

# Early Years Development

## Why is it important?

The foundations of adult health are laid during the early childhood period (0–5 years). Physical, social, emotional and language/cognition development in early childhood strongly influence school success, economic participation, social citizenship and health later in life.

## What is the story in Yarra?

4% of Yarra residents were 0–4 years of age in 2021, which represents 3,636 people. This is lower than the proportion of 0–4 year olds living in Metropolitan Melbourne (5.9%) and Victoria (5.8%) in 2021. The foundational importance of the first five years of life makes it an important population group to understand.

**92%** of Yarra children are fully immunised at 5 years of age, which is comparable with the Victorian average of 93%

## Developmental vulnerability in Children

Proportion of children who are '**developmentally vulnerable**' overall (on two or more domains)

20%  
Victoria

11%  
Yarra

↓ Overall, fewer children in Yarra were developmentally vulnerable (11%), compared to the Victorian average (20%)

↑ However, when considering specific areas, some domains of developmental vulnerability were higher in Yarra

Proportion of children in Yarra who were '**developmentally vulnerable**' by domain:



For the domains of **physical health and wellbeing** and **emotional maturity**, Yarra had a **higher proportion of 'developmentally vulnerable'** children than Victoria

The **suburbs** with higher proportions of children who were '**developmentally vulnerable**' overall, compared to the Yarra average were:

- |                     |       |   |
|---------------------|-------|---|
| • Richmond/ Burnley | 16.3% | ↑ |
| • Fitzroy           | 15.4% |   |
| • Abbotsford        | 16.1% |   |

Addressing early years development is particularly important for:

- people living in Richmond, Fitzroy and Abbotsford
- the physical health and wellbeing domain
- the emotional maturity domain