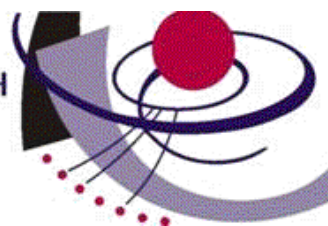


# Women

## In the Indigo 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 Indigo shire. It shows the value of sex-disaggregated data.

In the Indigo Shire :<sup>1</sup>

- Ø Women earn less than men. The March 2008 Poverty Line for a single person was \$378 per week. More than half of Indigo Shire women (52%) had a gross individual income of below \$400 in 2006 compared to 33% of men.
- Ø Of people in Indigo Shire earning more than \$1,000 per week, 68% are male.
- Ø In Australia, women working full-time earn 16% less than men.<sup>2</sup>
- Ø In Indigo 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.<sup>3</sup>
- Ø Indigo Shire women do more unpaid work. 17% of males did more than 15 hours per week of unpaid domestic work, compared to 42% of females.
- Ø Women comprise 71% of the primary carers of elderly, disabled and mentally-ill members of the family.<sup>4</sup> This responsibility greatly hinders a woman's ability to fully participate in paid work.<sup>5</sup>
- Ø 15% of Indigo Shire families with dependent children are headed by a sole parent, which equates to 15% in Victoria.
- Ø In Australia in 2006, women headed 87% of sole parent families with children under 15.<sup>6</sup> (Labour Force stats.) In Indigo Shire, the rate from Census Data is 53%.
- Ø In Australia, only 1.7% of women under 19 have children.
- Ø In 2006, 4% of births were to Indigo Shire women aged less than 20 years, compared to 2.9% for Victoria.<sup>7</sup>

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

There are 7,502 women in the Indigo Shire, comprising 51% of the population.<sup>8</sup> In the over 85 population, 201 are women and 60 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.<sup>9</sup>

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 more than a third of the population by 2036.<sup>10</sup>

86% of Indigo Shire women are Australian-born. Mostly, those born overseas come from England, New Zealand, Germany and the Netherlands.

22% of Indigo Shire women have no religion. (Most are Christian – 68%)

- Ø 33% of women in Indigo Shire volunteer – 10% are 24 or younger. (More than one in four women under 24 years of age is a volunteer.)
- Ø 5% of Indigo Shire women have a disability.
- Ø In 2008, 142 women accessed community-based mental health services (CAMHS, adult or aged), and 5 women used a PDRS program.

#### CRIME

- Ø There are fewer crimes in the Indigo Shire than Victoria. The rate of crime against the person is 284 per 100,000 in the Indigo Shire compared to 818 in Victoria. The rate of crime against property is 1,718 per 100,000 in Indigo Shire and 5,358 in Victoria.<sup>11</sup>
- Ø In 2007-8 there was a lower family violence incident call-out rate of 388 per 100,000 people in Indigo Shire compared to 603.8 for Victoria.<sup>12</sup>
- Ø The rate of drug offending recorded in Indigo Shire is 32 per 100,000 for drug cultivation and manufacture compared to 79 than Victoria; and 77.5 for drug possession and use in Indigo Shire compared to 191 in Victoria.<sup>13</sup>
- Ø There were more female victims of rape (3) and sexual assault (5) than there were male victims of rape (1) and sexual assault (1). More males (18) than females (13) were assaulted.<sup>14</sup>

#### DISADVANTAGE

- Ø The Indigo Shire is more advantaged in terms of socioeconomic disadvantage (SEIFA) than Victoria, ranking 7<sup>th</sup> on a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 is most disadvantaged.<sup>15</sup>
- Ø In terms of 'Education and Occupation' disadvantage, the Indigo Shire is also ranked 7<sup>th</sup> on a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 is most disadvantaged.<sup>16</sup>
- Ø Towns in the Indigo Shire do not appear in the list of the 40 most disadvantaged post code areas.<sup>17</sup>
- Ø The Indigo Shire has an aria (remoteness)<sup>18</sup> score of 1.3 indicating it is 'Highly Accessible' with relatively unrestricted accessibility to a wide range of goods and services and opportunities for social interaction.<sup>19</sup>

## 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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**WOMEN'S HEALTH**  
 GOULBURN NORTH EAST



For citations, please see [www.whealth.com.au](http://www.whealth.com.au)

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- <sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise stated, all statistics are taken from the 2006 ABS Census. [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au) (Accessed January 2009)
- <sup>2</sup> ABS, 2008, Average Weekly Earnings, February 2008, Cat. No. 6302.0, ABS, Canberra
- <sup>3</sup> [http://www.hreoc.gov.au/sex\\_discrimination/programs/gender\\_gap.html](http://www.hreoc.gov.au/sex_discrimination/programs/gender_gap.html)
- <sup>4</sup> 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](http://www.theindex.org)) (Accessed 15.1.2009)
- <sup>5</sup> Crowther, E (2004). *MI support, Mental Illness Fellowship*. Autumn/Early Winter. (Cited from WHV: The Index. [www.theindex.org](http://www.theindex.org). Accessed 15.1.2009)
- <sup>6</sup> 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>
- <sup>7</sup> Victorian Perinatal Data Collection Unit, Department of Human Services. [www.health.vic.gov.au/perinatal/stats/birthsvic06.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/perinatal/stats/birthsvic06.htm) (Accessed 13.1.2009)
- <sup>8</sup> All references to ABS, 2006 refer to: Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat. No. 2068.0 - 2006 Census Tables. [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au) (Accessed 15.1.2009)
- <sup>9</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007) Year Book Australia 2008. Australian Bureau of Statistics. 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](http://www.theindex.org)) (Accessed 15.1.2009)
- <sup>10</sup> 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)
- <sup>11</sup> Victoria Police 2007/8 Crime Statistics. [www.police.vic.gov.au/statistics](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/statistics) (Accessed 13.1.2009)
- <sup>12</sup> 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](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?a=internetBridgingPage&Media_ID=33954) (Accessed 19.1.2008)
- <sup>13</sup> Victoria Police 2007/8 Crime Statistics. [www.police.vic.gov.au/statistics](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/statistics) (Accessed 13.1.2009)
- <sup>14</sup> Victoria Police 2007/8 Crime Statistics. [www.police.vic.gov.au/statistics](http://www.police.vic.gov.au/statistics) (Accessed 13.1.2009)
- <sup>15</sup> 2033.0.55.001 - Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data Cube only, 2006 Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage. [www.abs.gov.au](http://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 10<sup>th</sup> decile. The City of Wangaratta has a SEIFA ranking in the 5<sup>th</sup> decile for Victoria and the 7<sup>th</sup> decile for Australia.
- <sup>16</sup> 2033.0.55.001 - Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Data Cube only, 2006 Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage. [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au) (Accessed 14.1.2009) The 1<sup>st</sup> decile indicates most disadvantage and the 10<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.abs.gov.au) (Accessed 14.1.2009)
- <sup>17</sup> Vinson, T (2007) *Dropping off the Edge: The distribution of disadvantage in Australia*. Richmond: Jesuit Social Services. pp 69-71.
- <sup>18</sup> ARIA is an index of remoteness derived from measures of road distance between populated localities and service centres.
- <sup>19</sup> <http://www9.health.gov.au/aria/ariaipt.cfm> (Accessed 14.1.2009)