

Wellness (as Opposed to Illness) Data

Traditional measures of population health such as those developed through burden of disease methodology can more accurately be described as 'illness' measures insofar as they focus on the impact of health problems, or amount of ill health, in the population being considered. Indicators of community health and wellbeing now exist to augment burden of disease studies, and their focus on community strengths/capacities (or 'wellness') is important in offsetting the 'deficit' (illness) approach often implied by burden of disease studies.

Community Indicators Victoria (CIV) is part of an international indicators movement that has grown over the past few decades and has gained considerable momentum in recent years in the Victorian context. CIV is located at the McCaughey Centre, School of Population Health, University of Melbourne, and reports on the health and wellbeing of Victorian communities using an integrated set of indicators. The indicators (around 80 in total) are linked to measures designed to identify and communicate the social, economic, environmental (natural and built), cultural and democratic life of communities – the five 'pillars' of community health and wellbeing. The framework of indicators was determined through extensive consultation with government (local and state), academics, and other communities of interest – a process that also involved a review of relevant national and international literature.

- Healthy, safe and inclusive communities. Indicators include self-reported health status, sense of community connection, child health status and perceptions of safety.
- Dynamic resilient local economies. Indicators include the skill base of the local workforce, employment rates, income distributions, educational qualifications, and sense of work-life balance.
- Sustainable built and natural environments. Indicators include housing affordability, transport accessibility, sustainability of energy use, biodiversity and air quality, and water and waste management.
- Culturally rich and vibrant communities. Indicators include opportunities to participate in arts, cultural and leisure activities, and acceptance of cultural and linguistic diversity.
- Democratic and engaged communities. Indicators include opportunities for civic engagement and participation in decision-making structures and bodies.

The following selected indicators and their measures were generated through the CIV reporting facility (unless otherwise noted) for the EMR LGAs.¹ Included are measures of self-reported health status, sense of community connectedness, levels of social support, perceptions of safety, levels of food security, sense of work/life balance, participation in arts and cultural activities, acceptance of cultural diversity, opportunities for citizen engagement, and participation in decision-making structures and bodies. These measures are based on findings from a specifically designed CIV survey administered in 2007.²

The discussion also includes measures of housing affordability, household income, educational attainment, and labour force participation, as derived from existing datasets such as those available through the ABS Census of Population and Housing. In some cases, data relevant to these measures can be found elsewhere in this report; and these have been indicated in the text as applicable.



¹ Data were extracted using the 'Create a Live Report' facility at Community Indicators Victoria, http://www.communityindicators.net.au/about_us, 27/09/10. Around 30 indicators of community health and wellbeing are selected for this report. Several CIV indicators are yet to be measured since available data sources are still being explored.

² The CIV survey instrument was developed because not all of the 80 or so indicators in the framework had readily available measures that could be used. Households were randomly selected for participation and trained interviewers conducted the survey (in English) from January to April 2007. Around 24,000 Victorians completed the survey. The sampling process ensured a minimum of 300 respondents aged 18 years or more in each of the 79 Victorian LGAs.

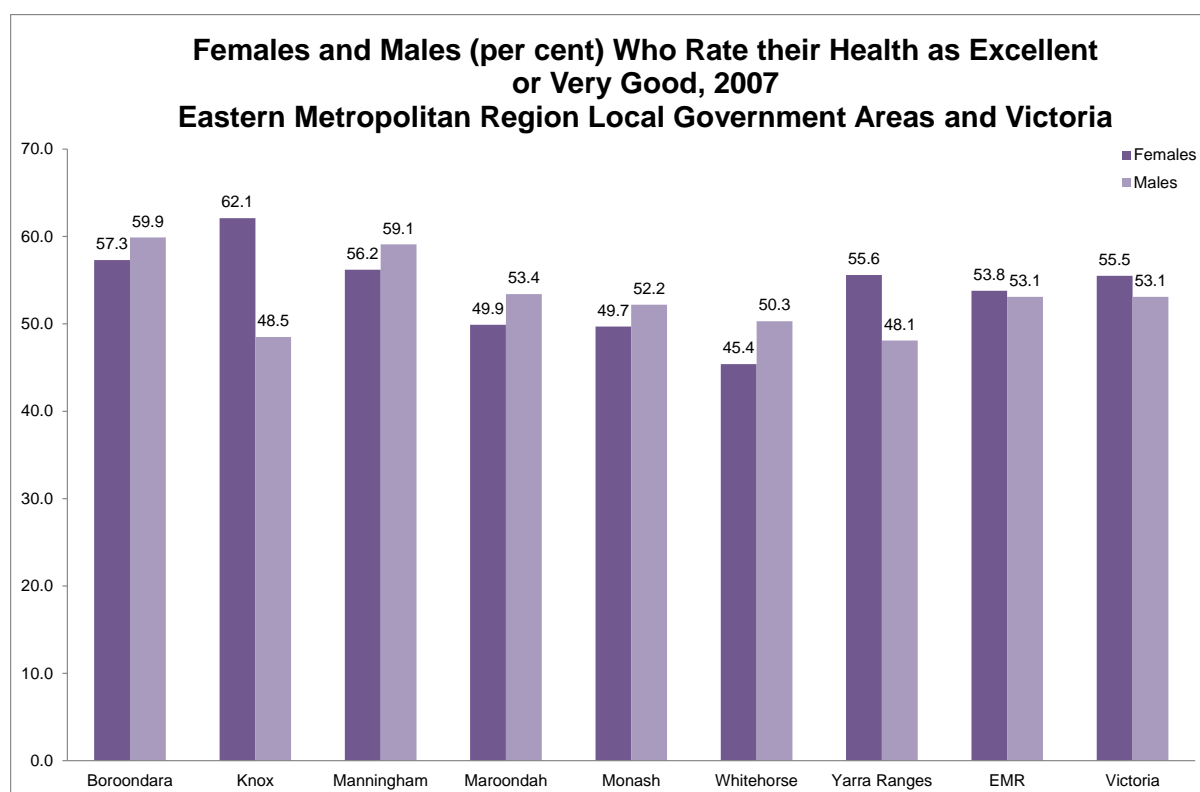
Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities

Self-reported Health

According to CIV, ‘Self-reported health assessments have been found to be a powerful predictor of future health care use and mortality, independent of other medical, behavioural or psychosocial risk factors. Wellbeing can be defined in many ways, but most observers treat it as at least partly a subjective, psychological concept.’

Self-reported health was measured through the CIV survey. Respondents were asked to rate their health as excellent, very good, fair or poor. Results for the region’s LGAs (for ratings of ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’) show that:

- females in Knox (62.1%) are most likely to rate their health as excellent or very good, whereas females in Whitehorse (45.4%) are least likely to do so;
- across the region, females are generally less likely than males to rate their health as excellent or very good, the exceptions being in Knox and Yarra Ranges.



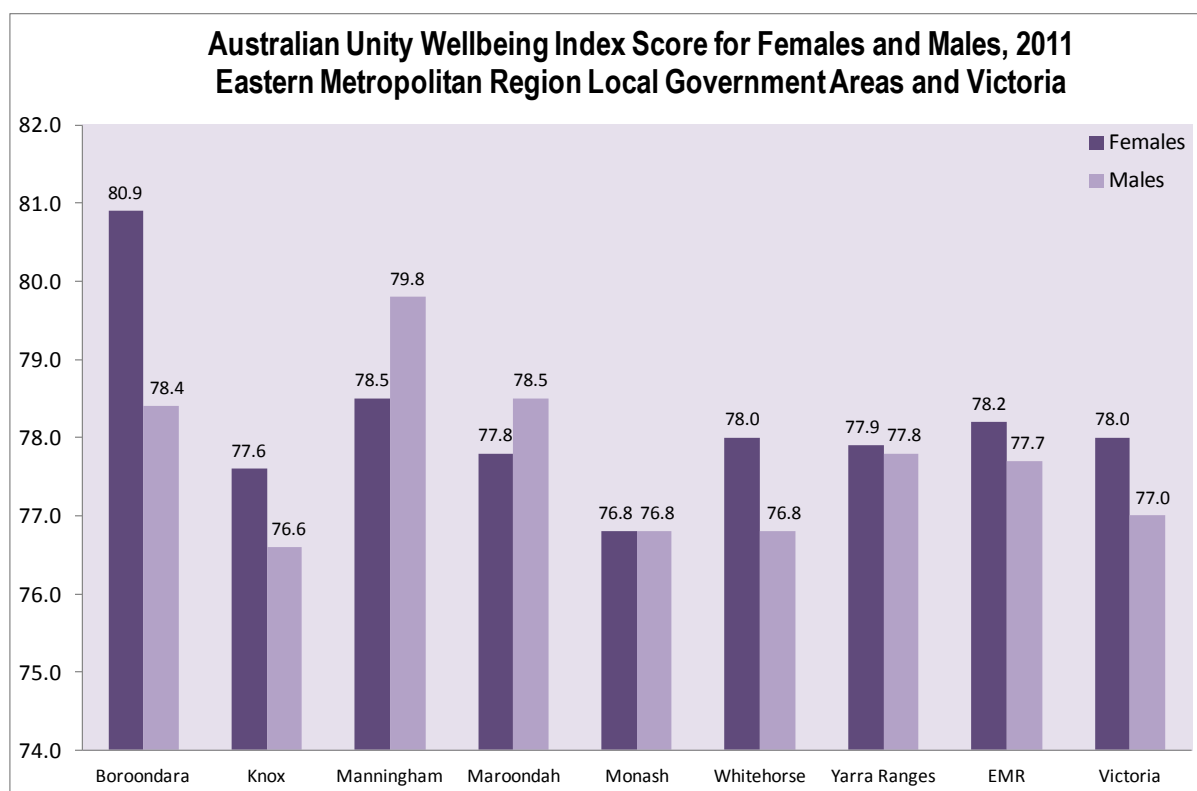
Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

Subjective Wellbeing

Subjective wellbeing is about feeling good and being satisfied with things in life in general. This indicator was measured through the CIV survey using the Australian Unity Wellbeing Index (AUWBI). Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with their lives on a number of domains resulting in an aggregated Personal Wellbeing Index ranging from 0 to 100.

Normative data from the AUWBI suggest that the average Personal Wellbeing Index for Australians is around 75.0. The results for the region's LGA's show that:

- Females in Boroondara and Manningham score the highest on the Personal Wellbeing Index at 80.9 and 78.5 respectively, whereas females in Monash scored the lowest (76.8);
- Across the region, females in Boroondara, Knox, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges scored higher than their male counterparts, whereas females in Manningham, Maroondah scored lower than their male counterparts. Females and males scored the same in Monash.



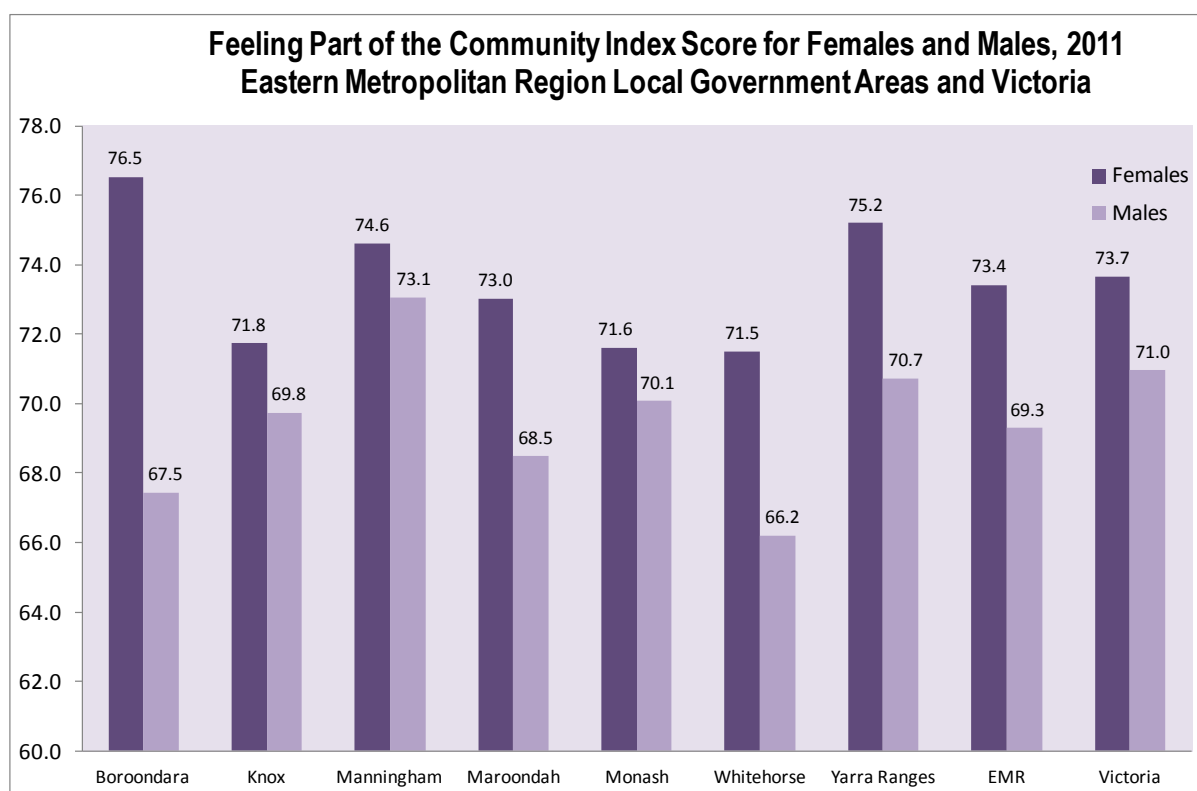
Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

Community Connectedness

According to CIV, 'Community strength is found in the human relations that people draw upon for identity, interaction and support. A strong community is one where people understand and work towards sustainability and is inclusive of their most disadvantaged groups. To do this people need to be involved, feel capable of working through issues and feel supported by their fellow citizens.'

Community connectedness was measured through the CIV survey. Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with feeling part of their community and answers were recorded according to a 0–100 range. Normative data from the AUWBI indicates that the national average score for feeling part of the community is around 70.0. The results for the region's LGAs show that:

- females in Boroondara score highest on feeling part of the community (76.5) whereas females in Whitehorse on average score lowest (71.5);
- across the region, females score higher than their male counterparts on feeling part of the community (especially in Boroondara).

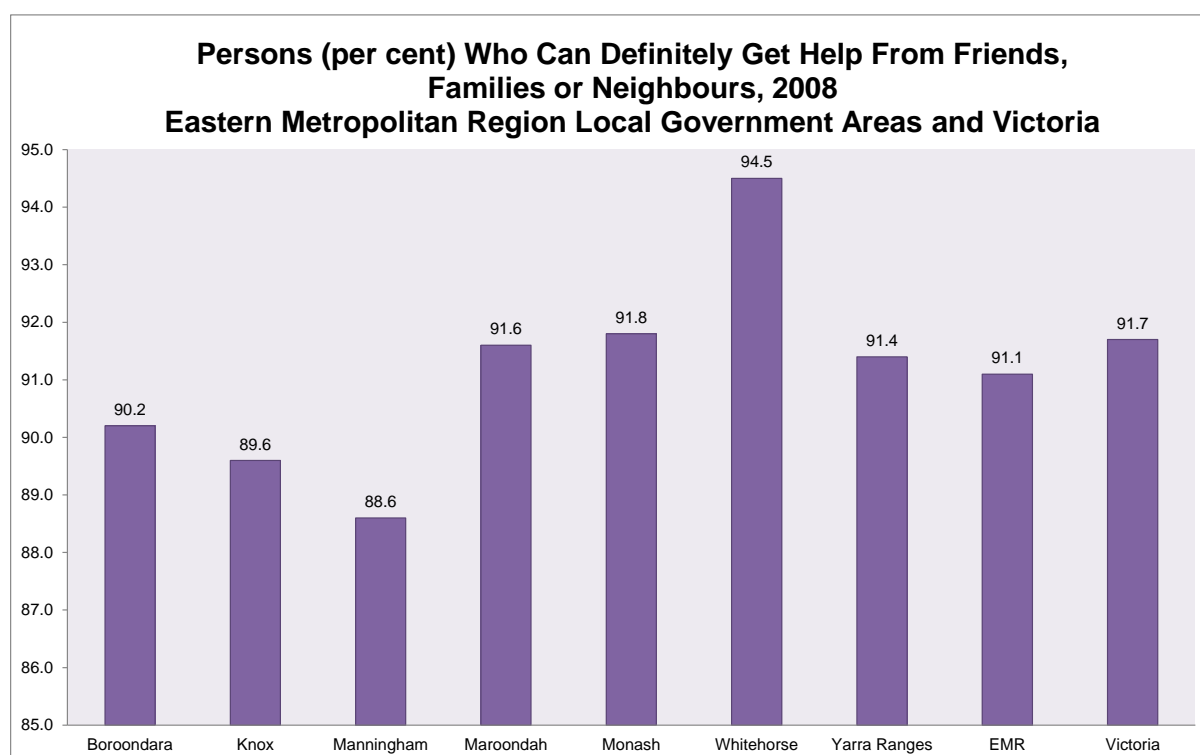


Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

Social Support

According to CIV, 'Close personal networks can be sources of benefits such as confidence, emotional support, practical help, contacts, resources and other forms of assistance.' The extent of social support across Victoria was captured by telephone survey in 2008 as part of the VPHS. There were 450 individuals over the age of 18 in each of Victoria's 79 LGAs who were involved. Respondents were asked if they could get help from friends, family or neighbours if needed, 'Yes, definitely', 'Sometimes' or 'No, not at all'. Responses to 'Yes, definitely' have been used to derive data for this indicator.

The results (sex-disaggregated data are not available) show that residents in Whitehorse (94.5%) are most likely to be able to get help if needed from friends, families or neighbours, whereas those in Manningham (88.6%) are least likely to be able to do so.



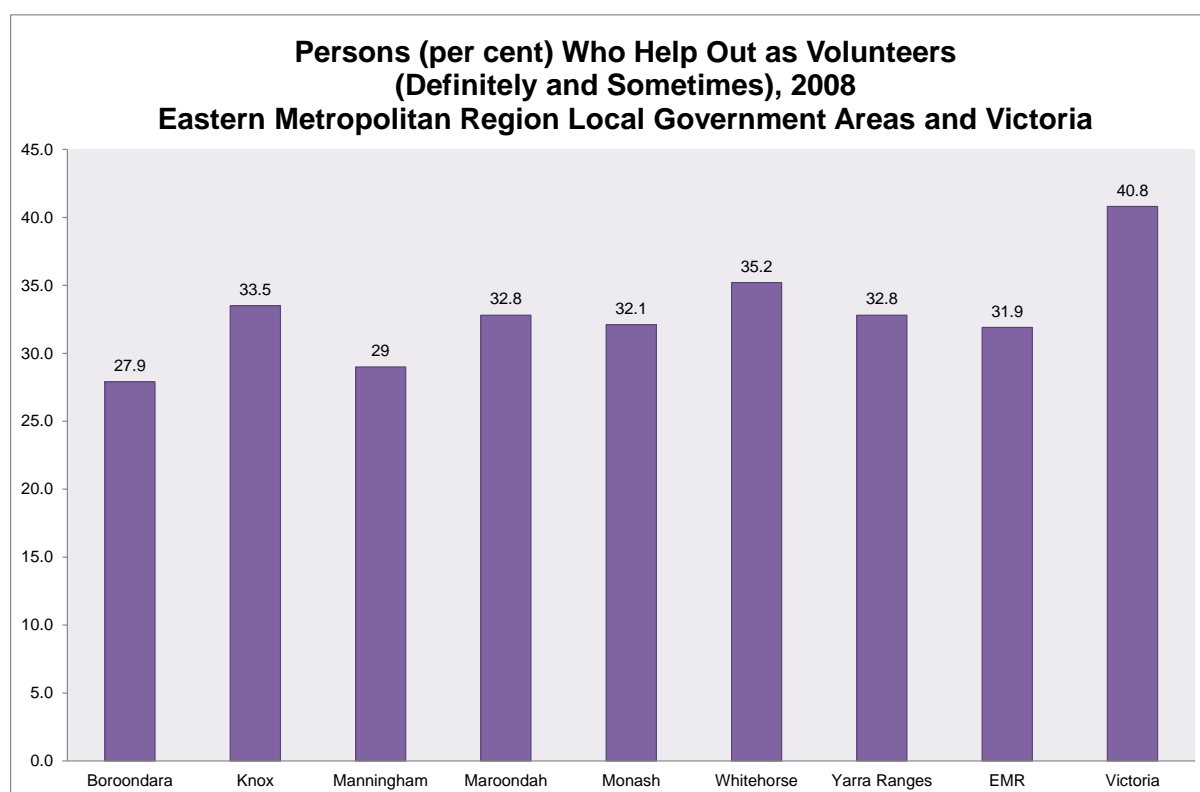
Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

Volunteering

The proportion of volunteers in the community can indicate levels of community engagement, connectedness and social cohesion; although it is important to note that rates are influenced by factors such as age, gender, cultural and linguistic background, and the prevailing socio-economic climate. Volunteering rates are of interest not only to health planners. Economic analysts are also aware of the significant contribution of voluntary activity to the economy.

The extent of volunteering in the community was captured by telephone survey in 2008 as part of the VPHS. Some 450 individuals over the age of 18 in each of Victoria's 79 LGAs were involved. Respondents were asked if they help out as volunteers, 'Yes, definitely', 'Sometimes' or 'No, not at all'. Responses to 'Yes, definitely' and 'Sometimes' (aggregated) have been used to derive data for this indicator.

The results (sex-disaggregated data are not available) show that residents in Whitehorse (35.2%) are most likely to help out as volunteers whilst those in Boroondara (27.9%) are least likely to do so.³



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

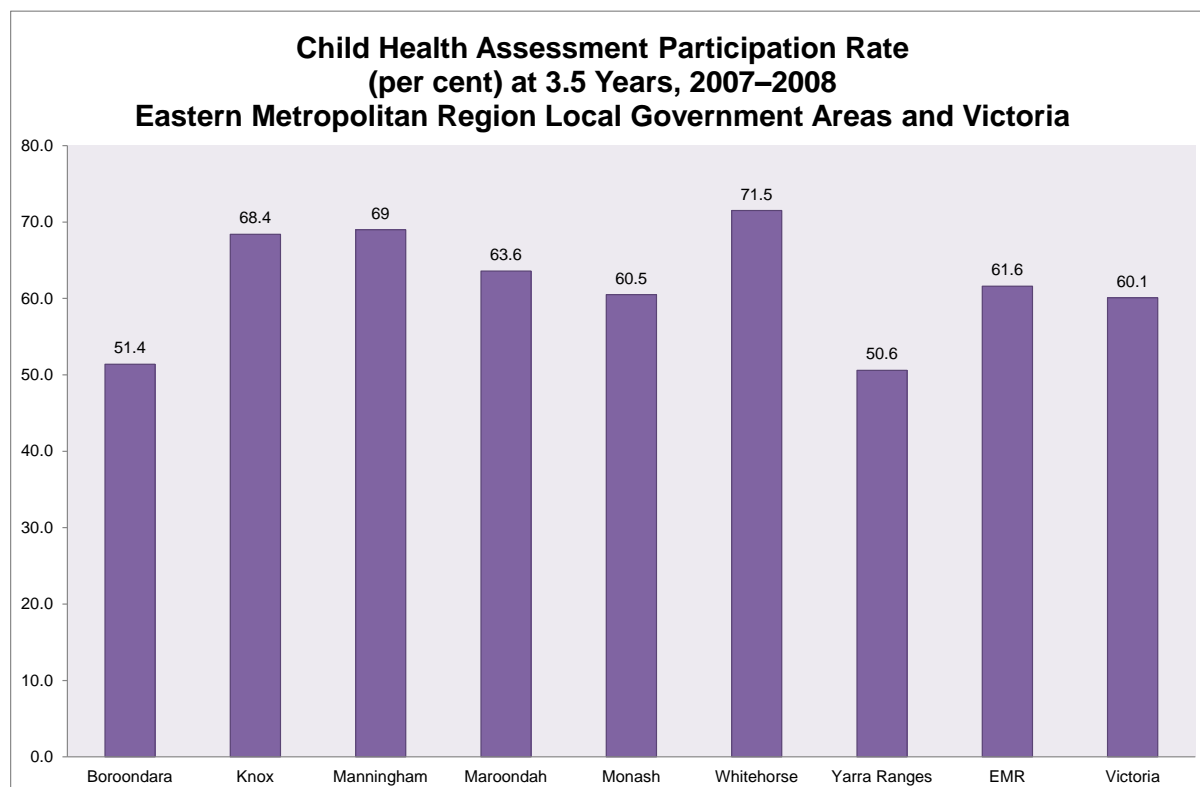
³ Empirical studies typically measure volunteering in a 'formal' sense; that is, volunteering done through recognised organisations or structures. It is argued that such studies fail to capture a range of informal (even 'spontaneous') expressions of voluntary activity that occur 'extra-institutionally' in culturally and linguistically diverse communities e.g. through kinship networks or social relationships. Moreover, data gathering instruments can often work against accurate measures of volunteering in diverse communities because the term might not have resonance within certain cultures. On volunteering within diverse communities, see Australian Multicultural Foundation and Volunteering Australia (2007) *National Survey of Australian Volunteers from Diverse Cultural and Linguistic Backgrounds*, Volunteering Australia: Melbourne, http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/html/s02_article/article_view.asp?id=2931.

Child Health Assessments

Child health assessments evaluate development at specific ages. Factors assessed include growth, physical movement, behavioural interactions, hearing and vision. Child health assessments can also promote awareness of public health interventions such as immunisation programs.

Assessments are routinely undertaken by Maternal and Child Health Services (MCHS). Ten visits are anticipated according to key ages and stages until a child reaches 3.5 years of age. Data are then collated on a financial year basis by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and published in their annual data reports. The most recent year collected is for the 2007–2008 financial year. Figures refer to the rate of participation of children eligible for assessment at 3.5 years.

The information shows that Whitehorse has the highest child health assessment participation rate at 71.5% of children aged 3.5 years whereas Yarra Ranges has the lowest 50.6%.



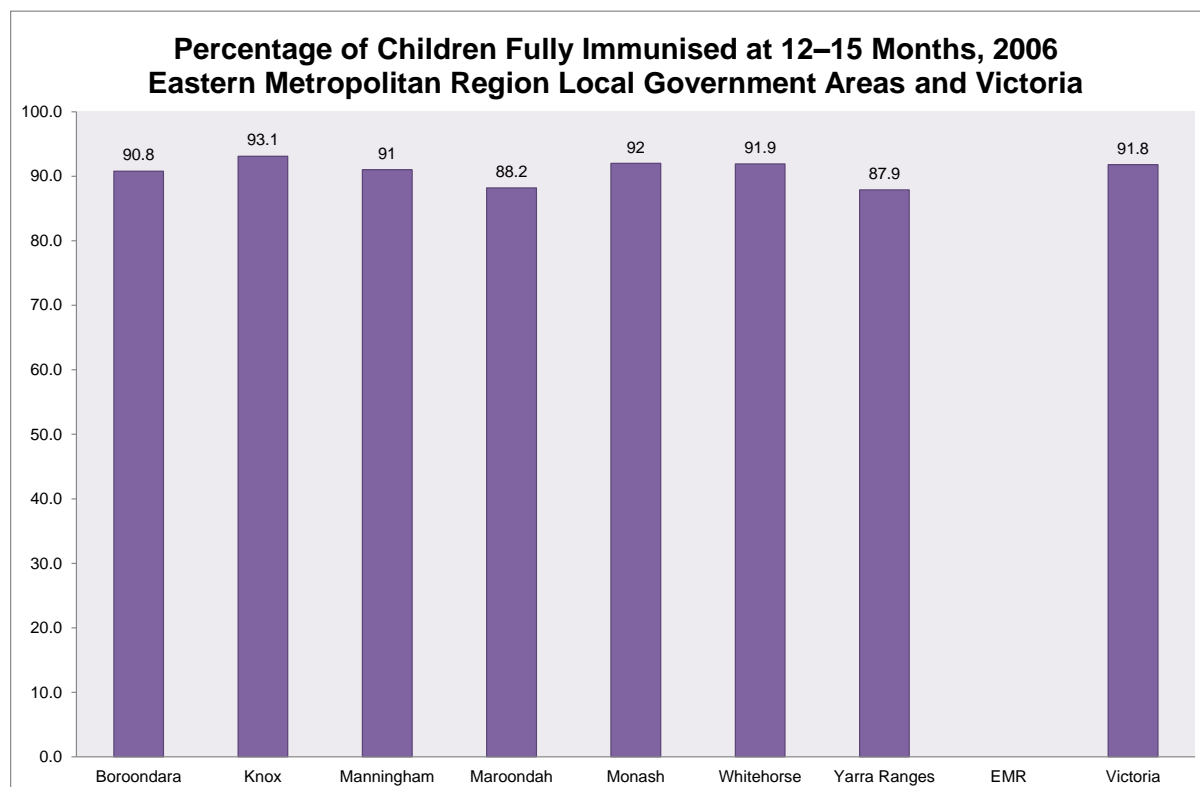
Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

Child Immunisation

According to CIV, 'Proper and timely immunisation effectively protects children from a host of debilitating and sometimes deadly childhood diseases and is most effective when a high proportion of the population has been immunised. Immunisation has been repeatedly demonstrated in both research trials and in the field to be one of the most effective medical interventions we have to prevent disease.'

The Australian Childhood Immunisation Register collates information on a quarterly basis about the number of children fully immunised at 12–15 months of age, expressed as a percentage of children aged 12–15 months at the end of the previous quarter. The most recent quarter available is September 2006.

The information shows that Knox (93.1%) has the highest proportion of children who are fully immunised at 12–15 months of age, whereas Yarra Ranges (87.9%) has the lowest. (The participation rate for the region as a whole is not available.)



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

Perceptions of Safety

According to CIV, 'Neighbourhoods perceived as safe foster community participation, encourage physical activity and community connectedness, and add to the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors.'

Perceptions of safety have been measured in four ways through the CIV survey.

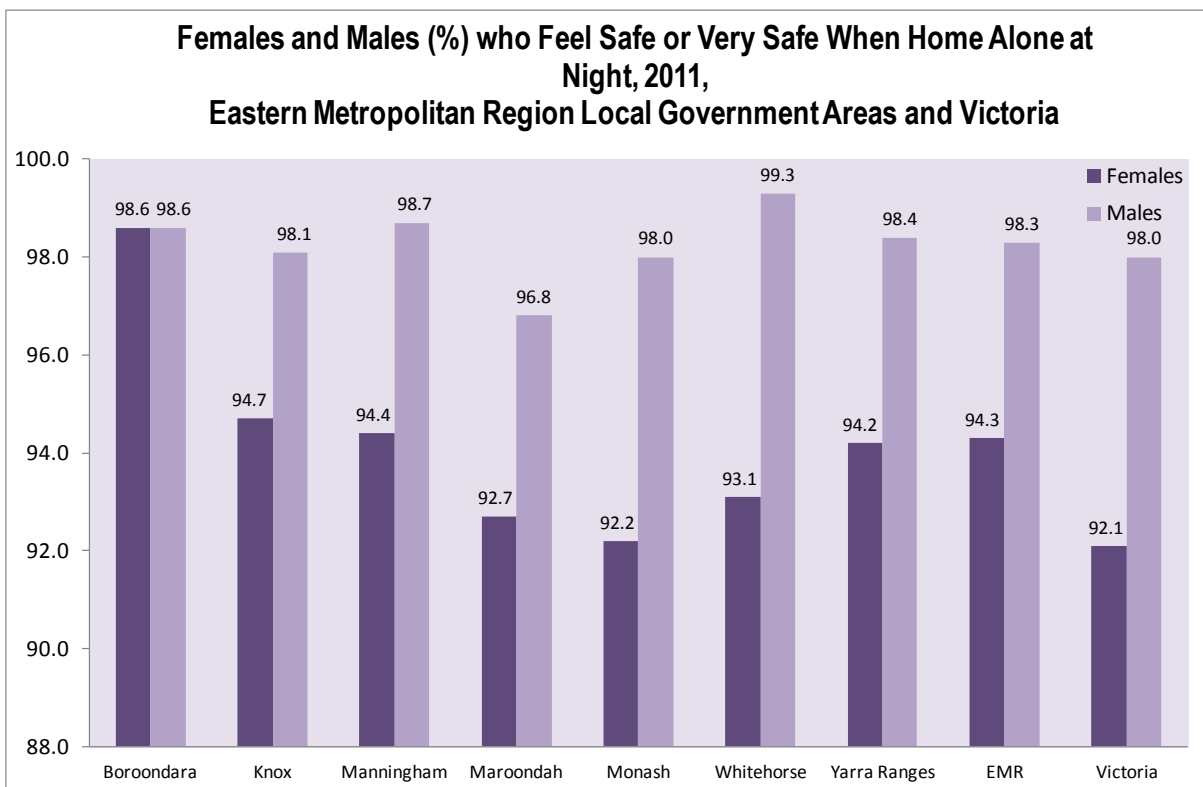
Respondents were asked to rate how safe they felt when home alone during the day and at night, and when walking alone in their local area during the day and at night. The response options were 'Very safe', 'Safe', 'Neither Safe nor Unsafe', 'Unsafe', 'Very Unsafe' and 'Never Alone in this Situation'. The results (for 'Safe' and 'Very safe' responses) are presented below.

Home Alone During the Day and at Night

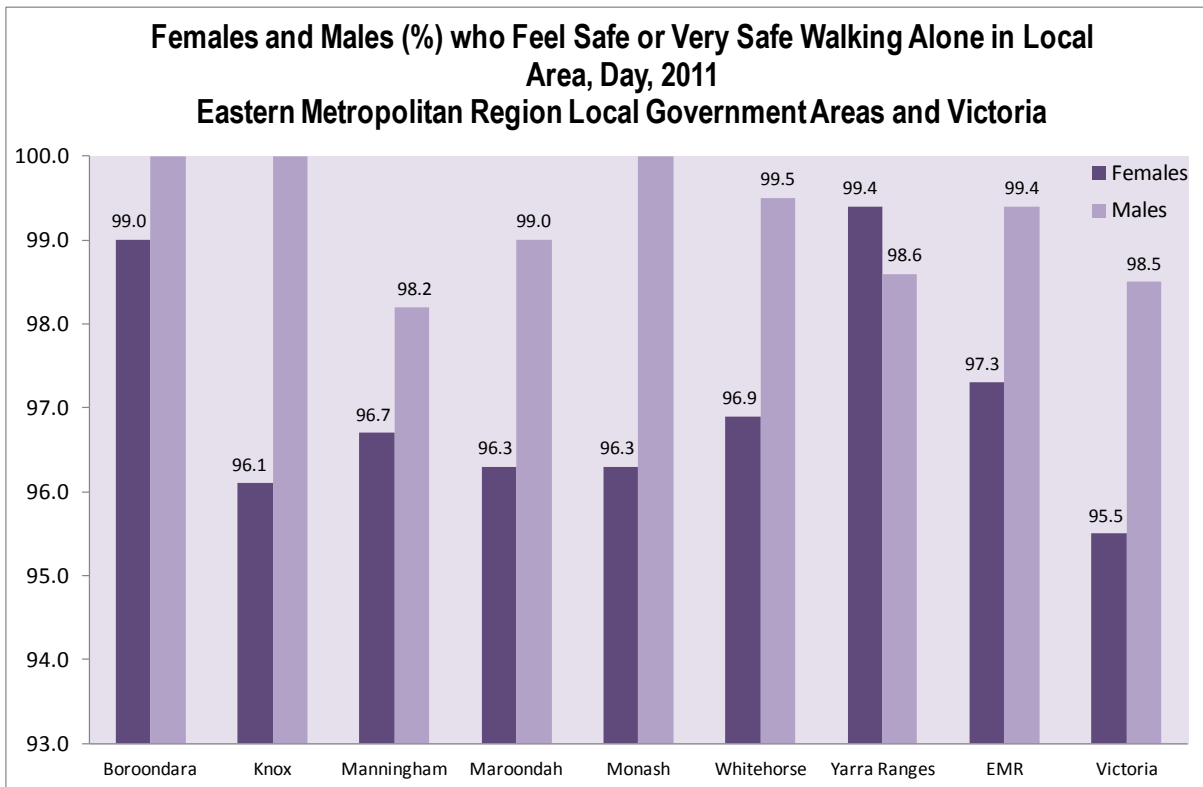
- Females in Yarra Ranges (100%) are most likely to feel safe or very safe when at home alone during the day, whereas females in Monash (97.4%) are least likely to feel this way.
- Females in Boroondara (98.6%) are most likely to feel safe or very safe when home alone at night, whereas females in Monash (92.2%) are least likely to feel this way.
- Across the region, females are generally less likely than males to feel safe or very safe when at home during the day and at night, especially in Monash (during the day and night). The exceptions are in Yarra Ranges (where females and males feel the same way about being at home alone during the day) and Boroondara (where females and males feel the same way about being at home alone at night)

Walking Alone in their Local Area During the Day and at Night

- Females in Yarra Ranges (99.4%) are most likely to feel safe or very safe walking alone in their local area during the day, whereas females in Knox (96.1%) are least likely to feel this way.
- Females in Boroondara (73.1%) are most likely to feel safe or very safe walking alone at night, whereas females in Knox and Maroondah (both 43.8%) are least likely to feel this way.
- Across the region, females are less likely than males to feel safe or very safe walking alone in their local area during the day and at night. The exception is in Yarra Ranges (where a higher proportion of females feel safe walking alone in their local area during the day compared to males).



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

Crime

Crime levels within a community can have a bearing on feeling of personal security and the 'attractiveness' of an area (for example, its liveability or general amenity). Crime is often associated with poverty, exclusion and high need for support services.

Crime statistics summaries are produced annually by Victoria Police, with figures extracted from the *Law Enforcement Assistance Program Database*. Summaries of offences are reported per 100,000 population to enable comparisons across different areas.

The tables below include the rate of recorded crimes against the person and property for the financial years 2008–2009 and 2009–2010.⁴ The information shows that Maroondah had the highest rates of recorded crimes against the person and property for 2008–2009 and 2009–2010.

Recorded Crimes against the Person 2008–2009 and 2009–2010 Rate per 100,000 Population Eastern Metropolitan Region Local Government Areas and Victoria			
	2008–2009	2009–2010	% Change
Boroondara	334.1	301.0	- 9.9%
Knox	581.1	548.8	- 5.5%
Manningham	308.7	329.8	6.9%
Maroondah	599.7	616.6	2.8%
Monash	481.0	427.1	- 11.2%
Whitehorse	468.2	421.9	- 9.9%
Yarra Ranges	404.1	469.4	16.2%
Victoria	819.9	825.7	0.7%

Source: Victoria Police, *Crime Statistics: Summary of Offences Recorded*

⁴ Figures have been sourced directly from Victoria Police. See Corporate Statistics, Victoria Police, *Crime Statistics: Summary of Offences Recorded*, http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?Document_ID=782, accessed 03/10/10. Rates for 2008–2009 have been calculated using estimated resident population figures as at 31 December 2008 and obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat. No. 3101.0 released 04/06/09. Rates for 2009–2010 have been calculated using estimated resident population figures as at 31 December 2009 and obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat. No. 3101.0 released 04/06/10. The % change column is the percentage change in the rate per 100,000 population from 2008–2009. Crimes against the person include homicide, rape, sex (non rape), robbery, assault and abduction or kidnap. Recorded incidents of family violence are reported separately. See below, 'Family Violence Incidents'.

Recorded Crimes against Property 2008–2009 and 2009–2010 Rate per 100,000 Population Eastern Metropolitan Region Local Government Areas and Victoria			
	2008–2009	2009–2010	% Change
Boroondara	3582.0	3088.2	- 13.8%
Knox	4086.9	4109.1	0.5%
Manningham	2534.3	2382.2	- 6.0%
Maroondah	4437.9	4611.0	3.9%
Monash	4351.3	3666.7	- 15.7%
Whitehorse	3538.7	3084.9	- 12.8%
Yarra Ranges	2982.7	2798.3	- 6.2%
Victoria	5202.1	4739.7	- 8.9%

Source: Victoria Police, *Crime Statistics: Summary of Offences Recorded*

Family Violence Incidents

Family violence brings with it a range of long-term health and wellbeing consequences for those affected by it. The experience of family violence has an impact on victims/survivors as well as perpetrators and others exposed to it (for example, children). The ‘privatised’ sphere within which family violence occurs – and the broader societal ‘silence’ around it – further compounds its negative effects. Studies show that those who are subjected to family violence are more likely to experience low self esteem, anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts and post traumatic stress disorder, and are at higher risk of mental health disorders and physical health conditions.

Family violence statistics summaries are produced annually by Victoria Police, with figures extracted from the *Law Enforcement Assistance Program Database*. Summaries of recorded family violence incidents per 100,000 population are available to enable comparisons across different areas.

The table below includes the rate of recorded family violence incident reports for the financial years 2008–2009 and 2009–2010.⁵ The information shows that Knox had the highest rate in the region of recorded family violence incidents for 2008–2009 and 2009–2010.

⁵ Figures have been sourced directly from Victoria Police. See Corporate Statistics, Victoria Police, *Crime Statistics: Summary of Offences Recorded*, http://www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?Document_ID=782, accessed 03/10/10. The rate for Victoria as a whole has been calculated using estimated resident population figures obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat. No. 3101.0. LGA rates were calculated using estimate resident population figures obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat. No. 3218.0. The % change table includes percentage changes in the rates per 100,000 population from 2008–2009.

Recorded Family Violence Incident Reports, 2008–2009 Rate per 100,000 Population Eastern Metropolitan Region Local Government Areas and Victoria					
	FV Incidents	Where Charges Laid	Where IVO Applied For	Where SN Issued	IVO and SN
Boroondara	283.5	38.6	16.9	13.9	30.8
Knox	570.1	104.3	51.8	25.3	77.1
Manningham	399.1	69.9	69.1	17.1	86.1
Maroondah	482.0	101.4	54.5	31.6	86.1
Monash	307.2	48.5	34.6	17.3	52.0
Whitehorse	365.4	63.1	40.3	14.3	54.6
Yarra Ranges	450.3	76.7	65.2	17.7	82.9
Victoria	629.8	160.4	120.3	32.0	152.3

Recorded Family Violence Incident Reports 2009–2010 Rate per 100,000 Population Eastern Metropolitan Region Local Government Areas and Victoria					
	FV Incidents	Where Charges Laid	Where IVO Applied For	Where SN Issued	IVO and SN
Boroondara	263.5	36.9	16.1	18.4	34.5
Knox	582.8	108.4	35.9	48.1	84.0
Manningham	319.7	64.1	32.9	39.6	72.5
Maroondah	504.6	81.9	31.1	51.8	82.8
Monash	336.2	51.7	21.0	29.5	50.5
Whitehorse	325.6	42.4	18.6	32.8	51.4
Yarra Ranges	454.6	88.0	35.6	73.2	108.8
Victoria	649.9	165.2	106.4	61.5	167.9

Recorded Family Violence Incident Reports % Change 2008–2009 to 2009–2010 Eastern Metropolitan Region Local Government Areas and Victoria					
	FV Incidents	Where Charges Laid	Where IVO Applied For	Where FVSN Issued	IVO and SN
Boroondara	- 7.0%	- 4.4%	- 4.9%	32.9%	12.2%
Knox	2.2%	3.9%	- 30.7%	90.3%	9.0%
Manningham	- 19.9%	- 8.3%	- 52.4%	132.5%	- 15.8%
Maroondah	4.7%	- 19.2%	- 43.0%	64.0%	- 3.8%
Monash	9.4%	6.5%	- 39.3%	70.5%	- 2.7%
Whitehorse	- 10.9%	- 32.8%	- 53.8%	128.9%	- 5.9%
Yarra Ranges	1.0%	14.6%	- 45.4%	314.6%	31.3%
Victoria	3.2%	3.0%	-11.6%	92.1%	10.2%

Source: Victoria Police, *Crime Statistics: Recorded Family Violence Incidents Reports*⁶

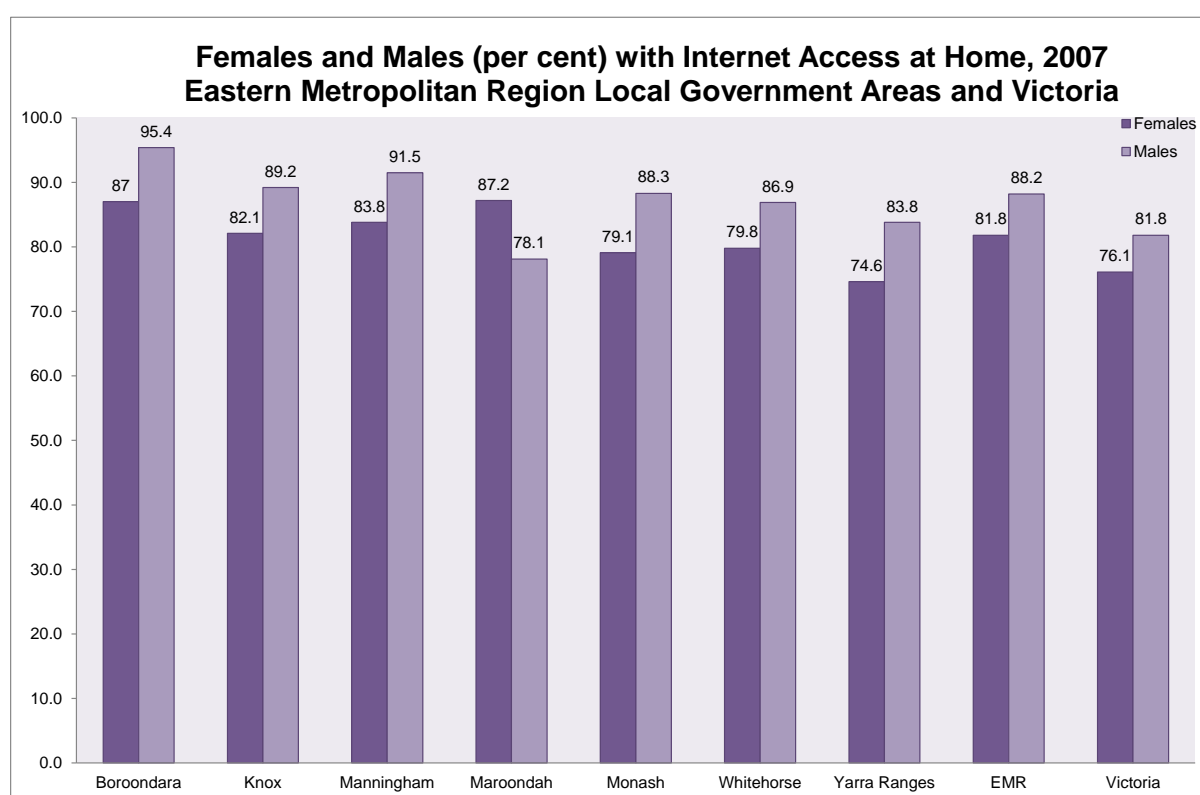
⁶ According to Section 31 of the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008*, a Family Violence Safety Notice (FVSN) is taken to be an application for an Intervention Order (IVO). Victoria Police keeps separate statistics on IVOs and FVSNs so no double counting occurs, however for an accurate picture of IVOs

Home Internet Access

According to CIV, 'Access to information allows residents, students and other sector interests to address their information and resource needs. Information is vital to the building of strong knowledge economies.'

Access to home internet was measured through the CIV survey. Respondents were asked to indicate if the internet could be accessed from their dwelling. The results show that:

- females in Boroondara (87.0%) are most likely to have internet access from home, whereas females in Yarra Ranges (74.6%) are least likely to do so;
- across the region, females are generally less likely than males to have internet access from home, the exception being in Maroondah.



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

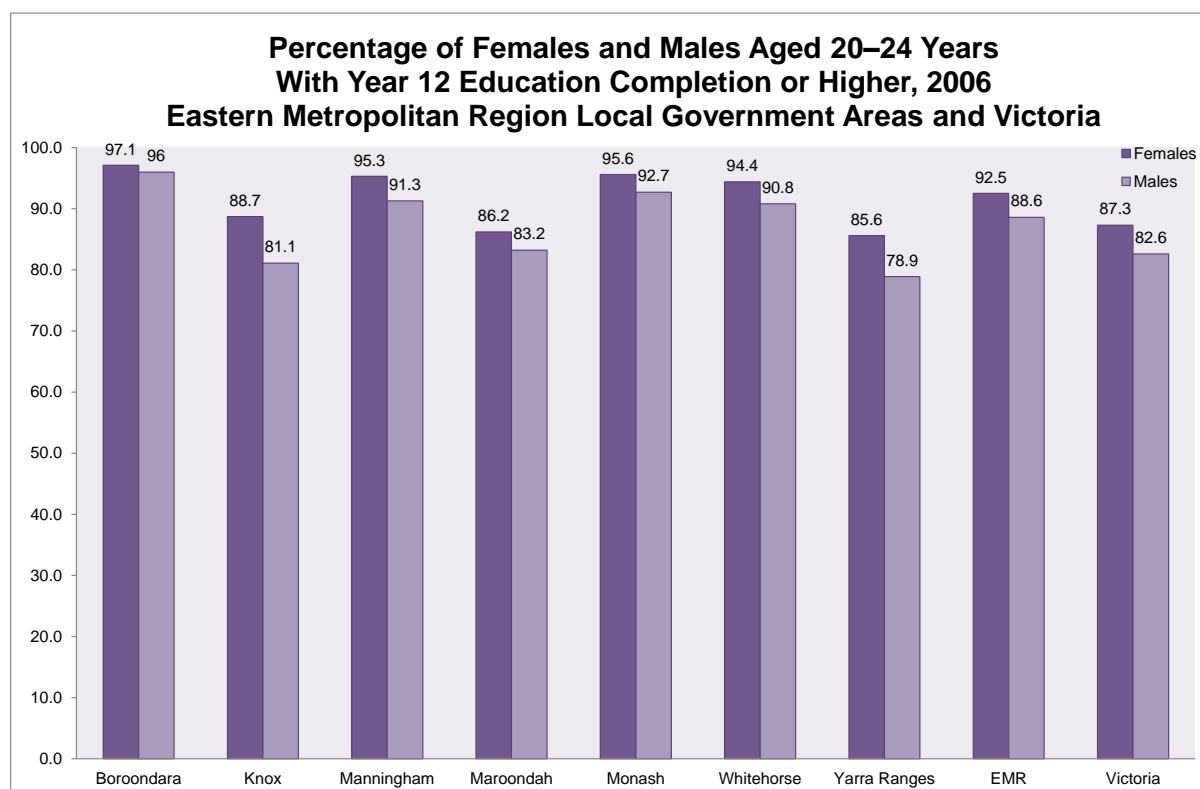
in an area, the two figures have been combined for the last column of the table. Note that FVSNs were introduced on 8 December 2008.

School Retention

The proportion of young people aged 20–24 years with at least Year 12-level education completion can serve as a useful measure of school retention in a given area. CIV uses information from the most recent Census to arrive at this measure, expressed as the percentage of the population aged 20–24 to have finished at least Year 12 education. (It is noted that many in this age cohort will be enrolled in further study and might have in fact completed such study).

The information shows that:

- females aged 20–24 years in Boroondara (97.1%) are most likely to have completed Year 12 education or higher, whereas females aged 20–24 years in Yarra Ranges (85.6%) are least likely to have done so;
- across the region, females aged 20–24 years are more likely than their male counterparts to have completed Year 12 education or higher.



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

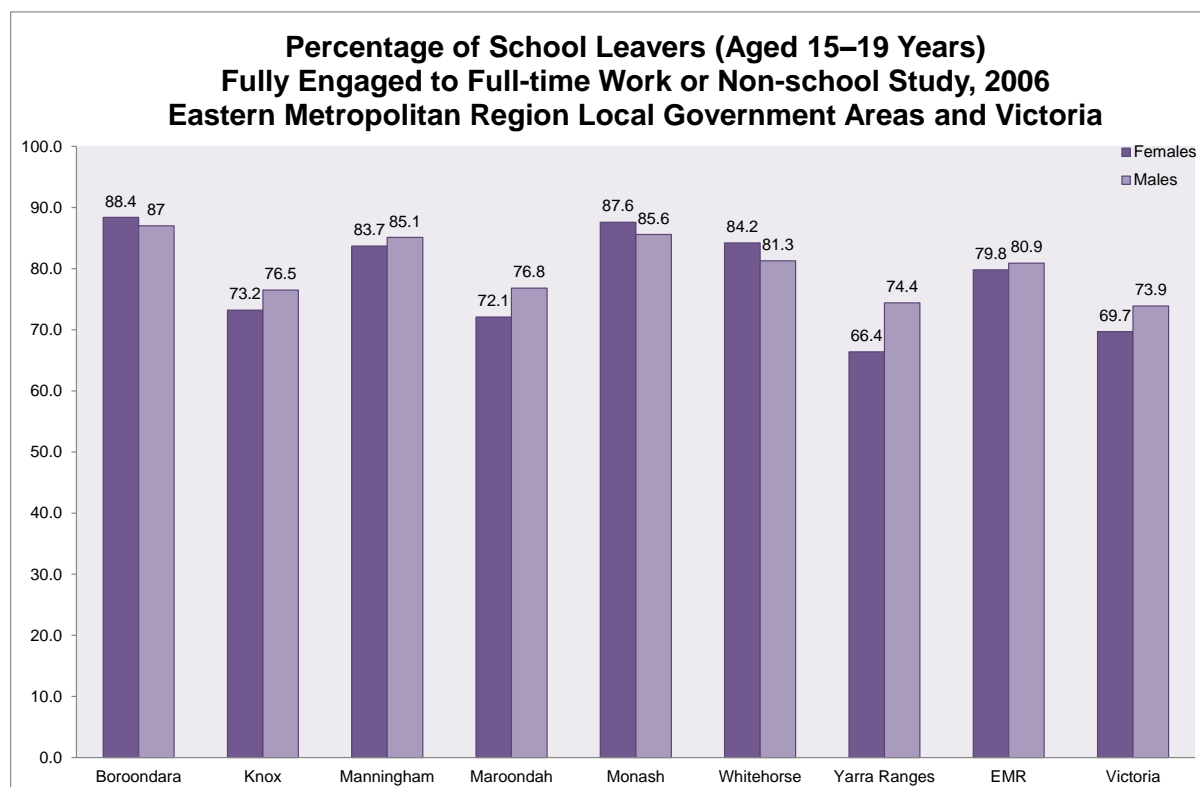
Destination of School Leavers

CIV measures the destinations of school leavers through the activities of young people who have left school. The population of school leavers can be categorised as follows:

- fully engaged school leavers who are involved in full-time work or non-school study;
- disengaged school leavers who are not involved in any work or study activities; or
- partly engaged, the remaining school leavers.

Data obtained from Census tables describe the level of engagement in employment and study of 15–19 year olds not attending school. The percentages of fully-engaged school leavers across the region are shown below. The information suggests that:

- female school leavers in Boroondara (88.4%) are most likely to be engaged to full-time work or non-school study, whereas females in Yarra Ranges (66.4%) are least likely to be so;
- across the region, female school leavers in Boroondara, Monash and Whitehorse are slightly more likely than their male counterparts to be engaged to full-time work or non-school study, whereas female school leavers in Knox, Manningham, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges (in particular) are less likely to be so.



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

Enrolment in Vocational Education and Training

According to CIV, 'Vocational education and training is important not only because it caters for the inclinations and aptitudes of many young people, but also because it addresses existing and foreshadowed skill shortages. Apprenticeships and vocational training are designed to be responsive to the needs of industry by providing specialised skills and pathways to new careers for employees. They are also measures of the investment business makes in education and skilling of the workforce.'

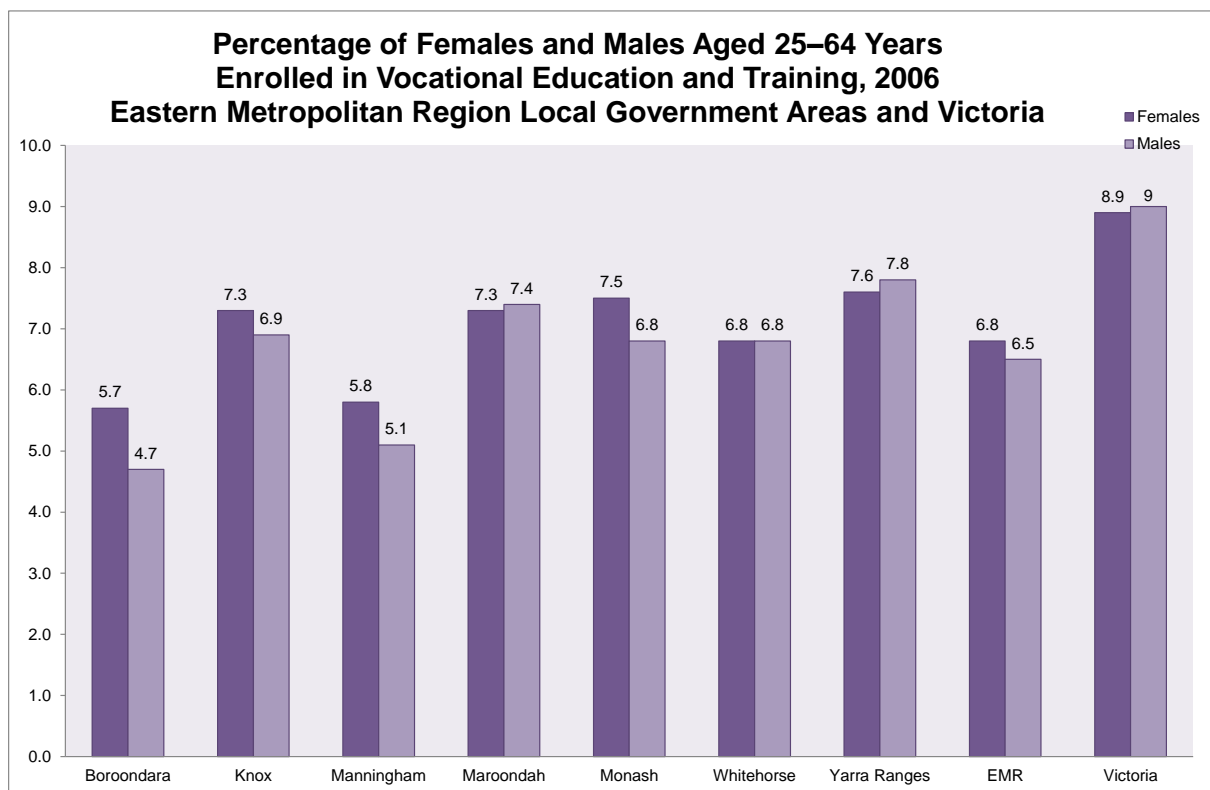
CIV obtained data from the Office of Training and Tertiary Education to determine the level of participation in vocational education and training of adults aged 25–64 years for the region's LGAs.⁷ The reference period was June 2006.⁸

The information shows that:

- females in Yarra Ranges (7.6%) are most likely to be participating in vocational education and training activities, whereas females in Boroondara (5.7%) are least likely to be doing so;
- across the region, females in Boroondara, Knox, Manningham and Monash are more likely than their male counterparts to be participating in vocational education and training activities; females in Maroondah and Yarra Ranges are less likely than their male counterparts to be doing so; and females and males in Whitehorse are equally as likely as each other to be involved in vocational education and training.

⁷ Based on place of usual residence (postcode) of students and using Office of Training and Tertiary Education conversions to the LGA levels. Office of Training and Tertiary Education figures are derived from enrolment information contributed by around 600 recognised providers of training and further education in Victoria (e.g. TAFE Institutes, TAFE divisions of universities, Adult Community Education providers, and private providers). A course is assigned a vocational education and training status during the process of accreditation based on the intent of the curriculum (i.e. whether that intent is to provide vocationally relevant skills or not). The information from providers includes all vocational and educational courses, not just those leading to a formal qualification.

⁸ Using ABS estimated resident population figures for 30 June 2006.



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

Dynamic and Resilient Local Economies



Highly-skilled Workforce

A highly skilled workforce is an essential component of a strong local economy. According to CIV, 'The quantum and types of skills available within an area will delineate its capacity to support particular industries and consequently its outlook for economic growth. Areas where the requisite skills base and knowledge capacity are in place are more likely to attract particular industries, which will lead to more dynamic economic outcomes.'

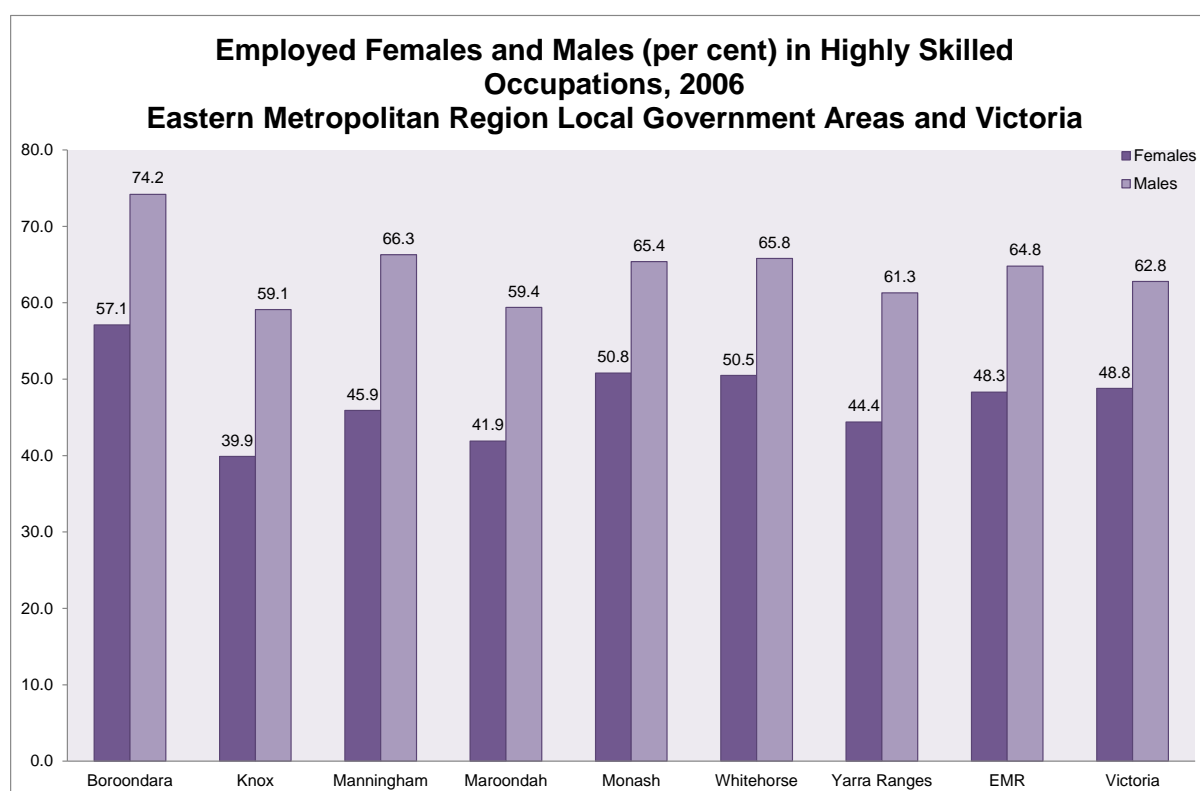
For this indicator, highly skilled has been defined as occupations with Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) Skill Levels 1–3.⁹

⁹ Skill Level 1 is commensurate with a bachelor degree or higher qualification. At least five years of relevant experience can substitute for the formal qualification. In some instances relevant experience and/or on-the-job training might be required in addition to the formal qualification. Skill Level 2 is commensurate with an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Associate Degree, Advanced Diploma or Diploma. At least three years of relevant experience can substitute for the formal qualification. In some instances relevant experience and/or on-the-job training might be required in addition to the formal qualification. Skill Level 3 is commensurate with an AQF Certificate IV, or AQF Certificate III including at least two years of on-the-job training. At least three years of relevant experience can substitute for the formal qualifications listed above. In some instances relevant experience and/or on-the-job training might be required in addition to the formal qualification.

CIV has collated data relevant to the skill level of the local workforce (i.e. those working in the local area) using customised ABS Census tables. The information is expressed as the proportion of the local workforce (i.e. persons aged 15 years or more in paid employment) in highly skilled occupations.

The information shows that:

- females in paid employment in Boroondara (57.1%) are most likely to be in highly skilled occupations, whereas their counterparts in Knox (39.9%) are least likely to be;
- across the region, females in paid employment are less likely than their male counterparts to be in highly skilled occupations.



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

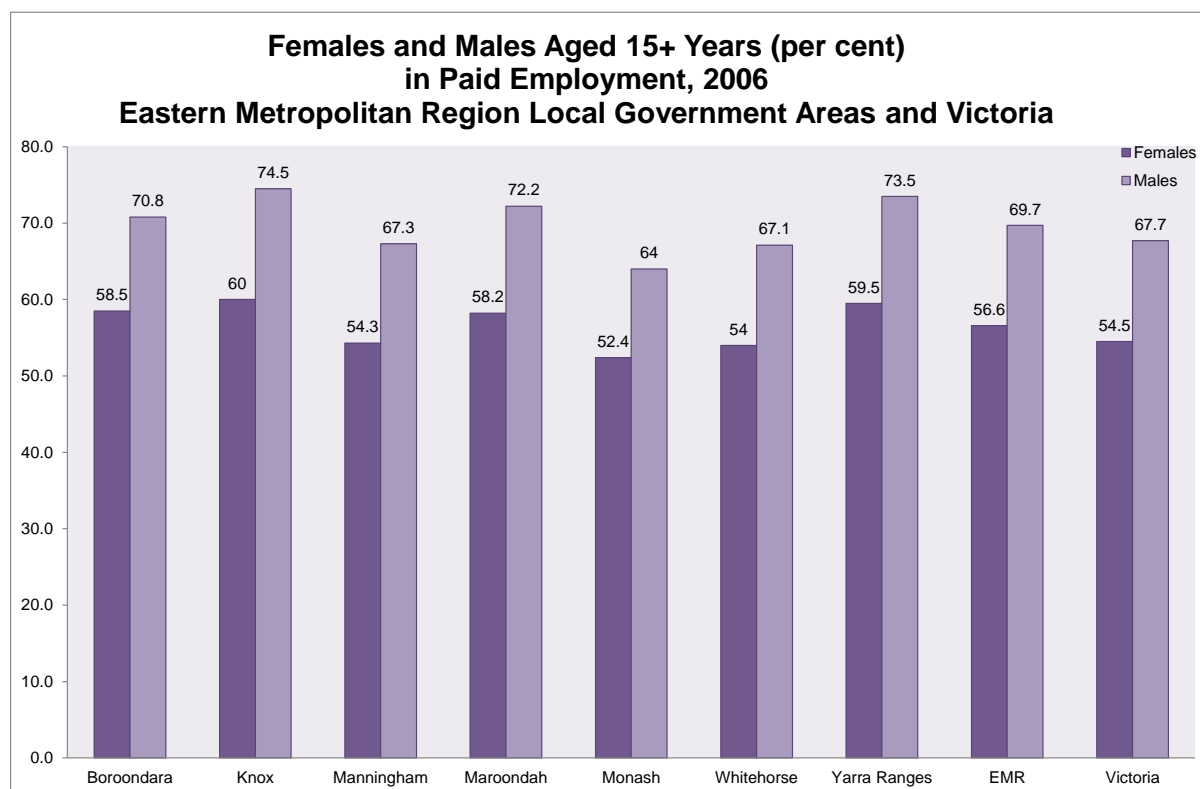
Employment Rate

According to CIV, 'Employment for all is an important social goal. ... Employment gives people the opportunity to make lifestyle choices and is associated with levels of personal satisfaction. Insufficient employment opportunities might lead to a decline in health and skill levels of unemployed people, family breakdowns and increasing crime rates.'

Employment rate is related to other demographic/life stages characteristics of a given area. People who are likely to be not in paid employment include full-time students, 'stay at home' women, and retirees – all of whom are outside of the paid labour force for different reasons. It is therefore best to interpret the employment rate of a given area with other information, such as the age distribution of the area concerned.

CIV has collated data relevant to the employment status of those aged 15 years or more using figures from the most recent ABS Census.¹⁰ The information shows that:

- females aged 15 years and over in Knox (60.0%) and Yarra Ranges (59.5%) are most likely to be in paid employment, whereas their counterparts in Monash (52.4%) are least likely to be;
- across the region, females aged 15 years and over are less likely than their male counterparts to be in paid employment.



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

¹⁰ Readers can compare CIV results with figures contained in Volume 1: Social Profile of this report (see 'Labour Force Status'). Figures can vary slightly between the two because CIV has excluded from the denominator (i.e. persons aged 15 years or more) those who did not state their labour force status on Census night. 'Employed full-time' indicates that a person worked 35 hours or more in all jobs during the week leading to the Census. 'Employed part-time' indicates that a person worked less than 35 hours in all jobs during the week leading to the Census, including if the number of hours worked was only one. 'Unemployed looking for work' indicates that a person was not employed full-time or part-time but was available to start work in the week leading to the Census. For criticisms of these definitions, see Volume 1: Social Profile of this report (in the section, 'Labour Force Status').

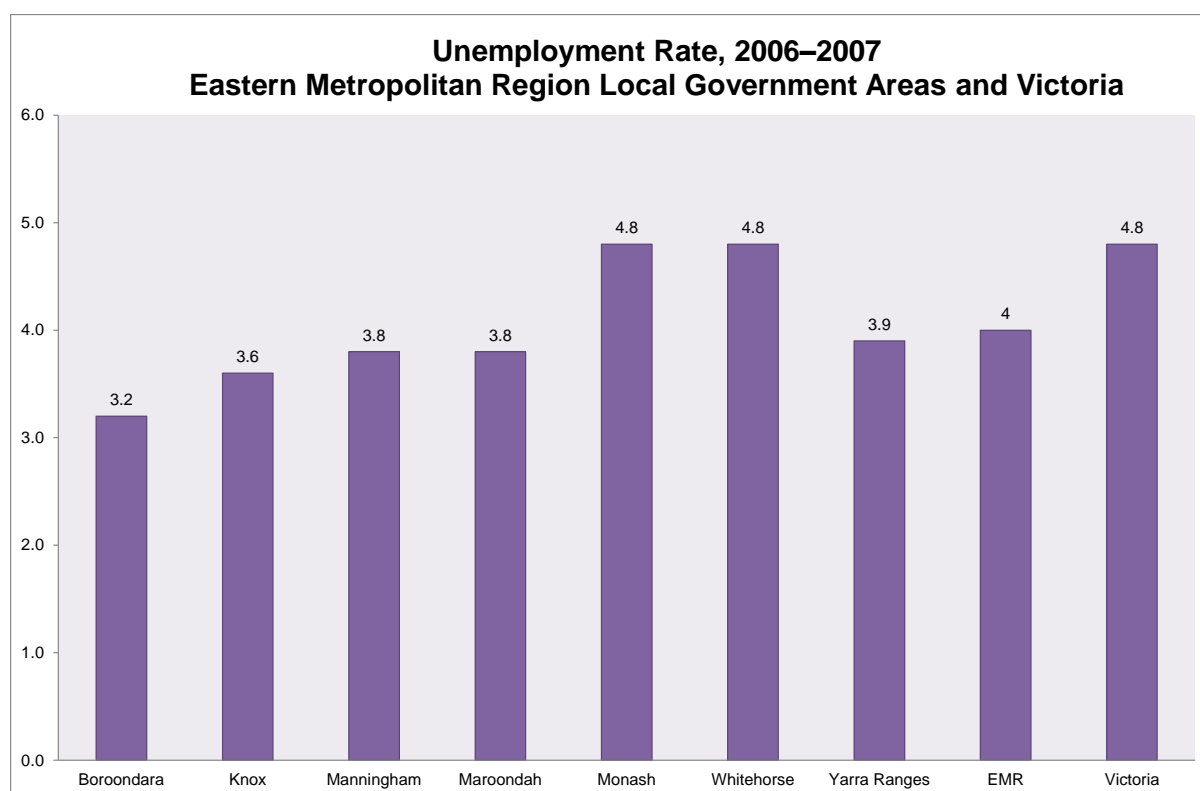
Unemployment

The unemployment rate is based on the proportion of persons in the labour force (not the population as a whole) who are unemployed and looking for work.

CIV has calculated the unemployment rate of LGAs by aggregating figures for Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) as published by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).¹¹ The reference period is the 2006–2007 financial year (based on the June quarter 2007).¹²

Readers are advised to refer to Volume 1: Social Profile of this report which includes the unemployment rates at the SLA level for the most recent period, that being the 2009–2010 quarters (see the section, 'Unemployment Rates').

The CIV information shows that for 2006–2007, Monash and Whitehorse had the highest unemployment rates in the region at 4.8%, whereas Boroondara had the lowest (3.2%).



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

¹¹ DEEWR figures are 'smoothed' to minimise variability inherent in estimates at the SLA level.

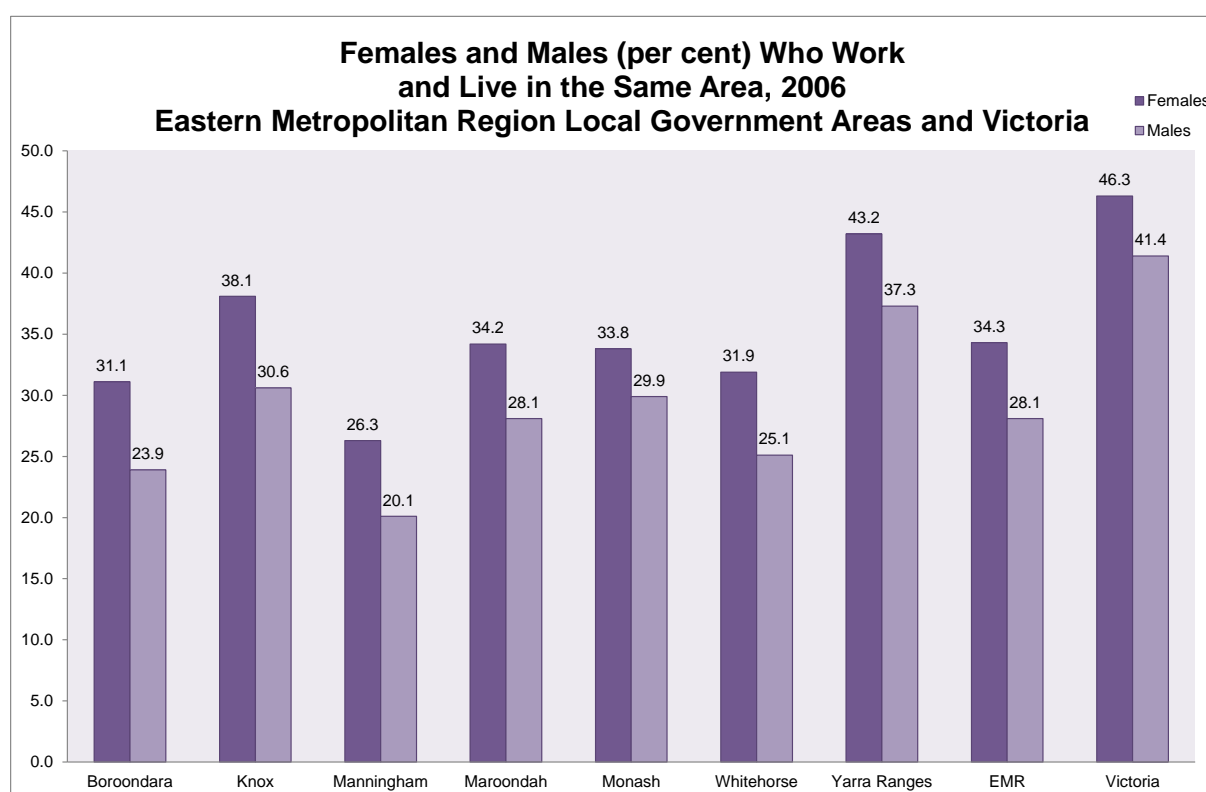
¹² As noted by CIV, 'The smoothed series for each June Quarter effectively gives the average number of unemployed and unemployment rate across the whole of the year ending June (i.e. the financial year).' It is these figures that are used by CIV.

Local Employment

According to CIV, 'Local employment is integral to a sustainable society. Local employment contributes to making the municipality a desirable place to live and reduces economic leakage. People who live and work in an area are more likely to shop locally and become embedded in the local community, contributing to community building.' In addition, local employment has environmental benefits and can help workers to attain better work-life balance.

CIV has collated figures relevant to local employment (i.e. the proportion of employed persons who live in the area they work) using data from the last Census. The information shows that:

- employed females in Yarra Ranges are most likely to be working and living in the same LGA at 43.2%, whereas their counterparts in Boroondara are least likely to be doing so;
- across the region, employed females are more likely than their male counterparts to be working and living in the same LGA.



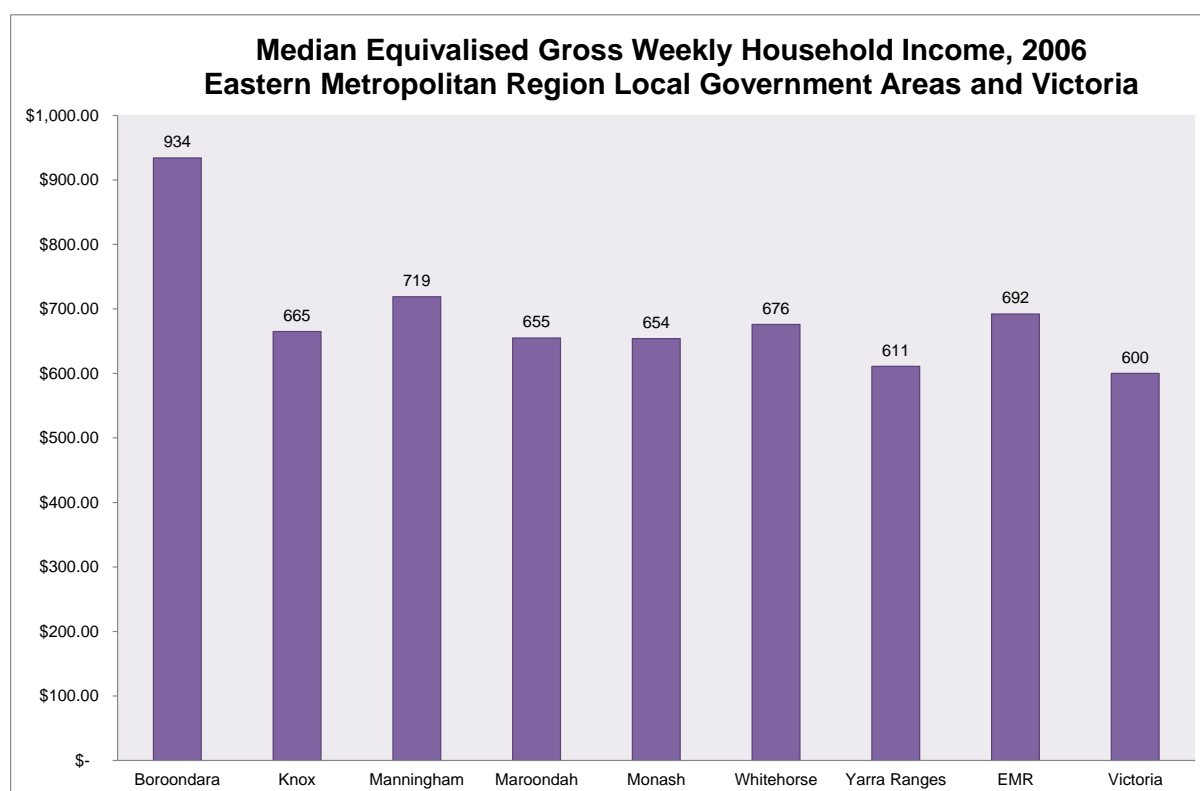
Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

Income

Income is an important indicator of community wellbeing because many of life's basic needs (for example, food, shelter, education, and health care) must be purchased and/or have associated costs.

CIV measures the economic status of communities through the median equivalised gross weekly household income as derived from household income data collected at the last Census. Equivalised household income, as defined by the ABS, is the total household income 'adjusted by the application of an equivalence scale to facilitate comparison of income levels between households of differing size and composition, reflecting the requirement of a larger household to have a higher level of income to achieve the same standard of living as a smaller household.'¹³

According to the information compiled by CIV, households in Boroondara have the highest median equivalised gross weekly income, whereas households in Yarra Ranges have the lowest.



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

¹³ Australian Bureau of Statistics *Census Dictionary*, Cat. No. 2901.0 Latest Issue Release 11:30 a.m. (Canberra time) 17/11/06, <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/A390E2529EC00DFECA25720A0076F6C6?opendocument>.

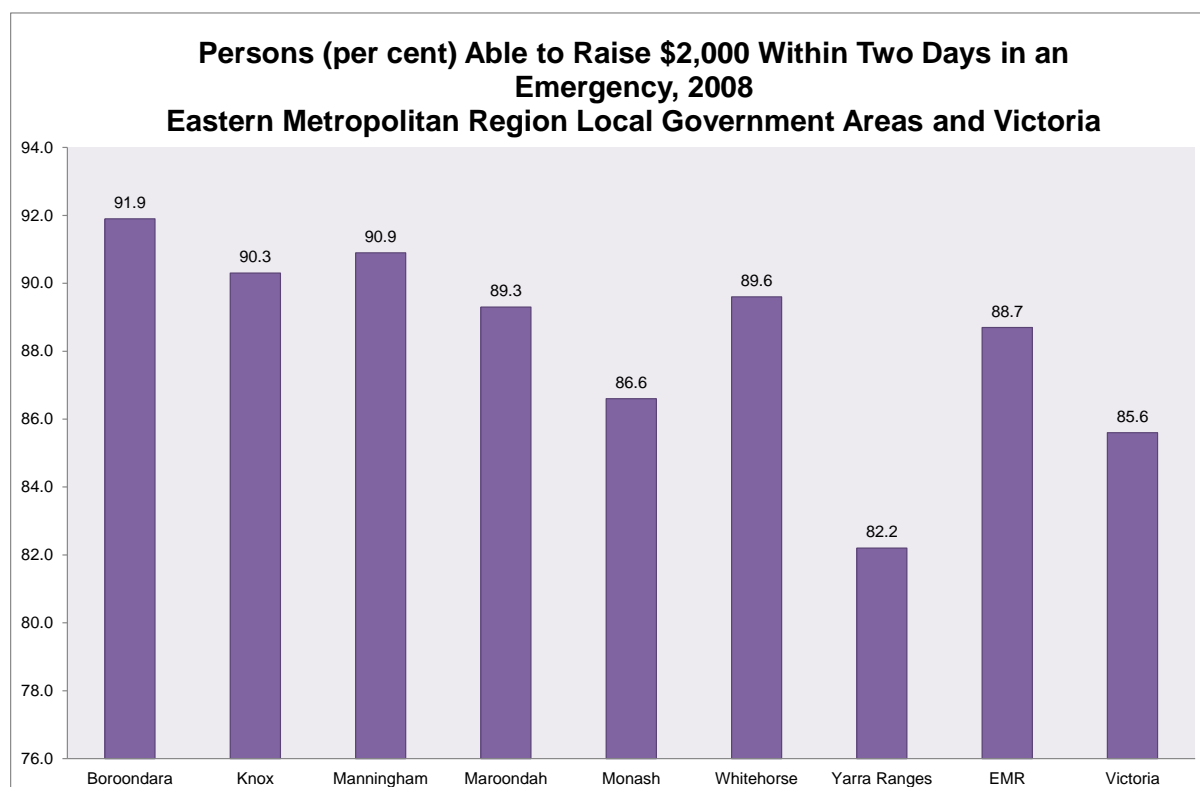
Financial Stress

There are several other ways to explore the resiliency of local communities. One of these is through the concept of financial stress. According to CIV, a symptom of financial stress is 'the inability to raise a moderate sum of money to deal with an emergency of the kind created by the need to pay an unexpected bill.'

The extent of financial stress across Victoria was captured by telephone survey in 2008 as part of the VPHS. Some 450 individuals over the age of 18 in each of Victoria's 79 LGAs were involved. Respondents were asked if they could raise \$2,000 within two days in an emergency situation. The measure has been derived from those answering 'Yes' reflected as a proportion of the population.

The results (sex-disaggregated data are not available) show that residents in Boroondara are most likely to be able to raise \$2,000 within two days in an emergency (91.9%), whereas those in Yarra Ranges are least likely to be able to do so (82.2%). To put this differently, across the region:

- residents in Boroondara are the least likely to experience financial stress;
- residents in Yarra Ranges are the most likely to experience financial stress.



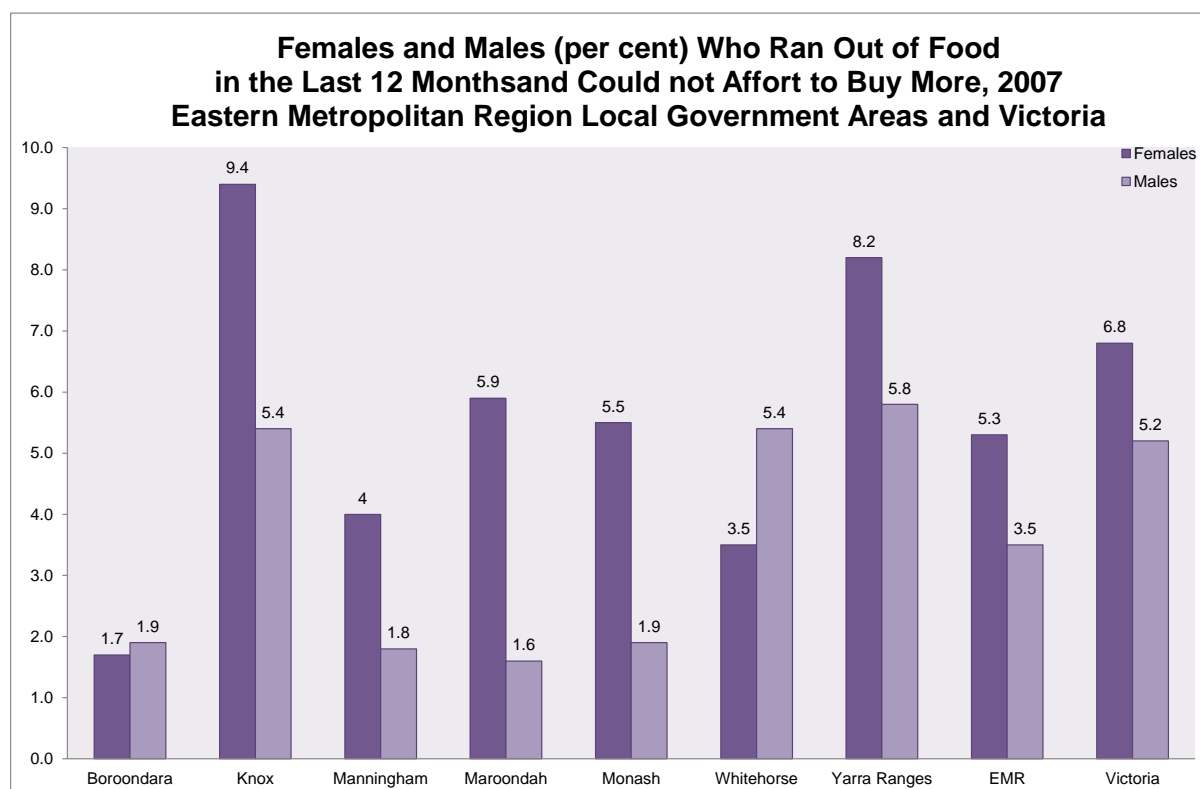
Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

Food Security

Another way to explore the resiliency of local communities is through the concept of food security – or more accurately, food insecurity. Individuals can be at risk of poor nutrition and diet (not to mention social exclusion) if they experience financial or other barriers to purchasing food.¹⁴

Food insecurity has been measured through the CIV survey. Respondents were asked if there had been any times in the preceding 12 months when they had run out of food and could not afford to buy more. The results show that:

- females in Knox (9.4%) are most likely to have experienced food insecurity in the last 12 months, whereas females in Boroondara (1.7%) are least likely to have done so;
- across the region, females in the region are generally more likely than males to have experienced food insecurity in the last 12 months, the exception being in Whitehorse (and marginally in Boroondara).



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

¹⁴ See above, 'Health and Lifestyle Behaviours', for further discussion on the association between socio-economic disadvantage and poor nutrition.

Educational Qualifications

According to CIV, 'Education is an essential component of community wellbeing, enabling humans to develop their intellectual potential and maximising their capacity to deal with all aspects of life. The education and skills base of residents influences their capacity to gain employment and contributes to equity and the opportunity to make lifestyle choices. The educational qualifications of residents also contribute to the capacity of communities to engage in the emerging knowledge economy.'

CIV measures educational qualifications based on data from the last Census. The results have been derived from information about the attainment of non-school qualifications of persons aged 25 years or more. CIV acknowledges that some people aged 15–24 years will have attained a non-school qualification; however, the majority of this cohort is still in the process of completing their education. (See 'Destinations of School Leavers' and 'School Retention' for information about this cohort.) The information compiled by CIV therefore refers to persons aged 25 years or more and is presented below.¹⁵

Those Aged 25+ Years with a Bachelor Degree or Higher Qualification

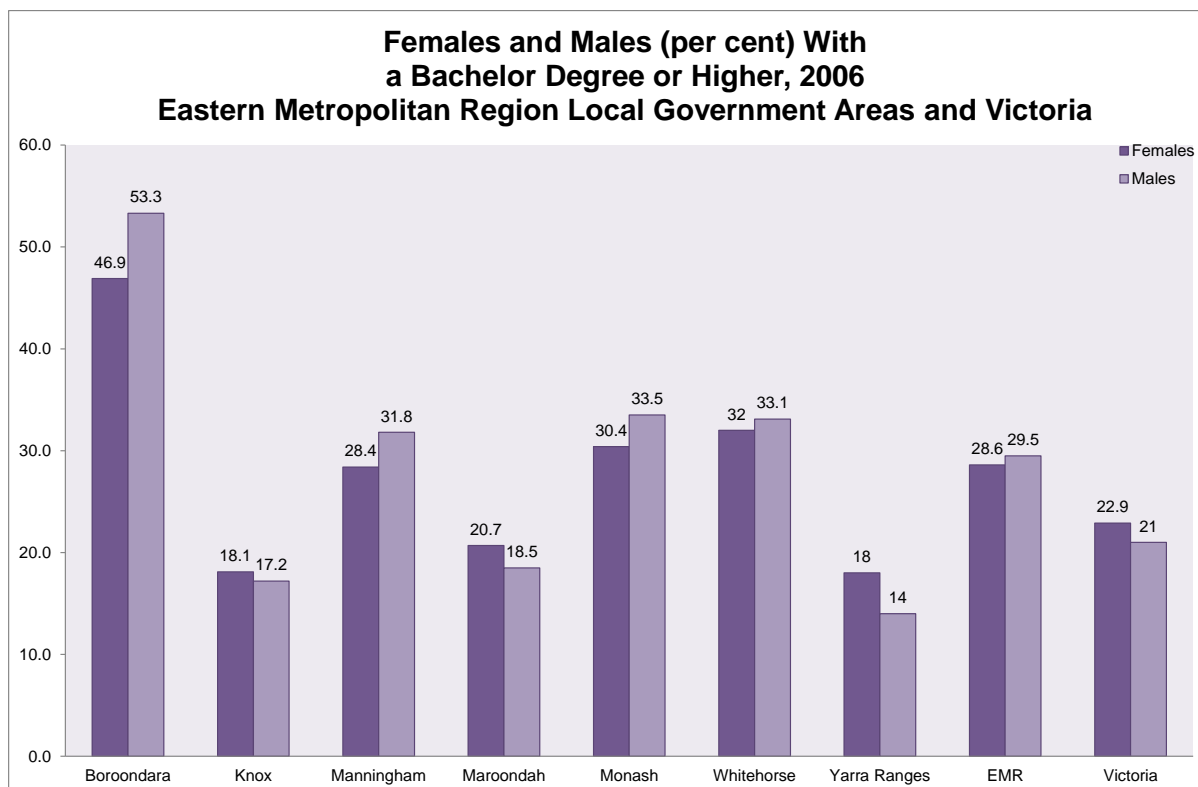
According to the information:

- females aged 25 years and over in Boroondara (46.9%) are most likely to have attained a bachelor degree or higher qualification, whereas their counterparts in Knox (18.1%) and Yarra Ranges (18.0%) are least likely to have done so;
- across the region, females aged 25 years and over in Boroondara, Manningham, Monash and Whitehorse are less likely to have attained a bachelor degree or higher qualification than their male counterparts, whereas females aged 25 years and over in Knox, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges are more likely to have done so compared to their male counterparts.

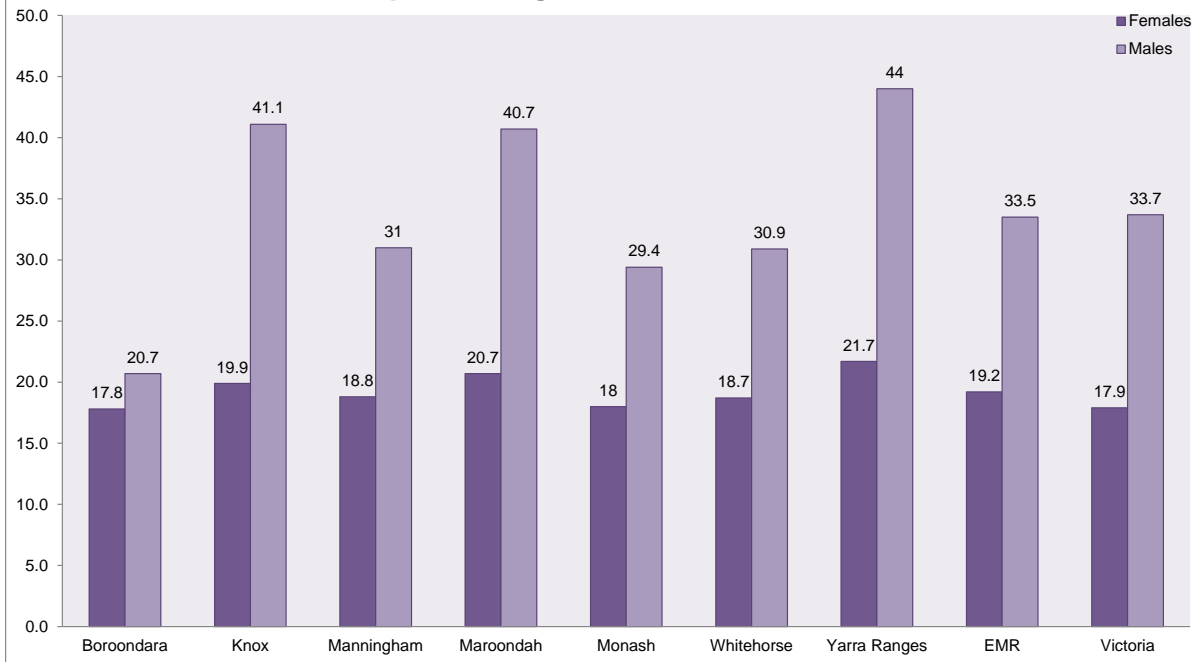
Those Aged 25+ Years with Highest Qualification between Certificate III and Advanced Diploma

¹⁵ Readers can compare these CIV results with figures contained Volume 1: Social Profile of this report (see 'Levels of Post-secondary Education Attainment'). Figures vary between the two sections because the CIV results exclude persons aged less than 25 years. CIV has also excluded from the denominator those who did not state or inadequately described their non-school educational qualifications.

- females aged 25 years and over in Yarra Ranges (21.7%) are most likely to have achieved a highest qualification between a Certificate III and Advanced Diploma, whereas their counterparts in Boroondara (17.8%) are least likely to have done so;
- across the region, females aged 25 years are less likely to have achieved a highest qualification between a Certificate III and Advanced Diploma than their male counterparts.



**Females and Males (per cent) With Highest Qualification Level
Between Cert III and Ad Dip, 2006
Eastern Metropolitan Region Local Government Areas and Victoria**



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

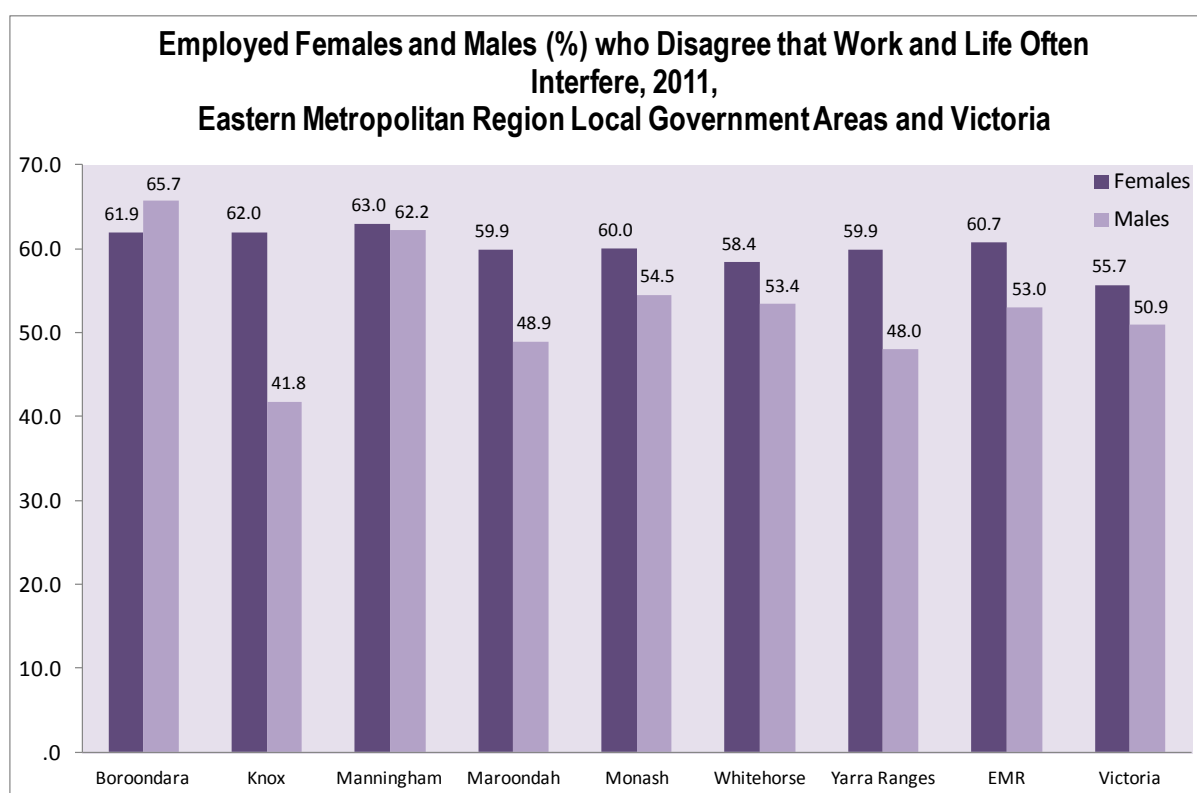
Adequate Work-life Balance

According to CIV, 'work-life balance is the maintenance of a balance between responsibilities at work and at home. When work-life balance is achieved, people feel that they have attained the best possible quality of life.'

Work-life balance was measured through the CIV survey. Employed respondents were asked whether they agreed that 'their work and family life often interfere with each other.' The responses were highly subjective given that the notion of what counts as 'interference' can vary enormously from person to person.

The results are for the proportion of respondents who disagree with the statement, and show that:

- employed females in Manningham (63%) are most likely to feel they have a balance between work and life, whereas their counterparts in Whitehorse (58.4%) are least likely to feel this way;
- across the region, employed females are generally more likely to feel they have a balance between work and life than their male counterparts, the exception being in Boroondara (where females are less likely than males to feel this way) and Manningham (where females and males feel roughly the same way).



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

Sustainable Built and Natural Environments

Housing Affordability for Renters and Buyers

Housing affordability has a major influence on community wellbeing. When housing costs are high relative to income, then residents have less capacity to meet other essential needs (including health care).

Whilst rising housing costs affect those purchasing their homes, those hit hardest are people on low incomes trapped in the private rental market and/or trying to secure public housing (itself in ever-diminishing supply). Government subsidies can help to offset some of the costs for low income households; however, the fact remains that rental costs continue to rise at a much faster rate than available subsidies. This means an increasing number of low income households renting in stress with an increasing number of their occupants at risk of homelessness.¹⁶

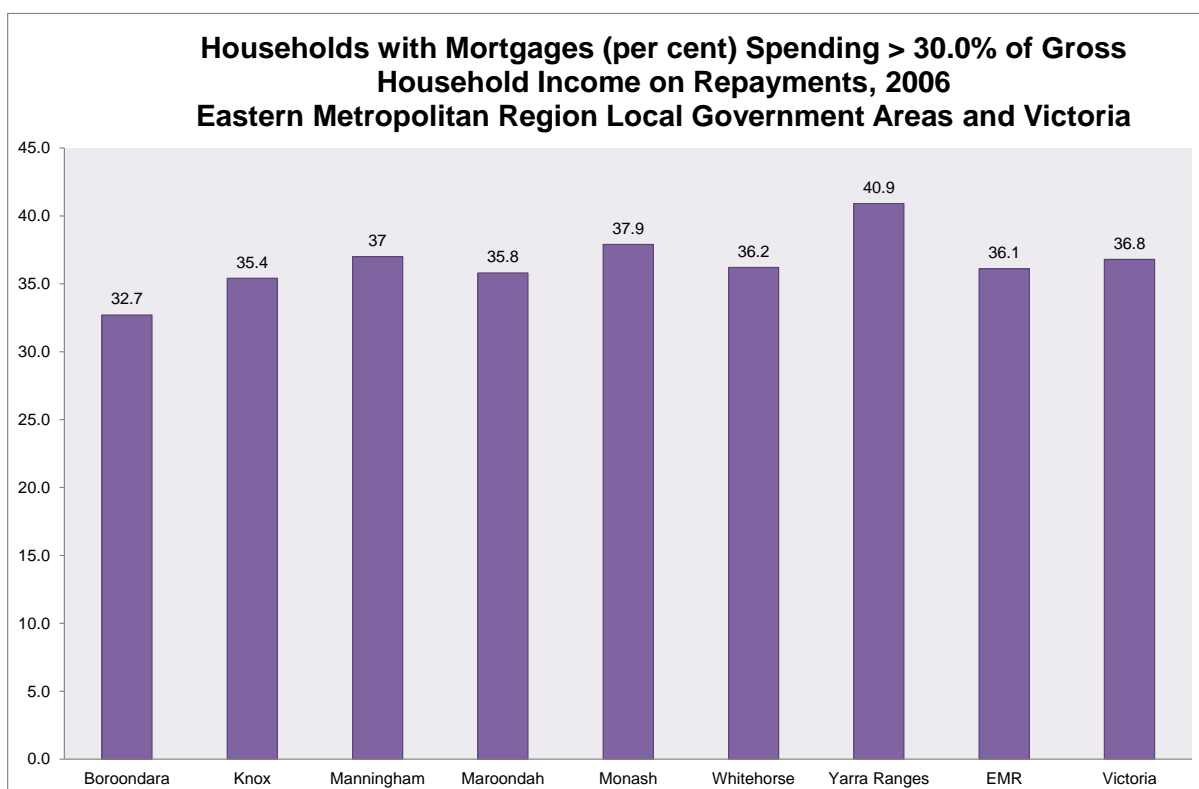
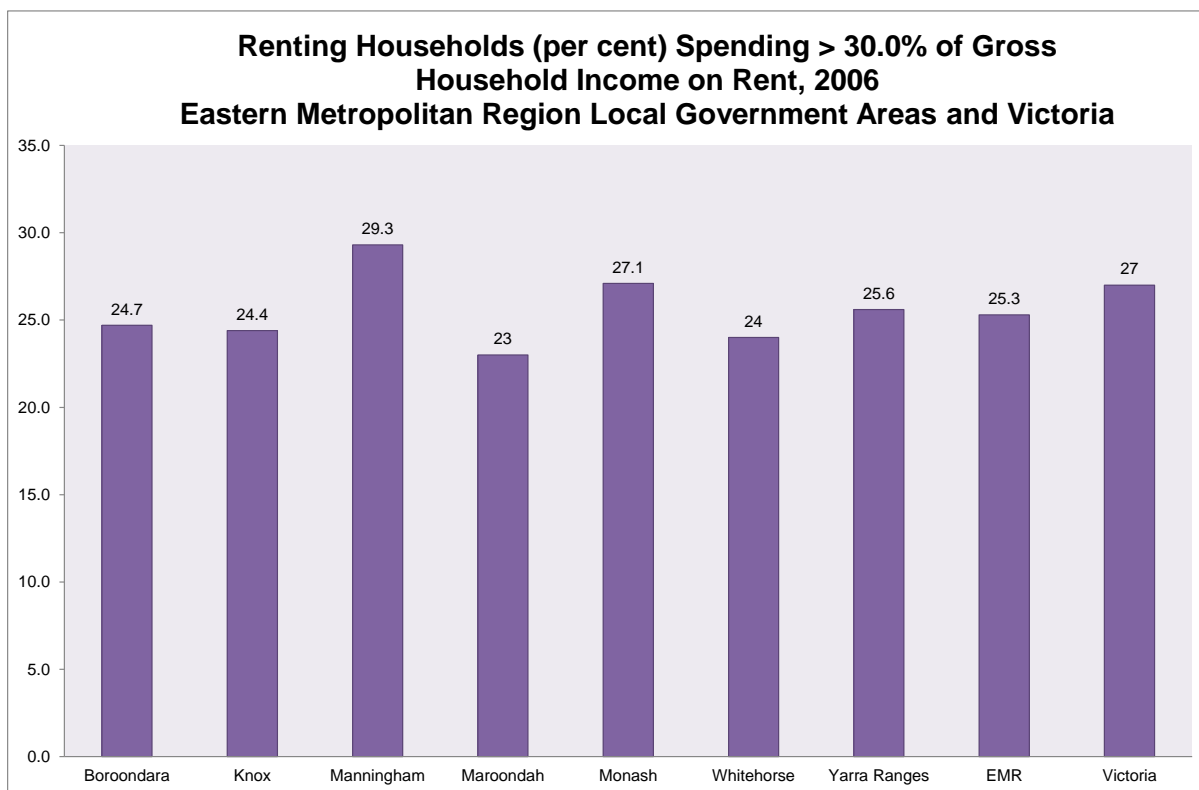
CIV has calculated two different measures of housing affordability using data from the last Census.¹⁷ These relate to the proportion of renting households spending 30.0% or more of gross household income on rental costs, and the proportion of households with mortgages spending 30.0% or more of gross household income on repayments. For such households, housing is said to be not affordable.

According to the information, households that are least likely to be experiencing housing affordability are:

- renting households in Manningham, with 29.3% spending 30.0% or more of their gross household income on rental costs;
- households with mortgages in Yarra Ranges, with 40.9% spending 30.0% or more of their gross household income on repayments.

¹⁶ See Anglicare Victoria http://www.anglicarevic.org.au/index.php?pageID=6825&merchant_id=0.

¹⁷ Readers can also refer to 'Housing Stress' in Volume 1: Social Profile of this report for more on housing stress in the region.



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

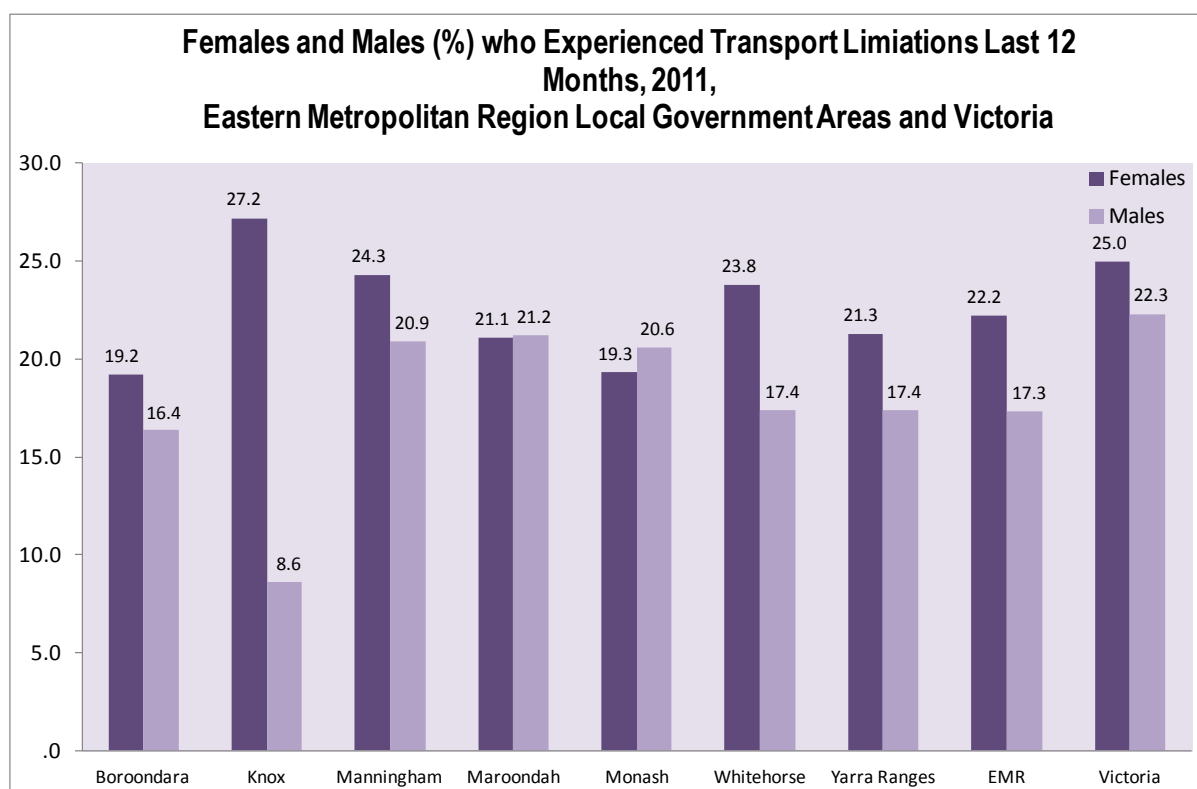
Transport Limitations

According to CIV, 'Safe, reliable affordable transport is a key determinant of people's opportunities to access health services and programs, education and secure employment. It is especially important for the elderly to have access to public transportation. Limitation in regards to transport is related to social isolation and also has a relationship with sedentary lifestyles.'

People's experiences of transport limitations were measured through the CIV survey.

Respondents were asked if their day-to-day travel had been limited or restricted in the previous 12 months. The results show that:

- females in Knox (27.2%) are most likely to have experienced transport limitations in the last 12 months, whereas females in Boroondara (19.2%) are least likely to have done so;
- across the region, females are more likely than males to have experienced transport limitations in the last 12 months, with the exceptions being in Monash (where females are less likely than males to have experienced transport limitations) and Maroondah (where females and males had roughly the same experiences).



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

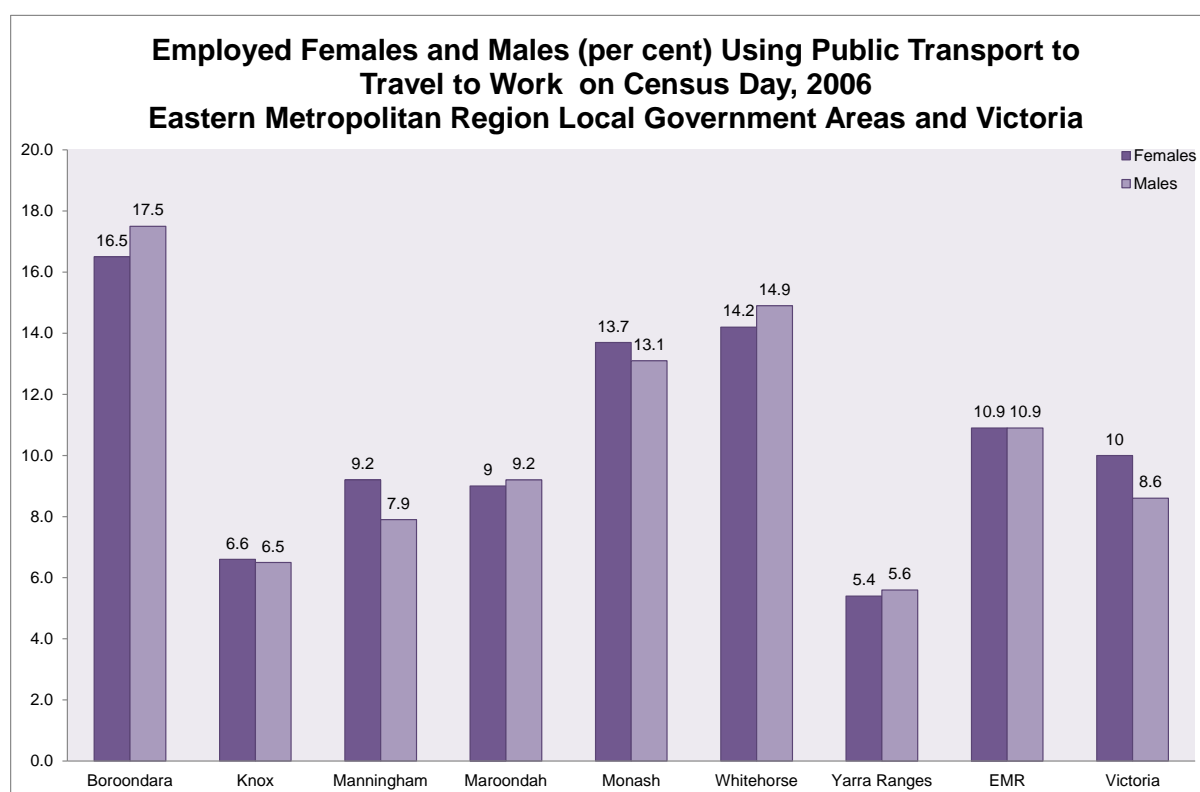
Public Transport Patronage

Public transport is an important indicator of a sustainable environment. Adequate and affordable public transport can make a positive difference to the environment (e.g. reduction

in road accidents, traffic congestion and air pollution) as well as improve people’s access to services. Adequate and affordable public transport is particularly important for those without private vehicles and who rely on other forms of transport to get to where they need to go (e.g. younger people, the elderly, those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage).

CIV measures public transport patronage through the number of persons who used public transport to travel to work on the day of the most recent Census. Public transport includes train, bus, ferry or tram – as a single method or in combination with other methods (including private transport). Patronage is, of course, dependent on availability. Lower rates of patronage can indicate lack of available public transport options in under-served areas such as outer metropolitan LGAs. The information compiled by CIV shows that:

- employed females in Boroondara (16.5%) were most likely to have travelled to work using public transport on Census day, whereas their counterparts in Yarra Ranges (5.4%) were least likely to have done so;
- across the region, employed females in Manningham and Monash were more likely than their male counterparts to have travelled to work using public transport on Census day, whereas employed females in Boroondara and Whitehorse were less likely than their male counterparts to have done so.



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*



Culturally Rich and Vibrant Communities

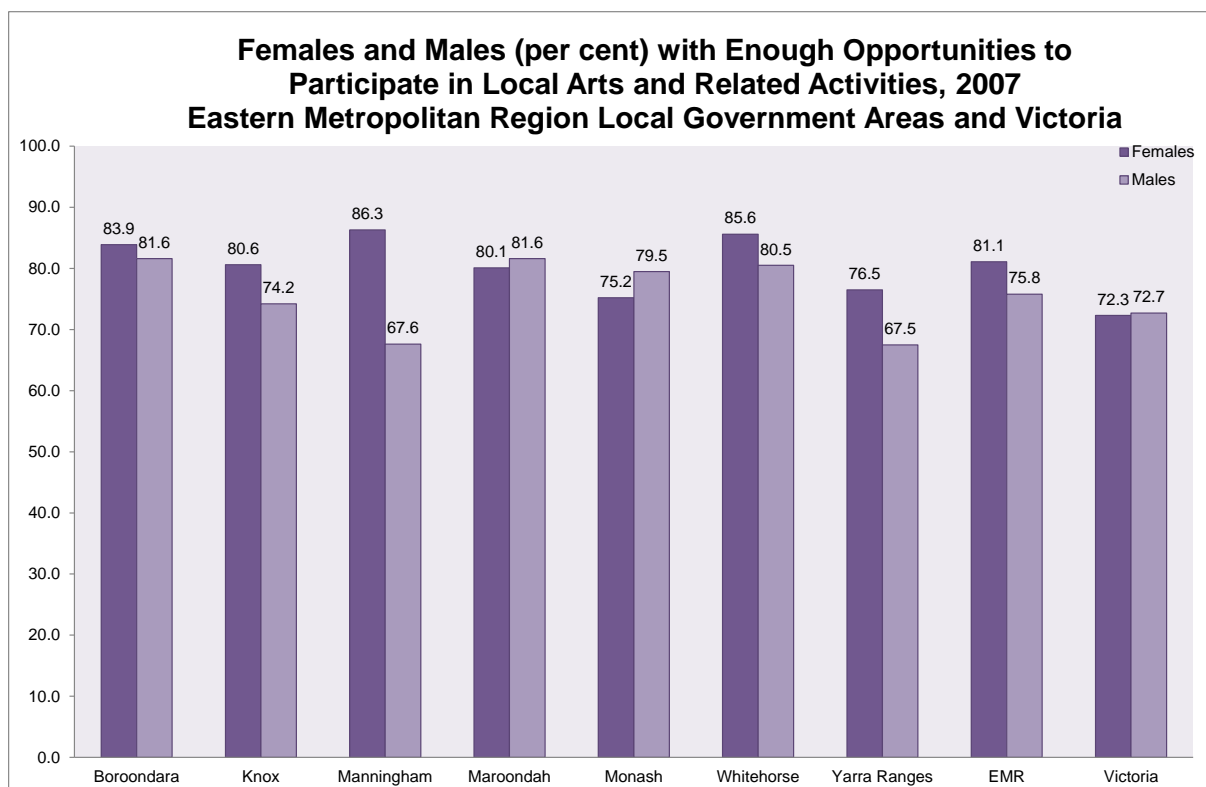
Arts and Cultural Activities: Opportunities and Participation

According to CIV, 'Art and culture are aspects of community identity, and social life. They are integral in forming national identity, community networks and preserving social knowledge'.

Moreover, 'Participation builds social cohesion and connectedness, thereby reducing isolation. Through building a collective identity, event and cultural facilities also build community strength. Community and cultural events provide a range of socially inclusive activities that contribute to overall community wellbeing.'

The opportunity to participate in arts and cultural activities was measured through the CIV survey. Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement, 'There are enough opportunities in your local area for you to participate in arts and related activities'. The results (for those who agreed) show that:

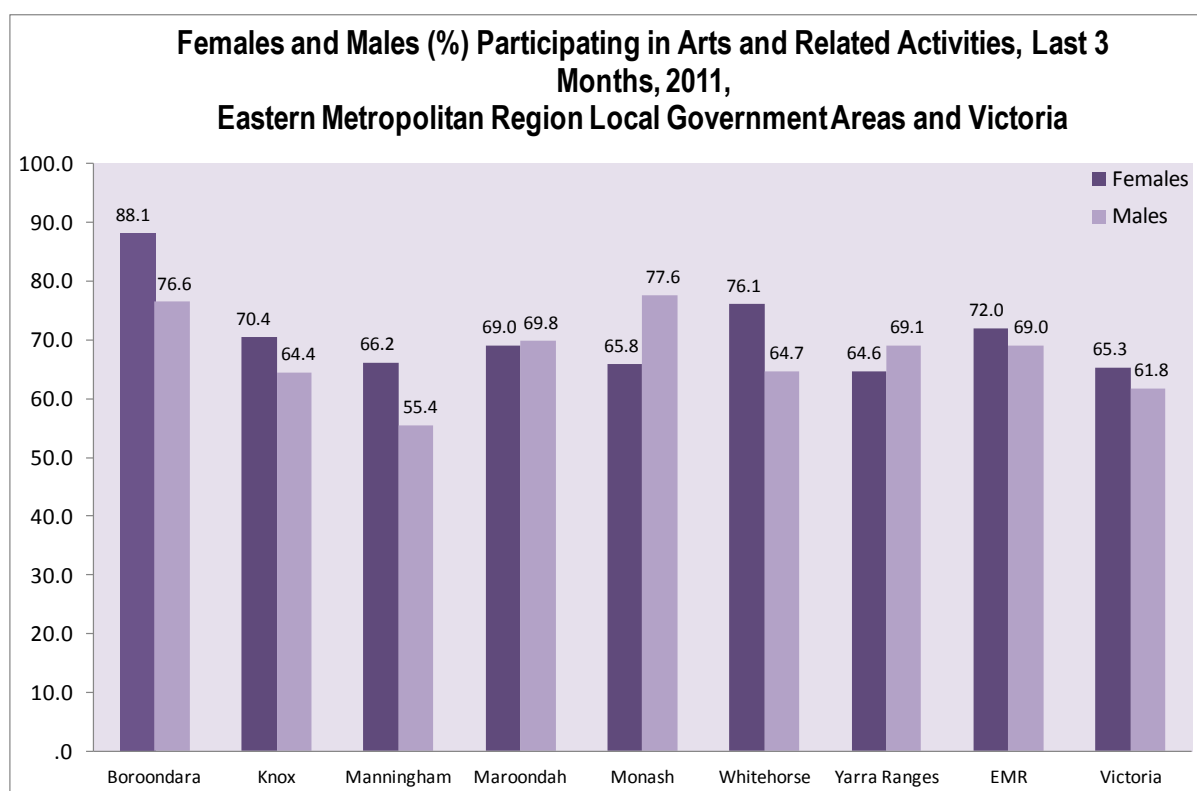
- Females in Manningham (86.3%) are most likely to feel that they have enough opportunities to participate in arts and related activities in their local area, whereas females in Monash (75.2%) are least likely to do so.
- Across the region, females are generally more likely than males to feel that they have enough opportunities to participate in arts and related activities in their local area (especially in Manningham). The exceptions are Maroondah and Monash.



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

Participation in arts and cultural activities was measured through the CIV survey. Respondents were asked if they had participated in a range of activities in the previous 3 months, including painting, drawing, art and craft, playing musical instruments, singing, writing and performing. The results show that:

- Females in Boroondara(88.1%) are most likely to have participated in arts and related activities in the last 3 months, whereas females in Yarra Ranges (64.6%) are least likely to have done so.
- Across the region, females are generally more likely than males to participate in arts and related activities in the last 3 months. The exceptions are Monash, Yarra Ranges and Maroondah.
- Across the region, females in Knox, Whitehorse, Boroondara and Manningham are more likely than males to have participated in arts and cultural activities in the last 3 months, whereas females in Monash, Yarra Ranges and Maroondah are less likely than males to have done so.



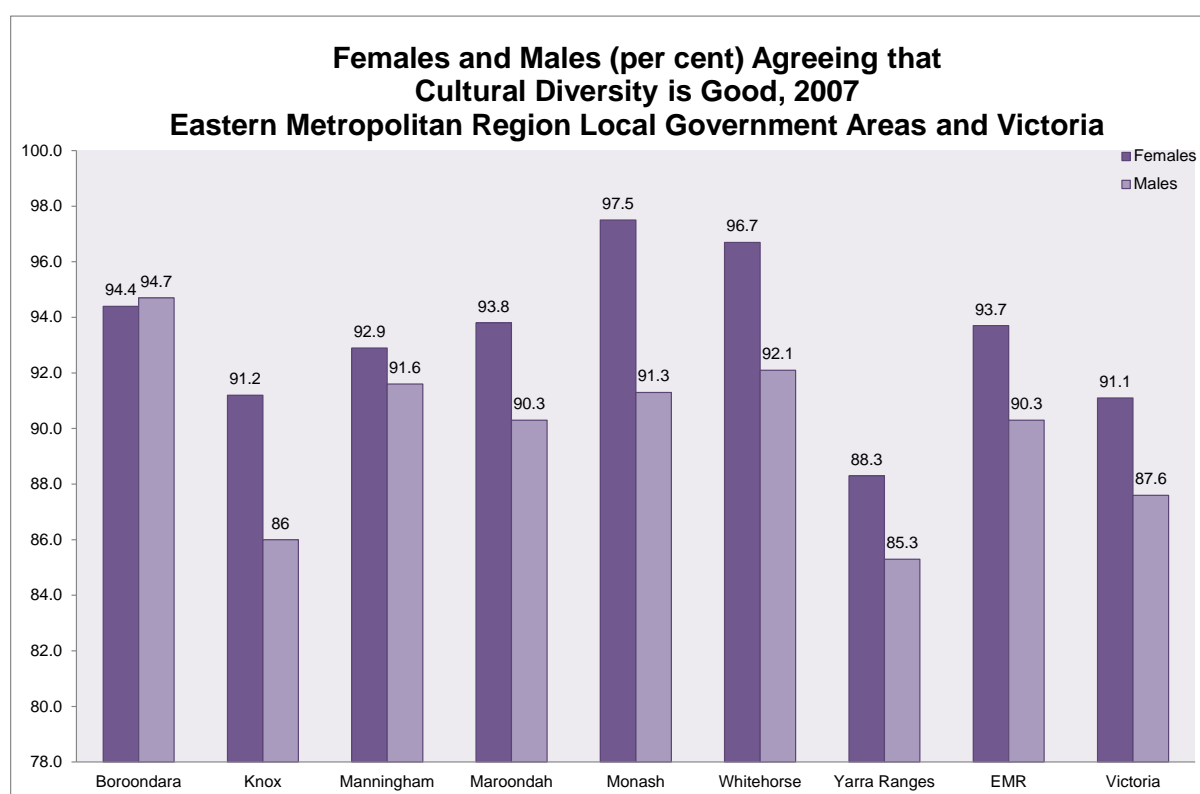
Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

Acceptance of Cultural Difference

Migrants play a key role in building strong communities. Their contribution to the economic, social and cultural fabric of life means that the heterogeneity of community identity and belonging is constantly being re-envisioned.

Opinions on cultural diversity were measured through the CIV survey. Respondents were asked if they agreed with the statement, 'It is a good thing for society to be made up of people from different cultures.' The results (for those who agreed) show that:

- Females in Monash (97.5%) are most likely to feel that cultural diversity is a good thing in society, whereas females in Yarra Ranges (88.3%) are least likely to feel this way.
- Across the region, females are generally more likely than males to feel that cultural diversity is a good thing in society, especially in Monash. The exception is Boroondara where rates of agreement to the statement are around the same for females and males.



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

Democratic and Engaged Communities

Citizen Engagement ● ● ●

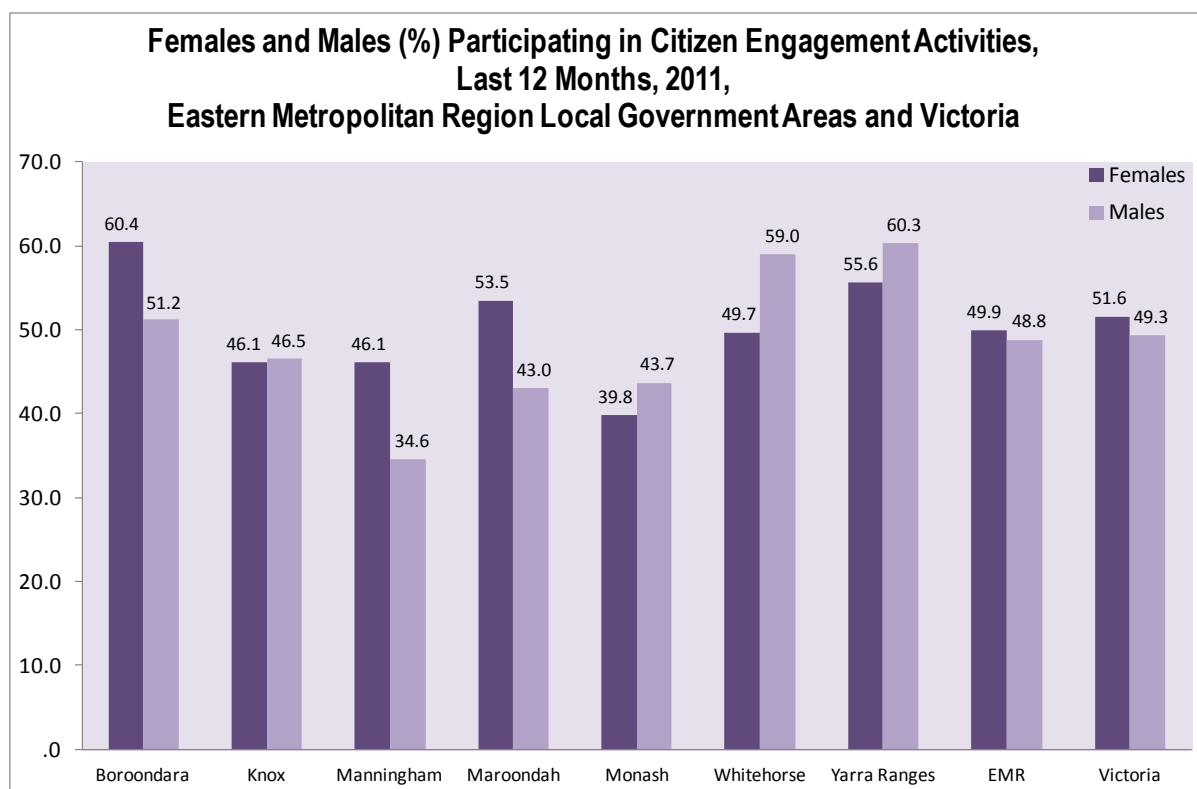
Citizen engagement encompasses activities such as public consultation and the involvement in decision-making and local governance processes. Through engagement, citizens acquire a sense of empowerment, and political efficacy, and gain greater control of their destinies.

The participation of Victorians in different types of citizen engagement was measured through the CIV survey. Respondents were asked if they had done any of the following types of activities in the last 12 months:

- attended a town meeting or public hearing;
- met with, called or sent a letter to a local politician;
- joined a protest or signed a petition.

The results (of those who said 'yes') show that:

- females in Boroondara (60.4%) are most likely to have participated in citizen engagement activities in the last 12 months, whereas females in Monash (39.8%) are least likely to have done so.
- across the region, females in Knox, Monash, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges are less likely than males to have participated in citizen engagement activities in the last 12 months, whereas females in Boroondara, Manningham and Maroondah are more likely than males to have done so.



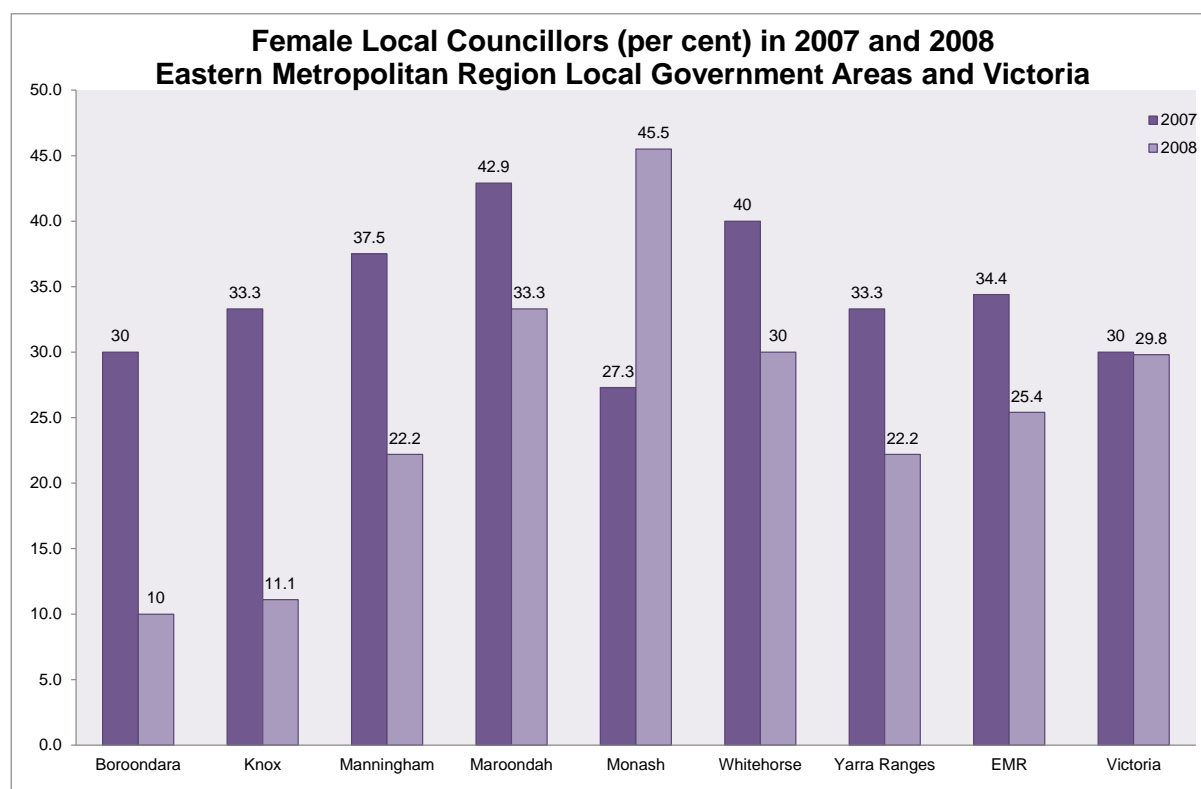
Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

Female Local Councillors

As the tier of government closest to the community, local government gives citizens important opportunities for participation in formal political decision-making processes and leadership. As equal citizens, women have a critical role to play in contributing to decisions that impact on their communities. The number of female local councillors can act as a measure of just how representational local democracy really is.

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) provides an analysis of council election results at the conclusion of the council election period. In November 2008, all Victorian councils went to the polls on the same day. The information presented below includes the number of local female councillors in the region (expressed as a percentage of the total number of councillors in each LGA) after the 2008 elections. The information can be compared with figures at 2007 reflecting results from the 2004 and 2005 elections – the last time elections in Victoria were split. The information shows that:

- Since the 2008 election, the LGA with the highest representation of female local councillors is Monash (45.5%), whereas the LGA with the lowest representation is Boroondara (10.0%).
- Across the region, the proportion of female local councillors generally fell after the most recent election in 2008. The exception is in Monash, where representation of female local councillors increased.



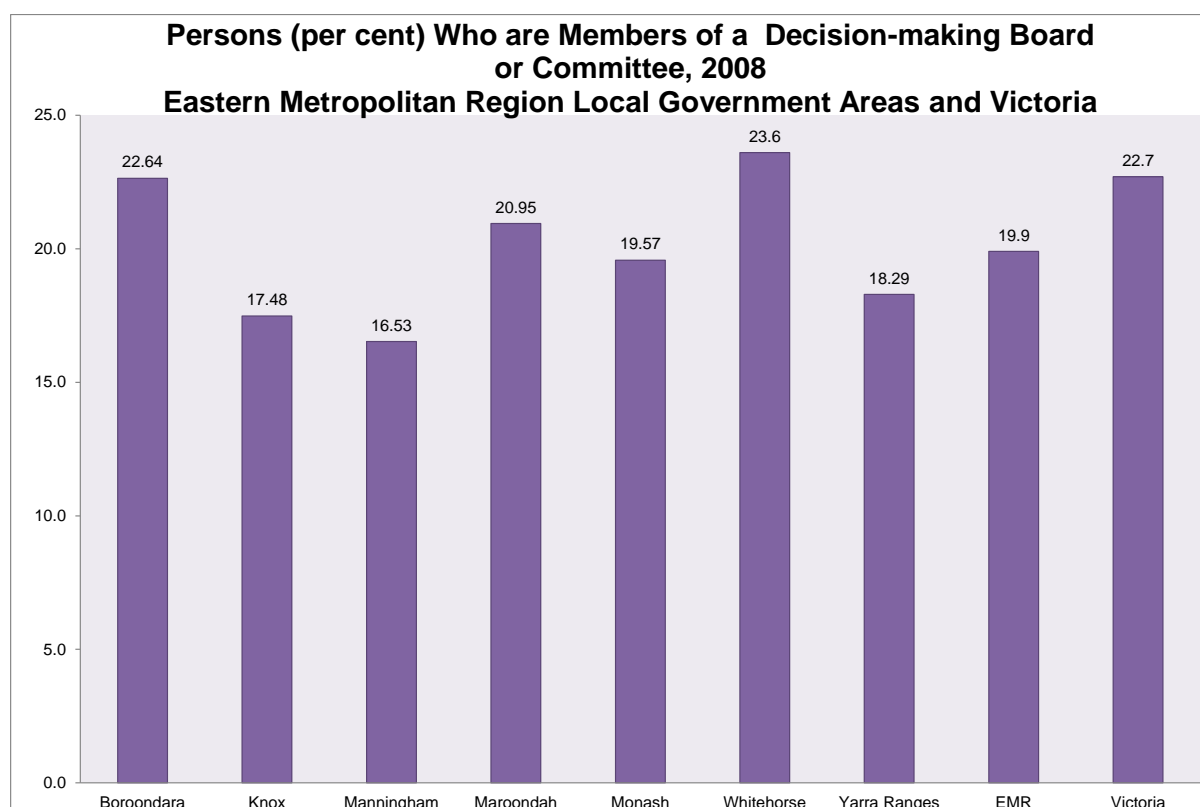
Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

Membership to Local Community Organisations

The number of people elected to decision-making positions in local community organisations can act as another measure of citizen engagement as it indicates the level of participation in local governance outside of the formal political system.

This form of citizen engagement was captured by telephone survey in 2008 as part of the VPHS. Some 450 individuals over the age of 18 in each of Victoria's 79 LGAs were involved. Respondents were asked if they were on a decision-making board or committee, such as a corporate board, school council, sports club committee, church committee, body corporate or resident action group.

The results (sex-disaggregated data are not available) show that residents in Whitehorse (23.6%) are most likely to be members of local decision-making boards or committees, whereas residents in Manningham (16.5%) are least likely to be.



Source: *Community Indicators Victoria*

