

# Golden Plains Shire Early Years Infrastructure Plan 2011 - 2015



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## **List of Acronyms**

BFSC	Bannockburn Family Services Centre
DEECD	Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
ECIS	Early Childhood Intervention Service
ECKA	Eureka Community Kindergarten Association Inc
FDC	Family Day Care
HDCH	Haddon & District Community House
LDC	Long Day Care
LGA	Local Government Area
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MEYP	Municipal Early Years Plan
SLA	Statistical Local Area

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## Executive Summary

Two early years projects provided the catalyst for the development of the Golden Plains Shire Early Years Infrastructure Plan. The Municipal Early Years Plan 2009-2012 was endorsed by Golden Plains Shire Council in early 2009 and the Universal Access to Early Childhood Education project commenced in late 2009. The development of the Infrastructure Plan commenced in 2010, extending the planning processes for the Universal Access project.

### Key priorities

The infrastructure plan includes an analysis of current and projected population, service delivery models and community consultations. Four priorities for investment in Early Years infrastructure have emerged, as outlined below.

#### 1. Increase the number of long day care places in Bannockburn

- Either expand the Bannockburn Family Services Centre to provide additional childcare rooms (two new rooms – 40 places) or build a new facility at the proposed new school site (minimum three rooms – 52 places).
- Current number of available long day care places (EFT) in Bannockburn is 50 and this will drop to 45 EFT with the introduction of new regulations in 2012. The service is currently operating at capacity, with a waiting list of 35 EFT.
- Undertake a feasibility study to formally consider capital works options.
- Indicative cost:
  - Extension to existing facility - \$800K\*
  - New facility - \$1.5M\*

#### 2. Build a 'mini hub' in Meredith.

- Relocate the existing kindergarten service to a financially viable<sup>1</sup> facility.
- Co-locate kindergarten, playgroup, occasional care and Maternal Child Health (MCH) services with community house on the school site. This facility would have two children's rooms, two consulting rooms, foyer, meeting/training room and shared office.
- Reduce pressure on services in Bannockburn and Teesdale.
- Support development of integrated early childhood services.
- Undertake a feasibility study to formally consider capital works options.
- Indicative cost – \$1.5M\*

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<sup>1</sup> A group size of approximately 21 children is required to operate a financially viable kindergarten service. The current facility in Meredith has a capacity of 18 children. The facility has limited expansion options because it is a heritage listed bluestone building.



### **3. Build a 'micro hub' in Napoleons**

- Provision of a third locally based service in the north west of the Shire (currently services are in Scarsdale and Haddon only).
- This facility would be a 'multi-use' facility with one room for early childhood programs (including kindergarten, playgroup and occasional care), a consulting room for health services (including MCH), a foyer and a flexible office area to be used by staff and volunteers.
- Reduce pressure on services in Haddon and Buninyong.
- This facility is needed to meet the demand for locally based services. Many families currently have to travel to the City of Ballarat to access services.
- Undertake a feasibility study to formally consider capital works options.
- Indicative cost – \$800K\*

### **4. Renovation and extension of the existing Rokewood Kindergarten**

- Provide a contemporary multi-use early childhood facility, building on existing facility.
- This facility would be a 'multi-use' facility with one room for early childhood programs (including kindergarten, playgroup and occasional care), a consulting room for health services (including MCH) and a flexible office area to be used by staff and volunteers.
- This facility is required to enable the provision of early childhood services in a more flexible way which will allow services to be financially viable even when enrolment numbers are very low.
- Indicative cost – \$300K\*

\*notional cost estimates have been developed in conjunction with Golden Plains Shire Council Works Department.

## **Recommendations for Golden Plains Shire**

Recommended priorities for service development have been developed following the consultation processes. The following priorities are suggested for consideration by Council:

1. Development of ongoing capital works planning which is integrated into Council planning e.g. rolling capital works planning which can be used to support infrastructure applications with matching funds
2. Review the demand for Early Years services (including kindergarten services) in Ross Creek/Smythesdale, Lethbridge and Batesford in 5 years.

## Background to the project

Two early years projects provided the catalyst for the development of the Golden Plains Shire Early Years Infrastructure Plan. The Municipal Early Years Plan 2009-2012 was endorsed by Council in early 2009 and the Universal Access to Early Childhood Education project commenced in late 2009. These planning documents and the relationship to this Infrastructure Plan are briefly described below.

### Universal Access project

In September 2009, all Councils received funding to support municipal planning for achieving universal access to 15 hours of early childhood education by 2013.

Universal Access is a commitment made by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), so that:

- By 2013, every child will have access to a preschool program in the 12 months prior to full-time schooling;
- The program is to be delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher, in accordance with the national early years learning framework, for 15 hours a week, 40 weeks a year;
- The program will be accessible across diverse settings, in a form that meets the needs of parents and in a manner that ensures cost does not present a barrier to access.

A consultant was engaged in the Golden Plains Shire to undertake initial planning and reporting, including the capacity assessment reports to the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) as well as strategic planning and consultations across the municipality. The capacity assessment reports for DEECD required that services be categorised as A, B, C, D or E. Services in the Golden Plains Shire were categorised in the 'B' or 'D' categories only (definitions included below). Recommendations for Golden Plains Shire kindergartens have been summarised below:

1. Woody Yaloak and Inverleigh kindergartens were recommended as Category B services. These were able to implement 15 hours of universal access with some change, and it was possible for these changes to be implemented independently of Council/other local partner.
2. Bannockburn (both Long Day Care and Kindergarten), Haddon (both Kindergarten and Occasional Care located at the Haddon & District Community Centre) and the Teesdale, Meredith and Rokewood kindergartens were recommended as Category D services. These were able to implement 15 hours of universal access with some significant changes that would require external/additional support.

Several key issues in relation to service planning and the development of viable models were identified during the consultations and recommendations for delivering universal access. Some of these directly influence the development of this Infrastructure Plan.

1. Community acceptance and use of new models. Capacity assessments were based on current service models, and some Category D services may be able to deliver universal access without additional capital expenditure if new service models are implemented. The acceptance of new service models by communities is contingent on the cultural change agenda and management/implementation of strategies.
2. Viable capacity limitations (services identified as Category D – Meredith and Rokewood Kindergartens and Haddon Occasional Care). A group size of approximately 21 children is required to operate a financially viable kindergarten service. For example, the current facility in Meredith has a capacity of 18 children, and the facility has limited expansion options because it is located in a heritage-listed bluestone building. This results in a physical environment which is not viable.
3. Physical capacity limitations (services identified as Category D – Bannockburn, Teesdale, Haddon). It is currently possible to offer 15 hours of kindergarten to some, but not for all eligible children.
4. Staffing has been identified as a potential key issue. There is currently some capacity within the Golden Plains Shire to meet additional hours required, however, this will also be impacted by teacher retirements and staff ratio changes expected in 2016. Some cultural change may also be required for staff, e.g. team teaching and the implementation of alternative service models that support the full utilisation of facilities.

The outcomes from the Universal Access planning and reporting process for DEECD supported the need for further consultation and planning regarding future Early Years Infrastructure projects.

## **The Municipal Early Years Plan**

The planning for Universal Access was also consistent with several actions articulated in the Golden Plains MEYP, specifically Action 27 which required a formal analysis of Kindergarten needs in relation to the requirement to deliver 15 hours of Kindergarten by 2013. In addition, the following selected goals, objectives and actions demonstrate the close links between the MEYP and the need for an Infrastructure Plan to inform future planning for Early Years services in Golden Plains.

### **Goal 2. Getting the Best Start**

- Objective: Increase integration of MCH service with other early childhood services.
  - Action 16 – Relocate Inverleigh MCH Centre to Inverleigh Kindergarten
  - Action 17 - Investigate possibility of relocating Rokewood MCH Centre to Rokewood kindergarten

- Action 18 – Investigate the possibility of extending MCH clinical consultations to small towns through the development of Family and Children’s Micro Hubs.

Goal 3. Strengthening local support through service integration and collaboration

- Objective: Ensure that Golden Plains Shire is well placed to work with the State and Federal Government to maximise opportunities relating to early years reform framework.
  - Action 27 – Undertake formal analysis of Kindergarten needs in relation to the requirement to deliver 15 hours of Kindergarten by 2013.
- Objective: Develop integrated service delivery models for early years services.
  - Action 29 – Develop a strategy to create Family and Children’s Services ‘hub’, ‘mini hub’ and micro hub’ models throughout the Shire where appropriate
- Objective: Integrated planning for all Kindergartens operating in the Shire.
  - Action 37 – Work with Haddon and Woody Yaloak Kindergarten Committees to develop closer links with the Golden Plains Shire Kindergarten Cluster

Goal 4. Supporting Parents – Child Care, Playgroup, parenting support, volunteers

- Objective: Enable families to access Child Care option across a diversity of settings in a form that meets their needs regardless of where they live.
  - Action 42 - Encourage development of Child Care across the Shire utilising different models, including In-venue Family Day Care, mixed aged Kindergarten and Occasional Care, Outside School Hours Care and Active After School Care.
- Objective: Ensure families are kept informed about the range of services and activities available to them.
  - Action 49 – Development of an Early Years Communication Strategy.

Several objectives articulated in the MEYP supported the need for further, detailed local planning to support future infrastructure projects across the Shire.

## The Early Years Infrastructure Plan

As noted above, Action 29 in the MEYP indicated a need to develop a strategy to create Family and Children’s Services ‘hub’, ‘mini hub’ and micro hub’ models throughout the Shire, where appropriate. These models are described below (from the MEYP):

Hub (e.g. Bannockburn Family Services Centre): A number of services are co-located together to form a substantial centre, including services from the regional towns of Geelong and Ballarat. These services could include Kindergarten, Occasional Care, Long Day Care, Maternal and Child Health, Family Support, Women’s Health and Community Health. Playgroups should ideally be included.

Mini Hub (e.g. Northern Community Centre): Potential to co-locate early years services with existing Neighbourhood/Community Houses (e.g. Meredith and Haddon). It needs to be located on or adjacent to a school site. The Mini Hub model would include the services of a Neighbourhood/Community House plus a range of

early years services including Occasional Care, Maternal and Child Health, Kindergarten, Out of School Hours Care and Playgroup.

Micro Hub: An option for smaller towns that have a Primary School but few other services. The focus would be on building a number of services around the school. It could be a one-room facility on, or adjacent to the school that could include Kindergarten, Occasional Care, Maternal and Child Health, Playgroup and Out of School Hours Care.

Implications of the Universal Access project for Early Years Infrastructure Planning:

1. There is an opportunity to develop closer relationships between Council as a Cluster Manager and schools regarding capital works proposals. Schools have had an historical mandate to only focus on schools, and have had minimal involvement with Early Years services.
2. There is a significant issue that relates to the development of community facilities with Council support which are located on DEECD land. At this time, there is a lack of planning and policies available through DEECD to address this issue.
3. Action 18 in the MEYP supports the extension of MCH services into small towns when this is possible. Some of the recommended capital works applications (Inverleigh and Rokewood) specifically include the integration of MCH with other Early Years services.

In order to develop the strategies articulated in the MEYP and progress the implementation of Universal Access initiatives, the Infrastructure Plan had three primary objectives:

1. This Infrastructure Plan provides additional detail from planning and community consultations that will support the implementation of the MEYP. It is intended to be read in conjunction with the MEYP.
2. This Plan provides a platform to advise Council and to inform priorities for planning across the municipality.
3. The consultations that occurred during the development of this Infrastructure Plan will inform the Communication Strategy for the implementation of Universal Access (Action 49 in MEYP).

## Snapshot for Golden Plains Shire

Golden Plains Shire is a vibrant and progressive municipality situated between Geelong, Ballarat and Melbourne. It is considered to be “peri-urban”, therefore offering residents and businesses access to city services while enjoying the benefits of a country lifestyle.

## Council’s Vision

“Golden Plains Shire offers a lifestyle and opportunities that foster social, economic and environmental wellbeing.

In partnership with the community we will provide strong leadership, encourage sustainable development and ensure quality services, to continue to improve the quality of life of residents.”

## How Council’s Vision relates to the early years (from the MEYP)

“To achieve this vision, it is important that all children develop to their full potential through the support provided by their families, neighbourhood friends and local health, education, recreation and Child Care services. Council is committed to ensuring children and their families are provided with adequate support to:

- Promote health and wellbeing
- Encourage strong community networks
- Facilitate positive learning and development opportunities
- Participate in fun healthy creative childhood activities

In order to realize this vision, Council will build on existing infrastructure, resources and partnerships as well as advocating for additional funding to develop new facilities and services.”

## Selected Key Statistics (ABS Census data 2006)

**Table 1: Selected key statistics for GPS and Regional Victoria**

	Number in Golden Plains Shire	Percent in Golden Plains Shire	% in Regional Victoria
Total Population	16,453		
Children aged 0-4 years	1,120	6.8%	6.1%
Children aged 5-17 years	3,599	21.9%	18.9%
Australian citizens aged 18+	10,648	64.7%	68.2%
Indigenous Population	92	0.6%	1.2%
Preschool or primary school	2,147	41.4%	35.5%
Overseas born	1,678	10.2%	10.0%
Couple with Child(ren)	2,405	52.1%	42.7%
Total unemployed	411	5.1%	5.6%

## The policy context

### The National Early Childhood Development Strategy

In July 2009, the National Early Childhood Development Strategy – Investing in the Early Years was endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). The Strategy aims to help all levels of government to build a more effective and better coordinated national early childhood development system to support the diverse needs of Australian children and their families. It covers children from before birth to eight years and aims to improve the health, safety, early learning and wellbeing of all children and better support disadvantaged children to reduce inequalities. The Strategy aims to ensure that by 2020 all children have the best start in life to create a better future for themselves and for the nation. Key initiatives include:

- Access to quality early childhood education for all children for 15 hours a week for 40 weeks in the year before school by 2013;
- Lifting quality in early childhood education and care through a new national quality standard, an Early Years Learning Framework, a rating system so parents are informed about service quality, and national initiatives to increase the number and qualifications of early childhood workers;
- Closing the Gap for Indigenous Children with ambitious targets to halve the gap in infant mortality and in reading, writing and numeracy within a decade and to ensure all Indigenous children participate in quality early childhood education within five years;
- Helping Australians balance work and family commitments by providing access to 18 weeks paid parental leave starting from January 2011, and providing a right to request flexible work arrangements for parents with children below school age
- Improving affordability of child care by increasing the Child Care Rebate from 30% to 50%;
- Improving child and family health through better access to maternity services, early intervention and prevention of chronic disease and mental health problems, and a range of initiatives to promote healthy eating and exercise in children;
- Supporting vulnerable children through the National Framework for Protecting Australia's children, and through the Family Support Program
- Helping Children with Disabilities through early intervention under the National Disability Agreement and the Helping Children with Autism package.

## The Policy Context: What this means at the local level

The Golden Plains Shire MEYP has summarised the key relevant policy issues which form the basis for future infrastructure planning within the Shire:

- The emphasis on increased integration of early years services through the establishment of community hubs and other integrated service delivery models;
- The increased commitment to universal access to early childhood education
  - 15 hours of Kindergarten per week for a minimum of 40 weeks per year, delivered by degree qualified early childhood teachers, for every four year old child in Australia by 2013;
- The improved links between early childhood services and schools through:
  - Improved outcomes for disadvantaged children;
  - Early childhood workforce reform;
  - Improving quality in early years services.

(summarised in the MEYP, pg 6).

## Policy Rationale for Integrated Services

The following discussion has been prepared through the Centre for Community Child Health, Melbourne, as a rationale for integrating services. The following quotation is from the *Background Paper: An integrated approach to early childhood development* (produced for the Benevolent Society, September 2010). The authors are Dr. Tim Moore and Alexandra Skinner.

“The system of services for children and families is struggling to cope with families’ increasingly complex needs in the face of this rapid societal change. Services are fragmented, and the system is difficult for families to understand and access. The service system needs to be reconfigured to better meet families’ needs.

Research suggests that, while an integrated service system would not directly improve family functioning and children’s wellbeing, it would contribute to those outcomes by improving access to services and enabling early identification of problems.

There are four levels at which integration needs to occur:

**Government/policy integration** is based on the recognition that the wellbeing of children is not the responsibility of any one department. At this level, policy and planning are integrated across government portfolios, departments and agencies.

**Regional and local planning integration** involves the establishment of an early years partnership group to drive local integration. Strategies include mapping community assets and needs; developing an integration plan; and simplifying parental access to services through single entry points. An important focus is the linking of specialist services with mainstream or universal services.



**Service delivery integration** can take the form of ‘virtual’ or co-located integration. Different forms of service level integration fall along a five-point continuum ranging from coexistence (where services operate independently) to full integration (where services merge completely to form a new entity).

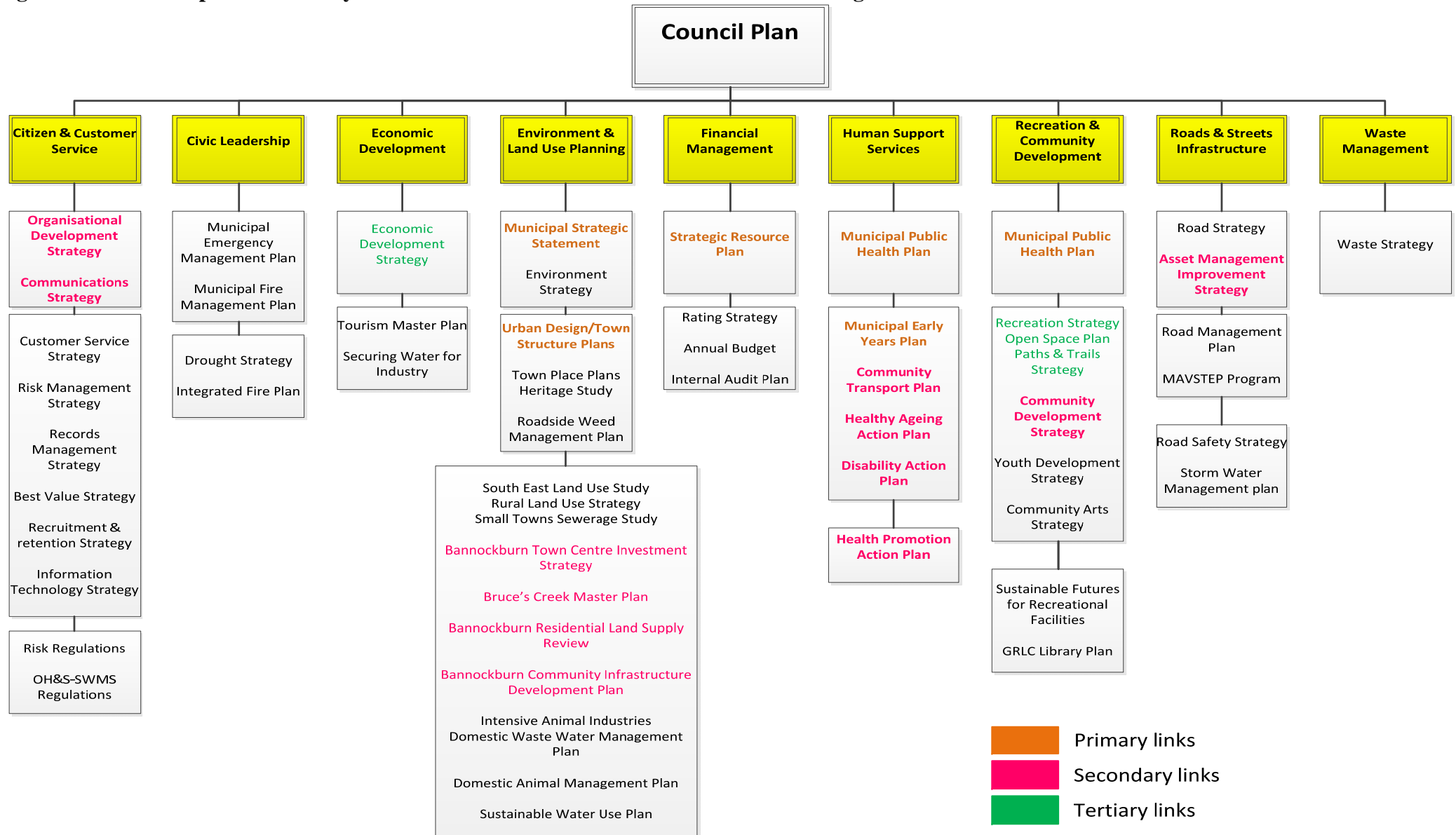
**Teamwork integration** requires professionals to work in teams with members of different disciplines. Types of team integration range from unidisciplinary teamwork (where one discipline attempts to meet all the needs of families) to transdisciplinary teamwork (where team members share roles and cross discipline boundaries).”

### **Links with other Golden Plains Plans (Strategic Planning Framework)**

The Council Plan 2010-2014 has nine Key Result Areas that direct Council Strategic Objectives and key Strategic Plans. The key result areas are represented in the second line of the Strategic Planning Framework that is demonstrated below. The third line represents the key strategic plans for each key result area. The fourth and fifth lines represent a number of operational/action plans that provide specific detail to implement initiatives identified in the key strategic plans.

Figure 1 below represents the links between the Golden Plains Early Years Infrastructure Plan and other key strategic plans and operational/action plans across Council. These have been prioritised as primary links (colour coded orange), secondary links (colour coded pink) and tertiary links (colour coded green).

Figure 1: Relationship between Early Years Infrastructure Plan and other Council Strategies



A summary of these strategic and operational/action plans is included below:

### **Primary links**

1. **Municipal Strategic Statement:** The Municipal Strategic Statement is continually being reviewed and amended to reflect the implementation of Council's strategies. Commencement of a comprehensive review is underway. Key components of the review include:
  - a. Incorporation of strategy recommendations;
  - b. Update of Council policies; and
  - c. Facilitation of sustainable land use and development, and enhancement and protection of the natural environment.
2. **Urban Design/Town Structure Plans**
  - a. Town Structure Plans were prepared and incorporated into the Golden Plains Planning Scheme in 1997. There have been subsequent reviews and Urban Design Frameworks have now been produced, which have also been incorporated into the Planning Scheme.
3. **Strategic Resource Plan:** Finance 2009 describes the financial and non-financial resources required over the 4 year period 2009-10 to 2012-13 to achieve strategic objectives in the Council Plan.
  - a. **Annual Budget:** The annual budget sits within a planning framework guided by Council's identification and prioritisation of community needs and aspirations over the long term (Ten Year Financial Plan), medium term (Council Plan) and short term (Annual Budget).
4. **Municipal Public Health Plan:** The Shire's Municipal Public Health Plan (2008-2012) guides the development and delivery of Council services that promote the health and wellbeing of its communities.
  - a. **Municipal Early Years Plan:** The goal of the Municipal Early Years Plan is to enable Golden Plains Shire to work in partnership with the community, service providers and other levels of Government to improve the health and wellbeing of children and families.

### **Secondary links**

1. **Organisational Development Strategy:** This strategy aims to enhance organisational capability and leadership by aligning values, systems and people in ways which will help the Shire plan for and respond to objectives in the Council Plan.
  - a. **Recruitment and Retention Strategy:** This strategy forms part of the Organisational Development Strategy and commits to developing human resources activities that reflect a philosophy that employee performance is valued. The strategy encompasses human resources systems and industrial relations practices that recognise, support, encourage and reward employee workplace contributions.
2. **The Communications Strategy** delivers a range of processes and tools enabling effective communication across the Shire to assist with the delivery of the Council Plan objectives. The strategy reinforces guiding principles underpinning our communications. These principles are being realised through delivery of the following key goals:
  - a. To produce effective communication material;
  - b. To expand and fully utilise print and broadcast media opportunities;
  - c. To be visible, accessible and active within the community;

- d. To build and maintain positive and produce relationships with external stakeholders; and
    - e. To ensure that internal communication is sufficient to allow quality external communication.
  3. Town Place Plans:
    - a. Bannockburn Town Centre Investment Strategy: The Bannockburn Town Centre Investment Strategy has been prepared to provide a comprehensive and co-ordinated framework for new retail and commercial developments that will be required to support an expanding population base.
    - b. Bruce's Creek Master Plan Bannockburn: The project is part of the implementation of the Bannockburn Urban Design Framework and will provide a detailed plan for the development of the Bruce's Creek open space precinct.
    - c. Residential Land Supply Review: The Residential Land Supply Review establishes a clear vision and direction for Council to identify towns which are in need of a structure plan or structure plan review. Ultimately, the towns will be prioritised in relation to the need for additional residential land to become available, or alternatively, to reduce the amount of residential land available.
    - d. Bannockburn Community Infrastructure Development Plan: The plan identifies community infrastructure needs in response to ongoing population growth in Bannockburn and its surrounding areas. It outlines the recommended works, their priority, cost and potential funding sources. The plan includes a development schedule that plots timelines and population 'triggers' for the timely provision of infrastructure and related services that are likely to be required over the next 20 years. Most of the infrastructure requirements are focused on four precincts, one of which includes the Education/Recreation Precinct (yet to be developed).
4. Golden Connections Community Transport Plan: The Golden Connections Community Transport Plan outlines strategies and actions to improve transport in the Shire.
5. Disability Action Plan: This plan will provide a way for the organisation to minimise disability discrimination for the provision of its goods, services and facilities.
6. Health Promotion Action Plan: The Health Promotion Action Plan provides a framework for the development of health promotion activities and interventions throughout Golden Plains Shire. It has been developed based on directions identified in the Golden Plains Health Promotion Initiative Evaluation Report and the outcomes of consultation with regional agencies, local communities and Council.
7. Community Development Strategy: The Community Development Strategy provides a framework to guide Council's role in promoting the 'development' of communities within Golden Plains Shire. The strategy is designed to assist communities identify and pursue local solutions to social, economic and environmental issues and opportunities. At the centre of this strategy is Council's role in supporting communities to plan for and shape their future. Community planning provides a vehicle for communities to identify priority issues and projects that can create better places to live. Council plays an

important role in facilitating community planning and supporting local initiatives.

8. Asset Management Improvement Strategy: The purpose of Infrastructure Asset Management is to meet a required level of service, in the most cost effective manner, through then management of assets for present and future customers. A key challenge to Asset Management Planning is the establishment of a linkage between Asset Management outcomes with the organisation Strategic Goals. This is best achieved by an organisation adopting a three stage Asset Management Framework, consisting of an:
  - a. Asset Management Policy: which broadly defines how and why Asset Management will be undertaken across the organisation as a whole
  - b. Asset Management Improvement Strategy: which details specific actions to be undertaken by an organisation in order to improve or enhance Asset Management capability and achieve specific objectives, and
  - c. Asset Management Plans: which define long term plans (usually 20 years or more for infrastructure assets) that outline the asset activities for each service.

### **Tertiary links**

1. Economic Development Strategy: The strategy presents four core strategic directions and four core responses squarely focused on expanding economic activity in the Shire. These provide a clear strategic focus on:
  - a. Water;
  - b. Industry co-operation;
  - c. Tourism experiences, and
  - d. Economic activity centres.
2. Recreation Strategy: The specific aims of the Recreation Strategy are to:
  - a. Provide directions for Council to develop community and recreation facilities, improve the management of these facilities and increase the level of participation in sport and recreation;
  - b. Provide a prioritised set of achievable recommendations relating to recreation series and facility provision in Golden Plains Shire.
3. Paths & Trails Strategy: The Paths and Trails Strategy identifies existing paths and trails as well as the guiding principles, actions and infrastructure required to develop pathways in the Shire over the next 10 years. The strategy presents a policy framework for the development of paths and trails, reinforcing the priorities identified in Council's Open Space Strategy.
  - a. Paths and trails that provide access to natural features, link communities, townships and community facilities and extend the overall network of walking and cycling circuits are a priority.

## Project methodology

### Consultation Processes

Two consultation processes have been undertaken as part of the development of this Infrastructure Plan. The first process was based on meeting the Universal Access reporting requirements to DEECD. The second process included consultations with the community and service providers to inform planning for the development of the Early Years Infrastructure Plan. As a result, the second consultation process was much broader in scope than the initial consultations for DEECD reporting.

#### Universal Access Consultation Process

The Universal Access project methodology was initially developed to meet DEECD reporting guidelines. The first report was submitted to DEECD in February 2010 and demonstrated the initial planning and progress. A final report was submitted in April, and represented some additional information and analysis.

As part of the DEECD initial reporting process, consultations in Phase I occurred with the following groups:

- Golden Plains Shire staff as the cluster manager for six services located in the Shire,
- Kindergarten teachers employed by Golden Plains Shire Council
- Eureka Community Kindergarten Association Inc (ECKA) which is responsible for the management of the Haddon Kindergarten;
- Staff from the Woody Yaloak Kindergarten (operating as an independent volunteer-managed kindergarten);
- Staff from the Bannockburn Long Day Care Centre;
- DEECD regional staff on a range of issues including clarifying the status of the licensed children's service at the Northern Community Centre in Haddon.

### Infrastructure Plan Consultation Processes

As part of the development of the Golden Plains Early Years Infrastructure Plan, multiple consultation strategies were used. These occurred during November – December 2010.

#### Community Consultations (focus groups)

Consultation occurred opportunistically in Haddon, as there was an existing group that was involved in specific planning for new Early Years facilities (based on initial planning for capital works grants). Community consultation questions are included in Appendix 1 in this report.

The Haddon & District Community House had also undertaken a survey of future childcare needs in October 2010. A summary of selected, relevant results has been included in this report.

Both the Rokewood and Meredith communities have ongoing capital works development processes in place. Consultations have occurred with the community and there is community representation included in the capital works development process in both communities.

Invitations for two other community consultations (to be held in Bannockburn and Smythesdale) were sent to a range of potential participants. Representatives from the following community groups were included:

- Kindergarten
- Long Day Care
- New parents group
- Maternal and Child Health parent representative
- Occasional Care
- Playgroup
- Neighbourhood House/Community Centres
- Out of School Hours Care

These community consultations were scheduled, however, they did not take place due to a poor response rate. Participants who did respond (n=3) were contacted individually and agreed to participate in an online survey process (described below).

The community online survey process invited participants from individuals who had identified that they would be willing to participate in further consultations following the development of the Golden Plains MEYP. A total of 41 invitations were sent in early December, and a follow up reminder was sent via email 10 days later.

There were 18 responses (a response rate of 44%), and the survey questions were based on the focus group questions used in the community consultation process.

### **Service Providers consultation**

An online survey was developed and distributed to a range of service providers in early December. A follow up reminder was sent via email 10 days later. Service Provider consultation questions are included in Appendix 1 in this report.

A total of 34 invitations were sent, and there were 18 responses (a response rate of 53%).

## Summary of population data and consultation outcomes

### Golden Plains Shire

#### Population data (LGA and SLA data)

Data that presents population projections by age for the Golden Plains Shire is included in Table 22 in Appendix 2. This data indicates that there is expected to be an overall increase of approximately 12.7% in the number of children across the Shire aged 0-5 years between 2006 and 2018. When reviewed by specific age, the distribution is consistent across all age groups with the highest percentage population growth in the 3 year old age group (17.3% increase in population).

Data that presents population projections in the 0-4 year age group and separated by Statistical Local Area (SLA) is included in Table 23 in Appendix 2. This indicates that there is an increase of 5.3% in the number and percentage of children in the 0-4 year age group between 2006 and 2026. More specifically, there is a slight decline (-1.9%) in the northwest part of the Shire, and an increase of 10.3% in the southeast part of the Shire.

Data that presents population projections in the 5-9 year age group and separated by SLA is included in Table 24 in Appendix 2. This indicates that there is an overall increase of 11% projected across the Shire. More specifically, there is a slight decline (-2.5%) in the northwest part of the Shire, and an increase of 20.9% in the southeast part of the Shire.

All data consistently indicates significant growth to 2026 for the early years age groups, particularly for the southeast part of the Shire.

Data is also included in this report to indicate population projections by age group and planning district (South East, Central West, Central East and North West). This data has been included in the discussion for each planning district, as it provides more detailed data for each area than the LGA and SLA data outlined above. Figure 2 below represents the LGA, SLA and planning district boundaries.



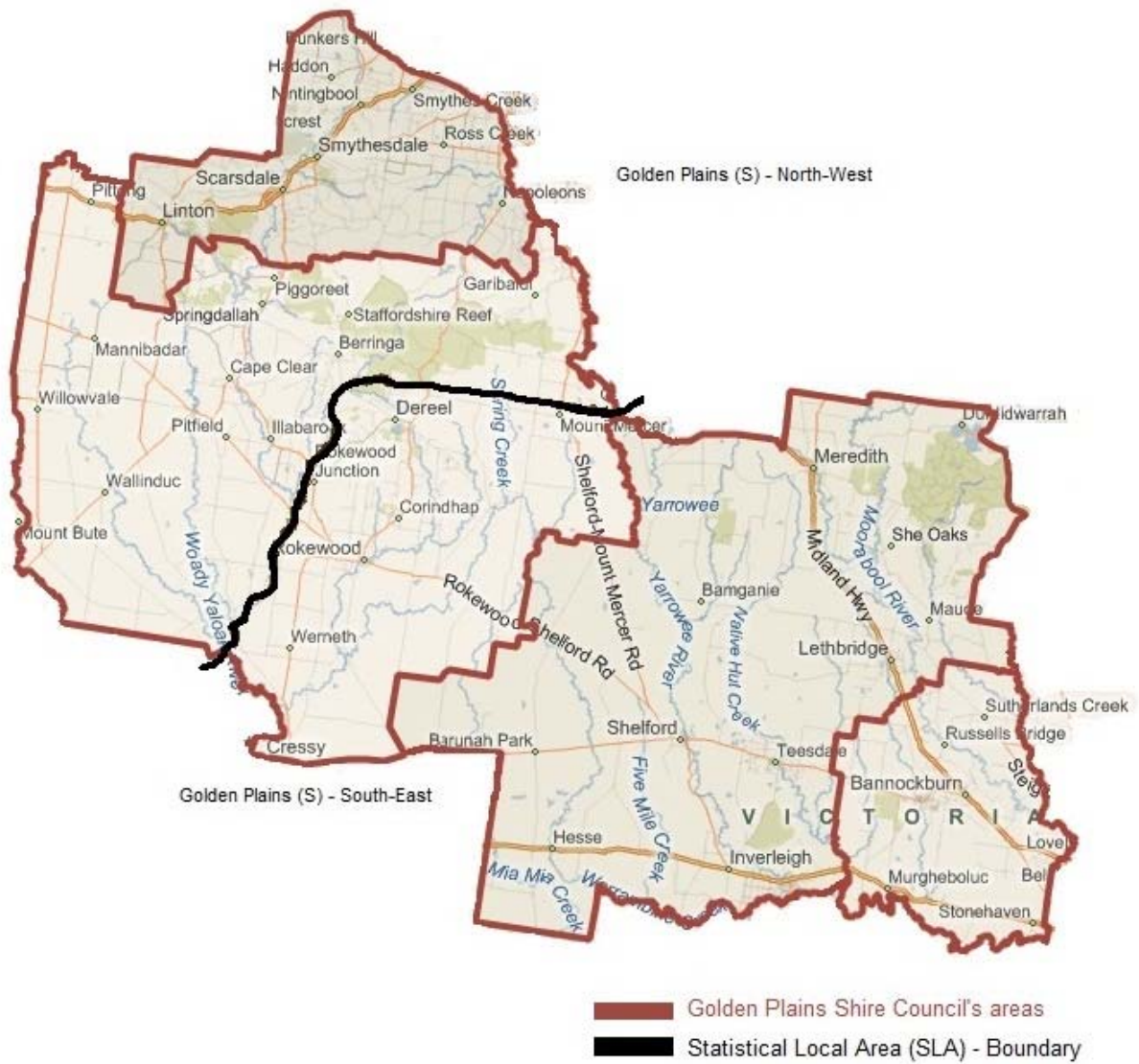


Figure 2: Golden Plains Shire including SLA and planning area boundaries

## Community Consultation data

Community consultations were invited through a number of processes, described in the methodology section above. An online survey was conducted, with a response rate of 44% (41 invitations, 18 respondents). This section summarises the information collected which applies to the Shire as a whole. Community consultation data that was collected for a specific location (e.g. Haddon) has been included in individual location sections below.

Use of local services: when asked about children in the community who are not using local Early Years services, 66% (n=12) did not know of any families, and 33% (n=6) identified families who were using other services. More specifically, children were attending catholic/private schools or other services in Ballarat/Geelong. Comments included the availability of out of school child care which was not available in Haddon as a significant influence on where children attended school. Other comments related to the disruption in child care services while the Haddon & District Community House was repaired (in 2010), resulting in some children attending child care in other locations.

Information regarding the importance of specific factors in the decision to use local services is included in Table 25 in Appendix 3. The majority indicated that the most important considerations (based on “somewhat important” and “very important” responses) were the hours of operation (n=18), the availability of parking (n=18), modern facilities (n=17) and a multi service co-location model (n=17). The least important (based on “not important at all” and “not very important”) was a “stand alone”/independent service (n=8), access by public transport (n=7) and Council to be the licensee/operator (n=6).

Use of “mini-hubs”: when asked if families would use “mini hubs” across the Shire, 100% (n=18) of respondents indicated that they would use these facilities. When asked where respondents would use these “mini hub” facilities, the majority indicated Bannockburn (n=5), followed by Napoleons/Ross Creek, Teesdale and Haddon (each with n=3). Further review of these responses indicated that they were more likely to represent the location of respondents than the demand for future services. All responses are included in Table 26 in Appendix 3.

Willingness to travel: respondents were also asked about how far they would be prepared to travel. The majority of respondents indicated that they would be willing to travel between 10 and 20 minutes (n=8) followed by less than 10 minutes (n=4) or less than 10 kilometres (n=5). All responses are included in Table 27 in Appendix 3.

Services that require travel: respondents were asked about services where they would be prepared to travel. The majority of respondents indicated that they were prepared to travel to attend kindergarten (n=7), the MCH Service (n=5) or Child Care (n=4). All responses are included in Table 28 in Appendix 3.

Keeping people informed: when asked about the best way to inform people in the community about early years services, a range of ideas were provided. The majority of respondents indicated that the most effective way to keep people informed was through local newsletters, e.g. Bannockburn and The Miner (n=8). Other effective

mechanisms to inform people were through the MCH Service (n=6) and through school/kindergarten/child care/Family Day Care (n=6). All responses are included in Table 29 in Appendix 3.

## **Service Provider Feedback**

Service provider feedback was invited through an online survey process, described in the methodology section above. The survey obtained a response rate of 53% (34 invitations, 18 respondents).

Children not using local services: 78% of service providers (n=14) indicated that they were aware of children in the community who were not using local early years services. These children were primarily attending catholic/private schools (n=7) or attending other services in Ballarat/Geelong (n=12). Comments included parental choice to not use the local kindergarten or school, proximity to parent workplace, no access to local services or not meeting parent needs.

When asked about the importance of specific factors in the decision of service providers to use local services (from the service provider perspective), the majority indicated that the most important considerations (based on “somewhat important” and “very important” responses) were the hours of operation (n=17) and a multi service co-location model (n=16). The least important (based on “not important at all” and “not very important”) was a “stand alone”/independent service (n=9) and Council as the licensee/operator (n=5). All responses are included in Table 30 in Appendix 4.

When asked about the importance of specific factors in the decision of service providers to use local services (from the service provider perspective representing clients), the majority indicated that the most important considerations (based on “somewhat important” and “very important” responses) were the hours of operation (n=17) and the location/proximity to home (n=17). Other important considerations included the availability of parking (n=15) and a multi service co-location model (n=15). The least important (based on “not important at all” and “not very important”) was a “stand alone”/independent service (n=10), access by public transport (n=8) and Council to be the licensee/operator (n=6). All responses are included in Table 31 in Appendix 4.

Use of “mini-hubs”: when asked if service providers would use “mini hubs” across the Shire, 66% (n=12) of respondents indicated that they would use these facilities. When asked where service providers would use these “mini hub” facilities, the majority indicated Haddon (n=5), Rokewood (n=4) and Meredith (n=4). All responses are included in Table 32 in Appendix 4. When asked about the specific facilities that service providers would use, the majority indicated consulting rooms (n=10), community/group meeting rooms (n=10) and shared professional facilities (n=9). All responses are included in Table 33 in Appendix 4.

Keeping people informed: when asked about the best way to inform people in the community about early years services, the majority of service providers indicated that it would be through local newsletters (Linton News, Leigh News, free local papers, n=13), MCH/kindergarten/child care/playgroups (n=5) and flyers/posters located at local businesses/services (n=4). All responses are included in Table 34 in Appendix 4.

## Service summary and recommendations by planning areas

### South East

South East is a predominantly rural area located in the south-eastern part of the Shire. South East includes Bannockburn, the small township of Sutherlands Creek and the rural localities of Batesford (part), Gheringhap, Murgheboluc, Russells Bridge and Stonehaven.

#### Current Early Years Services

The primary Early Years facility in Bannockburn is the Bannockburn Family Services Centre (BFSC), and includes kindergarten, Maternal & Child Health, Long Day Child Care (LDC), 3 year old kindergarten groups and visiting Early Childhood Intervention Services. The primary school is located on a different site, and there are discussions with DEECD regarding the need for a new primary school facility.

There is a second Early Years facility located in Bannockburn, based at the former Infant Welfare Centre, and Occasional Care service which is located next to the new library (completion expected in 2011). This facility is now used for Playgroups.

Table 2 below indicates the range of current early years services provided in the South East planning area. Many early years services are provided, with the exception of Occasional Child Care. Bannockburn does not have a Neighbourhood/Community House.

**Table 2: Current Early Years Services (South East)**

Service	Bannockburn
Kindergarten	✓
DEECD Universal Access Category	D
DEECD Universal Access Category	D
Neighbourhood House/Community Centre	✓
Primary School	✓
MCH	✓
Long Day Care	✓
Occasional Child Care	**
Family Day Care	✓
Playgroup	✓
Early Childhood Intervention Services	✓
3 year old kindergarten groups	✓
Community Health/Family Services	✓

Source: MEYP and DEECD reports

\*\*Occasional Child Care is not available in Bannockburn. However, Bannockburn LDC is available for ½ day sessions, and therefore is available as an option instead of Occasional Child Care. The LDC is eligible for the child care subsidy and therefore is a cost effective option for parents when capacity is available.

Proximity to other services: Geelong is the largest and closest regional centre, and Bannockburn residents are able to readily access services as it is within 20 minutes travel by car. There are existing public transport options between Bannockburn and Geelong. It is also possible to access services within Golden Plains (Inverleigh, Teesdale and Meredith) within 20 minutes travel by car.

## Population Projections

Table 3 below presents a summary of population projections by age for the South East planning area (Bannockburn). This indicates that there is expected to be an overall increase of approximately 43.1% in the number of children in the Southeast planning area aged 0-5 years between 2006 and 2018. When reviewed by specific age, the distribution is consistent across all age groups and has the highest percentage population growth in the 4 year old age group (75.0% increase in population).

It is also important to note that the neighbouring Batesford area also has high population projections for the early years age group. The Batesford population projections data has not been included in this report, as Batesford comprises part of the Greater Geelong LGA.

**Table 3: Population projections by age and planning district (South East)**

Age (yrs)	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	% change 06-18
0	56	60	61	64	65	67	69	71	74	77	79	82	85	51.8%
1	60	61	64	64	69	70	72	74	77	79	83	85	88	46.7%
2	64	64	66	67	69	73	74	77	79	82	85	87	91	42.2%
3	62	68	70	69	73	74	79	79	83	85	88	91	94	51.6%
4	56	66	74	73	75	78	80	83	85	89	92	94	98	75.0%
5	85	89	90	93	90	89	85	87	88	88	90	91	92	8.2%
Total	383	408	425	430	441	451	459	471	486	500	517	530	548	43.1%

Source: Golden Plains forecast id data

Table 4 below presents a summary of key data for the South East, based on the existing Early Years Infrastructure located at Bannockburn. Details of this data (births and kindergarten enrolments) are included in Appendix 5 (Tables 35 and 36). When reviewing demand for all Early Years services, there is a steady increase in demand in all areas, with higher birth notifications than projected in Table 3 above, and increasing demand for child care (both LDC and FDC). School enrolments have increased steadily over the last 3 years. Kindergarten enrolments appear to have declined, which is not consistent with the increase in demand for LDC services. There is an increase in enrolments for kindergarten in 2012 (96 enrolments in June 2011).

**Table 4: Summary of enrolment data across selected services (South East)**

	Bannockburn		
	2009	2010	2011
Birth Notifications	90	59	96**
Playgroup***	NA	30	44
Child Care (LDC)***	NA	95	115
Child Care (FDC)***	38	26	47
Total 4 yr old Kindergarten Enrolments*/***/^	92	84	74
School enrolments (Total)***	434	450	478

\*Includes Bannockburn Kindergarten and Bannockburn LDC Kindergarten programs

\*\*Estimate based on data to March (see Table 35 in Appendix 5 for detailed data)

\*\*\*Source: Golden Plains enrolment data

^ Notional enrolments in 2012 for 4 year old kindergarten are 96 (June 2011).

## Kindergarten Capacity

Current licensed capacity is negotiated with DEECD and is allocated as per regulations.

The current enrolment capacity is based on a model of 10.75 hours of kindergarten per week for each eligible child. Current models are usually based on a community accepted/preferred model which has been established historically within the community. The most common kindergarten model in Golden Plains is a group of children who attend 5.5 hours of kindergarten for 2 days per week.

The estimated enrolment capacity was determined for DEECD in April 2010 as part of the planning process to implement the Universal Access initiative (each eligible child to attend 15 hours of kindergarten per week starting in 2013). Golden Plains estimates were developed on assumptions based on current service models (e.g. kindergarten offered during weekdays only and with current hours of availability). If kindergarten was to be offered on a Saturday for example, then estimated enrolment capacity would change.

1. Bannockburn Kindergarten (DEECD category D)
  - a. Current Licensed capacity = 48
  - b. Current enrolment capacity (10 hours kindergarten) = 96
  - c. Estimated enrolment capacity (15 hours kindergarten) = 72
2. Bannockburn Long Day Care (DEECD category D)
  - a. Current Licensed capacity = 50 (includes ALL children aged 0-5 years)

- b. Current enrolment capacity (10 hours kindergarten) = 15
- c. Estimated enrolment capacity (15 hours kindergarten) = 15

Notes regarding Bannockburn kindergarten capacity

1. Bannockburn LDC: kindergarten sessions are currently 3 hours per day for 4 days (total of 12 hours). These sessions are run by a qualified kindergarten teacher in the room and receive kindergarten funding. Other children are also in the room and are not directly participating in the kindergarten program (room has 25 places but only 15 are allocated to the kindergarten program).

**Table 5: Kindergarten capacity for Bannockburn**

	Current Licensed capacity	Current enrolment capacity (10 hours kindergarten)	Estimated enrolment capacity (15 hours kindergarten)
Bannockburn Kindergarten	24 x 2 = 48	Currently operate 4 sessions plus 3yo. Capacity is 24 x 4 = 96.	In order to retain 3 yo group(s), can only offer 3 x 4yo groups, without significantly changing session times and days. Therefore capacity is 24 x 3 = 72.
Bannockburn LDC	50 places across 3 rooms (15 places allocated to 4 year old kindergarten)	Capacity of room is 25, but this is for 3 and 4 year olds. Room is also for LDC enrolments. Current number of children having funded kindergarten year = 9 (2010).	Nominal figure only.

**Bannockburn Child Care waiting list data**

Table 6 below indicates a steady demand for FDC and LDC child care across all age groups at Bannockburn. When this is reviewed in the context of demand for kindergarten places, there are approximately 12 additional children who are on the waiting list for Bannockburn LDC (April 2011) who would be eligible to attend kindergarten (aged 4 or 5 by April 30 2011). Children who are included in the FDC waiting list have not been included in this estimate for kindergarten demand. This data is considered to be an accurate estimate of the additional demand for kindergarten in Bannockburn, as the Bannockburn LDC is the only childcare provider in the South East. Occasional Care services are offered in Rokewood and Meredith, but are not available in Bannockburn.

**Table 6: Waiting list data for FDC and LDC South East (April 2011)**

	FDC	LDC			Both FDC and LDC
		3-5 yr olds	2-3 yr olds	0-2 yr olds	
Bannockburn	16	17	6	14	8
Inverleigh	3			1	1
Teesdale	3	1		1	1
Other*		10	1	4	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28**</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>

\*Other includes Bell Park, Grovedale, Highton, Jan Juc, Lara (n=2), Lethbridge, Maude, Mt Doran, North Geelong, Russells Bridge (n=2), Shelford, Sutherlands Creek, Torquay

\*\*12 of these children were aged 4 or 5 in April 2011, and therefore would be eligible for kindergarten

## Summary of Early Years issues in the South East

- Current services:** A range of current services are provided, with the exception of Occasional Child Care services. Services are primarily located at the BFSC. A second Early Years facility is under-utilised and provides a facility for Playgroups.
- Population projections:** Population projections data indicate significant growth, with an increase of 43.1% for the 0-5 year age group (2006 to 2018)
- Births:** Historical data over last 3 years indicates an average of 75 births per year
- Kindergarten enrolments:** Historical data over last 3 years indicates an average of 83 kindergarten enrolments per year. When kindergarten enrolments are included for 2012, this average increases to 86.
- Kindergarten capacity:** Physical capacity limitations will occur with introduction of 15 hours of kinder
- Childcare waiting lists:** April 2011 data estimate is 12 children eligible for kindergarten, currently 101 children waiting for childcare (FDC or LDC)
- Service provider feedback:** Service providers positive about multi service co-location models with extended hours of operation and modern facilities, including consulting rooms and group meeting rooms
- Community feedback:** Community feedback positive about using local facilities (Family & Children's Services Hub) in Bannockburn, and being willing to travel between 10-20 minutes for services (including MCH, kindergarten or child care). Most important considerations were hours of operation, parking, modern facilities and multi-service providers.



## Recommendations (South East)

### Bannockburn

#### Infrastructure

1. Capital works funding is expected to be required at the BFSC - initial cost estimate is approximately \$800,000 (following discussions with Golden Plains Shire Council Works Department). This will facilitate the integration of the service and create additional capacity through additional room(s).
2. Support discussions between services at BFSC and the Primary School to explore the possibility of collocating kindergarten services with the school. This will create additional kindergarten capacity and therefore provide additional capacity at BFSC for LDC. Estimate of costs for a new facility is \$1.5M.
3. Undertake a feasibility study to formally consider capital works options.

#### Service Provision

1. Support the development of an integrated service model between Bannockburn Kindergarten and Bannockburn LDC. This work reflects pre-existing commitment to the community to develop an integrated model of service delivery. Both services are working collaboratively to address high population growth rates and to develop alternative integrated models to increase and optimise efficiency within the centre.
2. Explore opportunities to provide Occasional Care services available in Bannockburn, including opportunities to expand Child Care services (e.g. 15 licensed places) at the existing second Early Years facility (former Infant Welfare Centre and Occasional Child Care facility).
3. Explore opportunities to redevelop activity groups for three year olds that can be delivered within a new integrated service.
4. Review operational and governance arrangements, industrial relations and licensing requirements at BFSC. These are currently separate for child care and kindergarten services.
5. Service development will be required with staff. This will consider the implications of alternative models of service delivery, including team teaching, alternative session times and mix of services to be provided.
6. Service development will be required with the community, including session times and availability of services.

### Other Small Towns (South East)

Sutherlands Creek and the rural localities of Batesford (part), Gheringhap, Murgheboluc, Russells Bridge and Stonehaven.

#### Service Development

Batesford is located partly in Golden Plains and partly in the Greater Geelong LGA. This is anticipated to be a high growth area where families relate to Geelong. No additional Early Years facilities are planned from Golden Plains Shire at this time. This may be reviewed as population in this area continues to grow.

The other small towns have small populations, which are sparsely populated. There may be a need for Playgroups to be developed in these areas, which will be supported through current staffing arrangements in the Child & Family Services area. There are no population centres to sustain other Early Years services locally.

### **Priorities**

1. Undertake feasibility study in Bannockburn
2. Review demand for Early Years services in Batesford in 2016

## Central East

Central East is a predominantly rural area which includes the small townships of Inverleigh, Lethbridge, Maude, Meredith, Shelford, Teesdale and Wingeel and the rural localities of Anakie (part), Bamganie, Barunah Park, Durdidwarrah, Hesse, Morrissons (part), She Oaks and Steiglitz.

### Current Early Years Services

Table 7 below indicates the range of current early years services provided in the Central East planning area (Inverleigh, Teesdale, Meredith, Lethbridge, Shelford). If formal early years services are not provided in the town, then it has not been included in the table below (although it is recognised that residents may travel to other towns or that informal arrangements may be in place e.g. playgroup). A range of early years services are provided, through a number of independent services. Playgroups are available in all towns and Family Day Care (FDC) services are available in 3 of the 5 towns. Four year old and 3 year old kindergarten groups are available in 3 towns. Residents in Shelford have access to primary school and playgroup services only. Meredith has a Neighbourhood House facility which also provides Occasional Child Care. The Inverleigh kindergarten facility provides Occasional Child Care. There are no Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) and no long day childcare (LDC) services available in this part of the Shire.

**Table 7: Current Early Years Service Description (Central East)**

Service	Inverleigh	Teesdale	Meredith	Lethbridge	Shelford
Kindergarten	✓	✓	✓		
DEECD Universal Access Category	B	D	D		
Neighbourhood House/Community Centre			✓		
Primary School	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MCH	✓	✓	✓		
Long Day Care					
Occasional Child Care	✓		✓		
Family Day Care	✓	✓		✓	
Playgroup	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Early Childhood Intervention Services					
3 year old kindergarten groups	✓	✓	✓		
Community Health/Family Services					

Source: MEYP and DEECD reports

Proximity to other services: Bannockburn is the closest large town, and Geelong is the largest and closest regional centre. Residents in the Central East planning area are able to access services in Bannockburn within 20 minutes travel by car. There

are very limited public transport options between Bannockburn and all of the smaller towns.

## Population Projections

Table 8 below presents a summary of population projections by age for the Central East planning area. This indicates that there is expected to be no change in the number of children across Central East planning area aged 0-5 years between 2006 and 2018. When reviewed by specific age, there is expected to be a slight increase (10.6%) in the 3 year old age group and a decline (17.2%) in the four year old age group.

**Table 8: Population projections by age and planning district (Central East)**

Age (yrs)	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	% change '06-'18
0	61	53	53	55	55	55	57	57	57	59	59	59	61	0.0%
1	62	64	57	58	58	59	60	61	61	62	63	63	64	3.2%
2	68	65	68	62	62	63	64	64	66	66	67	67	68	0.0%
3	66	71	70	73	67	67	68	69	70	71	71	72	73	10.6%
4	93	70	75	74	76	71	71	73	73	75	75	75	77	-17.2%
5	71	92	72	77	76	78	73	74	75	76	77	78	78	9.9%
Total	421	415	395	399	394	393	393	398	402	409	412	414	421	0.0%

Source: Golden Plains forecast id data

Table 9 below presents a summary of key data for the Central East, based on the existing Early Years Infrastructure located at Inverleigh, Teesdale, Meredith, Lethbridge and Shelford. Details of this data are included in Appendix 5 (Tables 37, 38, 39 and 40).

**Table 9: Summary of enrolment data across selected services (Central East)**

	Inverleigh			Teesdale			Meredith			Lethbridge			Shelford		
	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11
Birth Notification	13	10	8**	14	16	24**	20	13	8**						
Child Care (Occ Care)	23	13	14				14	16							
Playgroup		14	20		18	15					27	34			
Child Care (FDC)	8	5	15		3	7				9	17	25			
Total 4 yr old Kinder Enrols*	25	17	20	35	28	31	18	19	24						
Total Primary School Enrols*	123	129	127	159	172	171	115	115	117	96	101	115	22	21	11

\*\*Estimate based on data to March (see Table 37 in Appendix 5 for detailed data)

\*Source: Golden Plains enrolment data

When reviewing demand across the Early Years services, there is a steady demand in 3 townships, including Inverleigh, Teesdale and Meredith. All 3 of these kindergartens and schools demonstrate steady enrolments, and are predicted to continue to provide services in a viable model based on demand (note that Meredith kindergarten has physical capacity constraints). This is also supported by the data for child care (FDC) and Occasional Care, as well as Playgroup enrolment data.

An additional level of analysis was undertaken to determine where children travelled to attend 4 year old kindergarten when they resided in small towns with no kindergarten facility (but did have a primary school). Within the Central East planning area, this additional analysis was completed for children residing in Lethbridge and Shelford, and who attended either 3 year old or 4 year old kindergarten in 2009, 2010 or 2011. Shelford Primary school has very low enrolment numbers and does not appear to have the demand for additional Early Years infrastructure.

The results in Table 10 below indicate that there have been between 6 and 13 children from Lethbridge enrolled in either 3 year old or 4 year old kindergarten over the previous 3 year period. There have been between 0 and 5 children enrolled in either 3 year old or 4 year old kindergarten from Shelford. This does not achieve a viable number of enrolments to establish an additional Early Years facility in either Lethbridge or Shelford. A group size of approximately 21 children in each year is required to operate a financially viable kindergarten service.

**Table 10: Kindergarten enrolments (3 & 4 year old) data by place of residence (Lethbridge and Shelford)**

	Total			Bannockburn			Inverleigh			Meredith			Teesdale		
	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11
Lethbridge (3 yr old)	11	8	6	5	3	2				2	2	2	4	3	2
Lethbridge (4 yr old)	10	13	12	5	8	4	1				2	2	4	3	6
Shelford (3 yr old)	1	2	5			1							1	2	4
Shelford (4 yr old)	5	0	2				1						4		2

## Kindergarten Capacity

Current licensed kindergarten capacity is negotiated with DEECD and is allocated as per regulations.

The current enrolment capacity is based on a model of 10 hours of kindergarten per week for each eligible child. Current models are usually based on a community accepted/preferred model which has been established historically within the community. The most common kindergarten model in Golden Plains is a group of children who attend 5 hours of kindergarten for 2 days per week.

The estimated enrolment capacity was determined for DEECD in April 2010 as part of the planning process to implement the Universal Access initiative (each eligible child to attend 15 hours of kindergarten per week starting in 2013). Estimates for Golden Plains Shire were developed on assumptions based on current service models (e.g. kindergarten offered during weekdays only and with current hours of availability). If kindergarten was to be offered on a Saturday for example, then estimated enrolment capacity would change.

1. Teesdale Kindergarten (DEECD category B)
  - a. Current Licensed capacity = 25
  - b. Current enrolment capacity (10 hours kindergarten) = 50
  - c. Estimated enrolment capacity (15 hours kindergarten) = 33
2. Inverleigh Kindergarten (DEECD category B)
  - a. Current Licensed capacity = 30
  - b. Current enrolment capacity (10 hours kindergarten) = 25
  - c. Estimated enrolment capacity (15 hours kindergarten) = 33
3. Meredith Kindergarten (DEECD category D)
  - a. Current Licensed capacity = 18
  - b. Current enrolment capacity (10 hours kindergarten) = 36
  - c. Estimated enrolment capacity (15 hours kindergarten) = 24

**Table 11: Kindergarten capacity for Teesdale, Inverleigh and Meredith**

	Current enrolment capacity (10 hours kindergarten)	Estimated enrolment capacity (15 hours kindergarten)
Teesdale Kindergarten	Currently offer group over 3 ½ hour sessions.	Could offer rotating group over 4x5 hr sessions to 3 groups of 8 children and one group of 9 children. Some change required here to accommodate Playgroup and 3 y o programs, but not significant.
Inverleigh Kindergarten	Currently offer group over 3 ½ hour sessions.	Could offer rotating group over 4x5 hr sessions to 3 groups of 8 children and one group of 9 children. Some change required her to accommodate Occasional Child Care and 3 y o programs, but not significant.
Meredith Kindergarten	Could operate 2 groups of 18.	Could operate 4 x 5 hr sessions, accommodating 4 groups of 6 children. Still room for 3 y o program.

Notes regarding capacity (Meredith and Teesdale)

1. Meredith kindergarten: A group size of approximately 21 children is required to operate a financially viable kindergarten service. The current facility in Meredith has a capacity of 18 children. The facility has limited expansion options because it is a heritage listed bluestone building.

2. Teesdale kindergarten: Initial planning indicates capacity to 33 enrolments within current physical infrastructure limitations and current delivery models. Review of enrolment data indicates fluctuating enrolments between 25 and 36 over past 5 years, and kindergarten is located in a high population growth area. Enrolments have exceeded 32 in 2 out of 5 previous years and this trend is expected to continue.

## Summary of Early Years issues in the Central East

Current services:	A range of current services are provided in different locations, with the exception of LDC services. Meredith has a Neighbourhood House facility; there are primary schools in 5 towns and kindergartens in 3 towns (with MCH).
Population projections:	Population projections data indicate no significant growth, with a decrease in the number of 4 year olds and an increase in the number of 3 and 5 year olds.
Births:	Historical data over last 3 years indicates an average of 45 births per year
Kindergarten enrolments:	Historical data over last 3 years indicates some fluctuation in kindergarten enrolments each year. Average kindergarten enrolments include Meredith (n=18), Teesdale (n=25) and Inverleigh (n=16).
Kindergarten capacity:	Physical capacity limitations will occur with introduction of 15 hours of kinder at Meredith and Teesdale. Meredith will not be able to reach financial viability (estimated at 21 enrolments) due to heritage listing of the building and lack of opportunity for capital works expansion. Teesdale has fluctuating enrolments and will not have physical capacity when enrolments exceed 33.
Service provider feedback:	Service providers positive about multi service co-location models with extended hours of operation and modern facilities, including consulting rooms and group meeting rooms. Initial feedback indicates a service provider need for a mini-hub facility at Meredith.
Community feedback:	Community feedback positive about using local facilities and being willing to travel between 10-20 minutes for services (including MCH, kindergarten or child care). Most important considerations were hours of operation, parking, modern facilities and multi-service providers.

## Recommendations (Central East)

### Meredith

#### Infrastructure

1. Capital works funding is required – initial cost estimate is approximately \$1,500,000 (following discussions with Golden Plains Shire Council Works Department). This estimate is based on the establishment of a new facility.
2. Undertake a feasibility study to formally consider capital works options

#### Service Provision

1. The Meredith kindergarten currently has a license capacity for 18 children, and is not able to expand or provide services within a financially viable model within its current facility. As noted above, a group size of approximately 21 children is required to operate a financially viable kindergarten service. The current facility in Meredith has limited expansion options because it is a heritage listed bluestone building.
2. Preliminary discussions have commenced to establish a collaborative planning partnership between the local community, Council, Meredith Kindergarten Inc., Meredith Neighbourhood House and Meredith Primary School. The purpose of these initial discussions was to consider the possibility of relocating the kindergarten to the Primary School premises, with the Neighbourhood House. This partnership will form the basis to further progress coordinated capital works planning. The facility is expected to have 2 children's rooms, two consulting rooms, foyer, meeting/training room and shared office.
3. Consider workforce implications (including ability to recruit staff) in establishing facilities and services
4. Explore opportunities to provide access to Long Day Care in Meredith.

### Lethbridge

#### Infrastructure

1. It is unlikely that an Early Years kindergarten facility will be viable in the near future in Lethbridge. As noted above, a group size of approximately 21 children is required to operate a financially viable kindergarten service.

#### Service Provision

1. Support an outreach service for MCH to the Lethbridge Primary School.
2. Support development of coordinated transport arrangements to assist Lethbridge children with access to kindergarten services in Meredith. Transport options could also be considered for children to travel to Teesdale or Bannockburn, with the exception that these kindergartens will have physical capacity limitations. Lethbridge children can be assisted to travel to Meredith, which will reduce pressure on services in Bannockburn and Teesdale and support viability for the Meredith service.



## **Inverleigh**

### **Infrastructure**

1. Support the relocation of the Inverleigh MCH service to the Inverleigh kindergarten.
2. Support the implementation of the successful capital works grant 2010 for facility improvements.

### **Service Provision**

1. The Inverleigh kindergarten is currently able to meet expected demand for early years services.
2. Explore opportunities to provide Occasional Childcare and access to Long Day Care in Inverleigh.

## **Teesdale**

### **Infrastructure**

1. The Teesdale kindergarten currently has a license capacity for 25 children, and is able to provide 15 hours of kindergarten to all eligible children if the number of enrolments is less than 33. Capital works are required to add an additional room to meet the anticipated increased enrolment numbers - high level estimate approximately \$200,000. This will facilitate the integration of the service and create additional capacity through additional room.
2. Undertake a feasibility study to formally consider capital works options.

### **Service Provision**

1. Explore opportunities to provide access to Long Day Care in Teesdale.

## **Other Small Towns (Central East)**

The small towns include Maude and Wingeel and the rural localities of Anakie (part), Bamganie, Barunah Park, Durdidwarrah, Hesse, Morrissons (part), She Oaks and Steiglitz.

The other small towns have small populations, which are sparsely populated. There may be a need for Playgroups to be developed in these areas, which will be supported through current staffing arrangements in the Child & Family Services area. There are no population centres to sustain other Early Years services locally.

## **Priorities**

1. Undertake feasibility study for new Early Years facility in Meredith.
2. Review demand for Early Years services (including kindergarten) in Lethbridge in 2016.

## Central West

Central West is a predominantly rural area which includes the small townships of Cape Clear and Rokewood and the rural localities of Berringa, Berrybank (part), Corindhap, Cressy (part), Dereel, Durham Lead, Enfield, Garibaldi, Grenville, Happy Valley, Illabrook, Mannibadar, Mount Bute (part), Mount Mercer, Piggoreet, Pitfield, Pittong, Rokewood Junction, Springdallah, Staffordshire Reef, Wallinduc, Werneth and Willowvale.

### Current Early Years Services

Table 12 below indicates the range of current early years services provided in the Central West planning area (Rokewood). If formal early years services are not provided in the town, then it has not been included in the table below (although it is recognised that residents may travel to other towns or that informal arrangements may be in place e.g. playgroup). A range of early years services are provided, through a number of independent services. Available services include FDC, primary school, MCH and 3 and 4 year old kindergarten groups. The Occasional Care service is managed through Hesse Health Service, which also provides a range of Community Health/Family Services. There are no Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) and no long day childcare (LDC) services available in this part of the Shire.

**Table 12: Current Early Years Service Description (Rokewood)**

Service	Rokewood	Dereel	Cape Clear	Enfield
Kindergarten	✓			
DEECD Universal Access Category	D			
Neighbourhood House/Community Centre		✓		
Primary School	✓		✓	
MCH	✓			✓*
Long Day Care				
Occasional Child Care	✓			
Family Day Care				
Playgroup		✓	✓	
Early Childhood Intervention Services				
3 year old kindergarten groups	✓			
Community Health/Family Services	✓			

Source: MEYP and DEECD reports

✓\* MCH home visits available by appointment

Proximity to other services: Rokewood is located approximately one hour travel by car from the major regional centres of both Ballarat and Geelong. Travel times indicate that it is slightly closer to Ballarat than Geelong. There is a strong history within the community that travel patterns to the regional centres are based on

individual family and historical connections. The travel time by car to Bannockburn is the same as the travel time to Ballarat. There is very limited public transport, and transport options are facilitated through the Golden Connections Transport project (managed through the Shire).

## Population Projections

Table 13 below presents a summary of population projections by age for the Central West (Rokewood) planning area. This indicates that there is expected to be a slight increase (5.1%) in the percentage of children across Central West planning area aged 0-5 years between 2006 and 2018. As the number of children in this age group is relatively small, this percentage increase equates to approximately 7 children only.

**Table 13: Population projections by age and planning district (Central West)**

Age (yrs)	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	% change '06-'18
0	25	19	20	20	20	20	20	21	21	22	22	22	22	-12.0%
1	18	24	20	20	20	20	20	20	22	22	22	22	22	22.2%
2	23	19	25	21	21	21	21	22	22	22	23	23	24	4.3%
3	24	23	20	25	22	22	23	23	23	23	23	25	25	4.2%
4	23	25	24	21	26	23	24	24	24	24	25	25	25	8.7%
5	24	25	25	25	23	26	24	24	24	26	26	26	26	8.3%
Total	137	135	134	132	132	132	132	134	136	139	141	143	144	5.1%

Source: Golden Plains forecast id data

Table 14 below presents a summary of key data for the Central West, based on the existing Early Years Infrastructure located Rokewood and Cape Clear. Details of this data are included in Appendix 5 (Tables 41, 42 and 43).

**Table 14: Summary of enrolment data across selected services (Central West)**

	Rokewood			Cape Clear		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Birth Notifications	15	14	12**			
Child Care (Occasional)	NA	NA	NA			
Total 4 yr old Kindergarten Enrolments***	6	9	15			
Total Primary School Enrolments***	39	38	43		22	18

\*\*Estimate based on data to March (see Table 41 in Appendix 5 for detailed data)

\*\*\*Source: Golden Plains enrolment data

When reviewing demand across the Early Years services, there is a steady number of births across the three years. There is a small number of children (between 6 and 15 over the last 3 years) who attend the Rokewood kindergarten, which has financial viability issues.

An additional level of analysis was undertaken to determine where children travelled to attend 4 year old kindergarten when they resided in small towns with no

kindergarten facility. The summary of this analysis is included in Table 43 in Appendix 5.

## Kindergarten Capacity

Current licensed capacity is negotiated with DEECD and is allocated as per regulations.

The current enrolment capacity is based on a model of 10 hours of kindergarten per week for each eligible child. Current models are usually based on a community accepted/preferred model which has been established historically within the community. The most common kindergarten model in Golden Plains is a group of children who attend 5 hours of kindergarten for 2 days per week.

The estimated enrolment capacity was determined for DEECD in April 2010 as part of the planning process to implement the Universal Access initiative (each eligible child to attend 15 hours of kindergarten per week starting in 2013). Golden Plains estimates were developed on assumptions based on current service models (e.g. kindergarten offered during weekdays only and with current hours of availability). If kindergarten was to be offered on a Saturday for example, then estimated enrolment capacity would change.

1. Rokewood Kindergarten (DEECD category D)
  - a. Current Licensed capacity = 18
  - b. Current enrolment capacity (10 hours kindergarten) = 36
  - c. Estimated enrolment capacity (15 hours kindergarten) = 24

**Table 15: Kindergarten capacity for Rokewood**

	Current Licensed capacity	Current enrolment capacity (10 hours kindergarten)	Estimated enrolment capacity (15 hours kindergarten)
Rokewood Kindergarten	18	Could operate 2 groups of 18.	Could operate 4 x 5 hr sessions, accommodating 4 groups of 6 children. Still room for Occasional Child Care.

Notes regarding Rokewood capacity

1. Rokewood kindergarten: There are current financial viability issues regarding the long term sustainability of kindergarten services which are provided in isolation from other early years services in the Rokewood area. Initial service development discussions support an integrated model for kindergarten and occasional care services (managed by Hesse Rural Health Service) in a viable model.

## **Summary of Early Years issues in the Central West (Rokewood)**

Current services:	A range of current services are provided, primarily based in Rokewood. There are no LDC or FDC services. Dereel has a Community facility; there is only 1 primary school in the area and one kindergarten (both located in Rokewood).
Population projections:	Population projections data indicate slight growth, with an overall increase in 0-5 year olds of 5.1% (2006-2018).
Births:	Historical data over last 3 years indicates an average of 12 births per year
Kindergarten enrolments:	Historical data over last 5 years indicates some fluctuation in kindergarten enrolments each year (range between 6 and 13). The average indicates 10 enrolments in the 4 year old kindergarten per year.
Kindergarten capacity:	Financial viability is an issue, with low numbers of enrolments in the 4 year old kindergarten program. There is an opportunity to review service provision in conjunction with Hesse Health Service (which manages the Occasional Child Care program).
Service provider feedback:	Service providers positive about multi service co-location models with extended hours of operation and modern facilities, including consulting rooms and group meeting rooms. Initial feedback indicates a service provider need for a mini-hub facility at Rokewood.
Community feedback:	Community feedback positive about using local facilities and being willing to travel between 10-20 minutes for services (including MCH, kindergarten or child care). Most important considerations were hours of operation, parking, modern facilities and multi-service providers.

## Recommendations (Central West)

### Rokewood

#### Infrastructure

1. Capital works funding is required - high level estimate approximately \$300,000 (following discussions with Golden Plains Shire Council Works Department). This will facilitate the reconfiguration of the facility to be able to integrate kindergarten and other early years services, including occasional care. The facility would be a multi-use facility with one room for early childhood programs (including kindergarten, playgroup and occasional care), a consulting room for health services (including MCH) and a flexible office area to be used by staff and volunteers. This facility is required to enable the provision of early childhood services in a flexible way which will allow services to be financially viable even when enrolment numbers are very low.

#### Service Provision

1. The Rokewood kindergarten currently has a license capacity for 18 children, and low enrolment numbers consistently raise issues regarding viability. Initial planning has commenced with an agreement between the Primary School, the kindergarten and Hesse Health Service.
2. Explore opportunities to provide access to Long Day Care in Rokewood.

### Other Small Towns (Central West)

Rural localities of Berringa, Berrybank (part), Corindhap, Cressy (part), Dereel, Durham Lead, Enfield, Garibaldi, Grenville, Happy Valley, Illabrook, Mannibadar, Mount Bute (part), Mount Mercer, Piggoreet, Pitfield, Pittong, Rokewood Junction, Springdallah, Staffordshire Reef, Wallinduc, Werneth and Willowvale.

The other small towns have small populations, which are sparsely populated. There may be a need for Playgroups to be developed in these areas, which will be supported through current staffing arrangements in the Child & Family Services area. There are no population centres to sustain other Early Years services locally.

### Priorities

1. Undertake feasibility study for an integrated Early Years facility in Rokewood.

## North West

North West is a predominantly rural area located in the northern part of the Shire. North West includes the small townships of Linton and Smythesdale and the rural localities of Cambrian Hill, Haddon, Napoleons, Newtown, Nintingbool, Ross Creek, Scarsdale and Smythes Creek.

### Current Early Years Services

Table 16 below indicates the range of current early years services provided in the North West planning area (Haddon, Linton, Napoleons, Ross Creek, Scarsdale, Smythesdale). If formal early years services are not provided in the town, then it has not been included in the table below (although it is recognised that residents may travel to other towns or that informal arrangements may be in place e.g. playgroup). A range of early years services are provided, through a number of independent services.

All towns have a Primary School, and 5 of the 7 towns have a Playgroup. Two kindergartens are operational, both of which provide 3 and 4 year old kindergarten. Woody Yaloak (Scarsdale) is operated by an independent Committee of Management, and provides a 3 year old transition program during Term 4 only. Haddon Kindergarten is operated through the Eureka Community Kindergarten Association Inc (ECKA). MCH services are available in Linton, Haddon and Smythesdale, with an outreach home visit service in Napoleons. The Smythesdale service has been operating since 2009, when the Smythesdale facility was opened. There are no FDC or ECIS services available in the North West part of the Shire.

**Table 16: Current Early Years Service Description (North West)**

Service	Haddon	Linton	Napoleons	Scarsdale	Smythesdale	Ross Creek
Kindergarten**	✓			✓		
DEECD Universal Access Category	D			B		
Neighbourhood House/Community Centre	✓				✓	
Primary School*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
MCH	✓	✓	✓*		✓	
Long Day Care						
Occasional Child Care						
Family Day Care						
Playgroup	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Early Childhood Intervention Services						
3 year old kindergarten groups	✓					
Community Health/Family Services	✓				✓	

Source: MEYP and DEECD reports

\*Woody Yaloak Primary School has 4 campuses: Scarsdale, Smythesdale, Ross Creek and Snake Valley. ✓\* MCH home visits available by appointment

Proximity to other services: Ballarat is the closest regional centre, located approximately 15-20 minutes away when travelling by car. There is limited public transport available.

## Population Projections

Table 17 below presents a summary of population projections by age for the North West (Haddon, Linton, Napoleons, Ross Creek, Scarsdale, Smythesdale) planning area. This indicates that there is expected to be a slight increase (5.1%) in the percentage of children across North West planning area aged 0-5 years between 2006 and 2018. As the number of children in this age group is relatively small, this percentage increase equates to approximately 7 children only.



**Table 17: Population projections by age and planning district – North West (Haddon, Linton, Napoleons, Ross Creek, Scarsdale, Smythesdale)**

Age (yrs)	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	% change '06-'18
0	71	64	64	64	64	65	65	66	67	69	69	70	71	0.0%
1	78	75	68	69	69	69	71	71	73	73	75	75	77	-1.3%
2	85	82	79	73	74	74	75	76	78	78	80	80	82	-3.5%
3	85	88	85	82	77	78	79	80	82	82	84	84	86	1.2%
4	86	88	90	87	85	80	83	83	85	85	87	88	89	8.7%
5	85	89	90	93	90	89	85	87	88	88	90	91	92	8.3%
Total	490	486	476	468	459	455	458	463	473	475	485	488	497	5.1%

Source: Golden Plains forecast id data

Table 18 below presents a summary of key data for the North West, based on the existing Early Years Infrastructure located Haddon, Linton, Smythesdale, Scarsdale, Napoleons and Ross Creek. Details of this data are included in Appendix 5 (Tables 44 and 45).

**Table 18: Summary of enrolment data across selected services (North West)**

	Haddon <sup>1</sup>			Linton			Napoleons			Scarsdale <sup>2</sup>			Smythesdale			Ross Creek		
	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11
Birth Notifications	54	32	24**	14	7	4**	17	19	24**				4	42	24**			
Playgroup			8	11	17				12					12				
Occasional Care		20	8															
Total 4 yr old Kindergarten Enrolments <sup>^</sup>	27	28	36							25	30	22						
Total Primary School Enrolments <sup>#</sup>	216	217	204	25	18	28	111	112	115		334 ***	310***		334 ***	310***		334 ***	310***

\*Details of kindergarten enrolments and residence for each year are included in Table 45 in Appendix 5

<sup>^</sup> Haddon kindergarten enrolments represent Golden Plains Shire enrolments only. Numbers are higher when Ballarat enrolments are included.

\*\*Estimate based on data to March (see Table 45 in Appendix 5 for detailed data)

\*\*\* Woody Yaloak Primary School has campuses at Smythesdale, Ross Creek, Scarsdale and Snake Valley. Enrolment data is represents all 4 campuses

<sup>#</sup>Source: Golden Plains enrolment data

<sup>1</sup>Includes enrolments from Haddon, Carngham, Bunkers Hill, Hillcrest, Piggoreet, Smythes Creek (50% allocation based on historical data, other 50% to Ballarat – attending Sebastopol and Delacombe kindergartens)

<sup>2</sup>Includes enrolments from Scarsdale, Berringa, Snake Valley, Cape Clear

When reviewing demand across the Early Years services, there is a steady number of births across the three years. Smythesdale commenced Maternal and Child Health Services in July 2009, and this has had an impact on the number of notifications for Haddon and Linton, however, overall birth notifications remains steady.

An additional level of analysis was undertaken to determine where children travelled to attend 4 year old kindergarten when they resided in small towns with no kindergarten facility (but did have a primary school). Within the North West planning area, this additional analysis was completed for children residing in Napoleons, Linton, Smythesdale and Ross Creek who attended 4 year old kindergarten in 2009, 2010 or 2011.

The kindergarten enrolment data presented in Table 19 below indicates that it would be viable to establish a new kindergarten facility in Napoleons. A group size of 21 kindergarten enrolments is required to provide a financially viable service. When reviewing the number of enrolments from children based in Napoleons and surrounds, this has been achieved in the last 2 years. Estimates for enrolments are based on historical data, which includes enrolments from Napoleons, Enfield, Durham Lead, Garibaldi, Grenville, Mt Mercer, Dereel, and Cambrian Hill. A conservative estimate was used, with 50% of enrolments expected to continue to attend Ballarat based kindergartens (Smythes Creek and Cambrian Hill data).

**Table 19: Kindergarten enrolments (4 yr old) by place of residence (Napoleons, Linton, Smythesdale, Ross Creek)**

	Total			Haddon			Delacombe			Sebas, Sebas Sth, Sebas W			Buninyong, Mt Clear			Woody Yaloak		
	09	10	11	09	10	11	09	10	11	09	10	11	09	10	11	09	10	11
Linton <sup>1</sup> 4 yr old	7	9	6	1								1				6	9	5
Napoleons <sup>2</sup> 4 yr old	17	26	34					1		7	7	1	10	18	33			
Smy'dale <sup>3</sup> 4 yr old	10	9	11	3	1	5		1			1	1				7	6	5
Ross Creek <sup>4</sup> 4 yr old	15	12	8		5	1	2	1	1	13	2	4		1	2		3	

<sup>1</sup>Includes enrolments from Linton

<sup>2</sup>Includes enrolments from Napoleons, Enfield, Durham Lead, Garibaldi, Grenville, Mt Mercer, Dereel, Cambrian Hill (50% allocation based on historical data, other 50% to Ballarat – Sebastopol and Delacombe kindergartens)

<sup>3</sup>Includes enrolments from Smythesdale

<sup>4</sup>Includes enrolments from Ross Creek

Consideration was also given to the establishment of a new kindergarten facility in Ross Creek. The numbers of kindergarten enrolments presented in Table 19 are between 9 and 15 from Ross Creek over the last 3 years. If Smythesdale kindergarten enrolments are included, then this increases to between 19 and 25 over the last 3 years. Consistent with Napoleons, this indicates that it is possible to establish a financially viable service in Ross Creek/Smythesdale. However, it is also important to consider the impact on enrolments in the existing services based at

Haddon and Scarsdale. It is anticipated that these two services (particularly Scarsdale) may experience financial viability difficulties due to lower enrolments if a new facility was established at Ross Creek/Smythesdale. More specifically, if Ross Creek/Smythesdale enrolments were removed from the Scarsdale kindergarten, it would have been financially viable (based on 21 enrolments) in only 1 of the last 3 years (2010). Haddon kindergarten would be expected to remain viable even with lower enrolments (due to enrolments from Ballarat).

## **Kindergarten Capacity**

Current licensed capacity is negotiated with DEECD and is allocated as per regulations.

The current enrolment capacity is based on a model of 10 hours of kindergarten per week for each eligible child. Current models are usually based on a community accepted/preferred model which has been established historically within the community. The most common kindergarten model in Golden Plains is a group of children who attend 5 hours of kindergarten for 2 days per week.

The estimated enrolment capacity was determined for DEECD in April 2010 as part of the planning process to implement the Universal Access initiative (each eligible child to attend 15 hours of kindergarten per week starting in 2013). Golden Plains estimates were developed on assumptions based on current service models (e.g. kindergarten offered during weekdays only and with current hours of availability). If kindergarten was to be offered on a Saturday for example, then estimated enrolment capacity would change.

1. Haddon Kindergarten (DEECD category D)
  - a. Current Licensed capacity = 29
  - b. Current enrolment capacity (10 hours kindergarten) = 52
  - c. Estimated enrolment capacity (15 hours kindergarten) = 36
2. Woody Yaloak Kindergarten (DEECD category B)
  - a. Current Licensed capacity = 27
  - b. Current enrolment capacity (10 hours kindergarten) = 36
  - c. Estimated enrolment capacity (15 hours kindergarten) = 36
3. Haddon & District Community House (DEECD category D)
  - a. Current Licensed capacity = 15 (not operational for kindergarten)
  - b. Current enrolment capacity (10 hours kindergarten) = 0
  - c. Estimated enrolment capacity (15 hours kindergarten) = 0

**Table 20: Kindergarten capacity for Woody Yaloak and Haddon**

	Current Licensed capacity	Current enrolment capacity (10 hours kindergarten)	Estimated enrolment capacity (15 hours kindergarten)
Woody Yaloak kindergarten	27	Rotating group - 4 groups of 9 children.	Rotating group - 4 groups of 9 children.
Haddon kindergarten	29	Current practice is max of 26 children per group, so could offer 10 hrs to 52 children without changing practice. Currently offer 15 hours to families who want it - would not be able to do this if they had 52 enrolments.	Need to retain 3yo group. Without significant change, could offer 4 sessions with 27 children in each session. Can accommodate 4 groups of nine children = 36.

Notes regarding Haddon capacity

1. Haddon & District Community House: Occasional Care services were offered through the Haddon & District Community House until late 2010. The service was reviewed (see notes below) and a new arrangement was made with ECKA to provide a 3 year old kindergarten service based at this facility. There are no 4 year old kindergarten programs being run through this facility.
2. Haddon Kindergarten: There are expected to be physical capacity limitations for the Haddon kindergarten when 15 hours of kindergarten is introduced. ECKA is the cluster manager and is currently seeking additional funds for capital works to add an extra room to the existing facility. This situation has been addressed in the short term through the 3 year old kindergarten program being relocated to the Haddon & District Community House.

### **Community Consultation data (Haddon)**

Community consultations were invited through a number of processes, described in the methodology section above. A focus group was conducted with the existing Haddon community working group in November 2010. In addition, the Haddon & District Community House completed a survey on future childcare needs in October 2010. Some comments from the online survey also related specifically to services located in Haddon. This section summarises the information collected during this process, and applies primarily to the Haddon area.

Not using local services: when asked about children in the community who are not using local Early Years services, community members were aware of individuals not accessing services locally. Some issues included accessing school or childcare services in Ballarat, particularly as there is no secondary school in the Shire. Some families have reported a preference to access services which are not local.

Table 21 below provides information regarding the importance of specific factors in the decision to use local services. Focus group participants were asked to rank these individually, and then collectively as a group. When ranking the importance of each factor as an individual, the majority indicated that the most important factor was a multi service co-location model, and the least important factor was access by public transport. When these results were discussed as a group, the highest rank was for facilities, including availability and access to parking. This was followed by consideration of price/cost of services, and the third consideration was services for siblings.

**Table 21: Importance of factors in decision to use local services**

	Rank #1	Rank #7
Multi service co-location	3	
Stand alone/independent service		
Access by public transport		3
Parking		
Hours of operation	1	
Modern facilities	1	
Council to be licensee/operator		2

Rank # 1 indicates highest importance, and rank #7 indicates lowest importance

Use of local services: when asked about how to support families using local services, there was support for links between school, occasional care and kindergarten services that were coordinated, which would support flexibility for families. This included support for the operation of Occasional Care and 3 year old kindergarten services to be operating at the same time. Families were prepared to travel to Ballarat if it was coordinated with a work schedule, and would access child care closer to their workplace. There was also an issue with the lack of Family Day Care or after school care programs available locally.

The lack of after school care at Haddon was also raised in the online survey consultation process. There was a specific comment in the online survey to support the retention of the MCH service at Linton. There was support for retaining existing services locally, including the Linton Playgroup. Online survey respondents also indicated that communication strategies needed to be multi-faceted to be effective, as many potential service users were unaware of the availability of childcare locally. Other service users were located outside newsletter circulation areas, and were getting information from different sources.

Communication: General discussion regarding communication with the community about services indicated a range of strategies should be put in place. These included:

- Local newsletters (Woody Yaloak Herald)
- Notices on school notice boards, shops, MCH service
- School newsletters
- Website, Council and local services (e.g. Haddon & District Community House)
- Council media release
- Council newsletter (go to every household)

## Haddon and District Community House Survey on Future Childcare Needs (October 2010)

A working group was established by the Haddon and District Community House to survey potential demand regarding childcare needs. The survey was circulated to local schools, preschool, community house, childcare and the MCH service. A total of 37 responses were received. Selected observations are summarised below:

- There was an equal demand across the half day and full day options although some clarification may be needed (as Occasional Care is only 5 hours for a full day). There were also some indicators of a need for short term care.
- There appeared to be a greater demand for Thursdays (which was the greatest use day when the service was operating).
- The numbers indicated that some parents would like to see continuous care. Historically the HDCH numbers are lower in school holidays.
- It appeared that some people would like the option of childcare during the school holidays but on an occasional basis.
- The greatest numbers of children were in the 3-6 years age group and there were also quite a number in the 0-2 year age group.

## Summary of Early Years issues in the North West

Current services:	A range of current services are provided across a number of locations, with the exception of child care. There is no Occasional Child Care, FDC or LDC, although ECKA have just commenced a 3 year old program in Haddon (started 2011). Primary Schools are located in 6 towns, and kindergartens in 2 towns. There is a Community Centre in Haddon and Smythesdale (opened July 2009).
Population projections:	Population projections data indicate steady growth, with an increase of 5.1% for the 0-5 year age group (2006 to 2018)
Births:	Historical data over last 3 years indicates an average of 92 births per year
Kindergarten enrolments:	Historical data over the last 2 years indicates an average of 93 children from Golden Plains enrol in kindergarten each year. These kindergartens are based in Golden Plains and Ballarat.
Kindergarten capacity:	Physical capacity limitations will occur with introduction of 15 hours of kinder at the Haddon kindergarten. ECKA provides the cluster management and is currently seeking additional capital funds for an extra room to be added to the current facility.
Service provider feedback:	Service providers positive about multi service co-location models with extended hours of operation and modern facilities, including consulting rooms and group meeting rooms. There is support from service providers to use a "mini-hub" facility in Haddon.

Community feedback:

Community feedback was positive about using local facilities and being willing to travel between 10-20 minutes for services (including MCH, kindergarten or child care). Most important considerations were hours of operation, parking, modern facilities and multi-service providers. There was specific support for the continuation of Playgroup and MCH services to be based at Linton, and for the availability of child care, including after school care, in Haddon.



## Recommendations (North West)

### Scarsdale (Woody Yaloak)

#### Infrastructure

1. No recommendations made for additional Early Years infrastructure.
2. Support minor works applications as required.

#### Service Provision

1. The Woody Yaloak kindergarten is currently able to meet expected demand for early years services.
2. Explore opportunities to provide access to Occasional Child Care or Family Day Care in Scarsdale.
3. Support the opportunity to develop closer planning links with the Woody Yaloak Kindergarten.

### Linton

#### Infrastructure

1. No recommendations made for additional Early Years infrastructure
2. Support minor works applications as required.

#### Service Provision

1. Explore opportunities to co-locate Maternal and Child Health Services and the Playgroup to the Linton Primary School.

### Napoleons

#### Infrastructure

1. Capital works funding is required - initial cost estimate is approximately \$800,000 (following discussions with Golden Plains Shire Council Works Department). This estimate is based on the establishment of a new facility. This facility would be a multi-use facility with one room for early childhood programs (including kindergarten, playgroup and occasional care), a consulting room for health services (including MCH), a foyer and a flexible office area to be used by staff and volunteers.
2. Undertake a feasibility study to formally consider capital works options.

#### Service Provision

1. Consider workforce implications (including ability to recruit staff) in establishing facilities and services

## **Haddon**

### **Infrastructure**

1. Capital works funding is expected to be required for the redevelopment of the Haddon Kindergarten only – high level estimate approximately \$190,000. This includes approximately \$150,000 for capital works and \$40,000 for upgrade to outdoor areas. The current kindergarten facility is able to provide universal access to all eligible children if the number of enrolments is less than 27. ECKA has completed preliminary work that indicates that capital works are required to implement universal access if enrolments exceed 27.

### **Service Provision**

1. Provide ongoing support as required with ECKA to support 3 year old kindergarten programs at the Haddon & District Community House.
2. The opportunity to develop closer planning links with the Haddon Kindergarten and ECKA has been identified.

## **Ross Creek/Smythesdale**

### **Infrastructure**

1. No recommendations made for additional Early Years infrastructure.

### **Service Provision**

1. Recommendation that demand for kindergarten services is reviewed in 2016.

## **Other Small Towns (North West)**

Rural localities of Cambrian Hill, Newtown, Nintingbool and Smythes Creek.

The other small towns have small populations, which are sparsely populated. There may be a need for Playgroups to be developed in these areas, which will be supported through current staffing arrangements in the Child & Family Services area. There are no population centres to sustain other Early Years services locally.

### **Priorities**

1. Undertake feasibility study for new Early Years facility in Napoleons.
2. Review demand for Early Years services (including kindergarten) in Ross Creek/Smythesdale in 2016.

## Summary of key recommendations for infrastructure in each planning area

### South East

#### Bannockburn

1. Capital works funding is expected to be required at the BFSC - initial cost estimate is approximately \$800,000 (following discussions with Golden Plains Shire Council Works Department). This will facilitate the integration of the service and create additional capacity through additional room(s).
2. Support discussions between services at BFSC and the Primary School to explore the possibility of collocating kindergarten services with the school. This will create additional kindergarten capacity and therefore provide additional capacity at BFSC for LDC. Estimate of costs for a new facility is \$1.5M
3. Undertake a feasibility study to formally consider capital works options.

### Central East

#### Meredith

1. Capital works funding is required - initial cost estimate is approximately \$1,500,000 (following discussions with Golden Plains Shire Council Works Department). This estimate is based on the establishment of a new facility.
2. Undertake a feasibility study to formally consider capital works options.

### Central West

#### Rokewood

1. Capital works funding is required - initial cost estimate is approximately \$300,000 (following discussions with Golden Plains Shire Council Works Department). This will facilitate the reconfiguration of the facility to be able to integrate kindergarten and other early years services, including occasional care. The facility would be a multi-use facility with one room for early childhood programs (including kindergarten, playgroup and occasional care), a consulting room for health services (including MCH) and a flexible office area to be used by staff and volunteers. This facility is required to enable the provision of early childhood services in a flexible way which will allow services to be financially viable even when enrolment numbers are very low.

## **North West**

### **Napoleons**

1. Capital works funding is required - initial cost estimate is approximately \$800,000 (following discussions with Golden Plains Shire Council Works Department). This estimate is based on the establishment of a new facility. This facility would be a multi-use facility with one room for early childhood programs (including kindergarten, playgroup and occasional care), a consulting room for health services (including MCH), a foyer and a flexible office area to be used by staff and volunteers.
2. Undertake a feasibility study to formally consider capital works options

## Appendix 1: Community and Service Provider Consultation Questions

### Community focus group consultation questions

The following questions were developed for the community focus groups:

1. Are there children in this community who are not using local Early Years services? Do you know where they are going and why? (e.g. home schooling or Catholic/Private school?, attending other services in Ballarat/Geelong)
2. When you think about using local services, how important are the following considerations? (Can be ranked as a group if possible)
  - a. Location/proximity to home
  - b. Multi service co-location or stand alone/independent service
  - c. Access by public transport
  - d. Parking
  - e. Hours of operation
  - f. Modern facilities
  - g. Council to be the licensee/operator
3. Looking at the matrix attached, what is the best Early Years Infrastructure model to meet the needs of the community? Why?
  - a. How far are people prepared to travel? And for which particular service? (e.g. ECIS)
4. What is the best way to inform people in this community about Early Years services (including changes and updates to 15 hours of kindergarten)?

### Service Provider online consultation questions

The following questions were used as the basis for the survey:

1. Are there children in this community who are not using local Early Years services? Do you know where they are going and why? (e.g. home schooling or Catholic/Private school?, attending other services in Ballarat/Geelong)
2. How important are the following considerations for you as a service provider?
  - a. Multi service co-location or stand alone/independent service
  - b. Hours of operation
  - c. Modern facilities
  - d. Council to be the licensee/operator
3. How important are the following considerations for your clients?
  - a. Location/proximity to home
  - b. Multi service co-location or stand alone/independent service
  - c. Access by public transport
  - d. Parking
  - e. Hours of operation
  - f. Modern facilities
  - g. Council to be the licensee/operator

4. What is the best way to inform people in this community about Early Years services (including changes and updates to 15 hours of kindergarten)?
5. Preliminary planning indicates that “mini-hubs” could be developed, as well as further development of the existing larger “hub” at Bannockburn
  - a. If these “mini hubs” were developed within the Shire, would you be interested in using the facilities at these locations? Please indicate where you might use these facilities
    - i. Rokewood
    - ii. Meredith
    - iii. Napoleons/Ross Creek
    - iv. Haddon
  - b. Which of the following facilities would you be interested in using?
    - i. Consulting rooms
    - ii. Community/group meeting rooms
    - iii. Shared professional facilities

## Appendix 2: Population Data and Projections

**Table 22: Population projections by age – Golden Plains LGA**

Age yrs	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	% change '06-'18
0	213	196	198	203	204	207	211	215	219	227	229	233	239	12.2%
1	218	224	209	211	216	218	223	226	233	236	243	245	251	15.1%
2	240	230	238	223	226	231	234	239	245	248	255	257	265	10.4%
3	237	250	245	249	239	241	249	251	258	261	266	272	278	17.3%
4	258	249	263	255	262	252	258	263	267	273	279	282	289	12.0%
5	271	268	260	272	268	274	266	271	277	281	289	293	298	10.0%
Tot	1437	1417	1413	1413	1415	1423	1441	1465	1499	1526	1561	1582	1620	12.7%

Source: Golden Plains forecast id data

**Table 23: Population projections (0-4 years) Golden Plains by SLA**

	North-West	South-East	Total
2006	477	688	1165
2011	479	670	1149
2016	468	697	1165
2021	456	704	1160
2026	468	759	1227
% change 2006-2026	-1.9%	10.3%	5.3%

Source: Victoria in Future 2008, Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development

**Table 24: Population projections (5-9 years) Golden Plains by SLA**

	North-West	South-East	Total
2006	590	802	1392
2011	595	911	1506
2016	601	913	1514
2021	587	951	1538
2026	575	970	1545
% change 2006-2026	-2.5%	20.9%	11.0%

Source: Victoria in Future 2008, Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development

## Appendix 3: Specific data from Community Consultation processes

**Table 25: Importance of factors in decision to use local services**

	Not important at all	Not very important	Somewhat important	Very Important
Multi service co-location	1	0	8	9
Stand alone/independent service	2	6	7	3
Access by public transport	2	5	4	7
Parking	0	0	5	13
Hours of operation	0	0	4	14
Modern facilities	1	0	8	9
Council to be licensee/operator	1	5	7	5

**Table 26: Responses received regarding potential use of “mini hubs”**

- Bannockburn (n=5)
- Napoleons/Ross Creek (n=3)
- Teesdale (n=3)
- Haddon (n=3)
- Lethbridge (n=2)
- Meredith (n=1)
- Linton (n=1)
- Inverleigh (n=1)
- Rokewood (n=0)

**Table 27: Willingness to travel**

- Between 10 and 20 minutes (n=8)
- Less than 10 minutes (n=4)
- Less than 10 kilometres (n=5)
- Between 10 and 15 kilometres (n=3)

**Table 28: Which services are people prepared to travel for?**

- Kindergarten (n=7)
- Maternal & Child Health (n=5)
- Childcare (n=4)
- Sporting/recreation (including gymbaroo) (n=3)
- After school care (n=1)
- General Practitioner (n=1)
- Playgroup (n=1)



**Table 29: Best way to inform people about early years services**

- Local newsletters (Bannockburn, Miner) (n=8)
- Maternal & Child Health (n=6)
- School/Kindergartens/child care/Family Day Care (n=6)
- Letter drop/posters/flyers (n=4)
- Playgroups (n=3)
- Shire newsletter (Gazette) (n=3)
- Email (n=3)
- Farmers market (n=1)
- Council website (n=1)

## Appendix 4: Specific data from service provider consultation processes

**Table 30: Importance of factors in decision to use local services (service provider perspective)**

	Not important at all	Not very important	Somewhat important	Very Important	Did not answer
Multi service co-location	1	0	5	11	1
Stand alone/independent service	4	5	5	3	1
Hours of operation	0	0	2	15	1
Modern facilities	0	3	3	11	1
Council to be licensee/operator	2	3	4	8	1

**Table 31: Importance of factors in decision to use local services (client perspective)**

	Not important at all	Not very important	Somewhat important	Very Important	Did not answer
Location/proximity to home	0	0	4	13	1
Multi service co-location	0	2	5	10	1
Stand alone/independent service	1	9	6	1	1
Access by public transport	2	6	8	1	1
Parking	0	2	7	8	1
Hours of operation	0	0	3	14	1
Council to be licensee/operator	0	6	3	8	1

**Table 32: Service Provider indicative use of “mini hubs” and locations**

- Rokewood (yes=4, no=14)
- Meredith (yes=4, no=14)
- Haddon (yes =5, no=13)
- Napoleons/Ross Creek (yes =2, no=16)

**Table 33: Service Provider indicative use of “mini hubs” and facilities**

- Consulting rooms (yes=8, no=10)
- Community/group meeting rooms (yes=10, no=8)
- Shared professional facilities (yes=9, no=9)
- “Other” included play space, playgroup space, education courses

**Table 34: Service Provider recommendations to inform people in the community**

- Local newsletters (Linton News, Leigh News, free local papers) (n=13)
- MCH/kindergartens/childcare/playgroups (n=5)
- Flyers/posters (Information at local businesses/services (e.g. post offices, take away places, general stores, community boards) (n=4)
- Written information sent through the mail (n=2)
- Community consultations (n=1)
- Websites (n=1)

## Appendix 5: Detailed early years data

### South East

#### Birth Notifications data

**Table 35: Birth Notifications by Centre January 2008 to March 2011 (Bannockburn)**

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Jan	13	8	4	11
Feb	6	9	9	3
Mar	13	8	7	10
Apr	3	4	4	
May	8	9	4	
June	3	8	7	
July	8	7	3	
Aug	9	7	3	
Sept	3	3	5	
Oct	2	11	5	
Nov	1	9	4	
Dec	7	7	4	
Total	76	90	59	24

Source: Golden Plains birth notifications data by Centre

## Kindergarten Enrolment data

**Table 36: Kindergarten enrolments 2007-2010 for 3 and 4 year old groups (Bannockburn\*) by place of residence**

Town	Total 3yo	Total 4yo	Golden Plains LGA?	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
				3yo	4yo	3yo	4yo	3yo	4yo	3yo	4yo	3yo	4yo
Anakie (part)	3	3	✓	2		1	2		1				
Bannockburn	129	282	✓	29	52	29	46	25	70	29	55	17	59
Batesford	4	6	✓			2		1	2	1	3		1
Corio	2	1			1			2					
Gheringhap	4	1	✓					2		1	1	1	
Hamlyn Heights	0	2			1		1						
Inverleigh	3	4	✓			1	1		1	1	1	1	1
Jan Juc	0	1									1		
Lara	2	3						1		1	2		1
Leopold	2	1						1			1	1	
Lethbridge	15	36	✓	3	11	2	8	5	5	3	8	2	4
Lovely Banks	1	1							1	1			
Maude	6	16	✓	2	3	2	2	2	5		2		4
Meredith	2	2	✓			1			1	1	1		
Murgheboluc	3	4	✓		2	3			2				
Norlane	0	1									1		
Russells Bridge	0	2	✓		1				1				
Steiglitz	0	4	✓						1		2		1
Shelford	1	0	✓									1	
Sheoaks	3	3	✓	2			2	1			1		
Stonehaven	2	2	✓	1	1	1							1
Sutherlands Creek	1	3	✓	1	1		1				1		
Teesdale	3	10	✓	2			3		2	1	3		2
Torquay	1	0								1			
Waurm Ponds	1	0										1	
Wingeel	0	1	✓								1		
Wyndhamvale	0	1					1						
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>392</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>74</b>

Source: Golden Plains kindergarten enrolment data

\*Data includes enrolments at Bannockburn Kindergarten and Bannockburn LDC Kindergarten program

**Central East****Birth Notifications data****Table 37: Birth Notifications by Centre July 2008 to March 2011 (Meredith, Inverleigh, Teesdale)**

	Meredith				Inverleigh				Teesdale			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
Jan	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	3
Feb	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	1
Mar	1	2	0	1	2	2	1	2	3	1	3	2
Apr	2	0	2		1	2	0		1	1	1	
May	1	5	1		1	1	1		3	2	1	
June	3	0	1		1	0	3		2	2	3	
July	2	4	1		1	0	0		2	0	1	
Aug	0	3	3		0	0	0		2	1	3	
Sept	0	0	3		3	0	2		2	2	2	
Oct	1	3	1		2	1	0		0	0	1	
Nov	2	0	0		2	2	1		1	3	0	
Dec	1	1	0		0	3	1		1	2	0	
Total	13	20	13	2	14	13	10	2	24	14	16	6

Source: Golden Plains birth notifications data by Centre

**Kindergarten Enrolment data****Table 38: Kindergarten enrolments 2007-2010 for 3 and 4 year old groups (Meredith) by place of residence**

Town	Total 3yo	Total 4yo	GPlains LGA?	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
				3yo	4yo	3yo	4yo	3yo	4yo	3yo	4yo	3yo	4yo
Anakie (part)	3	11	✓		1		1	2	1	1	4		4
Balliang	1	1				1	1						
Bannockburn	0	1	✓		1								
Ballan	0	1											1
Bamganie	0	2	✓		2								
Beremboke	0	1	✓		1								
Elaine	3	5		1	1	1	2	1	1		1		
Lethbridge	7	8	✓	1	2		2	2		2	2	2	2
Maude	1	0	✓							1			
Meredith	42	59	✓	6	9	8	14	7	12	13	10	8	14
Morrison's	7	11	✓	1	4	2	1	1	2	3	1		3
Mt Doran	0	1							1				
Sheoaks	0	3	✓		1				1		1		
Staughton Vale	0	1			1								
Steiglitz	0	1	✓		1								
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>106</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>24</b>

Source: Golden Plains kindergarten enrolment data

**Table 39: Kindergarten enrolments 2007-2010 for 3 and 4 year olds (Inverleigh) by place of residence**

Town	Total 3yo	Total 4yo	G Plains LGA?	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
				3yo	4yo	3yo	4yo	3yo	4yo	3yo	4yo	3yo	4yo
Bannockburn	3	2	✓	1							1	2	1
Belmont	0	1											1
Inverleigh	61	76	✓	13	10	15	16	11	22	14	14	8	14
Gnarwarre	1	0						1					
Lethbridge	0	1	✓						1				
Murgheboluc	1	2	✓		1				1			1	
Shelford	0	1	✓						1				
Sutherland Creek	0	1	✓										1
Wensleydale	0	1											1
Werneth	1	0	✓					1					
Winchelsea	2	4						1			2	1	2
Wingeel	0	1	✓		1								
Total	69	90		14	12	15	16	14	25	14	17	12	20

Source: Golden Plains kindergarten enrolment data



**Table 40: Kindergarten enrolments 2007-2010 for 3 and 4 year olds (Teesdale) by place of residence**

Town	Total 3yo	Total 4yo	G Plains LGA?	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
				3yo	4yo	3yo	4yo	3yo	4yo	3yo	4yo	3yo	4yo
Bamganie	1	2	✓			1			1		1		
Bannockburn	5	9	✓	2	1		3	1	2	2	1		2
Batesford (part)	0	1	✓								1		
Bell Post Hill	1	0				1							
Dereel	0	1											1
Lethbridge	15	19	✓	2	1	4	5	4	4	3	3	2	6
Maude	0	1											1
Meredith	0	3	✓								2		1
Newcomb	1	0										1	
Rokewood	3	1	✓			1		1			1	1	
Russells Bridge	0	1	✓		1								
Shelford	9	8	✓		2	2		1	4	2		4	2
Stonehaven	0	0	✓										
Teesdale	73	100	✓	15	20	17	19	14	24	14	19	13	18
Total	108	146		19	25	26	27	21	35	21	28	21	31

Source: Golden Plains kindergarten enrolment data

## Central West

### Birth Notifications Data

**Table 41: Birth Notifications by July 2008 to March 2011 (Rokewood Centre)**

	2008	2009	2010	2011
Jan	0	4	1	2
Feb	0	1	1	1
Mar	0	4	1	0
Apr	0	0	2	
May	0	1	1	
June	2	2	1	
July	0	1	2	
Aug	0	1	1	
Sept	2	0	2	
Oct	0	0	0	
Nov	1	1	1	
Dec	1	0	1	
Total	6	15	14	3

Source: Golden Plains birth notifications data by Centre

## Kindergarten Enrolment Data

**Table 42: Kindergarten enrolments 2007-2010 for 3 and 4 year olds (Rokewood) by place of residence**

Town	Total 3yo	Total 4yo	G Plains LGA?	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
				3yo	4yo	3yo	4yo	3yo	4yo	3yo	4yo	3yo	4yo
Bannockburn	1	1	✓							1			1
Barunah Park	0	1	✓										1
Cape Clear	2	2	✓							2			2
Corindhap	5	10	✓	2	2	1	5	1	1	1	1		1
Cressy (part)	1	1	✓					1			1		
Dereel	1	8	✓	1	2		2		1		1		2
Enfield	2	1	✓					1		1			1
Illabarook	1	2	✓			1			1				1
Mannibadar	0	2	✓		1		1						
Rokewood	14	22	✓	4	5	2	5	3	2	5	4		6
Werneth	0	3	✓						1		2		
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>53</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>

Source: Golden Plains kindergarten enrolment data

**Table 43: Kindergarten enrolments (4 year old) data by place of residence: Central West small towns**

	Total	Woody Yaloak			Rokewood			Sebas			Sebas Sth			Buninyong			Sebas West		
		'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11
Berringa	1	1																	
Cape Clear	3			1			2												
Corindhap	3				1	1	1												
Dereel	11				1	1	2	1	1	1		1	1	1	1				
Durham Lead	14													2	3	9			
Enfield	11						1				1			2	2	2	1	1	1
Garibaldi	11													1	6	4			
Rokewood	12				2	4	6												
Illabarook	2				1		1												
Werneth	3				1	2													
Cressy	1					1													
Barunah Park	1						1												
Bannockburn	1						1												
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

Source: Golden Plains kindergarten enrolment data (Rokewood) with Buninyong and ECKA kindergarten enrolment data

## North West

### Birth Notifications Data

**Table 44: Birth Notifications by Centre July 2008 to March 2011 (North West)**

	Haddon				Smythesdale*			Linton				Napoleons**			
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011
Jan	6	4	3	3		9	1	2	3	1	1	0	6	1	1
Feb	5	3	4	2		5	4	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	1
Mar	9	7	1	1		4	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	4
Apr	10	8	3			3		1	2	0		1	0	0	
May	3	5	3			3		1	0	1		1	0	3	
June	6	3	3			0		2	0	0		1	1	1	
July	6	9	2		0	5		1	1	1		1	0	1	
Aug	5	2	4		0	6		0	2	2		2	2	1	
Sept	3	5	1		1	2		0	2	0		1	2	2	
Oct	6	3	4		1	1		1	2	0		2	1	3	
Nov	4	1	3		0	3		0	0	1		2	0	2	
Dec	5	4	1		2	1		0	0	1		3	4	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6</b>

Source: Golden Plains birth notifications data by Centre

\*Smythesdale data commenced in July 2009 only

\*\*Napoleons data is based on a home visiting service which is available by appointment

## Kindergarten Enrolment Data

**Table 45: Kindergarten enrolment data by place of residence: Woody Yaloak, Haddon and City of Ballarat Kindergartens 2009-2011**

	Total	G Plains LGA?	Haddon*			Delacombe			Sebas			Sebas Sth			Sebas West			Mt Clear			Buninyong**			Woody Yaloak		
			'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11	'09	'10	'11
Ross Creek	35	✓		5	1	2	1	1		1		8	1	2	5		2					1	2		3	
Smythes Creek	46	✓	6	4	8	9	4	4					2	2	1	2	4									
Scarsdale	26	✓					1				1													7	9	8
Smythesdale	30	✓	3	1	5		1			1							1							7	6	5
Linton	22	✓	1								1													6	9	5
Berringa	1	✓			1																			1		
Piggoreet	1	✓																						1		
Haddon	54	✓	14	14	23						1														2	
Snake Valley	6																							3		3
Brown Hill	1																							1		
Carngham	4		2	1	1																					
Bunkers Hill	7		3	1	1		1																		1	
Dereel	5	✓							1	1			1								1	1				
Cambrian Hill	3	✓					1						1							1						
Napoleons	29	✓							1			1	2	1	2	1			2	1	4	5	9			
Enfield	9	✓										1			1	1					2	2	2			
Hillcrest	3			2	1																					
Durham Lead	14	✓																			2	3	9			
Garibaldi	11	✓																			1	6	4			
Grenville	5	✓																					5			
Mt Mercer	2	✓																					2			
Cape Clear	1	✓																								1
<b>Total</b>	<b>315</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>22</b>

Source: Golden Plains kindergarten enrolment data

\*Haddon enrolments are only for Golden Plains residents, not all enrolments

\*\* Enrolments data (June 2011) indicate 28 enrolments for 2012 and 10 enrolments for 2013 from Golden Plains (both with similar distribution from small townships)