

Women

In the Benalla Rural City

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 Benalla Rural City. It shows the value of sex-disaggregated data.

In the Benalla Rural City:¹

- ∅ Women earn less than men. The March 2008 Poverty Line for a single person was \$378 per week. More than half of Benalla Rural City women (56%) had a gross individual income of below \$400 in 2006 compared to 38% of men.
- ∅ Of people in Benalla Rural City earning more than \$1,000 per week, 71% are male.
- ∅ In Australia, women working full-time earn 16% less than men.²
- ∅ In Benalla Rural City, of people holding a diploma or degree or higher, 57% are women.
- ∅ Currently, the average superannuation payout for women is a third of that for men - \$37,000 compared with \$110,000.³
- ∅ Benalla Rural City women do more unpaid work. 17% of males did more than 15 hours per week of unpaid domestic work, compared to 43% of females.
- ∅ 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
- ∅ 16% of Benalla families with dependent children are headed by a sole parent compared to 15% in Victoria.
- ∅ In Australia in 2006, women headed 87% of sole parent families with children under 15.⁶ (Labour Force stats.) In Benalla Rural City, the rate from census data is 61%.
- ∅ In Australia, only 1.7% of women under 19 have children.
- ∅ In 2006, 7% of births were to Benalla Rural City women aged less than 20 years, compared to 2.9% for Victoria.⁷

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

There are 6,973 women in Benalla Rural City, comprising 52% of the population.⁸

In the over 85 population, 235 are women and 110 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

Goulburn is projected to grow at a slower rate than Victoria throughout 2006 – 2036, increasing its population by almost 79,000. More than two thirds of the growth is expected in the 60+ age group, who will comprise more than one-third of the population in 2036.¹⁰

87% of Benalla Rural City women are Australian-born. Mostly, those born overseas come from England, Germany, NZ and the Netherlands.

20% of Benalla Rural City women have no religion. (Most are Christian – 69%)

- Ø 29% of women in Benalla Rural City volunteer – 9% are 24 or younger. (One in 5 young women under 25 is a volunteer.)
- Ø 6% of Benalla Rural City women have a disability.
- Ø In 2008, 178 Benalla Rural City women accessed community-based mental health services (child and adolescent, adult or aged), and 16 women used a Psychiatric Disability Rehabilitation and Support Service program.

CRIME

- Ø There are more crimes against the person in Benalla Rural City than Victoria and fewer crimes against property. The rate of crime against the person is 1077 per 100,000 in Benalla Rural City compared to 818 in Victoria. The rate of crime against property is 3957.5 per 100,000 in the Benalla Rural City and 5,358 in Victoria.¹¹
- Ø In 2007-8 there was a family violence incident call-out rate of 599 per 100,000 people in Benalla Rural City compared to 603.8 for Victoria.¹²
- Ø There is a high rate of drug offending in Benalla Rural City: 114 per 100,000 for drug cultivation and manufacture compared to 79 in Victoria; and 278 for drug possession and use in Benalla compared to 191 in Victoria.¹³
- Ø More men (2) than women (1) were victims of rape in Benalla Rural City, while more women (16) than men (3) were victims of sexual assault. More men (63) than women (30) were victims of assault.¹⁴

DISADVANTAGE

- Ø Compared to Victoria, Benalla Rural City is high in terms of socioeconomic disadvantage (SEIFA), ranked 3rd on a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 is most disadvantaged.¹⁵
- Ø In terms of 'Education and Occupation' disadvantage, Benalla is ranked 4th on a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 is most disadvantaged.¹⁶
- Ø Benalla's postcode (3672) appears in the list of the 40 most disadvantaged post code areas.¹⁷
- Ø Benalla Rural City has an aria (remoteness)¹⁸ score of approximately 1.3 indicating it is 'Highly Accessible' with relatively unrestricted accessibility to a wide range of goods and services and opportunities for social interaction.¹⁹

Benalla Rural City supports White Ribbon Day, International Women's Day, and Councillors attend events held by WHGNE.

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.

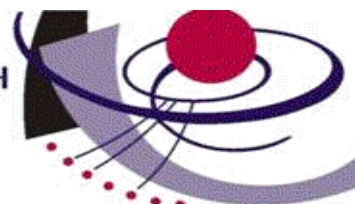
Our work is underpinned by a social model of health which recognizes that a complex array of factors influence a woman's sense of self, health, safety and wellbeing. We acknowledge that many women have limited access to social and economic resources. We respect and affirm diversity among women.

We provide training, information, and assistance with service improvement for service providers and planners, as well as consultancy services on equity, gender and health, and evaluation, planning, and research. All our work involves collaboration with outside organisations and with women.

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For citations, please see www.whealth.com.au

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- 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. (Accessed 9 March 2008) <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/F4B15709EC89CB1ECA25732C002079B2?opendocument>
- 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) (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 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)
- 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 centers.
- ¹⁹ <http://www9.health.gov.au/aria/ariaipt.cfm> (Accessed 14.1.2009)