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Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Maternal and Child Health

- A universal primary health care service for Victorian families with children aged birth to school age

- Funded by state and local government, and is free for all families

- The program is underpinned by the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005
Number of Births

Birth Notices

Year | Number of Births
---|---
1994-95 | 54,000
1995-96 | 56,000
1996-97 | 58,000
1997-98 | 60,000
1998-99 | 62,000
1999-00 | 64,000
2000-01 | 66,000
2001-02 | 68,000
2002-03 | 70,000
2003-04 | 72,000
2004-05 | 74,000
2005-06 | 76,000
2006-07 | 78,000
2007-08 | 80,000
By 2015, Victoria is projected to have an additional 20,000 children aged 0-3 years.
Aboriginal Population Booms

September 26, 2010 – Sunday Age Maris Beck

• THE STATE'S Aboriginal population is increasing twice as fast as the wider population, with the number of Victorian Aborigines predicted to rise by almost a third over the next decade.

• The Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates that the baby boom will lead to the state's indigenous population rising 30 per cent by 2021.

• Over half of all Aboriginal people in Victoria are under the age of 25.
Growth in Aboriginal Children

ATSI Total Cards 2000-01 to 2008-09

Significant evidence Aboriginal children getting the Best start in life

Majority of women receive ante natal care

Fewer babies are born with a low birth rate

Breastfeeding their babies

High participation in Maternal and Child Health

Carers are engaging in informal learning activities

Children are immunised
• Higher proportion of ear and hearing problems
• Many have dental health problems
• Higher smoking rates among parents
• Many experience discrimination on daily basis of child abuse
• Higher rate of substantiated child abuse
• Significant gaps remain in participation in Maternal and Child Health
The Maternal and Child Health Service

The Service currently comprises:

- Universal Service
- Enhanced Service
- Maternal and Child Health Line (24 hours)
Universal Maternal and Child Health Service

- Ten Key Ages and Stages consultations with an emphasis on prevention, promotion, early detection and intervention for health and wellbeing

- A flexible component which includes additional consultations, new parent groups, community strengthening activities
Key Ages and Stages Consultations

- Activities aim to improve outcomes for children and families in relation to child health, development, learning and wellbeing.

- Grounded in evidence-based practice and takes into account emerging early years policy and research.
Participation Rates vary across Local Government Areas.

From a high of 108%

To a low
Aboriginal participation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>ATSI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home Consultation</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Weeks</td>
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<td>4 Weeks</td>
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<td>8 Weeks</td>
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<td>4 Months</td>
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<td>12 Months</td>
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<td>18 Months</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.5 Years</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Maternal and Child Health Outreach to Aboriginal Services

- Maternal and Child Health provides an Outreach Service in 21 locations across the state.

- The service varies from a few hours per month to two days per week.

- The Maternal and Child Health nurse links into the Aboriginal Coops and playgroups or works in partnership with Koori Maternity Services.

- The Department funds a Maternal and Child Health nurse position at the Victorian Aboriginal Health Services.
Enhanced Maternal and Child Health

- Assertively responds to the needs of children and families at risk of poor outcomes

- Target is 7015 families

- Provides more intense level of support including short term case management, and this support may be in a variety of settings e.g. outreach
Maternal and Child Health Line

- Staffed by 31 Maternal and Child Health nurses
- 101,000 calls in 2009-2010
- 50% of calls about infants 0-6 months
- Majority of these calls relate to breastfeeding, sleep and settling, and health education and promotion
- Strong linkages to the universal service
In Home Support Program / Home Based Learning

- In 2004-2005 $5.8 million
- In 2005-2006 a further $3.4 million
- Assists families to strengthen support and improve parenting capacity

- Home based learning 3-5 years
- Extension of In home support
- Two sites Mildura and Swan Hill
Aboriginal Best Start

• Best Start aims to improve the health, development, learning and wellbeing of all Victorian children from 0-8 years.

• Strengthen the local capacity of parents, families and communities and early years services to better provide for the needs of all young children and their families.

• 30 Best Start sites, six of which are Aboriginal Best Start sites.
Child Health Record

- Parent health record
- Information is recorded at each age range to assist parents to understand their child’s health and development
- Includes an ongoing record of children’s growth
- Contains information for enrolment into preschool and school
- Contains child health information for parents, a record for their immunisation,
- Must encourage parents to take the Child Health Record to their Maternal and Child Health nurse, local doctor, hospital, dentist etc.
Thankyou!

For more information:

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or visit: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/mchservice