

Greater Dandenong Educational Fact Sheets



Greater Dandenong Educational Fact Sheets

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/greaterdandenong
Twitter: www.twitter.com/greaterdandy
YouTube: www.youtube.com/citygreaterdandenong
Instagram: @cityofgreaterdandenong

TIS (Translating and Interpreting Service)
You can contact Council in your own language through the TIS (Translating and Interpreting Service).

Call 13 14 50 and ask to be put through to 8571 1000.

The National Relay Service
Users who are deaf or have a hearing or speech impairment can contact Council through the National Relay Service.

- TTY users: 133 677
- Speak and Listen users: 1300 555 727
- Internet relay users: www.iprelay.com.au

Customer Service Centres:

Dandenong Office
225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Springvale Office
397-405 Springvale Road, Springvale

Parkmore Customer Centre
Shop 7A North West Mall
Parkmore Shopping Centre, Cheltenham Road, Keysborough

Paddy O'Donoghue Centre
18 – 32 Buckley Street, Noble Park

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Government

Keywords in italics (meaning on next page)

What is government?

Government is the name given to the group of people responsible for coordinating various aspects of our lives. Governments use *laws* to shape how our business and private relationships work as citizens.

Governments come in different forms depending on people's beliefs and values. They can include many people or just a few. Governments are responsible for the people, land, sea and resources within geographic areas called *states, countries, republics* and so on.

In a democracy, government powers come from a document called a *constitution*. The constitution is the primary law that defines the responsibilities of the government. It is enforced and interpreted by the courts of law that the government sets up for this purpose.

Why have governments?

People tend to form groups with similar beliefs, characteristics and needs. People in these groups agree that to meet some of those needs, they should *cooperate*. By cooperating, these needs can be provided for more effectively. The standard of life can be improved by combining different people's skills to create a better *society*.

Governments provide *collective goods and services* to support the standard of living its citizens desire. (For example, clean water, fuel, communication, medicine, education and police).

How are governments formed?

In a democratic society, the constitution details the way in which the government is formed by the *election* of *representatives* to *parliament* and the selection and authorisation of *ministers*.

An election involves people choosing which person they wish to represent them in parliament by *voting*. Parliament is the place where a group of people elected meet to create laws and decide on how to best provide the collective goods and services.

The constitution also details the responsibilities and powers of the government, which include the power to make laws.

Keywords

<i>Collective Goods and Services</i>	Collective goods and services refer to those things that everyone in society use and relies upon on a daily basis and that are provided by government.
<i>Constitution</i>	The primary law that details the general beliefs of a society on its government and how it should operate. It is enforced and interpreted by courts of law that the government sets up for this purpose.
<i>Cooperate</i>	To jointly participate or contribute to the effort of many to meet a particular need. Government is an expression of people's will to cooperate to meet their mutual need for a safe and happy life.
<i>Democracy</i>	A form of government based on the assumption that everyone is equal before the law and has equal right to choose someone to represent them in parliament. The word democracy comes from the Greek word meaning 'to rule by the people'.
<i>Election</i>	The process during which everyone in society is given the opportunity to choose someone in parliament to make laws and provide collective goods and services on their behalf.
<i>Laws</i>	Rules agreed to by parliament and enforced by the courts. They provide guidelines for the range of activities people are involved in and outline penalties for breaking the rules.
<i>Ministers</i>	Those elected representatives in parliament given special responsibility to make laws and provide collective goods and services for a specific area of government activity.
<i>Parliament</i>	The place at which a group of elected representatives meet to create laws and decide on how to best provide the collective goods and services.
<i>Representatives</i>	Those people chosen by society at elections to represent them in parliament, to make laws and provide collective goods and services on their behalf
<i>Republic</i>	A state in which supreme power is held by the people or its elected representatives or by elected or nominated president—not by a monarch.
<i>Society</i>	The name given to a group of people sharing common beliefs, values, government, and characteristics. It is mostly used to describe those groups who have come together to cooperate
<i>States and Countries</i>	The people, land, sea and resources within a specific geographic area. States are smaller units located within a country.
<i>Voting</i>	The process through which you demonstrate your choice for a representative at an election.

Australian Government

Keywords in italics (meaning on next page)

How does Australian government work?

Australian government is a demographic *federation*. This means that all the states of Australia that were *colonised* by Great Britain in the late 1700s, agreed to a constitution to create a *national* government. This constitution came into operation on 1 January 1901. The constitution creates the three levels of government that operate in Australia today. They are:

Federal

State

Local

Australia is a constitutional monarchy. Although Australia is an independent nation, the formal Head of State is Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. She is also the Queen of Australia.

The Queen is represented by her Governor-General in Australia, who is appointed by her on advice from the Australian Prime Minister. The Governor-General performs the tasks of the Head of State under advice or instruction from Australia's Prime Minister.

Why do we need three levels of government?

The state governments were first formed when Australia was settled because the *continent* was largely unexplored and it was impossible to communicate quickly across the whole country. State governments therefore *governed* manageable areas of Australia.

The states agreed to form a federal government to govern, represent and *defend* the whole country. The States agreed that they would be *responsible* for some duties and areas of activity, and the federal government for others. Similarly, state governments formed local governments to undertake different responsibilities for smaller areas of the Australian states.

Therefore, Australia has a federal government structure to effectively govern a large country and *population* and share the many different duties expected of government.

Which government is responsible for what?

Each level has different responsibilities and provides different services. Sometimes those responsibilities overlap.

The *division of powers* between state and federal governments is described in Section 51 of the Australian Constitution. The responsibilities of local government are described in the *Local Government Act 1989* and many other forms of State legislation. Acts are laws passed by each state parliament.

Keywords

Acts	The name given to the pieces of law after they have been approved by parliament
Colonised	This means bringing people to a new country and establishing new settlements and towns.
Continent	This is a large land mass with its own natural boundaries. Australia, Africa, North America and Europe are all continents. Continents can be made up of several countries.
Division of Powers	The sharing of responsibilities and authorities given to govern
Federation	A group of governments that agree to cooperate and share responsibility to govern the total area these governments are responsible for.
Govern	To make laws for and be responsible for the duties of a government.
Defend	To protect and be prepared to ensure that the population of a country is safe from any threats to the lives of its citizens.
National	This describes something that represents a whole country, for example, the national anthem or national flag.
Population	A collective adjective to describe the people that live in a country
Responsible	To have a duty of care for something, be trusted to fulfill that duty and to be accountable for your actions.

Australian Federal Government

Keywords in italics (meaning on next page)

What is the Federal Government?

The federal (or Commonwealth) government is Australia's national government. It is responsible for *administering* Australia's national constitution and implementing the laws made by the Commonwealth parliament. The first Australian government met in Melbourne and moved to parliament house in Canberra in 1901. The Federal Government is formed by *members of parliament* and senators elected to the two houses of parliament by the people at elections.

What are the two houses of parliament?

The Federal Government is divided into two *houses*, which meet separately. These are the House of Representatives and the Senate.

House of Representatives

The members of the House of Representatives are elected by the people from areas called *electorates*. Australia is divided into 148 electorates, each represented by one member.

The Senate

The members of the Senate are called *Senators*. There are 76 Senators in total, elected to represent each state and *territory*. There are twelve senators elected from each of the six states and two from each of the mainland territories. The senate shares the power to make laws with the House of Representatives.

Why have two houses of parliament?

The House of Representatives is where the *political party* with the most representatives forms government. As this party has most of the votes, it is able to approve the laws it wants. This method of government is called the *Westminster System*. The constitution allows this party to appoint a *Prime Minister* and ministers to various *portfolios*.

The authors of the constitution formed the Senate, as they believed each state within the federation should have equal representation and governments should not be *dominated* by states with the largest population. The constitution gives the Senate the responsibility to review and vote on laws proposed in the House of Representatives. For a *bill* to become law it must be supported by a majority of both houses.

Who are our parliamentary representatives?

The current representatives are detailed on the next page. Anyone who is an Australian *citizen* and doesn't have a criminal record can run for parliament. Politicians usually have offices in the electorate or state from which they are elected and welcome queries from their *constituents* on matters that are the responsibility of government.

Keywords

Administer	Manage the business of government
Bill	A piece of legislation brought before parliament for debate and proposed to be made into law.
Citizen	A person recognised by law as belonging to a country and therefore entitled to access the privileges and responsibilities of its government.
Constituents	People that live in an electorate and vote.
Dominate	Unequal influence or absolute power.
Electorates	Areas of each state that elect one member each to the House of Representatives
Houses	The two different chambers of parliament where the House of Representatives and the Senate meet.
Members of Parliament	Those people elected to the House of Representatives. They are also referred to as MPs.
Prime Minister	The person elected by a political party in government to lead the party and government.
Portfolios	Areas of government activity, such as health, defence, justice, treasury, foreign affairs
Political Party	Groups of people who share common beliefs and opinions and who support candidates that run for parliament. Each political party tries to get enough elected to form a government.
Senators	Those people elected to the Senate.
Territory	Similar to a state except that it does not have an independent constitution and some powers are instead held by the Federal Government.
Westminster System	The method of government and public administration that was created in England and is now used by many former British colonies, including Australia. British parliament is called Westminster.

Current Federal Representatives

Holt Hon Anthony Byrne MP
Hotham Ms Clare O'Neill

Bruce Hon Alan Griffin MP
Isaac Hon Mark Dreyfus QC MP

Australian State Government

Key words in italics (meaning on next page)

What is the State Government?

The State Government is the government responsible for administering an individual state's constitution. It is responsible for powers not administered by the federal government, including education, transport, law enforcement, health and agriculture. The first Victorian State Government was elected in 1856.

The State Government is formed by members of parliament elected by the people at elections to the two houses of parliament. State elections are held every four years and federal elections, every three years.

What are the two houses of parliament?

The State Government is divided into two houses, which also usually meet separately.”

- Legislative Assembly
- Legislative Council

The members of the Legislative Assembly (lower house) are elected by the people from areas called districts. The whole of Victoria is divided into 88 electoral *districts*, represented by one member each.

The members of the Legislative Council (upper house) are elected to represent areas called provinces. The whole of Victoria is divided into 22 electoral *provinces*, represented by one member each.

Why have two houses of parliament?

The Legislative Assembly is where the political party with the most representatives forms the government. As this party has most of the votes, it is able to approve the laws it wants. The constitution allows this party to appoint a *Premier* and ministers to various portfolios.

The constitution gives the Legislative Council the responsibility to review and vote on laws proposed in the Legislative Assembly. For a *bill* to become law, it must be supported by a *majority* of both houses.

Who are our parliamentary representatives?

The current representatives are detailed on the next page. Anyone who is an Australian citizen, without a criminal record can run for state parliament.

Politicians usually have offices in the district or province from which they are elected and welcome queries from their *constituents* on matters that are the responsibility of the State Government.

Keywords

Bill	<i>A piece of legislation brought before parliament for debate and proposed to be made into law.</i>
Constituents	<i>People that live in an electorate and vote.</i>
Districts	<i>Areas within each state that elect one member of the Legislative Assembly</i>
Majority	<i>When votes cast on one side exceed those on another.</i>
Provinces	<i>Areas within each state that elect one member of the Legislative Council</i>
Premier	<i>The person elected by a political party in government to lead the party and government.</i>

Current State Government Representatives

Legislative Council

ALP	The Hon Gavin Jennings MLC The Hon Adem Somyurek MLC
LP	The Hon Gordon Rich-Phillips MLC Ms Inga Peulich MLC
Greens	Ms Nina Springle MLC

Legislative Assembly

Mordialloc	Mr Tim Richardson
Keysborough	The Hon Martin Pakula
Clarinda	Mr Hong Lim MLA
Dandenong	Ms Gabrielle Williams
Mulgrave	The Hon Daniel Andrews (Premier)

Local Government

Key words in italics (next page)

What is local government?

Local governments administer municipal districts and have done so for over 150 years. Local government duties and powers come from an Act of State Parliament and not constitutions like the state and federal governments. *Municipal districts* are created under these Acts.

The people elected to make decisions about how municipalities should be administered are called *councillors* and form a group called the *council*. The powers and responsibilities of councillors are also set out in the Local Government Act 1989.

How do councils work?

Councillors are elected by those people living in the municipality. The municipality is usually divided into smaller areas called *wards*. One or more councillors can be elected from a ward.

In Victoria, the maximum number of councillors who can be elected to a council in a municipality is twelve and the minimum five.

The council meets in a council *chamber*. The meeting is chaired by the *mayor*, the elected leader of the council (usually for a year at a time).

Unlike the state or federal governments, councils do not have two houses and councillors do not divide the chamber into a government and opposition, but rather make decisions collectively by *resolutions* of the majority. If votes are tied, the mayor has a *casting vote* to break a tie.

What does local government do?

Local government is responsible for a range of duties and activities described in the local government Act and other Acts. These include:

- Waste management
- Ensuring buildings are safe for people to use
- Maintaining local streets and parklands
- Enforcing local laws designed to help neighbours live in harmony together in a shared environment
- Deciding what different areas of land should be used for
- Ensuring food for sale is prepared in a safe manner
- Immunising children against disease
- Assisting the elderly or disabled with their daily needs, and so on

The money needed to provide these services comes from several sources. About half comes from *rates* (a tax paid by each property owner which varies depending on the value of the property) and fees and charges paid for council services. The other half comes from *grants* from the state and federal governments.

Who are our councillors?

The City of Greater Dandenong currently has eleven councillors across four wards – Red Gum (three councillors), Paperbark (three councillors), Lightwood (three councillors) and Silverleaf (two councillors) . These people can be contacted individually or through council on matters that are the responsibility of local government.

Councillors are elected by residents and ratepayers every four years. The next Council elections will be held in October/November 2020.

Keywords

<i>Casting Vote</i>	A second vote the mayor can exercise in order to break a tied number of votes.
<i>Chamber</i>	The place where meetings of the council are held.
<i>Councillors</i>	Elected representatives at the local government level.
<i>Council</i>	The decision-making body formed by the group of councillors.
<i>Grants</i>	Money given to councils or other organisations for a specific purpose.
<i>Mayor</i>	The elected leader of the council by a vote of all councillors
<i>Municipal district</i>	The area a particular local government council is responsible for.
<i>Rates</i>	The tax charged by councils for people who own property in that municipality.
<i>Resolutions</i>	A formal recorded decision of the council.
<i>Reform</i>	To change or alter
<i>Wards</i>	Smaller areas within a municipality from which councillors are elected

Greater Dandenong's History

Greater Dandenong has a rich and varied history. For thousands of years, it was the territory of the Wurundjeri and Boonerwung (or Bunurong) tribes, providing them with abundant food and water.

The Boonerwung (or Bunurong) people are the original inhabitants of the south-eastern coastal area of Melbourne. Prior to European settlement, they occupied lands from the Mornington Peninsula to the Dandenong Ranges, and as far east as Wilsons Prom and around the Werribee River in the west. Recent evidence suggests there may have been as many as 3,000 members of the Boonerwung community living on these lands, forming six distinct dialect groups. The Boonerwung tribe was also a member of a federation of tribes called the Djadjawurrung Kulin, which also consisted of the Wurundjeri, Wathaurung, and Taungurung tribes. This federation shared common languages and cultural beliefs.

Early European settlers were attracted to the region by its red gum forests, well watered pastures and rich soil. The region became known as Dandenong, a corruption of an Aboriginal word meaning 'lofty mountain'.

European occupation and contact, particularly in the early 19th century, had a dramatic effect on the population numbers and lifestyle of the Boonerwung people. It was estimated that by 1850, less than thirty Boonerwung people remained in the area. In recent years, Aboriginal people have begun to return to the south-east region of Melbourne and to reestablish their connection with their land and ancestors. The Wurundjeri tribe has temporary custodial responsibility for Boonerwung sites.

The township of Dandenong was laid out in 1852 and became known as the 'gateway to Gippsland' as settlement spread further eastwards. Dandenong soon became a trading centre for farmers and in 1866 a stock market was established in the township. The opening of the railway in 1879 increased Dandenong's importance as a commercial centre for a large rural region.

Dandenong retained its character as a close-knit country town until World War II, when Australia's post war boom brought extraordinary growth and development to the region. The availability of large areas of flat land with water and power on hand, plus a regular transport service, attracted a number of large firms to establish themselves in Dandenong. People, especially migrants from war-ravaged Europe, flocked to the region to fill the abundant job vacancies and to make their homes in the district. During the 1950s and 1960s, Dandenong took on the character of a boom town, as factories, shops, houses and schools rapidly covered the green paddocks.

Until 1955, the Shire of Dandenong was a large municipality covering the Springvale and Noble Park districts as well as Dandenong. The unprecedented development of the region put great pressure on the rural Shire Council to provide urban services. This led to the division of the large municipality into the Shire of Springvale and Noble Park and the Shire of Dandenong in 1959 and the City of Springvale in 1961.

The region grew throughout the 1970s and the 1980s and became a more cosmopolitan city. The opening of the Commonwealth Government Enterprise Migrant Centre in Springvale in 1970 had a substantial impact on the region's population.

The formation of the City of Greater Dandenong from the former municipalities of Springvale and Dandenong, together with small parts of the former Cities of Berwick and Cranbourne on 15 December 1994, has seen the creation of one of Australia's most multiculturally diverse cities in Australia. Greater Dandenong is now home to people of 151 different nationalities. The city is the major focus for economic development in the south-east regional centre serving Melbourne's largest growth corridor.

Environment and Lifestyle

The Environment

The natural environment of Greater Dandenong consists of flat, flood-prone plains of the former Carrum Carrum Swamp in the south, with undulating land forms at its centre, and more hilly land forms in the north-east. A number of reserves and parks occur throughout the city, and tracks of significant native vegetation and flora occur particularly along the creek lines. The urban environment features some attractive residential areas, and extensive industrial precincts in Springvale South, Noble Park and Dandenong South.

A variety of different species of native fauna can still be seen in the City of Greater Dandenong, and some introduced species make the municipality their home as well. Local native species include echidnas, possums, bats, turtles and a variety of frogs and birds.

Greater Dandenong is also home to a wide variety of native and exotic flora species. Well over 1200 different species of flora can be found in Greater Dandenong and surrounding areas.

Lifestyles in Greater Dandenong

The people of Greater Dandenong come from a diverse range of backgrounds and celebrate many different lifestyles. Some interesting facts include:

- There are over 85 places of worship in Greater Dandenong encompassing many different religions
- The municipality is home to over 50kms of bicycle paths, 100 parks, 6 bushland areas and 105 adventure playgrounds
- The council provides 30 large areas for sporting events and 126 smaller sites for passive recreation
- There are over 80 restaurants and cafes and 92 licensed premises in the city
- Major sporting facilities include Sandown Racecourse, Dandenong Oasis, Springers Leisure Centre, Noble Park Swim Centre, National Water Sports Centre, Dandenong Basketball & Volleyball Stadium, and Keysborough Golf Club
- There are more than 600 hectares of parks and reserves
- Greater Dandenong is home to 4 major shopping precincts including the Dandenong Central Activities District (including Dandenong Plaza), Springvale, Noble Park, and Parkmore Shopping Centre (Keysborough)

Leisure and Recreation

Parks and reserves

Greater Dandenong maintains over 30 sports reserves, 50km of bike paths, 100 parks and four bushland areas covering approximately 600 hectares.

These open spaces offer a huge range of things to see and do, for all of the community, including bushwalking, bike riding, recreational areas, picnic areas, local flora and fauna.

For more go to www.greaterdandenong.com or phone 8571 1000.

Leisure facilities

Noble Park Aquatic Centre (NPAC)

9 Memorial Drive, Noble Park

9546 7955 or nobleparkac.com.au

NPAC features a heated outdoor 50m pool, indoor warm water pool, splash play area and refurbished waterslide.

Dandenong Oasis

Cnr. Heatherton Road and Cleeland Street, Dandenong

9767 3100 or dandenongoasis.com.au

Greater Dandenong's premier indoor swimming pool and health club.

Dandenong Stadium & State Volleyball Centre

270 Stud Road, Dandenong

9794 7192 (Basketball)

or 9794 0009 (Volleyball)

Home of the Dandenong Basketball Association, the Dandenong Jayco Rangers (WNBL) and the Volleyball State League.

Springers Leisure Centre

400 Cheltenham Road, Keysborough

9701 5900 or springerslc.com.au

A state of the art leisure facility with a range of multi-purpose uses, including basketball, badminton and futsal.

Sports clubs

Greater Dandenong has an extensive range of sporting clubs for the community. Whether your interest is social, fitness, health or just something to do, there is sure to be a sporting club for you.

Find a local sports group in the community directory, www.dandypages.com

Shopping

Greater Dandenong boasts a number of fantastic shopping precincts. There are approximately 1000 businesses in central Dandenong which includes the Dandenong Plaza and the iconic Dandenong Market.

Dandenong is known as a destination for food lovers and is home to a large range of cuisines such as Afghan, Indian, African and Polish. Sensational Springvale is one of Melbourne's best shopping strips for fresh produce, Asian goods and restaurants. The Springvale Homemaker Centre on the corner of Westall Road and Princes Hwy, Springvale is one of the largest Homemaker centres in the southern hemisphere.

Greater Dandenong is also home to 43 small shopping areas comprising a total of 398 shops. Supporting our local shops is a great way of keeping money in the local economy.

For more information go to greaterdandenong.com/visit or phone 8571 1000

Dining

Greater Dandenong is home to some of Melbourne's greatest places to eat. To highlight this Council has put together a brochure series called Great Bites. The brochures feature restaurants and cafes from Dandenong, Noble Park and Springvale and are only a sample of the wonderful food in the area, so explore and see what Greater Dandenong has to offer.

For a copy of the Great Bites brochures go to www.greaterdandenong.com/visit or pick up a copy at a customer service centre.

Community centres

Greater Dandenong features a number of community centres that offer a wide range of activities.

These include:

- Dandenong Neighbourhood House
- Springvale Literacy Centre
- Keysborough Learning Centre
- Jan Wilson Community Centre
- Noble Park Community Centre
- Springvale Learning & Activities Centre
- Springvale Neighbourhood House
- Wellsprings for Women
- Paddy O'Donoghue Centre

Events

No matter what time of year it is, there is always something to celebrate in Greater Dandenong. The city plays host to over 25 major events each year including Dandenong Show, Lunar New Year Festival, Australia Festival in the Park and more.

For more information visit our online events calendar at www.greaterdandenong.com/events

Arts and Culture

Festivals and events

More than 60 festivals and events are held each year in Greater Dandenong, so there's always something exciting to see or do. Run by both Council and the community, local festivals and events include multicultural celebrations, music performances, charity galas, children's activities and the Dandenong Show. They provide enjoyable, affordable entertainment for all, so come along and join in the fun.

For information on upcoming events, check out the online event calendar at greaterdandenong.com

Cultural tours

Greater Dandenong has become a must-go destination for people who love food and culture. There are a number of tours available to explore the area in the company of an expert, including the Afghan Bazaar, Little India, Food Lovers and Sensational Springvale, as well as special events run during the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival.

For more information go to greaterdandenong.com/tours or phone 8571 1000.

Public art

Greater Dandenong has more than 70 public art pieces. The collection features permanent and temporary pieces that invite locals and visitors to engage with and reinterpret their environment in new and challenging ways. For more information go to greaterdandenong.com/publicart or phone 8571 1000.

Cultural facilities

Greater Dandenong runs a number of cultural facilities that support our vibrant arts and entertainment scene.

Drum Theatre

226 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong

Visit drumtheatre.com.au or phone 8571 1666

The Drum Theatre (formerly Dandenong Town Hall) hosts more than 200 performances and 100,000 visitors annually. The theatre has a fully equipped stage, backstage facilities, function rooms and offers a range of high quality performances to enjoy.

Walker Street Gallery & Community Arts Centre

Cnr Walker & Robinson Streets, Dandenong

Visit walkerstgallery.com.au or phone 9706 8441

The Walker Street Gallery, our home of the visual arts, celebrates and enhances our great city with its diverse range of high-quality, free exhibitions every month. The gallery adjoins Dandenong Community Arts Centre which consists of a studio performing arts theatre and meeting rooms.

Heritage Hill Museum and Historic Gardens

66 McCrae Street, Dandenong

Visit heritagehill.com.au or phone 9793 4511

Take a trip back in time and discover Dandenong's unique social history through a visit to Heritage Hill's three historic buildings and 1.5 acres of landscaped gardens. Heritage Hill provides visitors an opportunity to appreciate cultural heritage through public programs, exhibitions, wedding hire, corporate functions, events or even just a simple picnic in the gardens.

Business and Industry

Greater Dandenong is at the heart of the south-east growth corridor, one of Australia's fastest growing regions.

The Dandenong Central Activities District (CAD) is the largest Melbourne commercial and retail district outside central Melbourne. It provides the south-east region with access to important regional headquarters, government agencies and commercial and retail activity. Springvale, Noble Park and Parkmore shopping centres also provide substantial retail services to the community.

Dandenong is well-known for its large diverse industrial districts that provide employment opportunities for residents in Greater Dandenong and the south-east region.

Statistics

- There are approximately 8000 businesses in Greater Dandenong (excluding home-based businesses)
- With a resident workforce of 52,000, Greater Dandenong is a nett provider of employment to the region, with Greater Dandenong business providing 74,000 jobs
- In the five years to 2006, the number of people working within Greater Dandenong rose by 7,000 from 67,000 to 74,000
- Among the major employment sectors are manufacturing (32 per cent of local employment), as well as the retail and wholesale sectors which each employ about 10 per cent
- Key industries located in Greater Dandenong include advanced manufacturing in automotive, plastics and scientific equipment, as well as food processing and distribution, and metal fabrication
- One in Five people who work within the city reside in Greater Dandenong itself, while others come from neighbouring municipalities such as Casey (27 per cent), Kingston (7 per cent), Monash (6 per cent) and Frankston (8 per cent)
- Greater Dandenong businesses contribute about \$8 Billion Gross Regional Product into the economy

Residential Amenity (local laws)

Who makes local laws?

Local laws are formulated by the council in consultation with the community. They aim to curb anti-social and annoying behaviour within the community to ensure that citizens can live together in harmony.

Residential amenity officers

Residential amenity officers are employed by the council and empowered by legislation to enforce the local laws.

Residential amenity officers have powers of authority to assist them in their duties. Some examples of this authority are:

- A residential amenity officer may enter any land or building in the city at any reasonable time, to carry out and enforce any local law or Act of Parliament under which he or she is authorized
- A residential amenity officer may direct any owner, occupier or other relevant person, to remedy any situation which constitutes a breach of any local law, by serving a notice. Failure to comply with the notice could result in fines or court action being taken against the offender
- Any animal or other thing that breaches a local law, may be removed by a residential amenity officer and impounded
- A residential amenity officer may serve a Local Laws Infringement Notice ('on the spot fine') to any person that the officer believes has committed an offence. The penalty for an infringement notice is a \$200 fine. If court proceedings eventuate, the maximum penalty is \$1000 for a first offence, or \$2000 for a second offence
- Issuing fines or taking court action is normally the last resort taken by officers when all other avenues have failed.
- The Residential Amenity unit of the City of Greater Dandenong believes that educating the community about local laws is extremely important to build a more compassionate and considerate community. To this end, residential amenity officers are always available to speak to community groups and schools to discuss not only local laws issues but also matters concerning animal control and school crossing safety
- All citizens can help make Greater Dandenong a better place to live by understanding and abiding by the local laws. A full copy of the local laws is available for viewing at any of the customer service centres or libraries.

Diversity in the City of Greater Dandenong

Greater Dandenong is made up of people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, religions, ages and family structures. The city is home to the largest indigenous community in the metropolitan area. Many residents have specific needs which the council and other government and welfare providers need to cater for (e.g. people with disabilities). This diversity also means there is a wealth of different experiences and skills that provide a unique resource to the city.

The city responds to this diversity in a number of ways, which help to make life enjoyable for all who work, live or visit here. Its Community Development Unit works to increase understanding about issues surrounding diversity and improving service to a diverse community. The Community Development Unit operates in conjunction with all of the council's departments and liaises closely with the community.

Council supports and resources a number of community committees:

- The Migrant Settlement Committee
- The Access and Equity Committee
- The English Literacy Action Group
- The Disability Advisory Committee
- The Interfaith Network

There have been various waves of migration since the area was first settled by non-indigenous people and these waves are reflected in Greater Dandenong's architecture, traditions and organisations. Springvale was an area of first settlement for migrants for many years because of the existence of the Enterprise Migrant Hostel and Dandenong has been an area of manufacturing and light industry which has encouraged many people to settle near to their work. The large market gardens of the south, the vehicle industry and the textile clothing and footwear industry have all been supported by migrant labour. In many cases now these people are older and their needs as residents are changing as they age.

The wider community services in Greater Dandenong, such as education, health, welfare, the law, family mediation, childcare and youth services, leisure services, information and advice have needed to be tailored to make sure that they are accessible to people in all categories of need such as the following:

- English language schools and language centres have been set up to help children and adults to learn English
- Health centres deliver programs for specific groups of people, e.g. playgroups for Turkish women and health forums for people of non-English speaking background
- The libraries have extensive collections in languages other than English and large print books for people with a visual impairment

- Networks exist in community and neighbourhood houses to help people become involved in community activities
- Ethno-specific support and welfare groups have grown to cater for their particular populations
- A cooperative provides a range of welfare services for the Indigenous community
- There is a wealth of language diversity that is a great asset to Greater Dandenong in its international dealings, not to mention the wealth of food traditions that enrich the dining experiences in Springvale, Dandenong and Noble Park
- The many community festivals in the area are an expression of the cultural diversity of the municipality.

Interfaith Network

Tours to places of worship

The religious diversity of the City of Greater Dandenong is reflected in its places of worship including mosques, temples and churches of both the Western and Eastern religious traditions.

The Interfaith Network in the City Greater Dandenong offers a number of tours to places of worship during the year. These tours offer an opportunity to explore some of the similarities and differences of the various religious traditions. Members of the interfaith network accompany each tour, which lasts about five hours.

Speakers

Faith leaders from The Interfaith Network are available as speakers, provided adequate notice is given and adequate time is allowed for a presentation.

Summary of Social Conditions in Greater Dandenong

For more about social conditions in Greater Dandenong, or elsewhere in Victoria go to www.socialstatistics.com.au

Geography and Population

Greater Dandenong encompasses an area of 129 square kilometers in Melbourne's south-east, approximately 24 km. from the central business district. It is bounded by Police Road in the north, Dandenong Creek and South Gippsland Freeway to the east, Thompson Road in the south, and by Westall and Springvale Roads to the west.

At an estimated 144,000 people in 2013, the number of residents in Greater Dandenong has risen by almost 20,000 during the past two decades, with the population forecast by the Department of Planning and Community Development to rise by approximately 16,000 in the decade to 2023.

Cultural Diversity Dandenong, 2011

Greater Dandenong is the most culturally diverse municipality in Victoria, and the second most diverse in Australia, with residents from over 150 different birthplaces, well over half (60%) of its population born overseas, and 55% from nations where English is not the main spoken language [metro. Melbourne: 26%]. Birthplaces include Vietnam, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, India, China, Italy, Greece, Bosnia, Afghanistan, New Zealand and Britain.

The number of Greater Dandenong residents born overseas rose by 13,700, or nearly a fifth, in the five years to 2011, including increases of over 6,000 Indian-born residents, nearly 2,000 Sri Lankans, 1,100 Vietnamese and 900 Afghans.

During the same period, the number of residents from Sudan halved to 800,

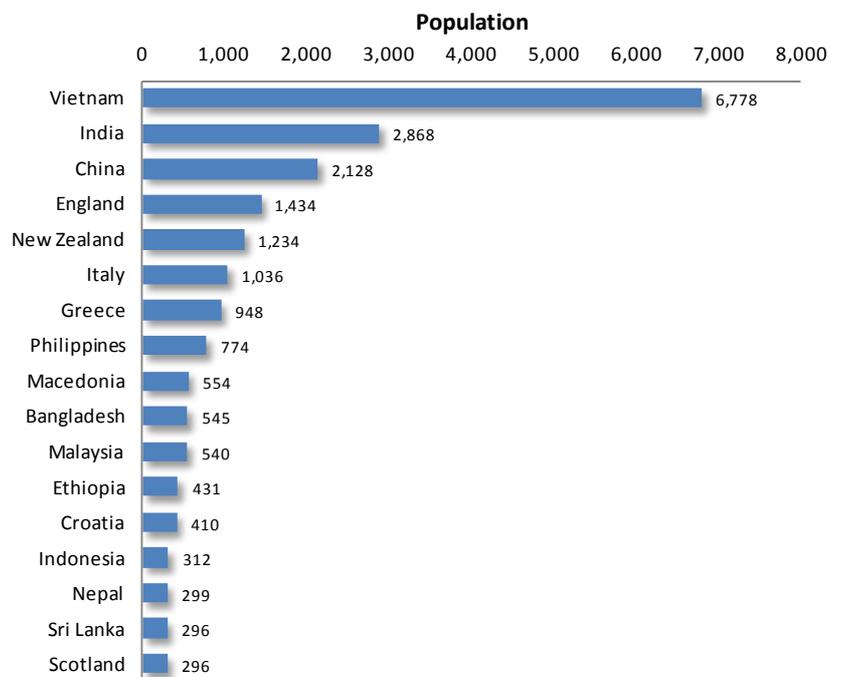
accompanied by declines in the number of residents from the United Kingdom, Croatia, Greece and Italy.

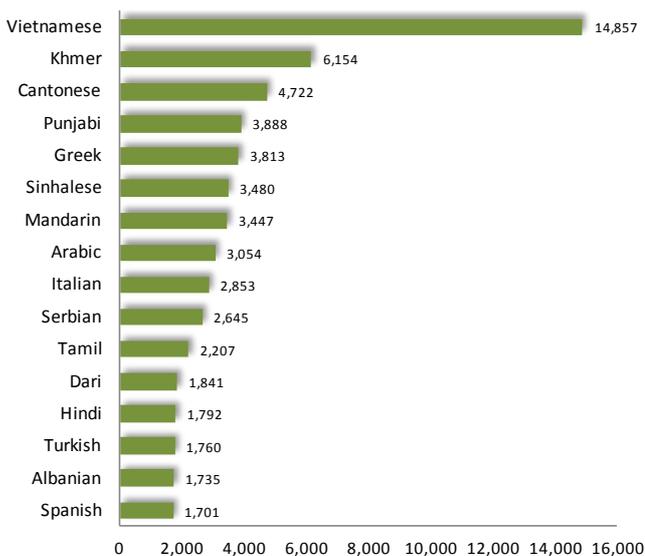
The diversity of this city is reflected in its blend of religious faiths, which include Buddhism, adhered to by 18% of residents, Islam [11%], Hinduism [4%] and Christianity [50%].

Settlement

In 2012/13, 2,240 recently-arrived migrants settled in Greater Dandenong – the highest number of settlers in any Victorian municipality. A third of these people (numbering 720) were humanitarian immigrants, largely from Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Iran and Pakistan.

Number of Residents by Birthplace: Greater





Spoken Languages

In 2011, nearly two-thirds (64%) of the residents of Greater Dandenong spoke languages other than English – the largest proportion in Victoria (31%: metropolitan Melbourne) – including Vietnamese, Khmer, Chinese, Greek, Punjabi and Sinhalese.

Left: Number of Residents by Spoken Language: Greater Dandenong, 2011

English Fluency

One in seven residents - accounting for 19,000 people or 14% of the population - has limited fluency in spoken English – four times the metropolitan level of 4%. Substantial numbers of residents who speak Vietnamese, Khmer and Chinese languages have limited English fluency.

Number of Residents with Limited English Fluency, Greater Dandenong, 2011

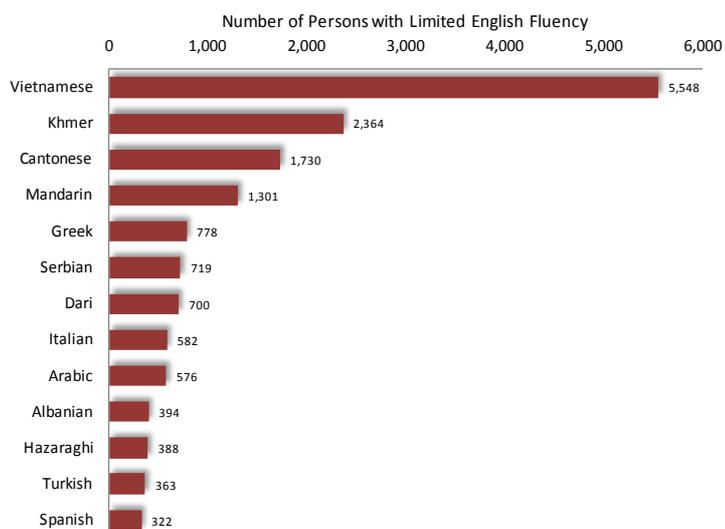
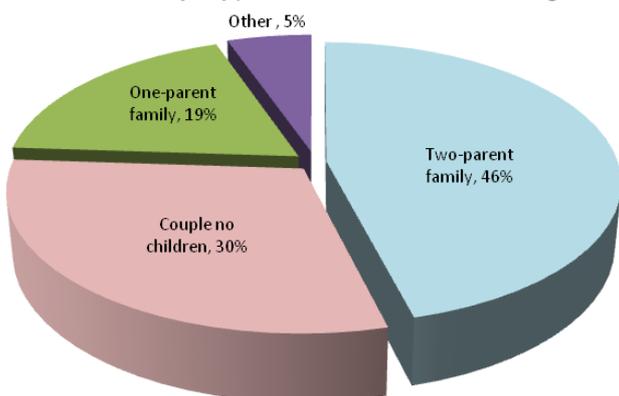


Chart: Family Types: Greater Dandenong, 2011



Families

Nearly four-fifths of the 47,000 households in Greater Dandenong are families, and the balance lone person households. Among the 37,000 family households, 30% are couples, 46% couple s with children, 19% are headed by a single parent and 5% are other family types. Three-quarters of families with young children are headed by overseas-born parents – from countries such as Vietnam, Cambodia, India and Sri Lanka.

Disability

In 2011, the Census found that 6.6% of people in Greater Dandenong - compared with 5% across metro. Melbourne - were living with a severe or profound disability, requiring daily assistance with mobility, communication or self-care. These included a third of residents aged 65+ and two-thirds of those over 85.

Educational Outcomes

The 2011 Census revealed that 13% of young people aged 20-24 years in Greater Dandenong had left school before completing year eleven, compared with 10% across metropolitan Melbourne. Sixteen per cent of 20 to 24 year-olds were neither in paid employment nor enrolled in education – the second highest level in Melbourne, and substantially more than the corresponding metropolitan figure, of 10%.

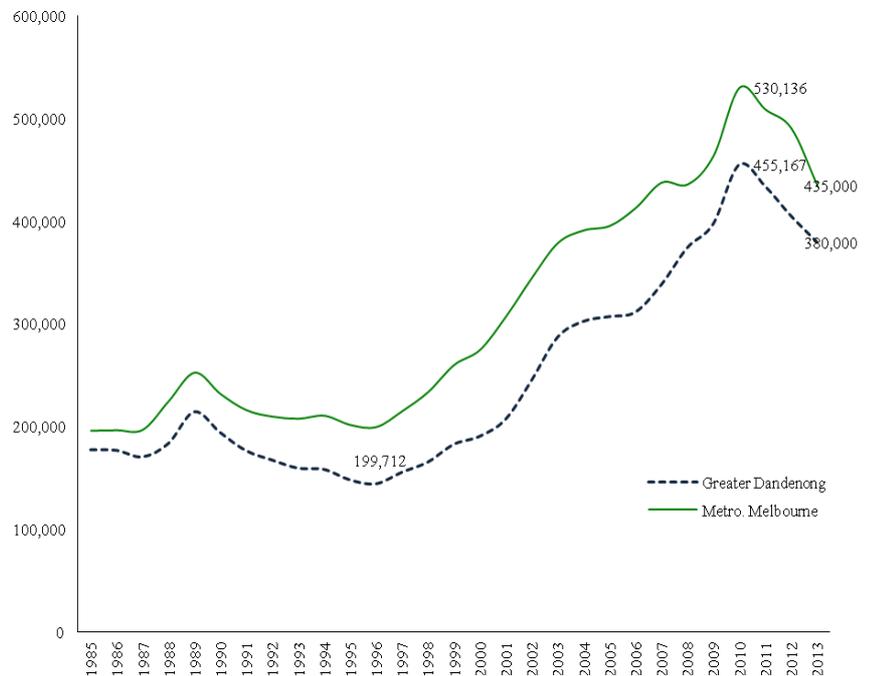
Housing

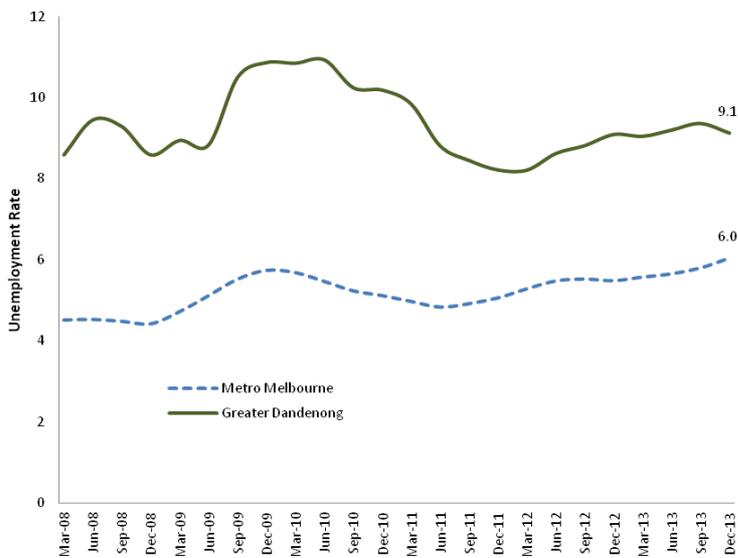
More than one-third (34%) of the 45,500 occupied private dwellings in Greater Dandenong counted in the 2011 Census, are fully-owned by their occupants, nearly a third are being purchased (31%), and most of the remainder rented. The extent of home ownership or purchase in Greater Dandenong is slightly lower than metropolitan Melbourne, where 71% of homes are either owned or being purchased by their occupants.

Right: Median House Prices (adjusted for inflation) Greater Dandenong, 1985-2013.

House Prices: While houses are relatively affordable in Greater Dandenong, purchase costs recorded an overall rise of 32% in the decade to 2013 (after inflation) – while the metropolitan median rose 25%. By 2013, median prices stood at \$380,000 in Greater Dandenong and \$435,000 across Melbourne.

Housing Rental: The percentage of homes in Greater Dandenong that are rented from community agencies or the government rose from 2.9% in 1996, to 4.4% in 2011 [metro. Melbourne: 3.0%]. In December 2013, the average cost of renting a three-bedroom house was \$329 - substantially less than the metropolitan average of \$426. However this price had risen by 7% (after inflation) in the previous two years, compared to a decline of 7% across metropolitan Melbourne.





Unemployment

Unemployment rates have declined markedly in recent times, from 10.9% in mid-2010, to 9.1% by Dec. 2013 - a level still substantially higher than the metropolitan rate of 6%.

Unpaid Work

The 2011 Census found that 11% of residents engaged in voluntary work on a regular basis, compared with 19% across Victoria. In addition, 11% per cent of residents were providing unpaid assistance to someone with a disability (including 9% of males and 14% of females), and 61% performed unpaid work at home.

Incomes

In 2011, the median weekly gross income among Greater Dandenong residents was \$395 - the lowest in Melbourne, and 67% of the metropolitan average of \$592. Median income levels were \$307 for females, compared to \$533 among males.

Many household incomes are further diminished by gambling losses. In 2012/13, \$109 million was lost to electronic gambling machines (EGMs or 'pokies') in Greater Dandenong – equivalent to over \$964 per adult in this municipality, and the highest rate of gambling losses in Victoria. Since the introduction of gambling machines in Victoria in 1992, over \$2.4 billion (2013 dollars) has been lost to gambling machines in Greater Dandenong alone.

Crime

In 2012/13, crime rates in Greater Dandenong were 43% higher than metropolitan Melbourne for overall offences, 77% higher for drug offences, 71% higher for violent offences and 25% higher for property offences. During the past eight years, the level of violent offences in Greater Dandenong has risen by nearly two-thirds, while drug offence rates have risen by just over a third.

