

Women

In Towong 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 Towong Shire. It shows the value of sex-disaggregated data.

In Towong Shire:¹

- ∅ Women earn less than men. The March 2008 Poverty Line for a single person was \$378 per week. More than half of Towong Shire women (59%) had a gross individual income of below \$400 in 2006 compared to 40% of men.
- ∅ Of people in Towong Shire earning more than \$1,000 per week, 71% are male.
- ∅ In Australia, women working full-time earn 16% less than men.²
- ∅ In Towong Shire, of people holding a diploma or degree or higher, 60% are women.
- ∅ Currently, the average superannuation payout for women is a third of that for men - \$37,000 compared with \$110,000.³
- ∅ Towong Shire women do more unpaid work. 17% of males did more than 15 hours per week of unpaid domestic work, compared to 46% 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
- ∅ 13% of Towong Shire 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 Towong Shire, the rate from Census Data is 60%.
- ∅ In Australia, only 1.7% of women under 19 have children.
- ∅ In 2006, 2% of births were to Towong Shire 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 2,972 women in Towong Shire, comprising 49% of the population.⁸ In the over 85 population, 106 are women and 53 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 the over 60's group, which will more than double in size and comprise more than a third of the population by 2036.¹⁰

87% of Towong Shire women are Australian-born. Mostly, those born overseas come from England, Germany, the Netherlands and South Africa.

15% of Towong Shire women have no religion. (Most are Christian – 74%)

- Ø 41% of women in Towong Shire volunteer – 8% are 24 or younger. (One in 3 young women under 25 is a volunteer.)
- Ø 5% of Towong Shire women have a disability.
- Ø In 2008, 50 women accessed community-based mental health services (child and adolescent, adult or aged), and fewer than 5 women used a Psychiatric Disability Rehabilitation and Support Service.

CRIME

- Ø The rate for crime against the person is 687 per 100,000 in Towong Shire compared to 818 in Victoria. The rate for crimes against property is 1,854 per 100,000 in Towong Shire and 5,358 in Victoria.¹¹
- Ø In 2007-8 there was a family violence incident call-out rate of 400 per 100,000 people in Towong Shire compared to 603.8 for Victoria.¹²
- Ø The rate of drug offences recorded in the Towong Shire is 80 per 100,000 for drug cultivation and manufacture compared to 79 in Victoria; and 256 per 100,000 for drug possession and use in the Towong Shire compared to 191 in Victoria.¹³
- Ø There was one female victim of rape and 9 female victims of sexual assault in Towong Shire compared to no male victims of rape or sexual assault. More men (19) than women (10) suffered assault.¹⁴

DISADVANTAGE

- Ø Towong Shire is marginally more advantaged in terms of socioeconomic disadvantage (SEIFA) than most LGAs in Victoria, ranking 6th on a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 is most disadvantaged .¹⁵
- Ø In terms of 'Education and Occupation' disadvantage, Towong is ranked 7th.¹⁶
- Ø Towns in Towong Shire do not appear in the list of the 40 most disadvantaged post code areas.¹⁷
- Ø Towong Shire has an aria (remoteness)¹⁸ score of 1.6 in Part A, indicating it is 'Highly Accessible', and 2.8 in Part B, indicating it is 'Accessible' with relatively unrestricted accessibility to a wide range of goods and services and opportunities for social interaction. ¹⁹

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.

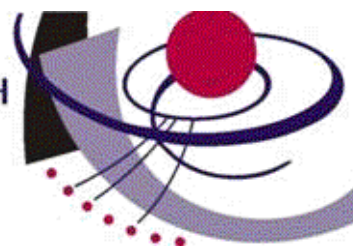
We provide training, information, and assistance with service improvement for service providers and planners, as well as consultancy services on equity, gender and health, and evaluation, planning, and research.

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

Women's Health Goulburn North East
57 Rowan Street, PO Box 853, Wangaratta 3677
P 03 5722 3009 F 03 5722 3020
whealth@whealth.com.au

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. Viewed 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/$File/Ovens+Murray+info+sheet_v2.pdf) AND for Goulburn Valley: [http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/CA256F310024B628/0/BA56BCB98905D429CA257512001EDC1A/\\$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/ariainpt.cfm> (Accessed 14.1.2009)