%
Fiji	25	0%	0	0%	539	0.0%
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	6	0%	0	0%	1,025	0.1%
France	21	0%	0	0%	537	0.0%
Germany	242	0%	32	0%	6,896	0.5%
Greece	78	0%	9	0%	2,009	0.2%
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	22	0%	0	0%	500	0.0%
Hungary	30	0%	8	0%	821	0.1%
India	123	0%	3	0%	2,054	0.2%
Indonesia	71	0%	0	0%	556	0.0%
Iran	0	0%	0	0%	293	0.0%
Iraq	15	0%	0	0%	646	0.0%
Ireland	103	0%	12	0%	1,954	0.1%
Italy	150	0%	8	0%	9,008	0.7%
Japan	25	0%	0	0%	479	0.0%
Korea, Republic of (South)	21	0%	0	0%	327	0.0%
Lebanon	6	0%	3	0%	277	0.0%
Malaysia	105	0%	9	0%	1,276	0.1%
Malta	51	0%	10	0%	1,888	0.1%
Mauritius	11	0%	0	0%	210	0.0%
Netherlands	279	0%	35	0%	8,229	0.6%
New Zealand	567	1%	65	1%	11,363	0.9%
Papua New Guinea	44	0%	0	0%	484	0.0%
Philippines	177	0%	3	0%	2,761	0.2%
Poland	45	0%	0	0%	1,613	0.1%
Portugal	0	0%	0	0%	193	0.0%
Romania	9	0%	0	0%	300	0.0%
Russian Federation	10	0%	3	0%	262	0.0%
Samoa	6	0%	0	0%	206	0.0%
Singapore	41	0%	3	0%	620	0.0%
South Africa	116	0%	3	0%	1,998	0.1%
South Eastern Europe, not further defined	32	0%	15	0%	1,693	0.1%
Spain	3	0%	0	0%	527	0.0%
Sri Lanka	101	0%	0	0%	842	0.1%
Taiwan	6	0%	0	0%	146	0.0%
Thailand	38	0%	0	0%	620	0.0%
Turkey	8	0%	0	0%	1,147	0.1%
Ukraine	8	0%	0	0%	465	0.0%
United Kingdom	2,199	2%	221	3%	48,026	3.6%
United States of America	115	0%	9	0%	2,134	0.2%
Viet Nam	27	0%	4	0%	877	0.1%
Born elsewhere	325	0%	36	0%	8,905	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,252</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7,836</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,333,436</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Language spoken at home

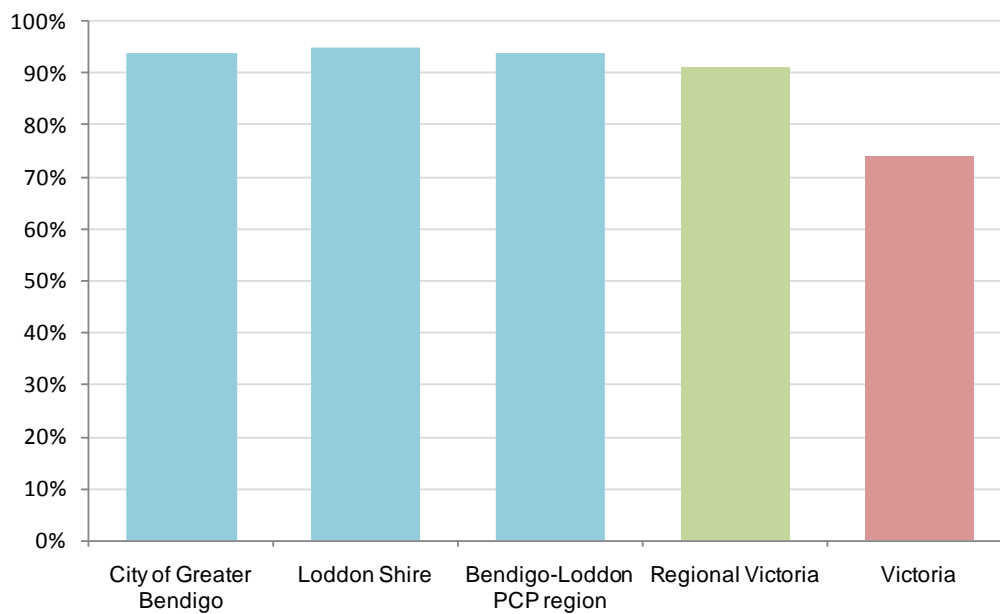
Reflecting the high proportion of the region's residents who were born in Australia, the region also has a high proportion of residents who only speak English at home. This figure is higher than that for Regional Victoria and for Victoria.

#### Only speaks English at home (2006)

	Number	Percentage of population
City of Greater Bendigo	87,706	94%
Loddon Shire	7,480	95%
Bendigo-Loddon PCP region	95,186	94%
Regional Victoria	1,216,055	91%
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>3,668,282</b>	<b>74%</b>

ABS 2006 census [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

#### Proportion of population that only speaks English at home



ABS 2006 census [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

# Health

## Social determinants of health

Ten social determinants of health were developed by the World Health Organisation in 2000, based on an increasing understanding of the significant sensitivity of health to the social environment. The ten social determinants are listed below.

<b>1. The Social Gradient</b> - <i>“Life expectancy is shorter and most diseases are more common further down the social ladder in each society.”</i>
<b>2. Stress</b> - <i>“Stressful circumstances, making people feel worried, anxious and unable to cope, are damaging to health and may lead to premature death.”</i>
<b>3. Early life</b> - <i>“A good start in life means supporting mothers and young children: the health impact of early development and education lasts a lifetime.”</i>
<b>4. Social exclusion</b> - <i>“Life is short where its quality is poor. By causing hardship and resentment, poverty, social exclusion and discrimination cost lives.”</i>
<b>5. Work</b> - <i>“Stress in the workplace increases the risk of disease. People who have more control over their work have better health.”</i>
<b>6. Unemployment</b> - <i>Job security increases health, well-being and job satisfaction. Higher rates of unemployment cause more illness and premature death.</i>
<b>7 Social Support</b> - <i>“Friendship, good social relations and strong supportive networks improve health at home, at work and in the community.”</i>
<b>8 Addiction</b> - <i>“Drug use is both a response to social breakdown and an important factor in worsening the resulting inequalities in health.”</i>
<b>9. Food</b> - <i>“A good diet and adequate food supply are central for promoting health and well-being. A shortage of food and lack of variety cause malnutrition and deficiency diseases.”</i>
<b>10. Transport</b> - <i>“Healthy transport means less driving and more walking and cycling, backed up by better public transport. Cycling, walking and the use of public transport promote health in four ways. They provide exercise, reduce fatal accidents, increase social contact and reduce air pollution.”</i>

*Social Determinants of Health: the Solid Facts - 2<sup>nd</sup> edition - World Health Organization 2003*  
[www.health.vic.gov.au/healthpromotion/foundations/determinants.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthpromotion/foundations/determinants.htm)

The table below sets out some key indicators that provide a snap shot of some social determinants of health for the Bendigo-Loddon area. Most of the data is presented and discussed in more detail in other areas of this report. Much of the data relates to more than one of the social determinants of health. For instance, unemployment (to varying degrees) has an impact on: the social gradient, stress, social exclusion, work, unemployment and the social support social determinants of health. Data is from different sources and from different dates and should only be used as a general guide.

## Social determinants of health snapshot

Indicator	Greater Bendigo	Loddon	Regional Victoria	Victoria
% of 2006 workforce working as professionals (occupation)	18%	9%	16%	21%
% of 2006 workforce working as labourers	12%	16%	13%	10%
% of 2006 workforce working on full time basis	60%	66%		60%
Unemployment rate for March 2010 quarter	5.9%	4.9%	5.6%	5.6%
% of households earning less than \$350 per week	17%	24%	18%	14%
% of adult population completed year 12 or equivalent	34%	24%		44%
% of adult* population with university grad. or post grad. qualification	12%	6%	10%	19%
% of lone households in 2006	11%	13%	11%	10%
% of population who slept in caravan, cabin, houseboat, tents, improvised home, tent, sleepers out on night of 2006 census	0.57%	1.09%		0.29%
% of single parent households (of all family households) in 2006	18%	13%		15%
% of children aged 12-15 mnths fully immunised (March 2010)	89.6%	96.6%		92.0%
% of children aged 24-27 mnths fully immunised (March 2010)	95.5%	95.5%		92.6%
% of children aged 60-63 mnths fully immunised (March 2010)	88.8%	95.7%		87.3%
Proportion of teenage births (out of all births) 2007	5.5%	1.1%		2.6%
% of 2006 workforce that used public transport, walked or cycled	2.8%	2.2%		10.7%
Perceived safety in community	67%	85%	67.2	
Family Incident Report Rates per 100,000 Population (08/09)	629	48		632
Crime against person - rate per 100,000 population 08/09	903	880		820
Crime against property - rate per 100,000 population 08/09	3,946	2,527		5,186
Drug offences - rate per 100,000 population 08/09	302	124		277
SEIFA LGA rating 2006 (high value indicate less disadvantage)	984.4	941.6	986	1010
% of hospital admissions treated for alcohol problem (08/09)	0.8%	1.2%		1.3%
% of hospital admissions treated for drug problem (08/09)	0.6%	0.6%		0.9%

Data is taken from information contained in this profile together with additional data from the 2006 census which is available at [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au) \* aged 25 yrs and over in 2006

### **Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions (ACSC)**

Ambulatory care is any medical care delivered where the patient does not need to stay in hospital overnight. If a patient visits a doctor's office, hospital or health centre without an overnight stay, it is considered ambulatory care. Hospitalisation rates for ambulatory care sensitive conditions can be used as an indicator of access to and quality of primary health care. A range of factors, including disease prevalence in a community, personal choices, socio-economic factors and hospital admission and coding practices can also influence these rates.

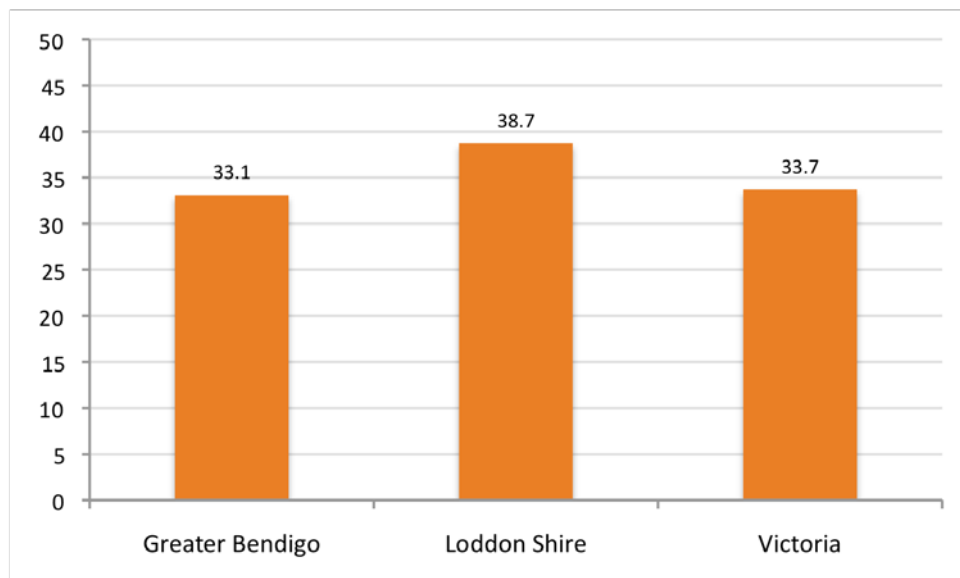
The total standardised admission rate for total ACSCs in Greater Bendigo (33.1) in 2008-09 was slightly lower than the Victorian rate (33.7), while the Loddon Shire rate (38.7) was higher than both Greater Bendigo and Victoria.

The rate for both LGAs and for Victoria decreased significantly compared to the previous 12 months, however this decrease is largely related to the decrease in the rate of admissions for diabetes complications, which make up a large proportion of total ACSCs. The decrease in admission rates for diabetes complications is mostly due to a change in the way data has been classified and collected

from July 2008. As such, a comparison between 2007/08 and 2008/09 does not provide an accurate indication of changes to health status in populations.

Further information about ACSCs can be found at [www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus/acsc/index.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus/acsc/index.htm)

#### ACSCs admission rates for Greater Bendigo and Loddon Shire (2008 – 09)



[www.health.vic.gov.au](http://www.health.vic.gov.au)

Note: Standardised to Victorian population 2006

#### Most common ACSCs

In Greater Bendigo and Loddon Shire, the three most common ACSCs in 2008/09 were diabetes complications, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and dental conditions. Loddon Shire had a higher rate for each of these conditions compared to Greater Bendigo.

#### Top ten ACSCs by LGA for 2008/09 (ranked)

Greater Bendigo admissions			Loddon Shire admissions		
Condition	No.	Rate p/1000 persons	Condition	No.	Rate p/1000 persons
Diabetes complications	1242	11.54	Diabetes complications	147	12.12
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	404	3.74	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	63	4.94
Dental conditions	341	3.41	Dental conditions	39	4.83
Pyelonephritis	228	2.12	Asthma	17	2.27
Congestive cardiac failure	238	2.12	Pyelonephritis	22	2.25
Angina	168	1.55	Cellulitis	24	2.17
Iron deficiency anaemia	154	1.49	Ear, nose and throat infections	17	2.04
Cellulitis	154	1.48	Congestive cardiac failure	25	1.86
Asthma	148	1.45	Convulsions and epilepsy	10	1.79
Ear, nose and throat infections	144	1.41	Iron deficiency anaemia	15	1.46

[www.health.vic.gov.au](http://www.health.vic.gov.au)

### ACSC rates compared to Victoria and over time

Between 2006/07 and 2008/09, the ACSC admission rate for diabetes complications decreased significantly for Greater Bendigo and Loddon Shire residents, reflecting Victorian trends. As discussed above, this decrease is largely connected to a change in the way data has been classified and collected from July 2008. The rates for asthma, angina, dehydration and gastroenteritis and dental conditions also decreased in both LGAs. For both LGAs, the admission rate for Cardiac Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) increased between 2006/07 and 2008/09.

In 2008/09, compared to the Victorian average, Greater Bendigo generally had lower or similar admission rates for the most common ACSCs. The exceptions were dental conditions and COPD. Compared to Victorian averages, Loddon Shire had higher admission rates for diabetes complications (very small difference), dental conditions, COPD, dehydration and gastroenteritis, asthma, cellulitis and ear, nose and throat conditions. Compared to Victorian averages, Loddon Shire had a lower rate of congestive cardiac failure, pyelonephritis, angina and iron deficiency anemia.

### Top 10 ACSCs compared to Victoria 2006/07 and 2007/08

ACSC	Greater Bendigo Rate p/1000 persons		Loddon Shire Rate p/1000 persons		Victoria Rate p/1000 persons	
	2006/07	2008/09	2006/07	2008/09	2006/07	2008/09
Diabetes complications	18.7	11.5	33.4	12.1	21.5	12.0
Dental conditions	3.6	3.4	4.9	4.8	2.8	3.1
Chronic Obstr. Pulm.	2.6	3.7	3.8	4.9	2.6	2.8
Cong. cardiac failure	2.3	2.1	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.3
Dehydration & gastro.	2.2	1.2	3.9	1.4	3.2	1.3
Pyelonephritis	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.5
Angina	1.9	1.6	2.5	1.2	1.8	1.6
Asthma	1.8	1.5	3.0	2.3	1.8	1.7
Iron deficiency anemia	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.7
Cellulitis	1.5	1.5	2.4	2.2	1.6	1.6
Ear, nose & throat	1.3	1.4	1.6	2.0	1.4	1.5

[www.health.vic.gov.au](http://www.health.vic.gov.au)

### Diabetes

The number of Greater Bendigo residents with diabetes\* approximately doubled between 2001 and 2008. As a proportion of population, the prevalence of diabetes in Greater Bendigo residents increased from 2.0% in 2001 to 3.6% in 2008. In 2008, Greater Bendigo was ranked 51 out of 79 Victorian Local Governments for proportion of population with diabetes.

In Loddon Shire, the number of residents with diabetes more than doubled between 2001 and 2008. As a proportion of population, the prevalence of diabetes in Loddon Shire residents increased from 4.6% in 2001 to 10.3% in 2008. In 2008, Loddon Shire had the highest proportion of population with diabetes of any of the 79 Victorian Local Governments.

### Diabetes prevalence 2001 - 2008

		2001	2006	2008
Loddon	Number of people with diabetes	400	708	833
	Proportion of population with diabetes	4.6%	8.53%	10.3%
	Victorian ranking (out of 79)	2	1	1
Greater Bendigo	Number of people with diabetes	1,822	3,137	3,620
	Proportion of population with diabetes	2.0%	3.2%	3.6%
	Victorian ranking (out of 79)	43	49	51

Diabetes Australia - Victoria

\*includes diabetes type 1, type 2, gestational diabetes, and other forms of diabetes

### Cause of death 2007

In 2007, the most common underlying cause of death for Greater Bendigo and Loddon residents were (in order) diseases of the circulatory system, neoplasms and diseases of the respiratory system. Compared to Greater Bendigo, Regional Victoria and Victoria, Loddon Shire residents had a significantly lower proportion of deaths where the underlying cause was neoplasms and a significantly higher proportion of deaths where the underlying cause of death was diseases of the circulatory system and diseases of the respiratory system.

	Gr. Bendigo**		Loddon (S)**		Reg. Victoria	Victoria
	No.	%	No.	%	%	%
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	7	0.9%	0	0.0%	0.9%	1.2%
Neoplasms	243	32.7%	21	25.3%	30.0%	30.2%
Dis. of the blood & blood-forming organs & certain disorders involving immune mechanism	4	0.5%	2	2.4%	0.3%	0.4%
Endocrine, nutritional & metabolic diseases	28	3.8%	3	3.6%	4.6%	4.4%
Mental and behavioural disorders	18	2.4%	0	0.0%	4.0%	4.5%
Diseases of the nervous system	27	3.6%	1	1.2%	4.3%	4.3%
Diseases of the eye and adnexa	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Diseases of the circulatory system	253	34.1%	34	41.0%	34.4%	33.1%
Diseases of the respiratory system	66	8.9%	12	14.5%	8.2%	8.2%
Diseases of the digestive system	20	2.7%	4	4.8%	3.4%	3.4%
Diseases of the skin & subcutaneous tissue	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	8	1.1%	0	0.0%	1.0%	0.9%
Diseases of the genitourinary system	14	1.9%	3	3.6%	2.1%	2.5%
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	3	0.4%	0	0.0%	0.3%	0.4%
Congenital malformations, deformations & chromosomal abnormalities	6	0.8%	0	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%
Symptoms, signs & abnormal clinical & laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	9	1.2%	1	1.2%	0.7%	0.6%
External causes of morbidity and mortality	38	5.1%	6	7.2%	5.1%	5.2%
All causes %	743	100.0%	83	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Commissioned data from Australian Bureau of Statistics (2009) \*\* Note that small cell sizes have been randomised by the ABS, to protect privacy and that this has a significant impact on reliability of many of the lower figures in the Loddon and Greater Bendigo columns.

### Cause of death by age group

Underlying cause of death in 2007 for the Greater Bendigo and Loddon populations was analysed by sex and age groups. Due to the randomising of many small numbers in the 1 - 24 years age group, the data was not reliable and has not been published below. For the same reason, Loddon Shire data was only reliable for the most prevalent cause of death in the 25 - 64 year age group. The data indicates that neoplasms were the most common underlying cause of death for Greater Bendigo and Loddon Shire residents aged 25-64 years. Diseases of the circulatory system, followed by neoplasms, were the most prevalent causes of death in the 65 years and older age category. Neoplasms were less likely as a cause of death for either age categories in Loddon Shire, compared to Greater Bendigo.

	Greater Bendigo			Loddon		
	Underlying cause of death 2007	No.	%	Underlying cause of death 2007	No.	%
<b>25 - 64 years</b>	Neoplasms	70	53.4%	Neoplasms	8	44.4%
	Diseases of the circulatory system	20	15.3%	-	-	-
	External causes of morbidity and mortality	13	9.9%	-	-	-
<b>65 yrs and older</b>	Diseases of the circulatory system	232	39.0%	Diseases of the circulatory system	32	50.0%
	Neoplasms	173	29.0%	Neoplasms	13	20.3%
	Diseases of the respiratory system	62	10.4%	Diseases of the respiratory system	10	15.6%

*Commissioned data from Australian Bureau of Statistics (2009)*

### Cause of death by sex

In 2007, the most common cause of death for males in Greater Bendigo and Loddon Shire was neoplasms, followed by diseases of the circulatory system. For females of both local government areas, the most common cause of death was diseases of the circulatory system, followed by neoplasms.

	Greater Bendigo			Loddon		
	Underlying cause of death 2007	No.	%	Underlying cause of death 2007	No.	%
<b>Male</b>	Neoplasms	133	34.6%	Neoplasms	16	39.0%
	Diseases of the circulatory system	119	31.0%	Diseases of the circulatory system	10	24.4%
	Diseases of the respiratory system	40	10.4%	Diseases of the respiratory system	7	17.1%
<b>Female</b>	Diseases of the circulatory system	134	37.3%	Diseases of the circulatory system	24	57.1%
	Neoplasms	110	30.6%	Neoplasms	5	11.9%
	Diseases of the respiratory system	26	7.2%	Diseases of the respiratory system	5	11.9%

*Commissioned data from Australian Bureau of Statistics (2009)*

## Cause of death - 2006 and 2007 comparison

Due to small cell values, comparison of annual data is difficult in many instances. In 2007, changes to some of the more common causes of death included:

- a lower proportion of Loddon Shire resident deaths attributed to Neoplasms
- a higher proportion of Loddon Shire resident deaths attributed to diseases of the circulatory system and the respiratory system
- a lower proportion of Greater Bendigo resident deaths attributed to endocrine, nutritional & metabolic diseases; mental and behavioural disorders; diseases of the circulatory system, the digestive system, and the genitourinary system.
- a higher proportion Greater Bendigo resident deaths attributed to neoplasms and diseases of the respiratory system.

	Loddon 2006		Loddon 2007		Greater Bendigo 2006		Greater Bendigo 2007	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	n.p.		0	0.0%	13	1.8%	7	0.9%
Neoplasms	32	30.2%	21	25.3%	210	28.6%	243	32.7%
Dis. of the blood & blood-forming organs & certain disorders involving immune mechanism	0	0.0%	2	2.4%	0	0.0%	4	0.5%
Endocrine, nutritional & metabolic diseases	4	3.8%	3	3.6%	35	4.8%	28	3.8%
Mental and behavioural disorders	n.p.		0	0.0%	24	3.3%	18	2.4%
Diseases of the nervous system	n.p.		1	1.2%	26	3.5%	27	3.6%
Diseases of the eye and adnexa	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Diseases of the circulatory system	36	34.0%	34	41.0%	259	35.3%	253	34.1%
Diseases of the respiratory system	8	7.5%	12	14.5%	52	7.1%	66	8.9%
Diseases of the digestive system	8	7.5%	4	4.8%	22	3.0%	20	2.7%
Diseases of the skin & subcutaneous tissue	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	n.p.	n.p.	2	0.3%
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	12	1.6%	8	1.1%
Diseases of the genitourinary system	n.p.		3	3.6%	16	2.2%	14	1.9%
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	n.p.	n.p.	3	0.4%
Congenital malformations, deformations & chromosomal abnormalities	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.4%	6	0.8%
Symptoms, signs & abnormal clinical & laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	4	3.8%	1	1.2%	17	2.3%	9	1.2%
External causes of morbidity and mortality	7	6.6%	6	7.2%	42	5.7%	38	5.1%
All causes %	106	100.0%	83	100.0%	733	100.0%	743	100.0%

Commissioned data from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2008 and 2009. \*\* Note that small cell sizes have been randomised by the ABS, to protect privacy and that this has a significant impact on reliability of many of the lower figures in the Loddon and Greater Bendigo columns. N.p =not published due to small cell size. This was the methodology used to confidentialise small cell sizes in the 2006 data. 2007 small cell sizes was confidentialised by randomising small numbers. Cells with a zero value have not been affected by confidentialisation

## Life expectancy at birth

The life expectancy at birth for a male born in Loddon Shire in 2007 is 75.3, the lowest ranking (age) for any Local Government Area in Victoria. The life expectancy for a male born in Greater Bendigo in 2006 is 78.6, which is closer to the Loddon Mallee region and state figures (78.3 & 80.0). Of the 79 Local Government areas, Loddon Shire ranked 79 and Greater Bendigo ranked 45.

The life expectancy at birth for a female born in Loddon Shire in 2006 is 83.0 and the life expectancy for a female born in Greater Bendigo in 2006 is slightly higher at 83.3. Of the 79 Local Government areas, Greater Bendigo ranked 51 and Loddon Shire ranked 64.

### **Life Expectancy at Birth (2007)**

	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
City of Greater Bendigo	78.7	83.6
Loddon Shire	75.3	83.0
Loddon Mallee DHS region	78.6	83.4
Regional Victoria	78.9	83.8
Victoria	80.3	84.4

Department of Human Services: [www.health.vic.gov.au](http://www.health.vic.gov.au)

**Note:** At the national level for 2005–2007, life expectancy at birth for Indigenous males is estimated to be 67.2 years, 11.5 years less than life expectancy at birth for non-Indigenous males (78.7 years). Life expectancy at birth for Indigenous females is estimated to be 72.9 years, 9.7 years less than life expectancy at birth for non-Indigenous females (82.6 years). *Experimental Life Tables for Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islanders ABS May 2009 - catalogue no. 3302.0.55.003*

## Chronic disease risk factors

### **Smoking**

An estimate of the proportion of population that smokes has undertaken by the Public Health Information Development Unit at the University of Adelaide, using data from the 2004-05 National Health Survey. Within the Bendigo Loddon PCP region, the rate of male and female smokers was highest in the SLA of City of Greater Bendigo - Eaglehawk and lowest in the SLA of City of Greater Bendigo - Strathfieldsaye. Most SLAs in the Bendigo-Loddon PCP region had a higher rate of smokers (in red) than the Victorian average.

### **Estimates of selected risk factors 2004-05: Smokers, 18+ years**

<b>Statistical Local Area</b>	<b>Males</b>		<b>Females</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rate in 1000</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rate in 1000</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Central	2,230	<b>335.3</b>	1,999	<b>275.3</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Eaglehawk	1,023	<b>352.9</b>	973	<b>307.7</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner East	2,141	253.5	1,986	<b>206.4</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner North	1,050	<b>309.7</b>	753	<b>220.0</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner West	1,598	<b>288.4</b>	1,287	<b>215.1</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Pt B	1,211	<b>301.0</b>	860	<b>216.2</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - S'saye	446	202.8	363	160.1
Loddon (S) - North	350	<b>299.9</b>	225	<b>215.0</b>
Loddon (S) - South	591	<b>345.0</b>	439	<b>277.7</b>
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>487,710</b>	<b>259.8</b>	<b>356,814</b>	<b>181.5</b>
<b>Country Vic</b>	<b>145,522</b>	<b>304.4</b>	<b>111,783</b>	<b>225.9</b>

[www.publichealth.gov.au](http://www.publichealth.gov.au)

## Nutrition

Poor nutrition is considered a risk factor for chronic disease. An estimate of the proportion of people aged 12 years or over that consume two or more serves of fruit per day was undertaken in 2008 by the Public Health Information Development Unit at the University of Adelaide, using data from the 2004-05 National Health Survey.

Within the PCP region, Greater Bendigo - Strathfieldsaye SLA had the lowest estimated rate of population aged 12 years or older that ate 2 or more serves of fruit per day, while Loddon - North SLA had the highest. Most Greater Bendigo SLAs had lower rates (in red) than the Victorian average.

### Fruit intake (≥ 2 serves) by persons aged ≥ 12 years 2004-05

Statistical Local Area	Number	Rate in 1000
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Central	8,799	558.2
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Eaglehawk	3,737	512.6
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner East	10,631	512.6
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner North	3,699	481.7
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner West	6,239	471.3
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Pt B	4,791	487.2
Gr. Bendigo (C) - S'saye	2,279	460.1
Loddon (S) - North	1,631	564.5
Loddon (S) - South	2,345	538.1
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>2,270,339</b>	<b>534.7</b>
<b>Country Vic</b>	<b>598,505</b>	<b>516.1</b>

## Physical inactivity

Physical inactivity, or lack of physical exercise, is considered a risk factor for chronic disease. Estimates of physical inactivity were undertaken in 2008 by the Public Health Information Development Unit using the 2004-05 National Health Survey data.

Within the Bendigo Loddon PCP region, the estimated rate of physical inactivity for persons aged 15 years and older was highest (which indicates a related higher risk of chronic disease) in the SLA of Greater Bendigo- Eaglehawk and was lowest in the SLA of City of Greater Bendigo-Strathfieldsaye. Generally speaking, the estimated rate of physical inactivity was lower in Greater Bendigo than the Victorian average rate.

### Estimates of selected risk factors: physical inactivity, 15+ years 2004-05

Statistical Local Area	Number	Rate in 1000
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Central	5,754	379.1
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Eaglehawk	2,870	415.2
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner East	5,837	291.3
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner North	2,230	311.8
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner West	3,657	294.4
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Pt B	2,895	315.4
Gr. Bendigo (C) - S'saye	912	201.4
Loddon (S) - North	1,075	388.4
Loddon (S) - South	1,638	394.9
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>5,754</b>	<b>379.1</b>
<b>Country Vic</b>	<b>2,870</b>	<b>415.2</b>

[www.publichealth.gov.au](http://www.publichealth.gov.au)

## Obesity

Obesity is considered a risk factor for chronic disease. Estimates of obesity were undertaken in 2008 by the Public Health Information Development Unit using the 2004-05 National Health Survey data.

There was a significant difference in estimated rates of obesity between males and females of the Bendigo-Loddon PCP region.

Loddon - North SLA had the highest rate of obesity in males aged 15 years and over. Compared to the Victorian average rates, all Bendigo-Loddon PCP region SLAs except Greater Bendigo - Strathfieldsaye had a higher rate of obesity in males.

Greater Bendigo-Eaglehawk had the highest rate of obesity in females aged 15 years and over. This was the only SLA in the Bendigo-Loddon PCP region that had a female obesity rate higher than the Victorian average.

### Number of obese males and females aged ≥ 15 years 2004-05

Statistical Local Area	Males		Females	
	Number	Rate in 1000	Number	Rate in 1000
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Central	1,432	209.1	1,525	199.3
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Eaglehawk	663	209.2	724	204.4
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner East	1,575	182.7	1,527	151.6
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner North	700	195.1	568	158.4
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner West	1,110	183.8	999	155.2
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Pt B	902	186.0	745	157.9
Gr. Bendigo (C) - S'saye	301	122.4	209	90.4
Loddon (S) - North	314	226.6	230	176.7
Loddon (S) - South	461	212.5	357	177.5
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>315,080</b>	<b>159.6</b>	<b>1,525</b>	<b>199.3</b>
<b>Country Vic</b>	<b>101,076</b>	<b>189.5</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>204.4</b>

[www.publichealth.gov.au](http://www.publichealth.gov.au)

### **Hospital admissions 2008-09**

Across Victoria, there were 45,389 hospital admissions of Bendigo Loddon PCP area residents in 2008/09. The most common causes (by major diagnostic category) for admission of Greater Bendigo residents in 2008/09 were: diseases & disorders of the Kidney & Urinary Tract; the digestive system; the musculoskeletal system & connective tissue; and of the circulatory system.

The most common causes by major diagnostic category (MDC) for admission of Loddon Shire residents in 2008/09 were: diseases & disorders of the kidney & urinary tract; the digestive system; the musculoskeletal system & connective tissue; and of the circulatory system.

Compared to Victoria, Greater Bendigo had a higher proportion of admissions in many of the MDCs, including: diseases & disorders of the circulatory system; the kidney & urinary tract; the ear, nose, mouth & throat; the musculoskeletal system & connective tissue; and neoplastic disorders.

Compared to Victoria, Loddon had a higher proportion of admissions in many of the MDCs, including: diseases & disorders of the circulatory system; the eye; the male reproductive system; the musculoskeletal system & connective tissue; the nervous system, the respiratory system; and neoplastic disorders.

### All hospital admissions by major diagnostic category (MDC) - 2008/09

	Greater Bendigo			Loddon			Victoria		
	No.	% of all admissions	% of est. 2008 pop.	No.	% of all admissions	% of est. 2008 pop.	No.	% of all admissions	% of est. 2008 pop.
Unassignable to MDC	0	0.0%	2.0%	0	0.0%	2.4%	45	0.0%	2.4%
Diseases & Disorders of the Nervous System	1608	3.9%	0.7%	169	4.3%	1.0%	88844	4.0%	0.6%
Diseases & Disorders of the Eye	1262	3.0%	4.9%	175	4.5%	5.9%	68236	3.1%	5.4%
Diseases & Disorders of the Ear, Nose, Mouth & Throat	2294	5.5%	3.2%	194	5.0%	4.5%	102339	4.6%	2.8%
Diseases & Disorders of the Respiratory System	1786	4.3%	1.3%	196	5.0%	1.4%	96293	4.3%	1.4%
Diseases & Disorders of the Circulatory System	3181	7.7%	2.3%	361	9.2%	2.4%	147203	6.6%	1.9%
Diseases & Disorders of the Digestive System	4877	11.8%	1.8%	477	12.2%	2.4%	284392	12.7%	1.8%
Diseases & Disorders of the Hepatobiliary System & Pancreas	640	1.5%	3.4%	61	1.6%	4.5%	33514	1.5%	3.3%
Diseases & Disorders of the Musculosk. System & Conn. Tissue	3421	8.2%	7.2%	363	9.3%	7.0%	176618	7.9%	6.7%
Diseases & Disorders of the Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue & Breast	1632	3.9%	2.3%	161	4.1%	1.7%	88056	3.9%	2.4%
Endocrine, Nutritional & Metabolic Diseases & Disorders	514	1.2%	1.1%	40	1.0%	1.0%	30443	1.4%	1.2%
Diseases & Disorders of the Kidney & Urinary Tract	7234	17.4%	1.6%	568	14.5%	2.0%	354574	15.9%	1.7%
Diseases & Disorders of the Male Reproductive System	659	1.6%	0.5%	81	2.1%	0.5%	30576	1.4%	0.6%
Diseases & Disorders of the Female Reproductive System	1339	3.2%	0.6%	112	2.9%	0.8%	72648	3.3%	0.6%
Pregnancy, Childbirth & the Puerperium	2285	5.5%	0.0%	141	3.6%	0.0%	129059	5.8%	0.0%
Newborns & Other Neonates	1133	2.7%	0.7%	78	2.0%	0.6%	61346	2.7%	0.8%
Dis. & Disorders of Blood, Blood Forming Organs, Immun. Disorders	530	1.3%	1.3%	45	1.1%	2.2%	35943	1.6%	1.3%
Neoplastic Disorders (Haematological & Solid Neoplasms)	3008	7.3%	0.1%	341	8.7%	0.2%	148918	6.7%	0.3%
Infectious & Parasitic Diseases, Systemic or Unspec. Sites	291	0.7%	3.0%	29	0.7%	4.2%	18260	0.8%	2.8%
Mental Diseases & Disorders	916	2.2%	0.9%	60	1.5%	0.7%	71412	3.2%	1.3%
Alcohol/Drug Use & Alcohol/Drug Induced Org. Mental Disorders	71	0.2%	0.0%	13	0.3%	0.0%	13422	0.6%	0.0%
Injuries, Poisonings & Toxic Effects of Drugs	655	1.6%	0.3%	50	1.3%	0.4%	44187	2.0%	0.3%
Burns	31	0.1%	1.6%	0	0.0%	2.1%	1776	0.1%	1.7%
Factors Infl. Health Status & Other Contacts with Health Svcs	1980	4.8%	0.5%	192	4.9%	0.6%	130081	5.8%	0.7%
(blank)	127	0.3%	0.1%	8	0.2%	0.1%	3551	0.2%	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>41474</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>41.5%</b>	<b>3915</b>	<b>100.0%</b>		<b>2231736</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

Source: Victorian Admitted Episode Dataset (VAED) 2008/09 (Public and Private Hospital files)

### All hospital admissions by major diagnostic category (MDC) - 2007/08 versus 2008/09

Between 2006/07 and 2008/09 Greater Bendigo had an increase in the *proportion* of resident's admissions in a number of MDCs. The most notable increases were: diseases & disorders of the digestive system, diseases & disorders of the kidney & urinary tract and neoplastic disorders. Loddon Shire had a notable increase in the proportion of admissions that were for: diseases & disorders of the kidney & urinary tract, diseases & disorders of the nervous system and neoplastic disorders.

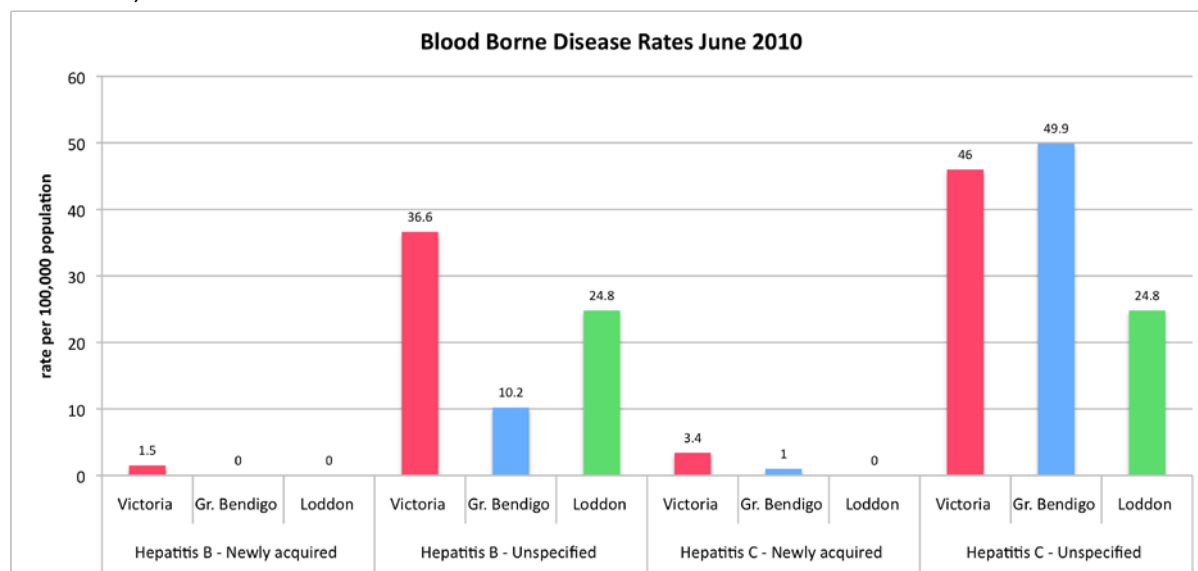
	Greater Bendigo		Loddon	
	% of all admissions		% of all admissions	
	2006/07	2008/09	2006/07	2008/09
Alcohol/Drug Use & Alcohol/Drug Induced Organic Mental Disorders	0.1%	<b>0.2%</b>	0.3%	0.3%
Burns	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
Diseases & Disorders of Blood, Blood Forming Organs, Immun. Disorders	1.4%	1.3%	1.5%	1.1%
Diseases & Disorders of the Circulatory System	8.5%	7.7%	10.2%	9.2%
Diseases & Disorders of the Digestive System	11.2%	<b>11.8%</b>	13.0%	12.2%
Diseases & Disorders of the Ear, Nose, Mouth & Throat	5.5%	5.5%	5.4%	5.0%
Diseases & Disorders of the Eye	3.1%	3.0%	4.3%	<b>4.5%</b>
Diseases & Disorders of the Female Reproductive System	3.7%	3.2%	3.1%	2.9%
Diseases & Disorders of the Hepatobiliary System & Pancreas	1.6%	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%
Diseases & Disorders of the Kidney & Urinary Tract	17.2%	<b>17.4%</b>	9.3%	<b>14.5%</b>
Diseases & Disorders of the Male Reproductive System	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%	<b>2.1%</b>
Diseases & Disorders of the Musculoskeletal System & Connective Tissue	8.8%	8.2%	9.5%	9.3%
Diseases & Disorders of the Nervous System	4.1%	3.9%	3.4%	<b>4.3%</b>
Diseases & Disorders of the Respiratory System	4.5%	4.3%	6.6%	5.0%
Diseases & Disorders of the Skin, Subcutaneous Tissue & Breast	3.8%	<b>3.9%</b>	4.3%	4.1%
Endocrine, Nutritional & Metabolic Diseases & Disorders	1.1%	<b>1.2%</b>	1.5%	1.0%
Factors Influencing Health Status & Other Contacts with Health Services	5.2%	4.8%	6.1%	4.9%
Infectious & Parasitic Diseases, Systemic or Unspecified Sites	0.7%	0.7%	1.1%	0.7%
Injuries, Poisonings & Toxic Effects of Drugs	1.6%	1.6%	2.1%	1.3%
Mental Diseases & Disorders	2.2%	2.2%	1.7%	1.5%
Neoplastic Disorders (Haematological & Solid Neoplasms)	4.4%	<b>7.3%</b>	4.1%	<b>8.7%</b>
Newborns & Other Neonates	3.3%	2.7%	2.8%	2.0%
Pregnancy, Childbirth & the Puerperium	6.2%	5.5%	5.5%	3.6%
Unassignable to MDC	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Blank	0.3%	0.3%	0.7%	0.2%
Total %	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: Victorian Admitted Episode Dataset (VAED) 2008/09 (Public and Private Hospital files)

## Infectious diseases

### Blood Borne Diseases

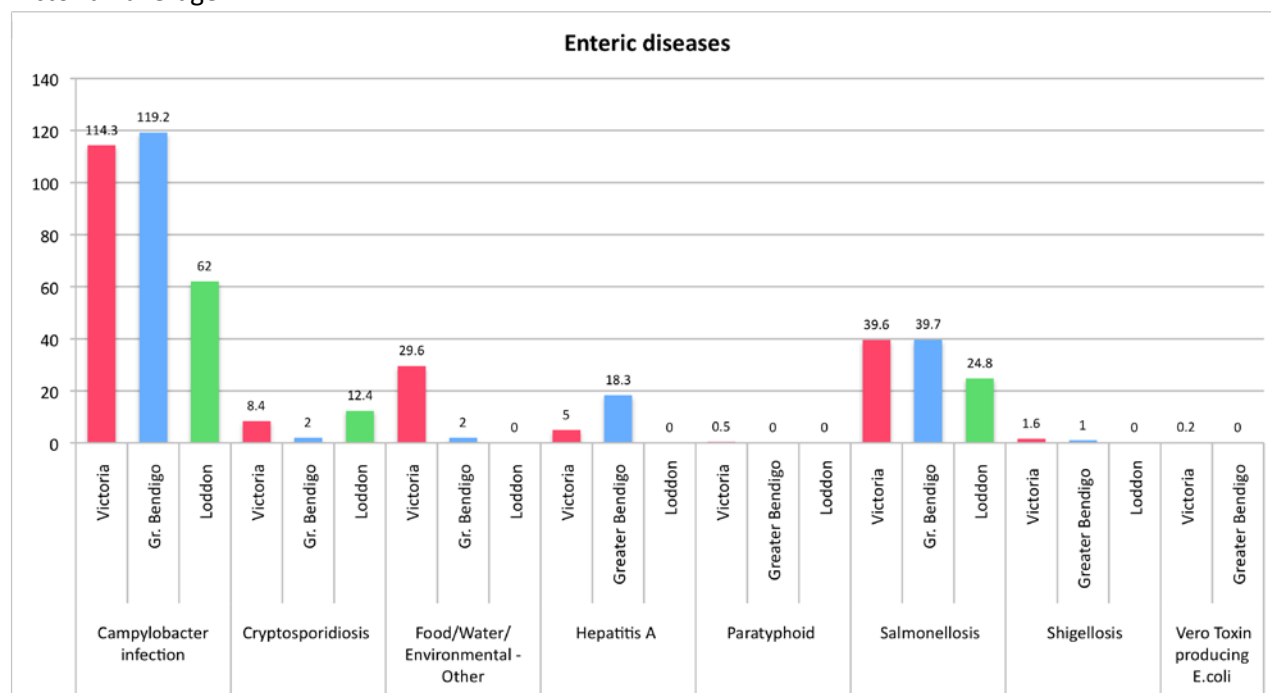
For the 12 months leading to June 2010, Greater Bendigo and Loddon Shire had rates of Hepatitis B – newly acquired, Hepatitis B – unspecified, and Hepatitis C – newly acquired, that were below the Victorian average figures. Greater Bendigo had a higher rate of Hepatitis C – unspecified, compared to Victoria, while Loddon had a lower rate.



Department of Human Services 2010

### Enteric diseases

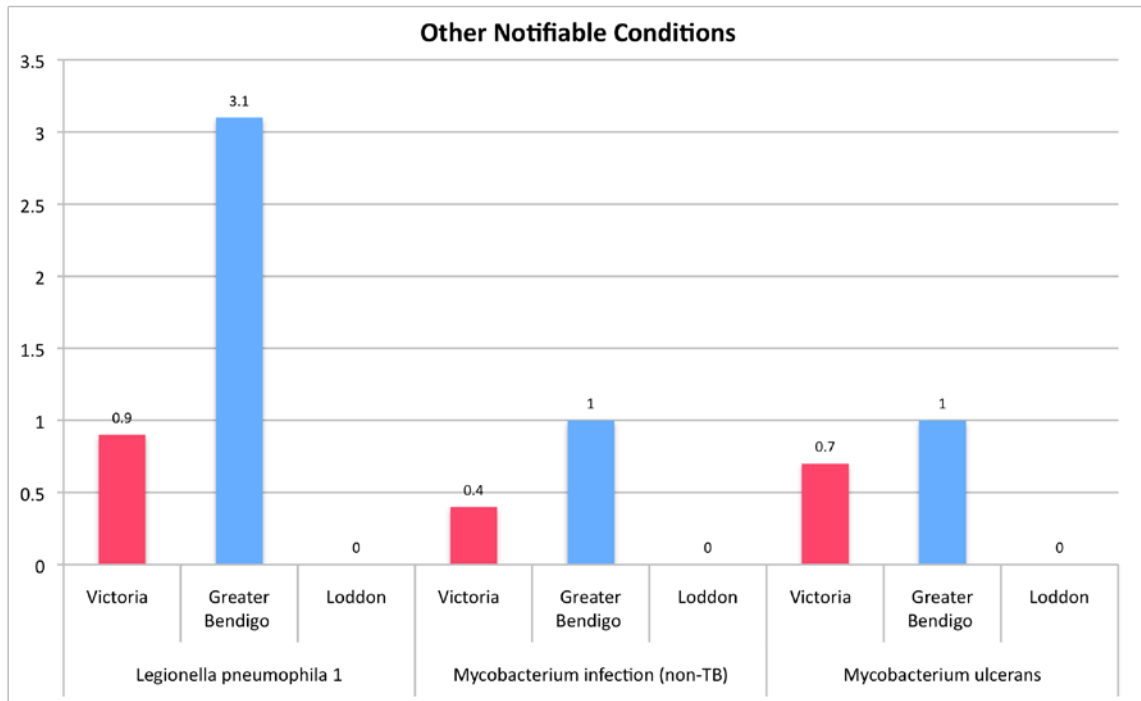
For the 12 months leading to June 2010, Loddon Shire had a higher rate of Cryptosporidiosis, compared to the Victorian average, while it had lower rates of all other enteric diseases. Greater Bendigo had higher rates of Salmonellosis, Hepatitis A and Campylobacter infection compared to the Victorian average.



Department of Human Services 2010

### Other Notifiable Conditions

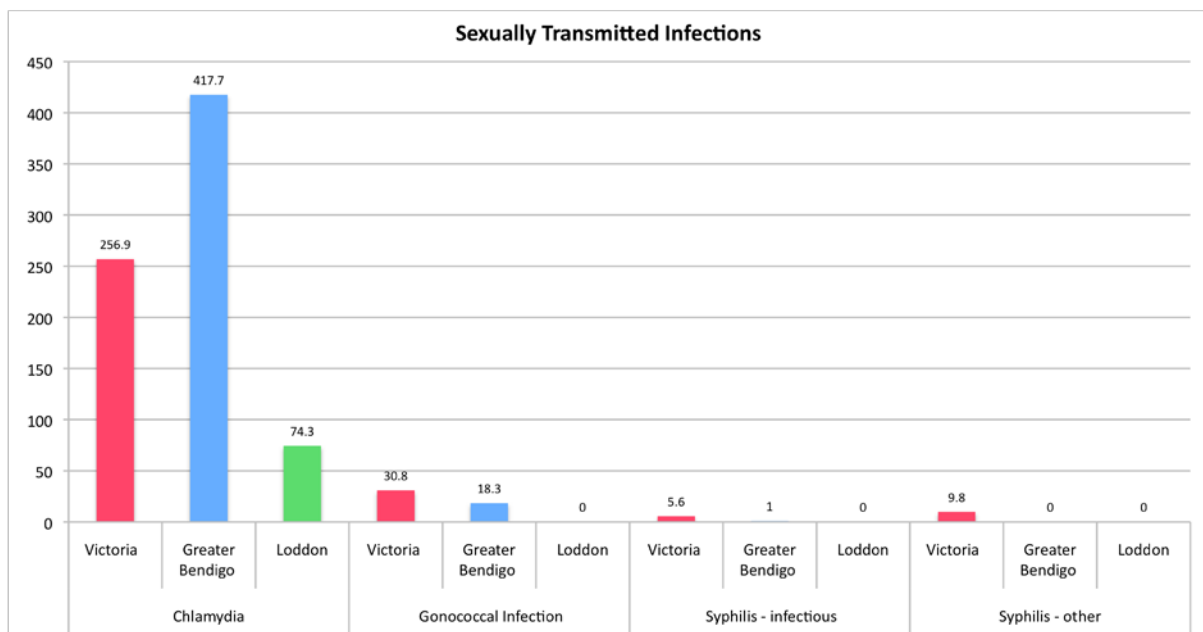
In the 12 months leading to June 2010, Loddon Shire had no reports of Legionella pneumophila 1, Mycobacterium infection (non-TB) or Mycobacterium ulcerans. Greater Bendigo had higher rates of all three conditions, compared to the Victorian average, with a particularly high rate of Legionella pneumophila 1.



Department of Human Services 2010

### Sexually transmitted infections

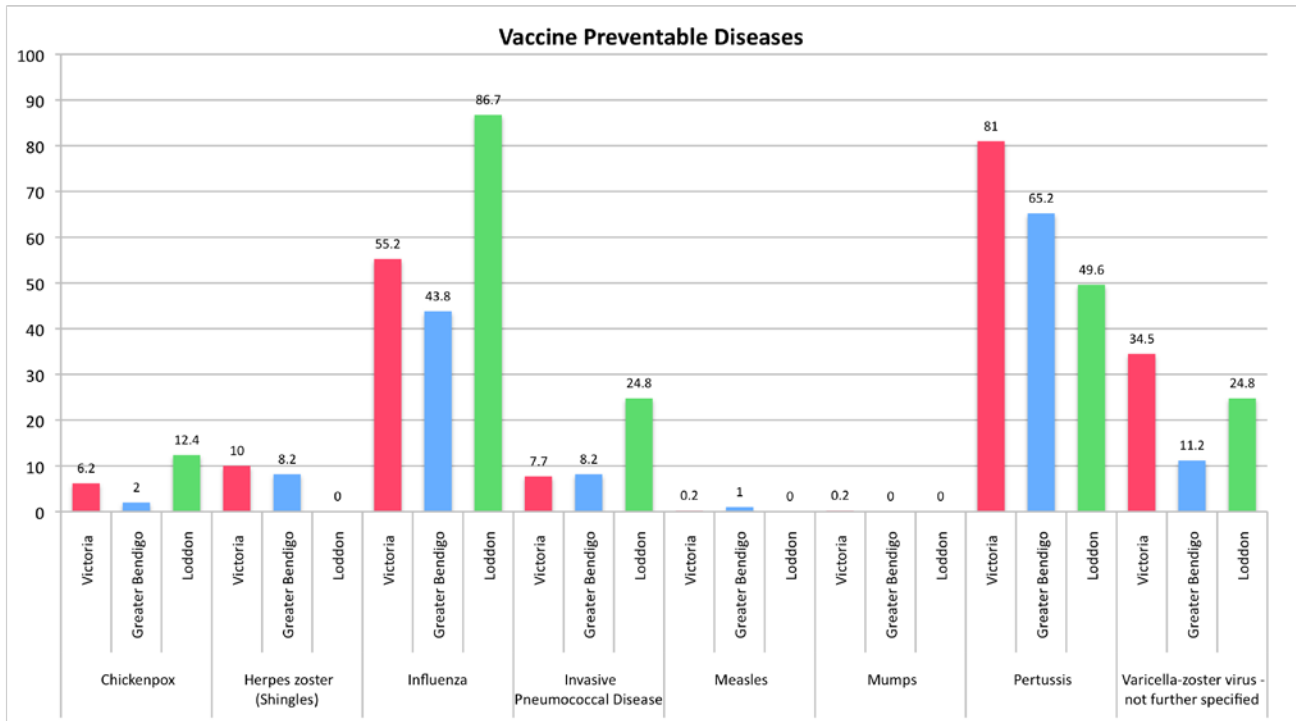
In the 12 months leading to June 2010, compared to the Victorian average, Loddon Shire had lower rates or nil rates of sexually transmitted infections. Greater Bendigo had a very high rate of Chlamydia, and this rate was significantly higher than the Victorian average.



Department of Human Services 2010

## Vaccine preventable diseases

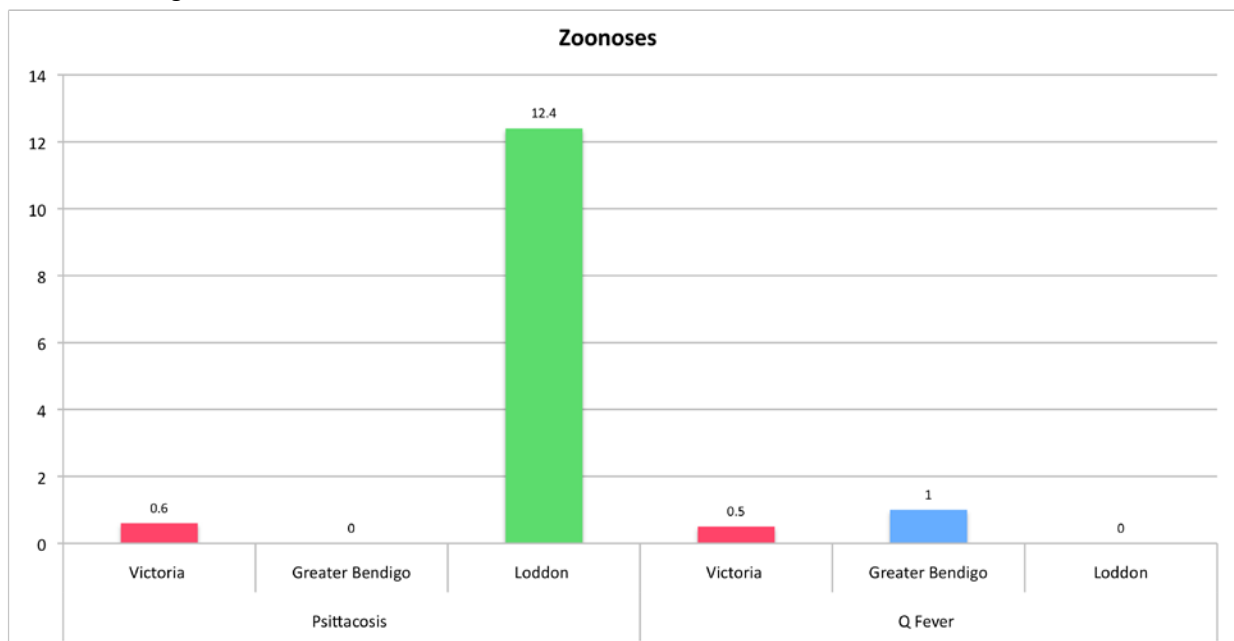
In the 12 months leading to June 2010, compared to the Victorian average, Loddon Shire had a higher rate of Invasive Pneumococcal Disease, Influenza and Chickenpox. Greater Bendigo had a higher rate of Measles and Invasive Pneumococcal Disease, compared to the Victorian average.



Department of Human Services 2010

## Zoonoses

In the 12 months leading to June 2010, Loddon Shire had a very high rate of Psittacosis and this rate was significantly higher than the Victorian average. Greater Bendigo had a higher rate of Q Fever, compared to the Victorian average.



Department of Human Services 2010

### **Breast cancer screening**

Of the female population aged 50 - 69 years, City of Greater Bendigo had participation rates lower than the state average for the 3515, 3570, 3523 and 3551 postcodes. The lowest participation rate was recorded in 3515 (Marong) and the highest was in 3453 (Ravenswood/Harcourt). Loddon Shire had participation rates lower than the state average in the 3475, 3517, 3518, 3525, 3571 and 3573 postcodes. The lowest participation rate was recorded in 3475 (Bealiba/Logan) and the highest was in 3463 (Laanecoorie/Maldon). Note that certain postcodes span more than one local government area (such as 3444).

#### **Breast cancer screening participation for women aged 50-69 years over 2006 to 2008**

	<b>Approx. matching region</b>	<b>No. that participated</b>	<b>% of total age group</b>
<b>Gr. Bendigo</b>		No.	%
3444	Mia Mia/Redesdale	647	58
3453	Ravenswood/Harcourt	118	64
3515	Marong	56	<b>37</b>
3523	Heathcote	294	<b>51</b>
3550	Central Bendigo	2392	55
3551	Axedale, Mandurang, Huntly, Lockwood Strathfieldsaye, , Maiden Gully	1240	<b>54</b>
3555	Kangaroo Flat/Golden Square/ Big Hill	1162	58
3556	Eaglehawk/Sebastian/ Woodvale	740	59
3557	Barnadown/ Goornong	49	57
3558	Elmore	70	57
3570	Raywood/Neilborough	53	<b>45</b>
<b>Loddon</b>			
3463	Laanecoorie/Maldon	253	66
3475	Bealiba/Logan	24	<b>30</b>
3516	Bridgewater region	53	60
3517	Inglewood/Kingower region	105	<b>49</b>
3518	Wedderburn region	98	<b>54</b>
3520	Korong Vale region	12	55
3525	Charlton region	97	<b>43</b>
3537	Boort region	84	57
3571	Dingee region	21	<b>43</b>
3573	Terrick Terrick east region	38	<b>41</b>
3575	Pyramid Hill region	50	65
<b>Victoria</b>			<b>55%</b>

BreastScreen Victoria - commissioned data April 2009

[www.breastscreen.org.au](http://www.breastscreen.org.au)

### **Cervical cancer screening**

The participation rate for pap tests in Bendigo Loddon PCP region females, aged 20 – 69 years who have a cervix, was lower than the regional and state average over the two years of 2007 and 2008. Reflecting trends across Victoria, rates for both local government areas decreased compared to the previous 2 year rate. Further details about these screening statistics and the methodology used to estimate participation is available at the web link below.

#### **Proportion of women screened for cervical cancer**

	<b>2006 and 2007</b>	<b>2007 and 2008</b>
Greater Bendigo	60.9%	59.8%
Loddon	60.6%	57.5%
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>63.1%</b>	<b>62.3%</b>

[www.vccr.org:80/stats\\_reports/2008/screening\\_07.html](http://www.vccr.org:80/stats_reports/2008/screening_07.html)

## HIV

There were 6 new HIV infections in the Bendigo Loddon PCP region in 2007-2008. Most cases were recorded in City of Greater Bendigo.

### Number of new HIV infections 2007-2008\*

LGA	Number
Greater Bendigo	5
Loddon	1
Total	6

Commissioned data from the Burnet Institute

[www.burnet.edu.au](http://www.burnet.edu.au)

\* The source of data for this report is the Victorian HIV/AIDS Register which is managed by the Burnet Institute on behalf of DHS. Numbers may differ from previous reports due to the annual audit of retrospective records.

## Bulk billing

The affordability of medical services is a contributing factor in determining access to health services. Where GP services are bulk-billed, the Medicare rebate is accepted as the full cost of the medical service. In contrast, patient-billed services involve an out-of-pocket cost for the patient. The Bendigo Loddon PCP region is located within the Bendigo and Murray federal electorates (see map below). In 2008/09, 66.6% of non referred GP attendances in the Bendigo electorate were bulk billed, compared to 64.2% in the Murray electorate and 77.3% in Victoria. This data indicates that residents of Greater Bendigo and Loddon have less access to bulk billing medical services compared to the Victorian average. The map below sets out the boundary of the federal electorate of McMillan.

### Non referred GP attendances that were bulk-billed

	services bulk billed	total services	% of services bulk billed
Bendigo	425,558	638,939	66.6%
Murray	417,854	650,749	64.2%
Victoria	-	-	77.3%

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/Medicare%2BStatistics-1>

### Federal electorate map (Victoria)



## GP availability

The Bendigo Loddon PCP area sits within the Central Victoria General Practice Network and Murray Plains Division of General Practice. In 2009/10, there were more doctors per population in the Murray Plains division than in the Central Victoria division. In 2008/09, the GP:population ratio for the Central Victoria General Practice Network was the third lowest of the 29 Victorian divisions.

### Number of GPs by General Practice Divisions 2008 - 09

	Murray Plains		Central Victoria	
	2008/09	2007/08	2008/09	2007/08
No. of female GPs	18	16	35	28
FWE GPs (as at June of that year)	53	54	77	70
FWE GP: population 2006 ratio	1207	1182	1401	1540

Source: Key Division of General Practice characteristics 2006-2007 and 2007-08 [www.phcris.org.au](http://www.phcris.org.au)

## Dental health

Dental caries, the disease process which leads to tooth decay, has significant impacts upon the overall health and wellbeing of the population. In 2008/09, Loddon has a higher rate of admissions for dental caries than Greater Bendigo or the Victorian average. Greater Bendigo also had a higher rate than the Victorian average and the rate decreased from the previous 12 months.

### ACSC Standardised Admission rates (per 1000 persons) for dental conditions

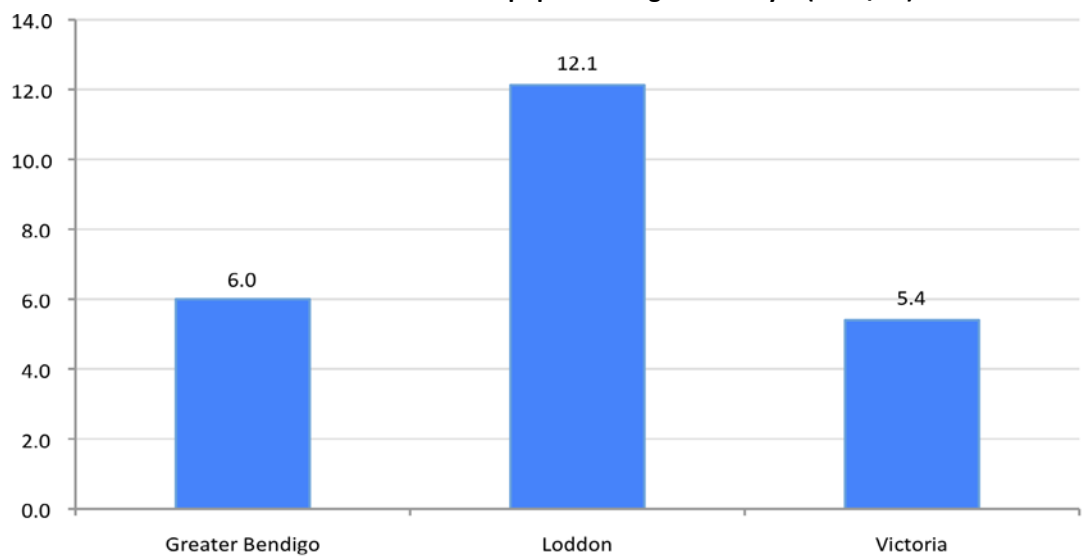
Year	Victoria	Greater Bendigo	Loddon
2003-04	2.66	3.86	4.94
2004-05	2.86	3.96	6.09
2005-06	2.89	3.92	5.09
2006-07	2.72	3.52	4.81
2007-08	3.02	3.65	4.61
2008-09	3.05	3.41	4.83

<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus/acsc/index.htm>

### Dental conditions in young people

In 2008/09, the admission rate for dental conditions for Greater Bendigo residents aged 0 – 14 years was 6.0. The admission rate for Loddon residents aged 0 – 14 years was 12.1. Both were higher than the Victorian average.

### ACSCs admission rates for dental conditions – population aged 0 – 14 yrs (2008/09)



<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus/acsc/index.htm>

## Mental health and wellbeing

In 2007, mental and behavioural disorders accounted for approximately 2.4% of underlying cause of death for Greater Bendigo residents (compared to 3.3% in 2006) and accounted for no deaths in Loddon Shire (2006 data not available). Mental and behavioural disorders accounted for some 4.5% of underlying cause of death for all Victorian residents.

### Hospital separations

Hospital separation data from the Victorian Admitted Episodes Dataset (VAED) for 2008/09 indicates the number of admissions diagnosed as “mental diseases and disorders” Bendigo-Loddon PCP residents increased from 818 in 2006/07 to 976 in 2008/09. However, as a proportion of all admission, mental diseases and disorders did not increase.

#### Hospital admissions with Mental Diseases & Disorders as MDC

	Greater Bendigo		Loddon		Victoria
	No.	% of all admissions	No.	% of all admissions	% of all admissions
2006/07	763	2.2%	55	1.7%	3.4%
2008/09	916	2.2%	60	1.5%	3.2%

Source: VAED 2006/07 and 2008/09 - commissioned data from DHS

### Emergency department presentations - intentional self harm

The Victorian Episode Minimum Dataset (VEMD) for 2006/07 and 2008/09 indicated the number and proportion of presentations, from Greater Bendigo and Loddon residents, classified as intentional self harm decreased in 2008/09. Greater Bendigo had a higher proportion of emergency department presentations that were classified as intentional self harm, compared to Victoria.

#### Emergency department presentations classified as intentional self harm 2006/07 and 2008/09

Location		Number	% of all ED presentations
Greater Bendigo	2006/07	187	0.55%
	2008/09	184	0.50%
Loddon	2006/07	10	0.60%
	2008/09	5	0.31%
Victoria	2006/07	-	0.50%
	2008/09	-	0.48%

Source: VEMD 2006/07 and 2008/09 (Public hospitals only) commissioned data from DHS

### Deaths from intentional self harm

The number of deaths attributed to intentional self harm for Greater Bendigo residents decreased in the 2007 & 2008, compared to 2005 & 2006. In Loddon Shire, the number increased, however the numbers were very small and this may affect the reliability of figures. Compared to the Victorian total, Greater Bendigo had a higher proportion of all deaths reported to the coroner’s office that were attributed to death from intentional self harm and Loddon had a lower proportion.

#### Intentional Self Harm Deaths by Residence and Year\*.

Year (Calendar)	Greater Bendigo			Loddon Shire			Victoria
	Number	All deaths	%	Number	All deaths	%	%
<b>2005 &amp; 2006</b>	22	204	10.8%	1	35	2.9%	11.1%
<b>2007 &amp; 2008</b>	18	226	8.0%	2	27	7.4%	7.5%
<b>Total</b>	40	430	9.3%	3	62	4.8%	7.5%

Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine - commissioned data December 2009 \* Based on Residential Address and the year the case was notified to the Coroner. # Includes deaths occurring within Victoria of interstate residents. ^ A number of cases reported to the Coroners Court of Victoria in these years may still be under investigation by the Coroner. Only closed cases have been included in this table.

### Self assessed mental, behavioural and mood problems

Estimates of mental and behavioural problems and mood problems were undertaken in 2008 by the Public Health Information Development Unit using self-reported data from the 2004-05 National Health Survey. Eight of the region's nine SLAs had a higher rate of self reported mental and behavioural problems in males than the Victorian average. Greater Bendigo – Eaglehawk and Central SLAs as well as Loddon – South SLA had rates much higher than the Victorian average. Within the region, Greater Bendigo-Eaglehawk SLA had the highest rate for males and females.

**Estimated number of people with mental and behavioural problems (self-assessed) 2004-05**

Statistical Local Area (SLA)	Males		Females	
	Number	Rate in 1000	Number	Rate in 1000
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Central	1,083	<b>124.5</b>	1,414	<b>148.9</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Eaglehawk	527	<b>128.4</b>	669	<b>152.6</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner East	1,127	<b>100.3</b>	1,160	92.2
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner North	487	<b>103.7</b>	390	85.5
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner West	785	<b>100.8</b>	919	<b>114.3</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Pt B	635	<b>107.3</b>	656	<b>117.0</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - S'saye	259	79.6	323	106.2
Loddon (S) - North	183	<b>107.2</b>	152	96.5
Loddon (S) - South	322	<b>126.4</b>	334	<b>145.2</b>
<b>Country Victoria</b>	<b>70,918</b>	<b>104.9</b>	<b>77,558</b>	<b>114.1</b>
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>223,864</b>	<b>90.4</b>	<b>271,774</b>	<b>106.8</b>

[www.publichealth.gov.au](http://www.publichealth.gov.au)

The estimates of self-reported mood problems data indicates that the SLAs of Greater Bendigo - Central, Greater Bendigo - Eaglehawk, Greater Bendigo - Inner East, and Loddon - South all had higher rates of mood problems for males and females, compared to Victoria. Within the region, Greater Bendigo-Eaglehawk had the highest rate for males and females.

**Figure 1 Estimated number of people with mood problems (self-assessed) 2004-05**

Statistical Local Area	Males		Females	
	Number	Rate in 1000	Number	Rate in 1000
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Central	503	<b>57.8</b>	765	<b>80.5</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Eaglehawk	231	<b>58.4</b>	357	<b>82.7</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner East	518	<b>46.4</b>	879	<b>69.5</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner North	207	45.2	293	65.1
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner West	341	45.0	538	67.7
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Pt B	280	<b>47.9</b>	378	68.5
Gr. Bendigo (C) - S'saye	74	24.0	150	<b>50.5</b>
Loddon (S) - North	71	41.8	100	65.5
Loddon (S) - South	143	<b>56.2</b>	177	<b>77.9</b>
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>30,467</b>	<b>45.9</b>	<b>46,582</b>	<b>69.3</b>
<b>Country Vic</b>	<b>100,098</b>	<b>40.3</b>	<b>169,008</b>	<b>66.3</b>

[www.publichealth.gov.au](http://www.publichealth.gov.au)

The estimated rate of people with high or very high psychological distress levels was highest in Greater Bendigo - Eaglehawk SLA, followed by Greater Bendigo-Central and Loddon-South. Data was derived from the 2004-05 National Health Survey using the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale.

**Psychological distress levels (K-10), persons aged 18 years and over**

Statistical Local Area	Number	Rate in 1000
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Central	2,383	<b>167.9</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Eaglehawk	1,136	<b>179.4</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner East	1,998	106.5
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner North	691	101.0
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner West	1,259	107.8
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Pt B	977	115.3
Gr. Bendigo (C) - S'saye	315	72.2
Loddon (S) - North	257	106.0
Loddon (S) - South	615	<b>167.4</b>
<b>Country Victoria</b>	<b>121,338</b>	<b>119.8</b>
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>478,650</b>	<b>124.7</b>

[www.publichealth.gov.au](http://www.publichealth.gov.au)

### Mental health clients in Loddon Mallee region by LGA and type of service - 2008-09

In 2008/09, there were 1,814 mental health clients who were Greater Bendigo residents, representing 1.8% of the 2008 estimated resident population. Loddon Shire had a total of 113 mental health clients who were residents and this represented 1.4% of the total population. Greater Bendigo had a total increase of 53 clients between 2007/08 and 2008/09. However, as a proportion of the estimated population, the proportion of clients did not increase.

LGA Name		2008 est. population*	ADULT		AGED		CAMHS*		FORENSIC		SPECIALIST		TOTAL	
			No. Clients	% of 2008 est. pop.	No. Clients	% of 2008 est. pop.	No. Clients	% of 2008 est. pop.	No. Clients	% of 2008 est. pop.	No. Clients	% of 2008 est. pop.	No. Clients	% of 2008 est. pop.
<b>Greater Bendigo</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	98,456	1,239	1.3%	241	0.2%	259	0.3%	9	0.0%	13	0.0%	1,761	1.8%
	<b>2008/09</b>	100,054	1317	1.3%	217	0.2%	257	0.3%	9	0.0%	14	0.0%	1,814	1.8%
<b>Loddon</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	8,050	92	1.1%	16	0.2%	19	0.2%	<5		-		128	1.6%
	<b>2008/09</b>	8,073	91	1.1%	7	0.1%	14	0.2%	-		<5		113	1.4%

Source: Case Files 2007-08 and 2008 - 09, MH&DD, DHS

\* CAMHS = Child and adolescent area mental health services

## Disability

In 2006, almost 4,500 residents of Greater Bendigo required assistance in one or more of the following three core activity areas: self-care, mobility and communication, because of a disability, long term health condition (lasting six months or more) or old age. This figure represented 5% of the total population. In Loddon Shire, just under 500 residents required assistance with the same core activities. This figure represented 6% of the total population. The proportion of population that required assistance in one or more of the three core activities was higher in Greater Bendigo and in Loddon than the Victorian average.

### Core activity need for assistance 2006

	Greater Bendigo		Loddon Shire		Victoria	
	need for assistance	% of total population	need for assistance	% of population	need for assistance	% of population
<b>MALES</b>						
0-4 years	34	1%	0	0%	1,665	1%
5-14 years	187	3%	24	4%	8,545	3%
15-19 years	91	3%	8	3%	2,945	2%
20-24 years	71	2%	7	5%	2,187	1%
25-34 years	108	2%	8	2%	4,561	1%
35-44 years	169	3%	22	5%	6,753	2%
45-54 years	244	4%	32	5%	8,860	3%
55-64 years	314	6%	49	8%	13,638	5%
65-74 years	269	8%	29	6%	12,955	8%
75-84 years	365	17%	38	13%	18,777	18%
85 years and over	224	41%	40	51%	10,577	39%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,076</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>91,463</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>						
0-4 years	17	1%	4	2%	985	1%
5-14 years	100	2%	12	2%	4,252	1%
15-19 years	50	1%	0	0%	1,848	1%
20-24 years	42	1%	0	0%	1,747	1%
25-34 years	109	2%	6	2%	3,835	1%
35-44 years	145	2%	17	3%	6,402	2%
45-54 years	218	3%	25	4%	9,555	3%
55-64 years	271	5%	28	5%	12,401	5%
65-74 years	262	7%	34	8%	15,188	8%
75-84 years	565	20%	50	17%	31,596	23%
85 years and over	640	51%	61	49%	28,961	51%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,419</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>116,770</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>						
0-4 years	51	1%	4	1%	2,650	1%
5-14 years	287	2%	36	3%	12,797	2%
15-19 years	141	2%	8	2%	4,793	1%
20-24 years	113	2%	7	3%	3,934	1%
25-34 years	217	2%	14	2%	8,396	1%
35-44 years	314	2%	39	4%	13,155	2%
45-54 years	462	4%	57	5%	18,415	3%
55-64 years	585	6%	77	7%	26,039	5%
65-74 years	531	8%	63	7%	28,143	8%
75-84 years	930	19%	88	15%	50,373	21%
85 years and over	864	48%	101	50%	39,538	47%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,495</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>208,233</b>	<b>4%</b>

www.abs.gov.au

### Disability support pension

The purpose of the Disability Support Pension is to provide income support for people who have a permanent physical, intellectual or psychiatric impairment. In September 2009, Loddon Shire and Greater Bendigo had a much higher proportion of population receiving the disability support pension, compared to Victoria. The Loddon Shire figure was more than double that of the Victorian average. The proportion of total estimated 2008 population receiving the benefit increased between March 2009 and November 2009.

#### **Disability Support Pension Recipients at September 2009**

<b>Location</b>	<b>March 2009 No. of recipients</b>	<b>% of total est. 2007 population</b>	<b>September 2009 No. of recipients</b>	<b>% of total est. 2008 population</b>
City of Greater Bendigo	5,225	5.3%	5413	<b>5.4%</b>
Loddon Shire	578	7.2%	708	<b>8.8%</b>
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>183,344</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>186,951</b>	<b>3.5%</b>

Commissioned data from Centrelink [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)

### Substance abuse & alcohol consumption

Hospital admission data for 2008-09 indicates that, compared to the Victorian average, Greater Bendigo and Loddon Shire both had a lower proportion of admissions that were treated for an alcohol or drug problem during their episode of care. Loddon Shire had a higher proportion of admissions treated for alcohol problems, compared to Greater Bendigo. Note that figures can represent multiple admissions for the same individual.

#### **People treated for alcohol or drug problem during episode of care 2008/09**

	Greater Bendigo		Loddon		Victoria	
	<i>number</i>	<i>% of all admissions</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>% of all admissions</i>	<i>number</i>	<i>% of all admissions</i>
Treated for alcohol problem	328	0.8%	47	1.2%	<b>27961</b>	<b>1.3%</b>
Treated for drug problem	231	0.6%	25	0.6%	<b>19442</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
All admissions	41050	100.0%	3888	100.0%	<b>2231780</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Victorian Admitted Episode Dataset (VAED) 2008/09 (Public and Private Hospital files)

## Crime and safety

### Road accidents

#### Road accident fatalities

Eleven people were killed in road accidents in the PCP region in 2008, an increase of 2 deaths since 2007. Greater Bendigo ranked 3rd highest for road accident fatalities out of all regional municipalities, moving up the rankings from 6<sup>th</sup> in 2007. Loddon Shire moved up to a ranking of 15<sup>th</sup>, from 19<sup>th</sup> in 2007.

#### Road accident fatalities (2009)

Municipality		Bicyclist	Driver	Motorcyclist	Passenger	Pedestrian	Total
Greater Bendigo	2007	0	5	0	0	1	6
	2008	0	4	1	1	2	8
Loddon	2007	0	3	0	0	0	3
	2008	0	3	0	0	0	3

Municipal statistics TAC [www.tacsafety.com.au](http://www.tacsafety.com.au)

#### Road accident serious injuries

One hundred and twenty two people were seriously injured in road accidents in Greater Bendigo in 2008, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> across regional Victoria out of the 47 municipalities that had recorded serious injuries. Seventeen people were seriously injured in road accidents in Loddon Shire in 2007, placing them in a ranking of 40<sup>th</sup>. Both local government areas experienced an increase in the number of serious injuries resulting from road accidents.

#### Serious road accident injuries (2008)

Municipality		Bicyclist	Driver	Motorcyclist	Passenger	Pedestrian	Unknown	Total
Greater Bendigo	2007	3	47	10	32	11		103
	2008	8	54	32	21	7		122
Loddon	2007		6	1	2			9
	2008		9	4	4			17

Municipal statistics TAC [www.tacsafety.com.au](http://www.tacsafety.com.au)

## Workplace accidents

Between July 2005 and end of June 2010, there were 2,496 Worksafe claims in the Greater Bendigo and Loddon region. Of these, 2,358 were from Greater Bendigo and 138 were from Loddon. The greatest proportion of claims in Greater Bendigo were from the Community Services division, followed by the manufacturing division. The greatest proportion of claims in Loddon Shire were from the manufacturing division, followed by agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting.

### **Injury claims by industry (July 2005 – June 2010)**

Industry division	Greater Bendigo		Loddon		Regional Victoria	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agriculture,Forestry,Fishing & Hunting	83	3.5	29	<b>21</b>	2384	6.9
Mining	71	<b>3</b>	4	<b>2.9</b>	430	1.2
Manufacturing	477	20.2	51	<b>37</b>	7861	22.7
Electricity,Gas & Water	32	<b>1.4</b>	1	0.7	464	1.3
Construction	261	<b>11.1</b>	13	9.4	3264	9.4
Trade	228	9.7	7	5.1	3505	10.1
Transport & Storage	133	5.6	4	2.9	2096	6
Communication	7	0.3	0	0	14	0
Finance,Property & Business Services	100	<b>4.2</b>	0	0	1266	3.6
Public Administration	61	2.6	5	<b>3.6</b>	975	2.8
Community Services	791	<b>33.5</b>	22	15.9	10175	29.3
Recreation,Personal & Other Services	114	4.8	2	1.4	2240	6.5
Unclassified	0	0	0	0	14	0.2
All	2358	100	138	100	34688	100

[www.worksafe.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.gov.au)

Greater Bendigo and Loddon both had a high proportion of claims resulting from body stressing injuries, reflecting the Regional Victorian figures. The next most common claim was for injuries resulting from falls, trips and slips. Greater Bendigo claims were similar to Regional Victoria, across most injuries, while Loddon Shire had a higher proportion of falls, trips and slips, vehicle accident, chemicals and substances and hitting objects injury claims.

### **Injury claims by mechanism of injury (July 2005 – July 2010)**

Mechanism of injury	Greater Bendigo		Loddon Shire		Regional Victoria	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Falls, Trips and Slips	452	<b>19.2</b>	28	<b>20.3</b>	6572	18.9
Hitting Objects	101	4.3	9	<b>6.5</b>	1652	4.8
Being Hit by Moving Object	366	<b>15.5</b>	16	11.6	4991	14.4
Sound and Pressure	49	2.1	4	2.9	1038	3
Body Stressing	928	39.4	55	39.9	13796	39.8
Chemicals and Substances	43	<b>1.8</b>	3	<b>2.2</b>	415	1.2
Heat, Radiation and Electricity	25	<b>1.1</b>	0	0	346	1
Exposure to Mental Stress Factors	229	<b>9.7</b>	6	4.3	3180	9.2
Vehicle Accident	75	3.2	10	<b>7.2</b>	1226	3.5
Other Mechanism	90	3.8	7	<b>5.1</b>	1472	4.2
All	2358	100	138	100	34688	100

[www.worksafe.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.gov.au)

## Farm accidents

Between 2004 and 2006, Greater Bendigo had 90 farm-related injuries that required hospital admission and Loddon had 32. For Greater Bendigo residents, the highest proportion of emergency department (ED) presentations occurred in the 50-54 years age cohort, followed by the 15-19 years cohort. In Loddon Shire, the 15-19 years, 25-29 years and 40-44 years age cohorts were the age groups with the highest proportion.

Over the same period, Greater Bendigo had 29 farm-related injuries that required hospital admission and Loddon had 27. The greatest proportion of hospital admission in Loddon Shire were for the 40-44 year age group. In Greater Bendigo, the greatest number of admission fell across 4 age groups: 20-24 years, 30-34 years, 45-49 years and 55-59 years. Loddon Shire had a higher proportion of farm injuries in the 15-19 year old age bracket and in the 70-74 year old age bracket.

### **Injuries leading to ED presentations and hospital admissions - by age group 2004 to 2006 (36 months)**

Age group	Bendigo				Loddon				Balance of Victoria			
	No.	ED %	No.	Admissions %	No.	ED %	No.	Admissions %	No.	ED %	No.	Admissions %
0-4	*	*	*	*	*	*	0	0%	128	2%	32	2%
5-9	0	0%	*	*	*	*	0	0%	308	4%	45	3%
10-14	5	6%	*	*	*	*	*	*	665	9%	102	6%
15-19	12	13%	0	0%	5	16%	3	11%	783	11%	134	8%
20-24	10	11%	3	10%	*	*	3	11%	749	10%	94	6%
25-29	6	7%	*	*	5	16%	*	*	606	8%	102	6%
30-34	11	12%	3	10%	3	9%	*	*	592	8%	111	6%
35-39	3	3%	*	*	*	*	0	0%	591	8%	140	8%
40-44	10	11%	*	*	5	16%	4	15%	602	8%	156	9%
45-49	4	4%	3	10%	*	*	0	0%	528	7%	127	7%
50-54	15	17%	*	*	*	*	*	*	462	6%	134	8%
55-59	7	8%	3	10%	0	0%	3	11%	388	5%	147	9%
60-64	3	3%	*	*	0	0%	*	*	281	4%	120	7%
65-69	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	197	3%	82	5%
70-74	*	*	*	*	*	*	3	11%	114	2%	68	4%
75-79	0	0%	*	*	*	*	*	*	83	1%	56	3%
80+	0	0%	*	*	0	0%	*	*	60	1%	59	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7,137</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,709</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: commissioned data VISU Monash University [www.muarc.monash.edu.au](http://www.muarc.monash.edu.au) \* number concealed due to small cell size

The main causes of farm-related accident emergency department presentations for Greater Bendigo were from falls and motor vehicles. However, in Loddon Shire, the main cause of injury was from being hit/struck/crushed by transport, compared to Bendigo and compared to the rest of Victoria, and this proportion was much higher than in Greater Bendigo or the rest of Victoria.

### **Emergency department presentations - Injury cause 2004- 2006**

Injury class	Greater Bendigo		Loddon		Rest of Victoria	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Falls	20	22%	6	19%	1,234	17%
Motor vehicle	19	21%	5	16%	1,275	18%
Hit / Struck / Crush	12	13%	10	31%	1,050	15%
Cutting / Piercing	11	12%	*	*	921	13%
Other transport	7	8%	*	*	800	11%
Fire / Flames / Heat	3	3%	*	*	122	2%
Poisoning	0	0%	*	*	24	0%
Drowning	0	0%	*	*	*	*
Other unintentional	12	13%	0	0%	741	10%
Unspecified	6	7%	4	13%	966	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>7,137</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: commissioned data from Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit (VISU) [www.muarc.monash.edu.au](http://www.muarc.monash.edu.au)

### Hospital admissions - Injury cause 2004- 2006

Primary injury cause	Greater Bendigo		Loddon		Rest of Victoria	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
transport	13	45%	6	22%	604	35%
fall	6	21%	7	26%	251	15%
natural/environmental/animals	5	17%	4	15%	307	18%
hit/struck/crush	3	10%	*	*	162	9%
machinery	*	*	4	15%	166	10%
cutting/piercing	0	0%	3	11%	85	5%
fires/burns/scalds	0	0%	*	*	24	1%
poisoning	0	0%	0	0%	17	1%
explosions/firearms	0	0%	0	0%	4	0%
drowning/near drowning	0	0%	0	0%	2	0%
other unintentional	*	*	0	0%	87	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,709</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: commissioned data from Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit (VISU) [www.muarc.monash.edu.au](http://www.muarc.monash.edu.au)

### National farm accident trends

According to the *Traumatic deaths in Australian Agriculture 2007* report (National Farm Injury Data Centre 2007), tractors continue to be the most reported cause of unintentional farm related fatalities, while farm vehicles remain prominent with a significant increase in all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) as a key cause of fatalities.

### Crime rates

Between 2007/08 and 2008/09, overall crime rates reduced in Greater Bendigo and across Victoria but increased in Loddon. In 2008/09, Greater Bendigo and Loddon Shire had a higher rate of offences against persons than Victoria. The rate in Loddon increased by 22.8% from 2007/08 while the rate in Greater Bendigo decreased slightly. Compared to Victoria, Greater Bendigo and Loddon had a lower rate of crimes against property and, in Loddon, this rate increased over the 12 months. The rate of drug offences was higher in Greater Bendigo than in Loddon or the Victorian average.

### Crime rates by Local Government Area 2008/09

	Greater Bendigo			Loddon Shire			Victoria		
	Rate per 100,000 people*			Rate per 100,000 people*			Rate per 100,000 people*		
	07/08	08/09	% change	07/08	08/09	% change	07/08	08/09	% change
Crime against person	912	903	-1	716	880	<b>22.8</b>	821	820	-0.2
Crime against property	5,154	3,946	-23.4	2,088	2,527	<b>21.1</b>	5,371	5,186	-3.5
Drug offences	307	302	-1.6	235	124	-47.2	272	277	2.0
Other crime	993	1,039	<b>4.6</b>	914	917	<b>0.3</b>	745	805	8.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,366</b>	<b>6,190</b>	<b>-16</b>	<b>3,952.6</b>	<b>4,447</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>7,209</b>	<b>7,088</b>	<b>-1.7</b>

Source: Victoria Police <http://www.police.vic.gov.au/statistics/>

\*Rates for 2008/09 were calculated using estimated resident population figures as at 31 December 2008 and obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS Cat. No. 3101.0) released on 4 June 2009

## Perception of safety

Community Strength Indicators were undertaken by the Victorian State Government in 2006. The survey responses indicate that respondents from Loddon Shire felt significantly safer alone in their streets after dark than respondents from the Loddon Mallee region and Regional Victoria.

### Feels safe on the street alone after dark (2006)

Greater Bendigo	Loddon	Loddon Mallee Region	Regional Vic. average
67%	85.3%	63.8%	67.2%

[www.dvc.vic.gov.au](http://www.dvc.vic.gov.au)

## Family incidents

In 2008/09, Greater Bendigo had a reported family incident rate similar to Victoria overall. The rate of reported incidents in Loddon Shire was significantly lower than Greater Bendigo and Victoria. Greater Bendigo had a lower rate of reported family incidents where charges were laid, compared to Victoria, and Loddon Shire had a significantly lower rate. Greater Bendigo had a higher rate of reported family incidents where an IVO was applied for (intervention order), compared to Victoria, while Loddon had a significantly lower rate.

Between 2007/08 and 2008/09, both Greater Bendigo and Loddon Shire had a greater increase than Victoria in the rate of reported family incidents and reported family incidents where charges were laid. The rate of reported family incidents where an IVO was applied for in Loddon Shire doubled between 2007/08 and 2008/09.

A family incident is any situation, involving a family, where the police are requested to attend. This may or may not involve violence. Families may involve the following family relationships: married, de-facto, child/parent, separated, divorced, other family member, boyfriend/girlfriend, gay and lesbian. The table below sets out the change in reported family incidents.

### Reported family incident reports - rates per 100,000 population\*

LGA		Family incidents	where charges laid	Where an IVO applied for
<b>Greater Bendigo</b>	2007/08	524	124	186
	2008/09	629	139	131
	% change	<b>20.0</b>	<b>12.1</b>	-29.6
<b>Loddon</b>	2007/08	31	10	6
	2008/09	48	17	12
	% change	<b>54.8</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Victoria</b>	2007/08	602	148	134
	2008/09	632	156	121
	% change	5.1	5.1	-9.9

[www.police.vic.gov.au](http://www.police.vic.gov.au)

\* Rates for 2008/09 for the State were calculated using estimated resident population figures as at 31 December 2008. All other rates for 2008/09 were calculated using estimated resident population figures as at 30 June 2008.

## Domestic violence hospital admissions

In 2008/09, The rate of hospital admissions that were categorised as injuries occurring from domestic violence/disputes was lower in Greater Bendigo and in Loddon Shire than the Victorian average.

Greater Bendigo		Loddon		Victoria	
No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
67	0.16%	5	0.13%	4993	0.22%

Source: Victorian Admitted Episode Dataset (VAED) 2008/09 (Public and Private Hospital files)

## Education

### Level of education attained

In 2006, Greater Bendigo and Loddon had a lower proportion of population who had completed year 12 than the Victorian average.

### Highest year of school completed (persons aged 15 yrs and over) 2006

	Greater Bendigo				Loddon				Victoria			
	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
Year 12 or equivalent	11,032	31%	13,980	36%	648	20%	842	27%	829,698	43%	922,605	45%
Year 11 or equivalent	5,814	16%	6,092	16%	528	16%	548	18%	272,641	14%	276,171	13%
Year 10 or equivalent	7,909	22%	7,593	20%	819	25%	630	20%	323,055	17%	307,895	15%
Year 9 or equivalent	3,911	11%	3,792	10%	456	14%	349	11%	146,833	8%	141,299	7%
Year 8 or below	3,356	9%	3,618	9%	514	16%	424	14%	152,396	8%	181,688	9%
Did not go to school	128	0%	108	0%	13	0%	8	0%	18,241	1%	25,386	1%
not stated	3,180	9%	3,666	9%	275	8%	292	9%	190,024	10%	194,102	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,330</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>38,849</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,253</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3,093</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,932,888</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,049,146</b>	<b>100%</b>

[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

The table below sets out the non school qualifications of population aged over 15 (that had a non school qualification). In 2006, compared to the Regional Victoria averages, Greater Bendigo residents aged over 15 were more likely to have a graduate or post graduate qualification, while the proportion of residents with a diploma or certificate qualification was slightly lower. Residents aged over 15 in Loddon Shire, compared to the Regional Victoria average, were generally less likely to have a graduate or post graduate qualification (except for a graduate diploma).

### Non school qualifications 2006

	Greater Bendigo				Loddon				Regional Victoria			
	Males		Females		Males		Females		Males		Females	
Postgrad. Degree, nfd	16	0%	29	0%	3	0%	0	0%	115	0%	237	0%
Doc. Degree	133	1%	56	1%	0	0%	3	0%	1,592	1%	778	1%
Master Degree	292	2%	278	3%	10	1%	13	2%	3,761	2%	3,321	2%
Graduate Diploma	407	3%	677	7%	13	2%	54	9%	4,217	2%	7,611	6%
Graduate Certificate	37	0%	60	1%	0	0%	0	0%	414	0%	880	1%
Bachelor Degree	2,101	17%	3,138	31%	85	11%	163	26%	27,275	15%	38,828	28%
Adv. Dip. & Dip. nfd	18	0%	19	0%	0	0%	0	0%	204	0%	256	0%
Adv. Dip. & Associate Degree	676	5%	813	8%	48	6%	71	11%	9,965	6%	12,980	9%
Diploma	787	6%	821	8%	40	5%	43	7%	10,532	6%	12,407	9%
Certificate, nfd	271	2%	412	4%	20	3%	29	5%	3,648	2%	5,778	4%
Certificate III & IV(d)	6,576	53%	2,392	23%	472	60%	139	22%	95,463	54%	31,895	23%
Certificate I & II(e)	204	2%	496	5%	14	2%	27	4%	2,998	2%	6,182	4%

[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

## School absent days

The Bendigo Loddon PCP region falls into the Department of Education and Early Childhood education networks of Bendigo and Sandhurst (Loddon Mallee Region). Unfortunately, the network regions do not align with Local Government and there is overlap with some other local government areas in the case of the Bendigo region. The Department has advised that these figures are preliminary and are estimates only, due to some data gaps where schools have not provided information. In 2008, the P-12 mean number of absent days for schools in the Bendigo and Sandhurst networks was a little higher overall compared to the 2007 Victorian benchmark (the 2007 state benchmark was reported to be the same as 2008 by the Loddon Mallee DEECD office).

The Bendigo network had a higher number of mean absence days for 7-12 and the P-12, compared to the State benchmark and Sandhurst had a higher number of mean absence days for the P-6 and P-12, compared to the State benchmark.

### Mean absent days 2008 - as of 31st March 2009

	Bendigo Network	Sandhurst Network	2007/08 state benchmark
P-6 mean	13.3	14.0	13.4
7-12 mean	16.5	14.7	16.3
P-12 mean	14.7	14.9	14.6

*www.deecd.vic.gov.au commissioned data*

## Youth engagement

Community Indicators Victoria measured the engagement of young people aged 15-19 years old, who were not attending school. Engagement was defined in three ways:

- 1) Fully engaged school leavers are defined as those who are involved in work and/or non-school study (including university, TAFE and vocational training) on a full-time basis;
- 2) Disengaged school leavers are defined as those who are not involved in any work or study activities at all; and
- 3) the remaining school leavers, who are defined as partly engaged.

Greater Bendigo and Loddon Shire had a lower proportion of population aged 15-19 years that was defined as fully engaged and a higher proportion of this population that was defined as disengaged, compared to the Victoria.

### Post year 12 destinations

	Engaged	Disengaged
Greater Bendigo	65.3%	19.4%
Loddon	61.2%	22.4%
Loddon Mallee region	61.8%	21.5%
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>71.9%</b>	<b>15.4%</b>

*www.communityindicators.net.au*

## Transport

### Public transport

Regular public transport is available in Bendigo, including regular services to Melbourne and Castlemaine, providing commuting options for much of the population. The urban area of Bendigo is also serviced with a regular bus service. Outside the Bendigo urban area, most towns have minimal public transport available which restricts opportunities for regular commuting for work purposes and for accessing various services. The proportion of workforce that used public transport to get to work on the day of the census was 1.2% for Greater Bendigo and 0.3% for Loddon Shire, reflecting a range of factors including availability of public transport, location of workplace and commuting distances/time frames.

### **Method of travel to work 2006**

	Greater Bendigo		Loddon		Victoria	
used bus, train, tram or ferry	480	1.2%	11	0.3%	206,479	9.1%
walked or cycled only to work	672	1.6%	59	1.9%	35,477	1.6%
worked from home	1720	4%	720	23%	104403	5%
motor vehicle driver or passenger*	30,233	73.8%	1,702	53.6%	1,570,309	69.0%

[www.abs.vic.gov.au](http://www.abs.vic.gov.au)

\* includes car, taxi, truck and motorbike/scooter

### Walking and cycling

As the table above sets out, Greater Bendigo had the same proportion of workforce walking or cycling to work as Victoria. Loddon had a high proportion of workforce working from home, which is likely to reflect the proportion of workplaces that are farms. Greater Bendigo had a higher proportion of workforce using a motor vehicle to get to work compared to Victoria.

### Motor vehicle usage

In 2006, compared to the Victorian average, Greater Bendigo had a similar proportion of dwellings with no motor vehicles, while Loddon had a lower proportion. Both Loddon and Greater Bendigo had a higher proportion of dwellings that had 3 or more motor vehicles, compared to the Victorian average.

### **Number of motor vehicles per dwelling 2006**

	Greater Bendigo		Loddon		Victoria	
None	2,767	8%	138	5%	159,693	9%
1 motor vehicle	11,912	35%	966	32%	614,281	36%
2 motor vehicles	13,060	39%	1,119	38%	659,657	38%
3 motor vehicles	4,156	12%	418	14%	192,189	11%
4 or more motor vehicles	1,914	6%	343	11%	90,084	5%
<i>Total</i>	<i>33,809</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>2,984</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>1,715,904</i>	<i>100%</i>

[www.abs.vic.gov.au](http://www.abs.vic.gov.au)

## Housing

### Social housing

In 2006, 1,785 dwellings in Greater Bendigo (20% of all renting households) were rented from a State Government housing authority, a housing cooperative or a community or a church group. This is higher than the average for Regional Victoria (18.7%) and Victoria (14.1%). In Loddon Shire, 13.1% of renting households were renting from the State Government housing authority or from a housing cooperative or a community or a church group. This figure was lower than the average for Regional Victoria (18.7%) and Victoria (14.1%).

#### Number of private dwellings being rented by landlord type

	State Government housing authority	housing cooperative, cmnty or church group	Total	Percentage of all renting households
City of Greater Bendigo	1479	306	1785	20%
Loddon Shire	57	13	70	13.1%
Regional Vic	18,487	2747	21234	18.7%
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>54,522</b>	<b>7467</b>	<b>61989</b>	<b>14.1%</b>

[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

### Homelessness

On the night of the 2006 census, a higher proportion of Greater Bendigo and Loddon residents were living in an improvised home, a tent, were sleeping out, or were living in a caravan or a cabin than the Victorian average.

#### Persons occupied in private dwellings by type (2006)

	Greater Bendigo		Loddon		Victoria	
Separate house, semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse, flat, unit or apartment	86,115	99.11%	7,125	98.30%	4,554,413	99.45%
Caravan, cabin, houseboat	379	0.44%	66	0.91%	11,015	0.24%
Improvised home, tent, sleepers out	113	0.13%	13	0.18%	2,102	0.05%

[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

### Household sizes

Generally speaking, average household sizes (the number of people living in each dwelling) were smaller in townships situated in more remote or rural locations. Small household sizes are often linked to the age structure of the population. Median household sizes in Axedale, Bendigo, Goornong and Bridgewater were similar to the Victoria and Regional Victoria average.

#### Average household sizes (2006)

Axedale	2.6	Inglewood	2.1
Bendigo	2.5	Pyramid Hill	2.1
Elmore	2.1	Wedderburn	2.1
Goornong	2.7	Loddon Shire	2.3
Heathcote	2.1	Greater Bendigo	2.5
Boort	2.2	Regional Victoria	2.5
Bridgewater	2.4	Victoria	2.6

[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

## Renting costs

Generally speaking, weekly rents in Loddon and Greater Bendigo were significantly less than the Victorian average in 2006. However, between 1996 and 2001, weekly rents in both Greater Bendigo and Loddon Shire increased significantly. In Greater Bendigo, the proportion of renters spending \$140 or more per week on rent almost trebled between 1996 and 2006. In Loddon Shire, the proportion increased from 3% to 12%, while in Victoria it almost doubled.

### Weekly rent change 1996 – 2006\*\*

	Greater Bendigo						Loddon					
	1996		2001		2006		1996		2001		2006	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
\$0-\$49	962	13%	759	9%	392	4%	257	42%	228	37%	164	30%
\$50-\$99	1,833	24%	1,633	20%	1,240	14%	233	38%	228	37%	146	26%
\$100-\$139	2,952	39%	2,537	32%	1,446	16%	72	12%	100	16%	143	26%
\$140-\$179	1,324	17%	2,152	27%	2,314	26%	6	1%	14	2%	37	7%
\$180-\$224	248	3%	453	6%	2,157	24%	3	0%	0	0%	12	2%
\$225-\$274	44	1%	112	1%	837	9%	3	0%	6	1%	0	0%
\$275-\$349	25	0%	29	0%	249	3%	4	1%	0	0%	0	0%
\$350-\$449	10	0%	25	0%	48	1%	3	0%	0	0%	4	1%
\$450-\$549	7	0%	11	0%	13	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
\$550 and over	53	1%	57	1%	64	1%	0	0%	8	1%	13	2%
Rent not stated	163	2%	272	3%	289	3%	28	5%	28	5%	33	6%
Total	7,621	100%	8,040	100%	9,049	100%	609	100%	612	100%	552	100%

www.abs.gov.au 2006 census \*\* numbers rounded in table so added figures may not exactly match descriptions.

## Median rent

Greater Bendigo had a higher median rent for 2 bedroom flats, 2 bedroom houses and 3 bedroom houses, compared to the Loddon Mallee Region and Regional Victoria in the June quarter of 2009. Compared to Regional Victoria, median rents have increased at a lower rate.

### Median rent and change by location

	2 bedroom flat		2 bedroom house		3 bedroom house	
	Median	% annual change	Median	% annual change	Median	% annual change
Loddon	*	*	*	*	*	*
Greater Bendigo	\$185	5.7%	\$195	-2.5%	\$240	4.3%
Loddon Mallee Region	\$175	2.9%	\$190	2.7%	\$220	0.0%
Regional Victoria	\$180	7.2%	\$190	5.1%	\$230	4.6%

www.housing.vic.gov.au

Rental Report - June Quarter 2009

\*data not available

## Affordable lettings

In the March 2010 quarter, Loddon Shire had 92% of newly leased rentals defined as affordable\* and Greater Bendigo had 63%. Compared the total Loddon Mallee Region, Greater Bendigo had a lower proportion of newly leased properties that were defined as affordable and Loddon had a higher proportion.

### Affordable lettings June 2009

Location	% of all rented properties defined as affordable	
	June 2009	March 2010
Loddon	100%	92%
Greater Bendigo	60%	63%
Loddon Mallee	69%	70%
<i>Regional Victoria</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>63%</i>
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>21%</b>

[www.housing.vic.gov.au](http://www.housing.vic.gov.au)

Rental Report - June Quarter 2009

*\*The assessment of affordable supply is based on the number of suitably-sized properties that are within 30% of income for low income households.*

## Property values

In 2008, many towns in the Bendigo Loddon PCP region experienced a decline in median house prices. House prices dropped, compared to 2007, in all main towns excluding Inglewood. However, since 2003, median house prices have increased significantly for towns such as Inglewood, Bendigo and Elmore. Between 1998 and 2008, Boort recorded the highest median house price increase (194%), followed by Bendigo and Inglewood.

### Median House Prices by town

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	07 - 08 % change	98 - 08 % change
Boort	70,500	94,000	110,000	126,000	122,600	100,000	-18	194
Inglewood	77,250	90,000	100,000	95,000	116,500	120,000	3	132
Wedderburn	60,000	77,500	80,000	105,000	133,000	95,000	-29	86
Bendigo	183,000	200,000	205,000	216,500	235,000	227,500	-3	159
Elmore	76,500	90,000	142,500	112,500	142,500	122,500	-14	119
Heathcote	133,500	158,500	169,000	180,000	155,000	150,000	-3	103

*A Guide to House Prices 1998 - 2009 (Department of Sustainability and Environment- 2008)*

## Rental Stress

Based on census figures from 2006, most Greater Bendigo SLAs had a higher rate of households experiencing rental stress than the Victorian average.

### Households experiencing rental stress 2006

<b>Statistical Local Area (SLA)</b>	<b>Households with rental stress*</b>	<b>Rented private dwellings</b>	<b>% Rental stress*</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Central	832	2,759	<b>30.2</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) -	336	990	<b>33.9</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner	845	2,825	<b>29.9</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner	161	623	<b>25.8</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner	377	1,205	<b>31.3</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Pt B	132	471	<b>28.0</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - S'saye	31	178	17.4
Loddon (S) - North	29	281	10.3
Loddon (S) - South	58	276	21.0
<b>Country Victoria</b>	<b>31,151</b>	<b>116,233</b>	<b>26.8</b>
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>109,633</b>	<b>447,070</b>	<b>24.5</b>

[www.publichealth.gov.au](http://www.publichealth.gov.au)

\* Calculated using unpublished ABS data from 2006, based on households in bottom 40% of income distribution (with less than 80% of median income) that are spending more than 30% of income on rent.

## Mortgage stress

Based on census figures from 2006, the Loddon - South SLA had the highest proportion of households experiencing mortgage stress. Greater Bendigo - Eaglehawk, Greater Bendigo - Part B and Loddon - North SLA also had a higher proportion of households experiencing mortgage stress compared to Country Victoria and Victoria in 2006.

### Households experiencing rental stress 2006

<b>Statistical Local Area (SLA)</b>	<b>Households with rental stress*</b>	<b>Rented private dwellings</b>	<b>% Rental stress*</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Central	173	1,989	8.7
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Eaglehawk	123	1,100	<b>11.2</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner East	179	2,635	6.8
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner North	131	1,495	8.8
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner West	201	2,353	8.5
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Pt B	204	1,708	<b>11.9</b>
Gr. Bendigo (C) - S'saye	79	1,120	7.1
Loddon (S) - North	31	261	<b>11.9</b>
Loddon (S) - South	64	506	<b>12.6</b>
<b>Country Victoria</b>	<b>15,925</b>	<b>167,673</b>	<b>9.5</b>
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>58,238</b>	<b>634,802</b>	<b>9.2</b>

[www.publichealth.gov.au](http://www.publichealth.gov.au)

\* Calculated using unpublished ABS data from 2006, based on households in bottom 40% of income distribution (with less than 80% of median income) that are spending more than 30% of income on mortgage repayments.

## Housing repayments

The proportion of households paying monthly housing repayments of \$1200 or more increased significantly in Loddon and Greater Bendigo between 1996 and 2006, reflecting the increases across Victoria. Average monthly housing repayments were higher for Victoria than for Greater Bendigo or Loddon.

### Housing Loan repayment (monthly) 1996 - 2006

		\$1-\$249		\$250-\$399		\$400-\$549		\$550-\$749		\$750-\$949		\$950-\$1199	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Loddon</b>	1996	47	10%	86	18%	121	25%	75	16%	38	8%	17	4%
	2006	34	5%	88	14%	118	19%	101	16%	67	11%	64	10%
<b>Greater Bendigo</b>	1996	773	0	852	12%	1,592	22%	1,794	25%	1,102	15%	524	7%
	2006	351	3%	392	4%	894	9%	1,273	12%	1,492	14%	1,747	17%
<b>Victoria</b>	1996	25,104	7%	27,408	7%	51,042	14%	69,951	19%	67,287	18%	53,483	14%
	2006	12,677	2%	13,367	2%	29,693	5%	41,008	8%	53,498	10%	72,421	13%

		\$1,200-\$1399		\$1,400-\$1599		\$1,600-\$1999		\$2,000-\$2,999		3000 and over		Not stated	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Loddon</b>	1996	6	1%	6	1%	6	1%	8	2%	3	1%	66	14%
	2006	26	4%	10	2%	14	2%	16	3%	12	2%	78	12%
<b>Greater Bendigo</b>	1996	159	2%	75	1%	63	1%	41	1%	9	0%	274	4%
	2006	1,207	12%	737	7%	889	9%	520	5%	168	2%	675	7%
<b>Victoria</b>	1996	22,723	6%	11,967	3%	10,985	3%	8,686	2%	3,341	1%	19,050	5%
	2006	58,556	11%	46,779	9%	68,527	13%	70,495	13%	31,151	6%	42,269	8%

[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

## Families, children and young people

### Family structure

Data from the 2006 census indicates that Loddon Shire had a higher proportion of couple families with no children (47%) than the Victorian average (36%). Compared to the Victorian average, Loddon and Greater Bendigo had a lower proportion of couple families with children (of any age) and Greater Bendigo had a higher proportion of lone parent families with children aged under 15yrs. Loddon had a lower proportion of lone parent families, with children of any age, compared to the Victorian average.

### Family composition (2006)

	Greater Bendigo		Loddon		Victoria
	Number	% of all families	Number	% of all families	% of all families
Couple family with no children	9,391	38%	981	47%	36%
<i>Couple family with children</i>	10,408	42%	815	39%	47%
- Couple family with children under 15	7,421	30%	564	27%	31%
- Couple family with no children under 15	2,987	12%	251	12%	15%
One parent family with children	4,431	18%	275	13%	15%
- One parent family with children under 15	2,654	11%	153	7%	8%
- One parent family with no children under 15	1,777	7%	122	6%	7%
Other family	369	2%	33	2%	2%
<b>Total</b>	24,599	100%	2,104	100%	100%

[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

### Single parent pensions

In November 2009, Greater Bendigo and Loddon had a much higher proportion of population aged 15 years or older receiving the single parenting payment compared to the Victorian average. Both local government areas had an increase in proportion of population receiving this benefit since March 2009.

### Single parenting payments - September 2009

		No. of benefit recipients	population aged ≥ 15 yrs*	% of population
<b>City of Greater Bendigo</b>	March 2009	2,386	74,179	3.2%
	September 2009	2,426	74,179	3.3%
<b>Loddon Shire</b>	March 2009	150	6,345	2.4%
	September 2009	174	6,345	2.7%
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>March 2009</b>	<b>79,163</b>	<b>3,982,034</b>	<b>2.0%</b>
	<b>September 2009</b>	<b>77,311</b>	<b>3,982,034</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

Commissioned data from Centrelink [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)

\*2006 population figures

### Teenage births

In 2007, City of Greater Bendigo had more than double the proportion of births that were to mothers aged 15 to 19yrs than Victoria. The rate in Loddon Shire was lower than the Victorian average.

### LGA and crude livebirth rates, teenage confinements 2007

Local Government Area	Number	% of all confinements
Greater Bendigo	71	<b>5.5</b>
Loddon	1	1.1
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>1818</b>	<b>2.6</b>

[www.dhs.vic.gov.au](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au) Victorian Perinatal Data Collection Unit

## Neonatal and low birth weight

2006-07 private and public hospital admission data indicates that the proportion of low birth weight babies (<2,500 gms) was higher in the Bendigo Loddon PCP region than for the whole of Victoria.

### Frequency of Low Birth Weight Babies (<2,500 grams) (Public and Private Hospitals)

Place of residence of mother	<2500	Total	Percentage
Bendigo Loddon PCP region	102	1136	9.0%
Victoria	4,312	**53,402	8.1%

Source: Victorian Admitted Episode Dataset (VAED) 2006/07 (Public and Private Hospital files)

\*\* Interpretation of total number of liveborn babies for Victoria (and other areas) should be undertaken with care. Data quality in this area is flawed due to an inability to confirm (total) liveborn numbers with equivalent data holders in this field (e.g. Perinatal Data Collection Unit at DHS, Australian Bureau of Statistics, and the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Victoria)), due to their data being held by calendar year, not financial year. Coded data may be inaccurate due to different coding practices between health care facilities, but this inaccuracy is minimal.

## General child health

In 2008/09, Greater Bendigo's participation rate for key stage visits at maternal and child health centres was largely lower than the Victorian average but higher than the Loddon Mallee regional average. Loddon's participation rates were higher than the Victorian and regional average for age visits up to 8 months and then below the Victorian and regional averages for the older visits.

### Maternal and Child Health Centres - Participation rates (%) for key ages and stage visits (2008/09)

	2 wks	4 wks	8 wks	4 mnths	8 mnths	12 mnths	18 mnths	2 yrs	3.5 yrs
Greater Bendigo	93.6	93.8	92.2	87.1	78.6	74.5	65.6	64.2	66.8
Loddon	97.4	105.2	102.6	96.1	64.2	58.0	49.4	43.2	55.2
Loddon Mallee Region	93.0	91.4	90.8	86.9	77.8	76.5	63.4	60.1	62.0
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>96.2</b>	<b>95.0</b>	<b>94.7</b>	<b>91.5</b>	<b>83.9</b>	<b>81.5</b>	<b>71.6</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>58.3</b>

Maternal & Child Health Services Annual Report, 2007-2008 Loddon Mallee Region and Victoria

## Immunisation participation

For the March 2010 quarter, compared to the Victorian average figures, Loddon had a higher percentage of children in all age groups who were fully vaccinated and Greater Bendigo had a lower percentage of children in the 12-<15 month age group and a higher percentage in the 24-<27 and 60-<63 month age groups who were fully vaccinated.

### Percentage of children fully immunised

	12 - <15 months	24-<27 months	60 < 63 months
<b>Loddon</b>	96.6%	95.5%	95.7%
<b>Greater Bendigo</b>	89.6%	95.5%	88.8%
<b>Victoria</b>	92.0%	92.6%	87.3%

Australian Childhood Immunisation Register - Coverage Report March quarter 2010

## Youth allowance

Youth allowance is an income support payment for young people who are studying, undertaking training or an Australian Apprenticeship, looking for work or sick. A person must be aged 15 to 24 to qualify.

In September 2009, Greater Bendigo and Loddon had a significantly higher proportion (around double) of population aged 15-24 years that was receiving the youth allowance. This figure has increased since March 2009 in both local governments, particularly in Loddon Shire. As with March 2009, the proportion of females receiving the benefit was higher than males in both LGAs.

Note that population figures are from the 2006 census and this will have an impact on the percentage figures over time, but not sufficient to explain the high increase between March and September 2009.

**Youth allowance recipients - September 2009**

		Female			Male			All persons		
		All females aged 15-24*	No. of recipients	%	All males aged 15-24*	No. of recipients	%	All persons aged 15-24*	No. of recipients	%
<b>City of Greater Bendigo</b>	Mar 09	5,974	1,439	<b>24.1</b>	5,591	1,201	<b>21.5</b>	11,565	2,640	<b>22.8</b>
	Sep 09	5,974	1,664	<b>27.9</b>	5,591	1,363	<b>24.4</b>	11,565	3,027	<b>26.2</b>
<b>Loddon Shire</b>	Mar 09	339	100	<b>29.5</b>	367	80	<b>21.8</b>	706	180	<b>25.5</b>
	Sep 09	339	135	<b>39.8</b>	367	111	<b>30.2</b>	706	246	<b>34.8</b>
<b>Victoria</b>	<i>Mar 09</i>	<b>331,188</b>	<b>47,238</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>342,708</b>	<b>41,118</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>673,896</b>	<b>88,356</b>	<b>13.1</b>
	<i>Sep 09</i>	<b>331,188</b>	<b>55,128</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>342,708</b>	<b>48,145</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>673,896</b>	<b>103,273</b>	<b>15.3</b>

Commissioned data from Centrelink [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au) \*from 2006 census

## Community wellbeing indicators

### SEIFA

The 2006 (SEIFA) is based on data from the 2006 Census. In essence, it provides a socio-economic snapshot of a geographical area. SEIFA 2006 consists of four separate indexes that each concentrate on a different aspect of the social and economic conditions in an area. The index is a continuum of advantage to disadvantage and is based upon a social and economic information from the 2006 Census. The score for overall Victoria is 1010. Low values indicate areas of disadvantage and high values indicate areas of advantage.

It takes into account variables such as the proportion of families with high incomes, people with a tertiary education and employees in skilled occupations. The indexes show where the affluent (as opposed to just high income earning) live; where disadvantaged (as opposed to the unemployed) live; and where the highly skilled and educated (as opposed to the tertiary educated people) live.

#### SEIFA index of relative socio-economic disadvantage 2006

Local Government Areas in Regional Victoria (ranked from most to least disadvantaged)	2006 SEIFA index of disadvantage
Loddon (S)	941.6
Greater Bendigo (C)	984.4
Regional Victoria	986
Victoria	1010

[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

#### SEIFA by towns and suburbs

The tables on the following pages set out the SEIFA scores (high scores = lower relative socio-economic disadvantage) for many towns and suburbs within the Bendigo Loddon PCP area. Within City of Greater Bendigo, Strathfieldsaye had the highest SEIFA score, followed by Mandurang, Sedgwick, Junortoun and Maiden Gully, indicating a low level of relative socio-economic disadvantage. Long Gully had the lowest SEIFA score, followed by California Gully, Heathcote, Bendigo West and Bendigo North, indicating a high level of socio-economic disadvantage.

Within Loddon Shire, Yarrawalla had the highest SEIFA score, followed by Shelbourne, Serpentine, Calivil, and Bridgewater indicating a low level of relative socio-economic disadvantage. Korong Vale had the lowest SEIFA score, followed by , Tarnagulla, Dunolly, Bridgewater on Loddon and Inglewood, indicating a high level of socio-economic disadvantage.

#### Bendigo Loddon PCP highest and lowest SEIFA scores

	Highest scores (least disadvantaged)			Lowest scores (most disadvantaged)		
	Town/suburb	score	State percentile	Town/suburb	score	State percentile
<b>Greater Bendigo</b>	Strathfieldsaye	1102	95	Long Gully	846	2
	Mandurang	1098	94	California Gully	871	3
	Sedgwick	1097	93	Heathcote	914	7
	Junortoun	1082	89	Bendigo West	920	8
	Maiden Gully	1079	87	Bendigo North	924	9
<b>Loddon Shire</b>	Yarrawalla	1036	61	Korong Vale	788	1
	Shelbourne	1032	57	Tarnagulla	825	2
	Serpentine	1031	56	Dunolly	868	3
	Calivil	1030	55	Bridgewater on Loddon	885	4
	Bridgewater	1027	54	Inglewood	872	4

[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

SEIFA scores for relative socio-economic disadvantage - Greater Bendigo 2006

Greater Bendigo	SEIFA Score	State Rank	State Decile	State Percentile
Ascot (3551)	1073	1236	9	84
Axe Creek (3551)	1053	1068	8	73
Axedale (3551)	972	325	3	23
Bagshot (3551)	1027	788	6	54
Bagshot North (3551)	924	122	1	9
Bendigo (3550)	972	326	3	23
Bendigo East (3550)	997	514	4	35
Bendigo North (3550)	924	122	1	9
Bendigo West (3550)	920	111	1	8
Big Hill (3555)	996	512	4	35
California Gully (3556)	871	44	1	3
Eaglehawk (3556)	928	134	1	10
Elmore (3558)	942	187	2	13
Eppalock (3551)	1058	1111	8	76
Epsom (3551)	1019	700	5	48
Flora Hill (3550)	975	346	3	24
Golden Gully (3555)	1010	622	5	43
Golden Square (3555)	967	301	3	21
Goornong (3557)	1011	624	5	43
Heathcote (3523)	914	102	1	7
Huntly (3551)	998	522	4	36
Ironbark (3550)	952	229	2	16
Jackass Flat (3556)	1031	818	6	56
Junortoun (3551)	1082	1298	9	89
Kangaroo Flat (3555)	945	207	2	15
Kennington (3550)	1008	598	5	41
Knowsley (3523)	1000	539	4	37
Lockwood (3551)	1021	722	5	49

Greater Bendigo	SEIFA Score	State Rank	State Decile	State Percentile
Lockwood South (3551)	1048	1020	7	70
Long Gully (3550)	846	28	1	2
Longlea (3551)	1051	1053	8	72
Maiden Gully (3551)	1079	1281	9	87
Mandurang (3551)	1098	1377	10	94
Marong (3515)	969	310	3	22
Mount Camel (3523)	968	305	3	21
Myers Flat (3556)	1038	905	7	62
Neilborough (3570)	988	440	3	30
Quarry Hill (3550)	1017	679	5	47
Raywood (3570)	1013	647	5	44
Redesdale (3444)	944	203	2	14
Sailors Gully (3556)	970	319	3	22
Sedgwick (3551)	1097	1369	10	93
Shelbourne (3463)	1032	829	6	57
Spring Gully (3550)	1032	834	6	57
Strathdale (3550)	1040	936	7	64
Strathfieldsaye (3551)	1102	1393	10	95
Toolleen (3551)	995	498	4	34
White Hills (3550)	963	275	2	19
Woodvale (3556)	1002	548	4	38

### SEIFA scores for relative socio-economic disadvantage - Loddon 2006

Loddon Shire	SEIFA Score	State Rank	State Decile	State Percentile
Bealiba (3475)	903	82	1	6
Boort (3537)	989	447	4	31
Bridgewater (3516)	1027	791	6	54
Bridgewater on London (3516)	885	55	1	4
Calivil (3573)	1030	808	6	55
Dingee (3571)	974	341	3	24
Dunolly (3472)	868	41	1	3
Fentons Creek (3518)	972	329	3	23
Inglewood (3517)	872	45	1	4
Korong Vale (3520)	788	6	1	1
Laanecoorie (3463)	949	221	2	15
Leitchville (3567)	1008	605	5	42
Mitiamo (3573)	892	67	1	5
Mysia (3518)	980	378	3	26
Newbridge (3551)	987	436	3	30
Pyramid Hill (3575)	904	85	1	6
Rheola (3517)	912	96	1	7
Serpentine (3517)	1031	823	6	56
Shelbourne (3463)	1032	829	6	57
Tarnagulla (3551)	825	16	1	2
Wedderburn (3518)	881	50	1	4
Wychitella (3525)	961	267	2	19
Yarrowalla (3575)	1036	885	7	61

[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

## Community strength indicators

The Victorian State Government surveyed community strength indicators as part of the 2008 Victorian Population Health Survey. Greater Bendigo surveyed lower on seven of the nineteen indicators and these were: access to recreational and leisure facilities, good facilities and services, membership of organised groups, volunteering, participation in decision making board or committees, multiculturalism makes life in the area better, and feeling valued by society. Loddon Shire also surveyed lower on seven of the nineteen indicators and these were: access to recreational and leisure facilities, good facilities and services, community & support groups, pleasant environment, nice streets, well planned, open spaces, can get help when needed, could raise \$2000 in two days in an emergency, and multiculturalism makes life in the area better. These results should be read in conjunction with the document *Indicators of community strength at the local government area level in Victoria 2008 (DPCP 2010)*.

### Indicators of community strength LGA survey results 2008

Indicator	Greater Bendigo	Loddon	Regional Victoria	Victoria
Access to recreational & leisure facilities	79	60	79	82
Good facilities and services	76	49	78	85
Opportunities to volunteer	73	67	76	65
Community & support groups	64	54	68	60
An active community	64	66	70	59
Pleasant environment, nice streets, well planned, open spaces	85	78	84	81
Can get help when needed	93	90	92	91
Could raise \$2000 in two days in an emergency	85	80	86	85
Attendance at local community events	62	69	65	53
Participation in organised sport #	42	Not measured	43	41
Membership of organised groups	57	70	64	61
Membership of organised groups that have taken local action	44	59	49	41
Volunteering	32	58	43	33
Parental participation in schools	57	54	47	49
Decision making board or committee	17	32	23	19
Safe on street after dark	62	73	65	59
Multiculturalism makes life in the area better	57	48	65	76
Opportunities to have a say	50	48	47	42
Feels valued by society	51	52	54	52

Source: Department for Victorian Communities (2010) *Indicators of Community Strength at the Local Government Area Level in Victoria 2008*. The report includes a description of the rationale and method for the creation of these data and can be found at [www.dvc.vic.gov.au](http://www.dvc.vic.gov.au)

## Disadvantage

**“Dropping of the Edge”** is a 2007 study of social disadvantage across Australia, undertaken by Professor Tony Vinson for the Jesuit Social Services and Catholic Social Services Australia. The study looked at a range of indicators (set out below) to identify areas of marked disadvantage.

- (1) Social Distress:** Low family income, rental stress, home purchase stress, lone person households
- (2) Health:** Low birth-weight, childhood injuries, immunisation, disability / sickness support, life expectancy, psychiatric patients: hospital / community, suicide
- (3) Community Safety:** Child maltreatment, criminal convictions, imprisonment, domestic violence
- (4) Economic:** Unskilled workers, unemployment, long-term unemployment, dependency ratio, low mean taxable income, limited computer use/internet access
- (5) Education:** Non-attendance at preschool, incomplete education, early school leaving, post-schooling qualifications
- (6) Community Engagement:** A range of Victorian community indicators

Data was collected at postcode level and areas of disadvantage were ranked for each state. Out of 726 Victorian postcodes, a top 40 of Victoria’s most disadvantaged postcodes was produced. A number of postcodes in the Bendigo Loddon PCP region fell in the top 40:

3520 - Korong Vale, Knypanial

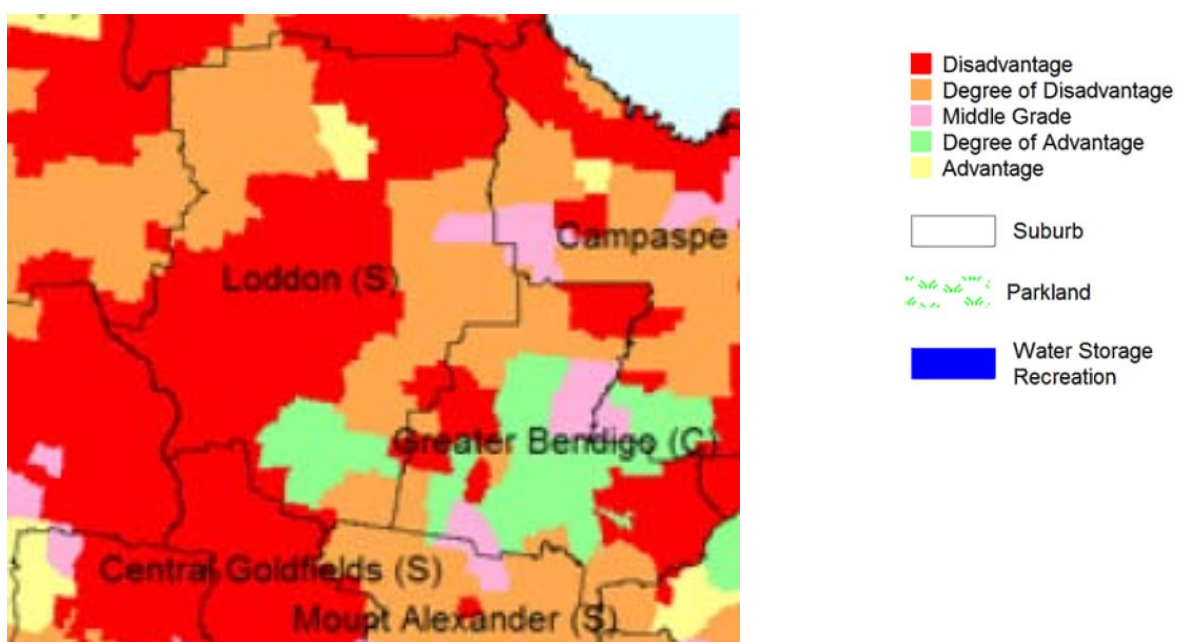
3523 - Heathcote, Arglie, Costerfield, Redcastle, Derrinal, Knowsley, Heathcote South, Mount Camel, Moormbool West

3515 - Marong, Wilsons Hill

3517 - Inglewood, Bullabull, Bears Lagoon, Brenanah, Glenalbyn, Jarklin, Kingower, Kurting, Powlett Plains, Rheola, Salisbury West, Serpentine

3556 - Eaglehawk, Comet Hill, California Gully, Campbells Forest, Eaglehawk North, Jackass Flat, Myers Flat, Sailors Gully, Sebastian, Whipstick, Woodvale

The study also mapped areas of disadvantage. As the maps below indicate, large proportions of the Bendigo Loddon PCP area, particularly Loddon Shire, are set out as areas of disadvantage or having a degree of disadvantage.



Source: [www.australiandisadvantage.org.au](http://www.australiandisadvantage.org.au)

## **Food security**

According to the Community Indicators Victoria Survey 2007, 8.1% of survey respondents living in Greater Bendigo and 8.1% of survey respondents living in Loddon Shire had experienced food insecurity (*People who ran out of food in the last 12 months and could not afford to buy more*) compared to 7.3% in the Loddon Mallee Region and the Victorian State average of 6.0%.

### **Proportion of survey respondents reporting food insecurity (2007)**

Loddon Shire	Greater Bendigo	Loddon Mallee Region	Victoria
8.1%	8.1%	7.3%	6.0%

[www.communityindicators.net.au](http://www.communityindicators.net.au)

## **Off farm income**

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE), an Australian government economic research agency, undertakes two annual farm surveys: The Australian Agricultural and Grazing Industries Survey (AAGIS) and the Australian Dairy Industry Survey (ADIS). Information is gathered based on regions. The Bendigo Loddon PCP region takes in parts of 2 ABARE regions: Wimmera and Central North. Only a small number of farms out of the total number of farms in a particular industry are surveyed and results provide estimates only.

Data from the annual surveys suggests that, overall, farm owner/managers are working less hours off-farm in 2008 than they were in 2007 and that spouses are working more hours off farm.

Source: [www.abare.gov.au](http://www.abare.gov.au)

## **Exceptional Circumstances payments**

The City of Greater Bendigo and Loddon Shire, along with most of rural Victoria, have been declared areas of exceptional circumstances due the ongoing drought conditions. Exceptional Circumstances (EC) relates to farmers and agriculture-dependent small businesses. They are defined as rare and severe events outside those a farmer could normally be expected to manage using responsible farm management strategies.

Once an area is declared as experiencing EC, eligible farmers will qualify to receive EC Relief Payments. EC Relief Payments are equivalent to the NewStart Allowance and are delivered by Centrelink. More than one adult at a farm may receive an EC payment.

In September 2009, there were 180 individuals from City of Greater Bendigo and 389 individuals from Loddon Shire receiving Exceptional Circumstances relief payments. While the proportion of population aged 15 years or older receiving an EC payment was significantly higher in Loddon Shire, compared to the Victorian average. Figures in both Greater Bendigo and in Loddon Shire increased between March and September 2009.

### **Exceptional Circumstances payments - September 2009**

Location	Pop. aged ≥ 15 years*	March 2009		September 2009	
		No. of recipients	% of pop. aged ≥ 15 years*	No. of recipients	% of pop. aged ≥ 15 years*
Greater Bendigo	74,179	144	0.2%	180	0.2%
Loddon	6,345	292	4.6%	389	6.1%
Victoria	3,982,034	8,031	0.2%	8,172	0.2%

Commissioned data from Centrelink [www.centrelink.gov.au](http://www.centrelink.gov.au)

\* 2006 census data

## Gambling participation

In 2003, the Centre for Gambling Research Australian National University prepared the Victorian Longitudinal Community Attitudes Survey. This survey includes participation rates for different forms of gambling by individual Local Government Areas. Thirty-two non-metropolitan local government areas, including Loddon Shire, were excluded from the survey analysis and table as the sample size was too small for the results to provide meaningful analysis.

Of the non-metropolitan LGAs that were included in the analysis, Greater Bendigo (45.8%) and Shepparton (44.1 %) have the highest rates of Electronic Gaming Machine participation. Also, Greater Bendigo (7.8 %) had the highest casino participation rate amongst the non-metropolitan LGAs, despite being located further away from Crown Casino than many of the other non-metropolitan LGAs.

Overall, among the Victorians surveyed, gambling participation levels were highest among:

- Separated or divorced people (84.3 per cent);
- Single parents (86.0 per cent);
- Full-time workers (80.1 per cent);
- Self-supporting retirees (79.2 per cent);
- People on medium incomes (83.4 per cent);
- Rural residents (78.9 per cent).

The survey also found that, compared to non gamblers or non-regular gamblers, regular gamblers were more likely to be: male, aged over 50, have lower levels of education, have lower incomes, be receiving aged and invalid pensions or self-supporting retirees.

## **Gaming machine expenditure**

Net electronic gaming machine (EGM) expenditure in Greater Bendigo venues increased from \$43,479,261 in 2006/07 to \$46,534,529 in 2008/09, representing an increase of 6.6% over the 2 years. Net EGM expenditure across Victoria increased by 6.5% in the same period. Greater Bendigo net EGM expenditure per population<sup>#</sup> also increased from \$442 to \$465 in the same period. Victoria's net EGM expenditure per population in 2008/09 was significantly higher at \$649.

In 2008/09, Greater Bendigo had 5.5 EGMS per 1000 population, compared to 6.4 EGMS for Victoria overall. Note that current expenditure figures for estimated adult population (18 years and over) are currently not available from the Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation (VCGR). Note that data is based on location of the electronic gaming machine and not location of residence of person using that machine.

## **Gaming machine expenditure**

City / Shire	Total net EGM expenditure		Net EGM expend. per population		EGMs p/1000 pop	
	2006/07	2008/09	2006/07	2008/09	2006/07	2008/09
Greater Bendigo	\$43,479,261	<b>\$46,534,529</b>	\$442	<b>\$465</b>	5.6	<b>5.5</b>
Loddon**	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Victoria</b>	<b>\$2,543,175,356</b>	<b>\$2,707,278,436</b>	<b>\$638</b>	<b>\$649</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.4</b>

www.vcgr.vic.gov.au

\*Expenditure after winnings deducted      \*\* no data recorded in Shire      #from Victorian in Future 2008 population projects