

Women

In the Alpine Shire

WOMEN'S HEALTH
GOULBURN NORTH EAST



This information is a resource for the ongoing improvement of planning, delivering and evaluating services to women in the Alpine Shire. It shows the value of sex-disaggregated data.

In the Alpine Shire:¹

- Ø Women earn less than men. The March 2008 Poverty Line for a single person was \$378 per week. More than half of Alpine Shire women (57%) had a gross individual income of below \$400 in 2006 compared to 39% of men.
- Ø Of people in the Alpine Shire earning more than \$1,000 per week, 70% are male.
- Ø In Australia, women working full-time earn 16% less than men.²
- Ø In the Alpine Shire, of people holding a diploma or degree or higher, 60% are women.
- Ø Currently, the average superannuation payout for women is a third of that for men - \$37,000 compared with \$110,000.³
- Ø Alpine Shire women do more unpaid work. 17% of males did more than 15 hours per week of unpaid domestic work, compared to 43% of females.
- Ø Women comprise 71% of the primary carers of elderly, disabled and mentally-ill members of the family.⁴ This responsibility greatly hinders a woman's ability to fully participate in paid work.⁵
- Ø 15% of Alpine Shire families with dependent children are headed by a sole parent, the same rate as Victoria.
- Ø In Australia in 2006, women headed 87% of sole parent families with children under 15.⁶ (Labour Force stats.) In the Alpine Shire, the rate from census data is 56%.
- Ø In Australia, only 1.7% of women under 19 have children.
- Ø In 2006, 2% of births were to Alpine Shire women aged less than 20 years, compared to 2.9% for Victoria.⁷
- Ø 32% of women in the Alpine Shire are volunteers – 7% are 24 or younger. (One in 5 young women under 25 is a volunteer.)

All citations are from the 2006 ABS Census, unless stated otherwise.

There are 6,055 women in the Alpine Shire, comprising 50% of the population.⁸ In the over 85 population, 177 are women and 89 are men.

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people comprise 0.7% of the population compared to 1% in Victoria. The life expectancy of Aboriginal women is 64.8 years – 17 years less than for non-Aboriginal women.⁹

The rate of population growth in the Ovens-Murray region is projected to be half that of Victoria's from 2006-2036. The main driver of population change is the over 60s group, which will more than double in size and comprise a third of the population by 2036.¹⁰

79% of Alpine Shire women are Australian-born. Mostly, those born overseas come from England, Italy, Germany and NZ.

21% of Alpine Shire women have no religion. (Most are Christian – 66%)

- Ø 6% of Alpine Shire women have a disability. (ABS, 2006)
- Ø In 2008, 125 women accessed community-based mental health services (child and adolescent, adult or aged), and 5 women used a Psychiatric Disability Rehabilitation and Support Service program.

CRIME

- Ø There are fewer crimes in the Alpine Shire than Victoria. The rate of crime against the person is 476.5 per 100,000 in the Alpine Shire compared to 818 in Victoria. The rate of crime against property is 2,692 per 100,000 in the Alpine Shire and 5,358 in Victoria.¹¹
- Ø In 2007-8 there was a lower family violence incident call-out rate of 421 per 100,000 people in the Alpine Shire compared to 603.8 for Victoria.¹²
- Ø There is a high rate of drug cultivation and manufacture in the Alpine Shire: 143 per 100,000 for compared to 79 in Victoria; and yet, a much lower rate of drug possession and use: 56 compared to 191 in Victoria.¹³
- Ø In 2008 in the Alpine Shire, there were more female victims of rape (2) and sexual assault (5) than there were male victims of rape (0) and sexual assault (1). More men (33) than women (10) were assaulted.¹⁴

DISADVANTAGE

- Ø Compared to Victoria, the Alpine Shire is average in terms of socioeconomic disadvantage (SEIFA), ranking 5th on a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 is most disadvantaged. ¹⁵
- Ø In terms of 'Education and Occupation' disadvantage, the Alpine Shire is also ranked 5th on a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 is most disadvantaged.¹⁶
- Ø Towns in the Alpine Shire do not appear in the list of the 40 most disadvantaged areas.¹⁷
- Ø The Alpine Shire has an average aria (remoteness) ¹⁸ score of 2.6, meaning that it is considered accessible, with few limitations on services, goods and opportunities for social interaction.¹⁹

The **Alpine Shire** has adopted portfolios for councillors, including a 'Community' portfolio which involves having council representation on the local Family Violence committee.

The Shire is working on the implementation of a 'Family Friendly Policy' to improve working environments funded by Council, and to encourage other industries to adopt family friendly workplace policies and practices.

In recent weeks, the Shire has been working actively with women on bushfire recovery strategies.

Women's Health

Goulburn North East is the government funded specialist women's health service for the Goulburn Valley and North-East Victoria. We are dedicated to promoting the health and wellbeing of all women and to improving the delivery of health and community services for women in their local communities. Our work is underpinned by a social model of health which recognizes that a complex array of factors influence a woman's sense of self, health, safety and wellbeing. We acknowledge that many women have limited access to social and economic resources. We respect and affirm diversity among women.

All our work involves collaboration with outside organisations and with women.

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Citations

- ¹ Unless otherwise stated, all statistics are taken from the 2006 ABS Census. www.abs.gov.au (Accessed January 2009)
- ² ABS, 2008, Average Weekly Earnings, February 2008, Cat. No. 6302.0, ABS, Canberra
- ³ http://www.hreoc.gov.au/sex_discrimination/programs/gender_gap.html
- ⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2004) Disability, Aging and Carers Australia: Summary of Findings, 2003. Australian Bureau of Statistics. Balance of Victoria. Cat. No. 4430.0. <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/4430.02003?OpenDocument> (Cited from WHV: The Index. www.theindex.org. Accessed 15.1.2009)
- ⁵ Crowther, E (2004). **MI support, Mental Illness Fellowship**. Autumn/Early Winter. (Cited from WHV: The Index. www.theindex.org) (Accessed 15.1.2009)
- ⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007) *One-Parent Families, Australian Social Trends*, 2007. Australian Bureau of Statistics Canberra, Cat. no. 4102.0. <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/F4B15709EC89CB1ECA25732C002079B2?opendocument> (Accessed 9 March 2008)
- ⁷ Victorian Perinatal Data Collection Unit, Department of Human Services. www.health.vic.gov.au/perinatal/stats/birthsvic06.htm (Accessed 13.1.2009)
- ⁸ All references to ABS, 2006 refer to: Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat. No. 2068.0 - 2006 Census Tables. www.abs.gov.au (Accessed 15.1.2009)
- ⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007) Year Book Australia 2008. Cat. No. 1301.0. <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/1301.0Main+Features12008?OpenDocument> (Cited from WHV: The Index. www.theindex.org) (Accessed 15.1.2009)
- ¹⁰ Department of Planning and Community Development (2008) *Victoria in Future 2008, First Release* [http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/CA256F310024B628/0/4F485F14CED427C8CA2575120021F673/\\$File/Ovens+Murray+info+sheet_v2.pdf](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/CA256F310024B628/0/4F485F14CED427C8CA2575120021F673/$File/Ovens+Murray+info+sheet_v2.pdf) AND for Goulburn Valley: [http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/CA256F310024B628/0/BA56BCB98905D429CA257512001EDC1A/\\$File/Goulburn+info+sheet_v2.pdf](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/CA256F310024B628/0/BA56BCB98905D429CA257512001EDC1A/$File/Goulburn+info+sheet_v2.pdf) (Accessed 14.1.2009)
- ¹¹ Victoria Police 2007/8 Crime Statistics. www.police.vic.gov.au/statistics (Accessed 13.1.2009)
- ¹² Victoria Police 2007/8 Crime Statistics. Recorded Family Incident Reports. Data extracted from LEAP on 18/7/08. http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?a=internetBridgingPage&Media_ID=33954 (Accessed 19.1.2008)
- ¹³ Victoria Police 2007/8 Crime Statistics. www.police.vic.gov.au/statistics (Accessed 13.1.2009)
- ¹⁴ Victoria Police 2007/8 Crime Statistics. www.police.vic.gov.au/statistics (Accessed 13.1.2009)
- ¹⁵ 2033.0.55.001 - Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data Cube only, 2006 Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage. www.abs.gov.au (Accessed 14.1.2009) The ABS uses measures from the 2006 census to give a SEIFA rank to each Local Government Area to show how disadvantaged that area is compared to other areas. The most disadvantaged areas are in the first decile (10%) and the least disadvantaged areas are in the 10th decile. The City of Wangaratta has a SEIFA ranking in the 5th decile for Victoria and the 7th decile for Australia.
- ¹⁶ 2033.0.55.001 - Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data Cube only, 2006 Index of Education and Occupation. www.abs.gov.au (Accessed 14.1.2009) The 1st decile indicates most disadvantage and the 10th indicates least disadvantage in Victoria
- ¹⁷ Vinson, T. (2007) *Dropping off the Edge: The distribution of disadvantage in Australia*. Richmond: Jesuit Social Services. pp 69-71.
- ¹⁸ ARIA is an index of remoteness derived from measures of road distance between populated localities and service centres.
- ¹⁹ <http://www9.health.gov.au/aria/ariaipt.cfm> (Accessed 14.1.2009)