

MOUNT ALEXANDER DATA PROFILE

2024



Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit

Mount Alexander Data Profile

This document has been prepared to provide a data profile on the health and wellbeing of the local government area of Mount Alexander. It contains publicly available data that has been collated and summarised to inform local government, health services, advocacy and community groups.

All effort has been made to report data accurately and represent data available at time of publishing. These estimates may differ from those seen elsewhere due to differences in calculation methodologies and/or source data used.

Produced by Bendigo Health,
Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit
Version Oct 2024

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We acknowledge the First Peoples of Australia who are the Traditional Custodians of the land and water where we live, work and play. We celebrate that this is the oldest living and continuous culture in the world. We are proud to be sharing the land that we work on and recognise that sovereignty was never ceded.



We welcome all cultures, nationalities and religions. Being inclusive and providing equitable healthcare is our commitment.

Data snapshot

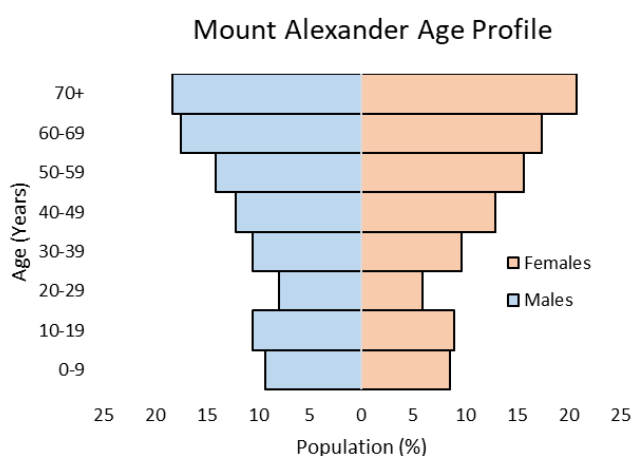
The Mount Alexander Shire is situated in the centre of Victoria, within the Loddon sub-region of the Loddon Mallee. Most residents live in the close-knit townships of Castlemaine, Harcourt, Newstead and Maldon. The Shire of Mount Alexander is on the traditional lands of the Djaara people, with a small overlap into Taungurung lands.

The people of Mount Alexander Shire are an engaged and active community. Their artistic and creative culture is thriving; the people are passionate about sustainability. The people are hands on and take part in creative and civic life at higher levels than average.

Census from 2021 indicates there are 20,255 people in Mount Alexander with a median age of 51 years. There is 1.3% of the population that indicated they were Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. Of the population, 80.5% were born in Australia and other top responses for country of birth England 4.1%, New Zealand 1.5%, Germany 0.5% and the United States 0.5%.

Mount Alexander, like much of regional Victoria, has an aging population and therefore a higher burden of chronic disease (including cancer, heart disease and mental illness) than the state average. There is a higher than state average of alcohol consumption, persons who consume more than two standard drinks per day on average is 20.1% versus 14.4% of Victorians. The median income for individuals, families and households are all below that of the state, and housing affordability is poor, being the second least affordable in the Loddon Mallee region.

In Mount Alexander, 99.8% of the land mass is rated as bushfire prone.



Median household income:

Mount Alexander \$1,252

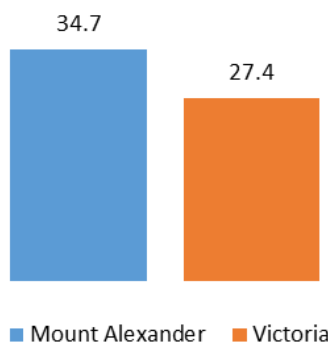
Victoria \$1,746

Adults consuming more than 2 standard drinks a day:

Mount Alexander 20.1 per 100

Victoria 14.4 per 100

Percentage of people with at least one long term health condition



Rental Affordability

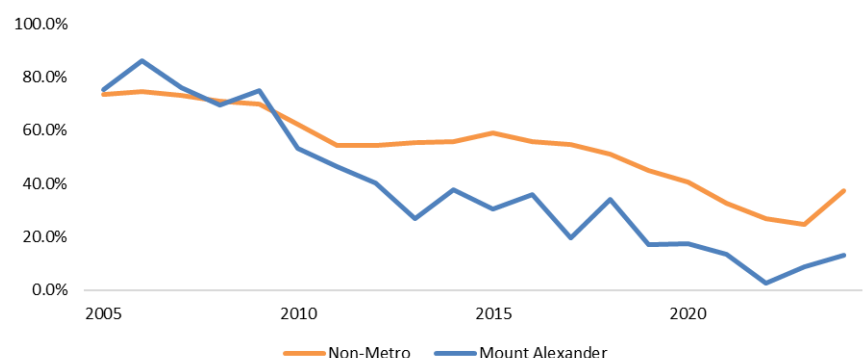


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Local Government Area (LGA) summary – Mount Alexander



Mount Alexander Shire is a rural local government area in central Victoria, Australia, renowned for its historical significance from the gold rush era, its vibrant arts community, and its agricultural productivity.

The shire is centred around the town of Castlemaine, the largest urban area within the region. Other significant towns include Maldon, Harcourt, Newstead, and Taradale. The shire sits between the Loddon Valley and the Macedon Ranges, making it part of Victoria's renowned Goldfields region.

Mount Alexander Shire has a population of 20,255 people (2021). Castlemaine is the most populous town, with approximately 7,500 residents. The rest of the population is dispersed across smaller rural communities and townships, contributing to the shire's semi-rural character.

Land use in Mount Alexander Shire is characterised by a blend of agricultural, residential, and heritage-focused areas. The fertile land around Harcourt is used for fruit growing, particularly apples, and wine production. The region also supports grazing and small-scale farming. In towns like Castlemaine and Maldon, there has been growth in residential development, driven in part by people moving from Melbourne seeking a tree-change lifestyle. Historic preservation is a priority, especially in Maldon, which was recognised as Australia's first notable historic town and continues to preserve many of its gold rush-era buildings and landmarks.

Mount Alexander Shire falls under the Modified Monash Model (MMM) classification of MMM 2, 4 and 5 meaning it is considered a regional area in the northern part of Mount Alexander (20kms of a regional city) but also has a medium rural town and smaller rural towns.

It is acknowledged that Mount Alexander Shire is situated on the traditional lands of the Djaara and Taungurung people, who have been custodians of our land and water ways for tens of thousands of years.

Source: [Home](#) | [Mount Alexander Shire Council](#), [Modified Monash Model](#) | [Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#)

1. Population

1.1 General Population

Mount Alexander's population profile, based on ABS data obtained from the census reveals an older demographic. The median age of 51 years is considerably higher than the state median of 38 years. The percentage of people aged 70 and above is also higher in Mount Alexander compared to the state average. The male-female ratio is about equal.

	Mount Alexander	Victoria
Median age	51	38

	Mount Alexander		% Mount Alexander		% Victoria	
Age Groups	Male	Female	% Male	% Female	% Male	% Female
0-9 years	937	875	9.3	8.6	6.1	5.8
10-19 years	1,066	914	10.5	9.0	6.0	5.6
20-29 years	805	597	8.0	5.9	6.9	6.9
30-39 years	1,058	984	10.5	9.7	7.4	7.8
40-49 years	1,221	1,305	12.1	12.9	6.4	6.6
50-59 years	1,428	1,592	14.1	15.7	5.9	5.9
60-69 years	1,759	1,768	17.4	17.4	5.0	5.5
70+ years	1,846	2,108	18.3	20.8	5.4	6.5
Total	10,105	10,150	49.9	50.1	49.2	50.6

Source: [2021 Mount Alexander, Census All persons Quick Stats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

1.2 Indigenous Status

Mount Alexander has a higher Indigenous population (1.3%) compared to the Victorian proportion (1%). The median age of Mount Alexander's Indigenous population is older at 30 years, compared to the state median of 24 years. The Indigenous median age is considerably younger than the average of the total Mount Alexander population (51 years).

Indigenous status	Mount Alexander	% Mount Alexander	Victoria	% Victoria
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	267	1.3	65,646	1
Non-Indigenous	18,746	92.6	6,148,188	94.5
Indigenous status not stated	1,240	6.1	289,665	4.5
Median age of Indigenous population	30		24	

Source: [2021 Mount Alexander, Census All persons Quick Stats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

1.3 Culture Diversity

A majority of Mount Alexander's residents, accounting for 87.8% of the total population, are Australian citizens with 80.5% being born in Australia. Only 3.4% of the population consists of people who are not Australian citizens. Language use patterns reveal a vast majority (87%) of Mount Alexander's residents speak English only. However, a small percentage (0.3%) speak other languages and do not use English well or at all. Overall, Mount Alexander's population profile reflects limited cultural and linguistic diversity.

CITP Australian Citizenship	Mount Alexander	% Mount Alexander	Victoria	% Victoria
Australian Citizen	17,782	87.8	5,389,821	82.9
Not an Australian Citizen	692	3.4	810,344	12.5
Not stated	1,779	8.8	303,333	4.7
Speaks English only	17,612	87.0	4,369,804	67.2
Uses other language and speaks English: Not well	48	0.2	216,541	3.3
Uses other language and speaks English: Not at all	13	0.1	69,334	1.1
Total Pop	20,253		6,503,491	

Source: [Census of Population and Housing, 2021, TableBuilder](#)

Country of birth, top responses (all people)	Mount Alexander	% Mount Alexander	Victoria	% Victoria
Australia	16,303	80.5	4,228,667	65.0
<i>Other top responses:</i>				
England	824	4.1	174,552	2.7
New Zealand	301	1.5	99,344	1.5
Germany	103	0.5	25,365	0.4
United States of America	93	0.5	23,964	0.4
Scotland	90	0.4	25,771	0.4

Source: [2021 Mount Alexander, Census All persons Quick Stats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

Language used at home, top responses other than English (all people)	Mount Alexander	% Mount Alexander	Victoria	% Victoria
German	68	0.3	16,515	0.3
Greek	55	0.3	107,158	1.6
Spanish	48	0.2	43,181	0.7
French	47	0.2	18,543	0.3
Italian	41	0.2	92,320	1.4
English only used at home	17,612	87.0	436,9804	67.2
Households where a non-English language is used	401	4.8	722,004	30.2

Source: [2021 Mount Alexander, Census All persons Quick Stats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

1.4 LGBTIQ+ population

Unfortunately, there is a lack of local data on LGBTIQ+ population including population size and health and wellbeing data. There is data at a state and national level that can be used as an indicator. The Victorian Population Health Survey 2017 estimates 5.7 per cent of Victorian adults identify as LGBTIQ+, however some rural areas have attracted significant higher proportion of LGBTIQ+ people to their communities; the Mount Alexander Shire is one such LGA.

State and national data indicate poorer mental and physical health for LGBTIQ+ community members with significantly higher rates of drug use, alcohol, smoking, chronic disease, homelessness, and disability along with higher rates of anxiety and depression, psychological stress and low satisfaction with life.

Sources and for more information: [Pride in our future: Victoria's LGBTIQ+ strategy 2022-32 | vic.gov.au \(www.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.vic.gov.au/pride-in-our-future-victoria-s-lgbtiqua-strategy-2022-32)
[The health and wellbeing of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer population in Victoria - Findings from the Victorian Population Health Survey 2017 | Victorian Agency for Health Information \(vahi.vic.gov.au\)](https://vahi.vic.gov.au/the-health-and-wellbeing-of-the-lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-intersex-and-queer-population-in-victoria-findings-from-the-victorian-population-health-survey-2017)

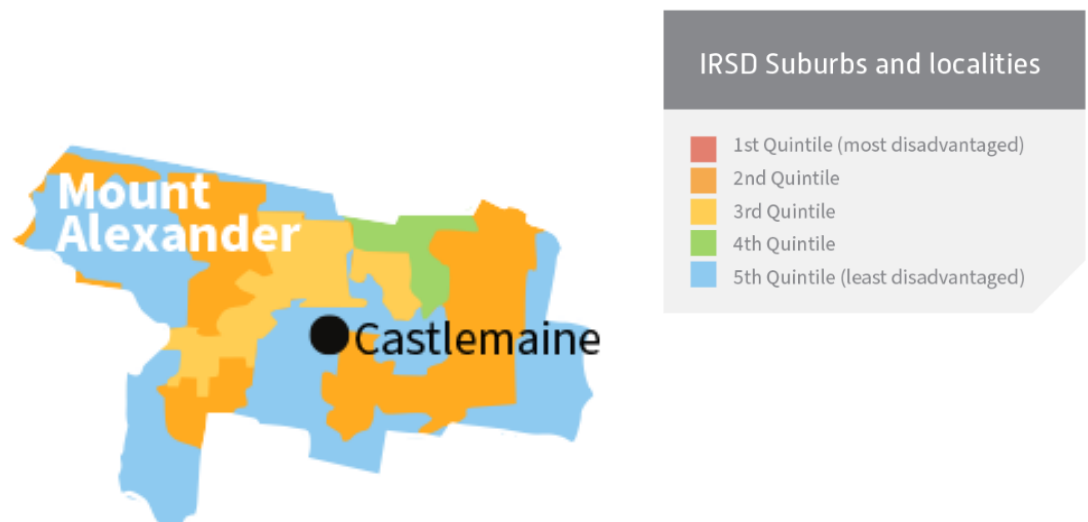
1.5 Areas of Disadvantage

The Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSAD) is a general socio-economic index that summarises a range of information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area.

A low score indicates relatively greater disadvantage. For example, an area could have a low score if there are: many households with low income, or many people without qualifications, and many people in low skilled occupations.

A high score indicates a relative lack of disadvantage. For example, an area may have a high score if there are: few households with low incomes, few people without qualifications, few people in low skilled occupations.

Within the Mount Alexander LGA there is a spread of areas that are least disadvantage to areas of disadvantage. The average IRSAD score for Mount Alexander shire is 1007 (2021), which ranks Mount Alexander 47th LGA in Victoria.



Source: [ABS: Census of population and Housing: Socio-Economic Indexes from areas \(SEIFA\), 2021](https://www.abs.gov.au/census-of-population-and-housing/socio-economic-indexes-from-areas-seifa)
Rank 1 = most disadvantage, rank 79 = least disadvantage

2. Prevention and Determinants

2.1 Prevalence of selected health risk factors for adults

In 2017-18, 14.2 per 100 Mount Alexander residents aged 18 years and over reported experiencing high or very high psychological distress, which is higher compared to the state rate of 13.3 per 100. Mount Alexander exhibits comparable figures to Victoria, with higher rates of current smokers (17.2 per 100 compared to 15.5 per 100 in Victoria) and people consuming more than two standard alcoholic drinks per day on average (20.1 per 100 in Mount Alexander versus 14.4 per 100 in Victoria). These higher rates of smoking and alcohol consumption in Mount Alexander may impact long-term health measures.

Indicators [^] (ASR/100, modelled estimates), self-reported, 18 years and over, 2017 - 2018	Mount Alexander	Victoria
High or very high psychological distress	14.2	13.3
High blood pressure	22.8	22.7
Overweight (but not obese)	36.6	36.4
Obese	30.3	31.3
Current smokers	17.2	15.5
Consumed more than two standard alcoholic drinks per day on average	20.1	14.4
Consumed adequate fruit intake	47.8	51.5
Undertook low, very low or no exercise in the previous week	63.2	65.7

Source: Source: [Social Health Atlas of Australia: Victoria](#)

[^]ASR per 100. Age Standardise Rate (ASR) is used to remove the effect of the differing age distributions that we can make conclusions about the relative decreases or increases in mortality over time.

2.2 Alcohol and other drugs

The alcohol and other drug statistics for Mount Alexander, based on the provided data for the fiscal year 2021, highlight certain trends and patterns in the region's substance use landscape. The statistics are presented per 100,000 population.

In general, it appears that Mount Alexander experiences considerably higher rates of alcohol-related incidents, including deaths and ambulance attendances but lower hospital admissions, when compared to Victoria. On the other hand, Victoria has higher rates of deaths and hospital admissions for illicit drug-related issues.

Alcohol and other drug (per 100,000 population)	Mount Alexander	Victoria
Deaths for alcohol-related events, 2021	227.1	142.8
Deaths for illicit drug (any)-related events in, 2021	0.0	0.6
Ambulance attendances for Alcohol Intoxication (w/wo Other Substance), FY-2021/22	602.4	390.4
Ambulance attendances for Alcohol Only (Intoxication), FY-2021/22	454.3	314.6
Ambulance attendances for Illicit Drugs (Any), FY-2021/22	291.3	199.4
Hospital admissions for Alcohol, FY-2021	449.3	577.9
Hospital admissions for Illicit Drugs (Any), FY-2021	153.1	242.9

Source: [Alcohol and other drug statistics in Victoria - AODstats](#)

These statistics are presented per 100,000 population

2.3 Life Expectancy

The median age at death for males in Mount Alexander has increased slightly (0.6%) but remains the same for women from 2016 to 2021. This data shows that, on average, individuals in Mount Alexander are experiencing a similar life expectancy as their counterparts in the broader state.

Examining premature mortality (deaths occurring before the age of 75), Mount Alexander demonstrated positive trends. For males, there was a substantial reduction from an average annual ASR of 343.2 to 266.4, indicating a percentage decrease of 22.4 %. Similarly, for females, the average annual ASR decreased from 222.5 to 180.2, reflecting a percentage decrease of 33.1%. These figures signify progress in reducing premature deaths in Mount Alexander, outperforming the state average.

Avoidable mortality (deaths that could have been prevented) also showed improvement in Mount Alexander. For males, there was a decline from an average annual ASR of 191.8 to 128.2, representing a percentage reduction of 33.2%. For females, the average annual ASR decreased from 94.4 to 78.7, indicating a percentage reduction of 16.6%. Once again, Mount Alexander demonstrates positive strides in addressing avoidable causes of death, surpassing the state average.

	Report - 2016 to 2020				Report - 2017 to 2021				% Difference between reports			
	Mount Alexander		Victoria		Mount Alexander		Victoria		Mount Alexander (%)		Victoria (%)	
	Male (M)	Female (F)	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Median age at death	79.5	85.0	79.0	85.0	80.0	85.0	79.0	85.0	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Premature Mortality, 0 to 74 years of age ^	343.2	222.5	269.5	171.2	266.4	180.2	273.4	172.9	-22.4	-33.1	1.4	1.0
Avoidable Mortality, 0 to 74 years of age ^	191.8	94.4	138.3	80.5	128.2	78.7	139.5	80.0	-33.2	-16.6	0.9	-0.6

Source: [Social Health Atlas of Australia: Victoria](#)

^Average annual ASR per 100,000. Age Standardise Rate (ASR) is used to remove the effect of the differing age distributions that we can make conclusions about the relative decreases or increases in mortality over time.

2.4 Sexual and Reproductive Health

Mount Alexander consistently shows lower birth rates and total fertility rates compared to the Victorian average. Interestingly, the adolescent birth rate in Mount Alexander has halved from 2019 to 2020 and is half the Victorian average in 2020.

Indicators	2022		2021	
	Mount Alexander	Victoria	Mount Alexander	Victoria
Female Birth - Rate (per 1,000) ¹	14.9	20.5	15.5	20.7
Female Total Fertility Rate - Rate (lifetime) ²	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7

Indicators	2020		2019	
	Mount Alexander	Victoria	Mount Alexander	Victoria
Female Adolescent Birth - Aggregate 2 year rate (per 1,000) ³	4.0	8.2	8.0	9.1

Source: [Victorian Women's Health Atlas \(victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au\)](http://victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au)

¹The rate equals the number of live births in 2020, per 1,000 women of the corresponding LGA. Note: Care should be taken when interpreting changes in fertility rates for Victoria from 2015 to 2018 due to registry system changes and processing of backlogs which may have inflated the birth counts for 2016 and 2017.

²The average number of children that a woman in a particular LGA could expect to bear during her reproductive lifetime if current fertility rates in that LGA continue. Note: Care should be taken when interpreting changes in fertility rates for Victoria from 2015 to 2018 due to registry system changes and processing of backlogs which may have inflated the birth counts for 2016 and 2017.

³The rate equals the number of live births to women younger than 20 years in the two-year period Jan 2019-Dec 2020, by LGA, per 1,000 women aged 13-19 residing in that LGA.

2.5 Sexually transmitted diseases

Mount Alexander has considerably lower rates of chlamydia (in females) and gonorrhoea (for males) compared to the Victorian rates. Hepatitis B and syphilis case numbers are less than five and therefore are not reported, with the exception of syphilis in males (2.96 per 10,000). This is slightly higher than the Victorian rate of 2.7 per 10,000 in 2023.

Sexually transmitted diseases	2023				2022			
	Mount Alexander		Victoria		Mount Alexander		Victoria	
Indicators per 10,000 persons	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Chlamydia ¹	7.41	16.79	16.3	18.7	5.43	14.32	14.4	15.7
Gonorrhoea ²	^	6.42	2.5	8.6	^	3.95	2.2	8.0
Hepatitis B ³	^	^	0.6	0.8	^	^	0.7	0.9
Syphilis ⁴	^	2.96	0.7	2.7	^	4.94	0.5	2.5

Source: [Victorian Women's Health Atlas \(victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au\)](http://victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au)

^ Where less than 5 cases are reported in the year the case rate will not be included.

¹The rate equals the number of chlamydia cases notified in the year period 2021, by LGA, per 10,000 persons of the corresponding LGA. Notes: (1) Rates based on counts of <5 are assigned an arbitrary count value of 2.5 to enable rate calculation.

²The rate equals the number of gonorrhoea cases notified in the year period 2021, by LGA, per 10,000 persons of the corresponding LGA. Notes: (1) Rates based on counts of <5 are assigned an arbitrary count value of 2.5 to enable rate calculation. (2) State and region total and averages shown in the Atlas are automatically generated based on LGA location data for female/male sex only and may differ to Victorian totals published elsewhere.

³The rate equals the number of hepatitis B cases (total of both newly acquired and unspecified) notified in the year period 2021, by LGA, per 10,000 persons of the corresponding LGA. Notes: (1) Rates based on counts of <5 are assigned an arbitrary count value of 2.5 to enable rate calculation. (2) State and region total and averages shown in the Atlas are automatically generated based on LGA location data for female/male sex only and may differ to Victorian totals published elsewhere.

⁴The rate equals the number of syphilis cases (total of both newly acquired and unspecified) notified in the year period 2021, by LGA, per 10,000 persons of the corresponding LGA. Notes: (1) Rates based on counts of <5 are assigned an arbitrary count value of 2.5 to enable rate calculation. (2) State and region total and averages shown in the Atlas are automatically generated based on LGA location data for female/male sex only and may differ to Victorian totals published elsewhere.

2.6 Selected long-term health condition

Arthritis and mental health conditions are prevalent in the community, with 12.6% and 11.2% of the population reporting these conditions respectively. Both conditions show higher prevalence rates in Mount Alexander compared to the state of Victoria.

Cancer affects 4.5% of Mount Alexander's population, which is higher than the state average of 2.8%. Similarly, heart disease, lung conditions, stroke and kidney disease have a higher prevalence in Mount Alexander compared to Victoria.

The proportion of Mount Alexander residents having one or more long-term health conditions (34.2%) is higher than the state average (27.4%). Further data looking at heart health shows the rates of heart-related hospitalisations (42.3/10,000 pop) and coronary heart disease mortality (64.5/100,000 pop) are both higher than the Victorian average (40.6/10,000 pop and 60.2/100,000 pop respectively).

Type of long-term health condition, 2021	Mount Alexander	% Mount Alexander [^]	Victoria	% Victoria [^]
Arthritis	2,545	12.6	518,633	8
Mental health condition (including depression or anxiety)	2,269	11.2	571,150	8.8
Asthma	1,708	8.4	543,047	8.4
Heart disease (including heart attack or angina)	1,072	5.3	243,130	3.7
Dementia (including Alzheimer's)	126	0.6	45,946	0.7
Diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes)	848	4.2	303,371	4.7
Cancer (including remission)	919	4.5	179,326	2.8
Lung condition (including COPD or emphysema)	456	2.3	97,270	1.5
Stroke	251	1.2	59,844	0.9
Kidney disease	217	1.1	57,437	0.9
Any other long-term health condition(s)	1,971	9.7	519,110	8
No long-term health condition(s)	10,067	49.7	3,969,506	61
Not stated	2,375	11.7	492,709	7.6

Source: [2021 Mount Alexander, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

[^]Calculated percentages represent a proportion of the number of people in the area (including those who did not answer the long-term health conditions question).

Count of selected long-term health conditions [*]	Mount Alexander	Victoria	%Mount Alexander	%Victoria
All people				
None of the selected conditions	10,940	4,228,219	54.0	65.0
One condition	4,572	1,224,496	22.6	18.8
Two conditions	1,587	371,819	7.8	5.7
Three or more conditions	777	186,237	3.8	2.9
Not stated	2,375	492,709	11.7	7.6

^{*} Selected long-term health conditions include arthritis, asthma, cancer (including remission), dementia (including Alzheimer's), diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes), heart disease (including heart attack or angina), kidney disease, lung condition (including COPD or emphysema), mental health condition (including depression or anxiety) and stroke. Other long-term health conditions are not included in this count.

Source: [2021 Mount Alexander, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

Heart health indicators	Mount Alexander	Victoria
Heart related hospital admissions (2011-2016)	42.3	40.6
ASR (per 10,000 persons)		
Coronary heart disease mortality (2012-2020)	64.5	60.2
ASR (per 100,000 persons)		

Source: [Heart Foundation – Australian Heart Maps](#)

2.7 Avoidable deaths by cause

Avoidable deaths are deaths from conditions that are potentially preventable through individualised care and/or treatable through existing primary or hospital care. Mount Alexander has lower rates of avoidable deaths (0-74yrs) compared to Victoria from cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular conditions, cerebrovascular and lung disease.

However, Mount Alexander is considerably higher for suicide and self-inflicted injuries (16.7 per 100,000) and transport accidents (10 per 100,000) compared to Victoria (10.6 per 100,000 and 4 per 100,000 respectively).

Avoidable deaths by cause^ (ASR per 100,00, 0-74 yrs), 2017 -2021	Mount Alexander	Victoria
Circulatory system	24.5	32.7
Cancer	23.2	27.8
External causes (Falls, burns, suicide and self-inflicted injuries etc)	21.9	13.5
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	16.7	10.6
Breast cancer	14.0	15.6
Ischaemic heart disease	12.6	20.6
Transport accidents	10.0	4.0
Colorectal cancer	7.5	10.1
Cerebrovascular disease	6.6	7.6
Respiratory system disease	6.4	9.0
Obstructive pulmonary disease	5.6	8.3
Diabetes	na	5.2

Source: [Social Health Atlas of Australia: Victoria](#)

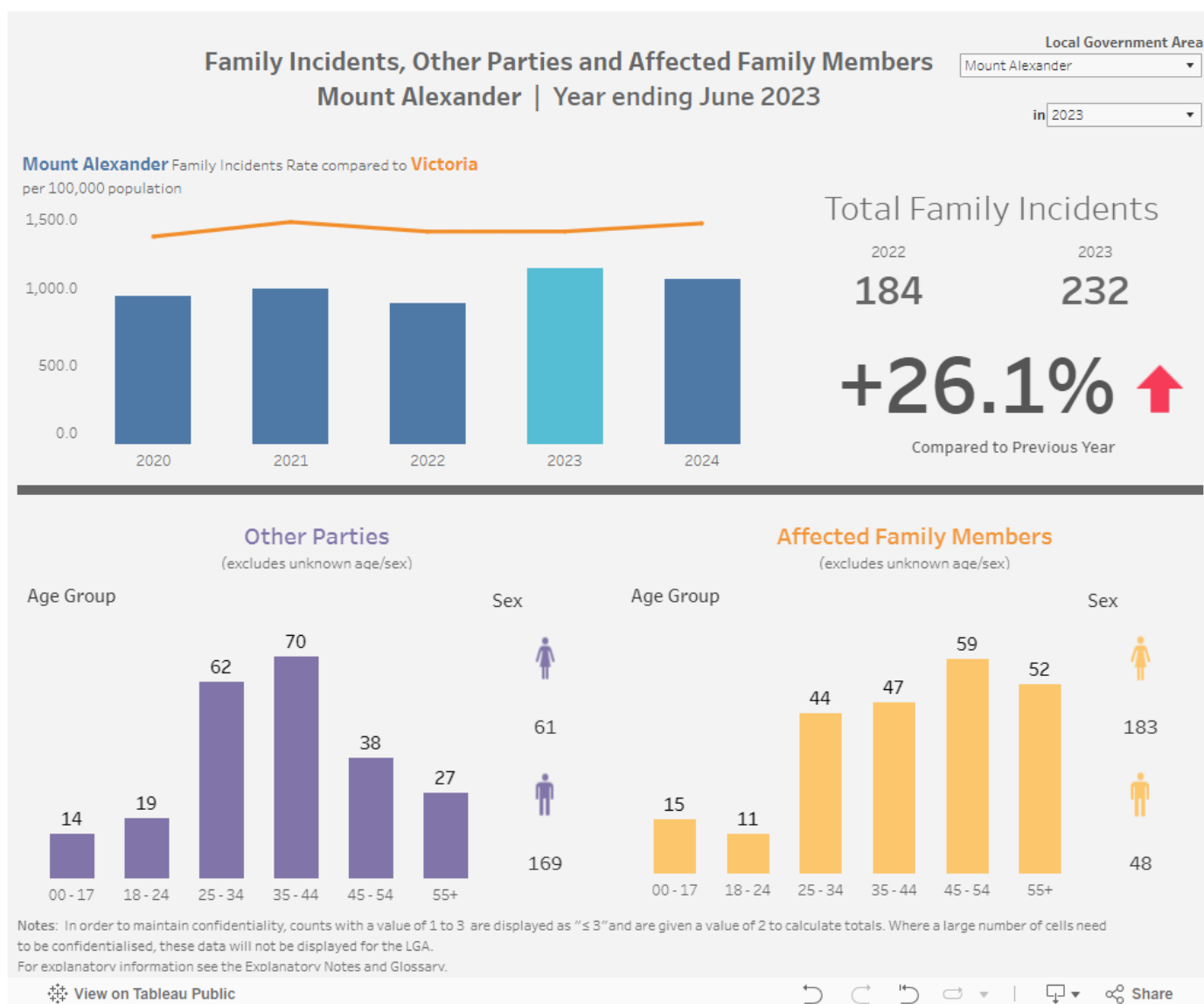
^ For all indicators, the data presented are the average annual indirectly age-standardised rates per 100,000 total population (aged 0 to 74 years); and/or indirectly age-standardised ratios, based on the Australian standard. The exception is for 'Deaths from breast cancer (females)', where the rates are limited to the female population.

3. Family violence

According to the Crimes Statistic Agency, Mount Alexander had 1,127.5 per 100,000 family violence incidents in 2022/23, which is lower than the Victorian rate (1,366.2 per 100,000).

A family incident is an incident attended by Victoria Police and a police report has been completed. Mount Alexander reported family violence incidents are consistently lower than the state rate. An 'affected family member' is the individual who is deemed to be affected by events occurring during a family incident. The majority of the 'affected family' in Mount Alexander is women.

The other individual involved in a family incident is referred to as the 'other party'. The other party could be a current partner, former partner or a family member. The majority of people making up the other party in Mount Alexander is men. The highest age group for other parties and affected family is 45-54 years.



Source: <https://www.crimestatistics.vic.gov.au/crime-statistics/latest-crime-data-by-area>

4. Family and Income

4.1 Family composition

Couple families without children constitutes the largest proportion in Mount Alexander, accounting for 50% of all families, which is higher than the state average of 37.6%. Couple families with children make up 33% of all families in Mount Alexander, which is lower than the state average of 45.5%. This indicates a smaller proportion of families in Mount Alexander have children compared to the broader state.

One-parent families represent 15.9% of all families in Mount Alexander, which is slightly higher than the state average of 15.2%. This suggests that single-parent households are more prevalent in Mount Alexander compared to the state as a whole.

Other families, which may include non-traditional family structures, account for a small percentage (1.2%) in Mount Alexander, lower to the state average of 1.7%.

All families	Mount Alexander	% Mount Alexander	Victoria	% Victoria
Couple family without children	2,725	50.0	645,543	37.6
Couple family with children	1,798	33.0	782,321	45.5
One parent family	864	15.9	262,040	15.2
Other family	63	1.2	28,875	1.7

Source: [2021 Mount Alexander, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

4.2 Single (or lone) parents

The data indicates the majority of single (or lone) parents in Mount Alexander are female, constituting a substantial 81.4% of the total single parent population. This percentage is slightly lower (73.8%) than the female proportion in Victoria, which is 80.9%.

Proportion of the total single (or lone) parent population	% Mount Alexander	% Victoria
Male	26.4	19.1
Female	73.8	80.9

Source: [2021 Mount Alexander, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

4.3 Employment status of couple families

In Mount Alexander, the two most common employment statuses for couple families are both not working (26.7%), and one adult employed full-time, one part-time (21%). The proportion of both adults not working is higher in Mount Alexander than the state average (19.8%). This could indicate an older population of which parents are retired, a lack of employment opportunities but may also be due to caregiving responsibilities, study or other reasons.

Couple families where parents or partners were aged 15 years and over	Mount Alexander	% Mount Alexander	Victoria	% Victoria
Both employed, worked full-time	598	13.2	323,693	22.7
Both employed, worked part-time	390	8.6	70,928	5
One employed full-time, one part-time	949	21.0	322,757	22.6
One employed full-time, other not working	432	9.6	189,173	13.2
One employed part-time, other not working	421	9.3	90,569	6.3
Both not working	1,207	26.7	283,160	19.8
Other	347	7.7	97,725	6.8
Labour force status not stated	175	3.9	49,854	3.5

Source: [2021 Mount Alexander, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au/2021/Mount-Alexander-Census-All-persons-QuickStats)

4.4 Early child development

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) is a nationwide census of early child development that shows how young children have developed as they start their first year of full-time school. The Mount Alexander figures indicate a higher proportion of vulnerable children in social, emotional and language indicators compared to the Victorian proportions. There is also a higher proportion of children in Mount Alexander who have two or more developmental vulnerable domains (11.2%) compared to Victoria (10.2%).

Vulnerable (n=176, 2021)				
Indicator	Indicator description	Mount Alexander	% Mount Alexander	% Victoria
Physical	Child is healthy; independent; excellent gross and fine motor skills	7	4.1	8.1
Social	Gets along with others; shares; self-confident	16	9.4	9.0
Emotional	Able to concentrate; help others; patient, not angry or aggressive	16	9.7	7.7
Language	Interested in reading or writing; can count; recognises numbers and shapes	20	11.8	7.2
Communication	Can tell a story; communicate with adults and children; articulate themselves	9	5.3	7.4
Vulnerability 1	Developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains	32	19.3	19.9
Vulnerability 2	Developmentally vulnerable in two or more domains	19	11.2	10.2

Source: <https://www.aedc.gov.au/data-explorer/>

4.5 Household income

The provided data on household income for the Mount Alexander region, compared to the state of Victoria, gives insights into the income distribution within the community. The median weekly incomes for people aged over 15, families and households are all below the state medians. The percentage of occupied private dwellings in Mount Alexander with a weekly income of less than \$650 is 24.6% and above \$3000 is 13.6% compared with a state average of 16.4% and 24.2% respectively. This indicates that Mount Alexander has a greater number of households with low income when compared to the state average.

Occupied private dwellings (excl. visitor only and other non-classifiable households) [^]	% Mount Alexander	% Victoria
Less than \$650 total household weekly income	24.6	16.4
More than \$3,000 total household weekly income	13.6	24.2

Source: [2021 Mount Alexander, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

[^] Percentages exclude dwellings with 'Partial income stated' of 'All incomes not stated.'

Median weekly incomes [^]	Mount Alexander	Victoria
People aged 15 years and over		
Personal	\$674	\$805
Family	\$1,702	\$2,120
Household	\$1,252	\$1,746

[^] Incomes are collected in ranges and exclude people, families and households where at least one member aged 15 years and over did not state their income.

Source: [2021 Mount Alexander, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](#)

4.6 Homelessness

Access to safe, adequate housing is central to the health and wellbeing of individuals and families. Secure and affordable housing is the basis for social connectedness and a contributor to the social determinants of health and wellbeing. This data includes:

- living in improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out
- living in supported accommodation for the homeless
- staying temporarily with other households
- living in boarding houses
- living in 'severely' crowded dwellings

In Mount Alexander, 23.5 per 10,000 people are homeless while across Victoria 46.9 per 10,000 people are homeless. This indicates the estimated rate of homelessness standardised to the age distribution of the population is lower in Mount Alexander compared to the broader state of Victoria. While the overall rate is different between Mount Alexander and Victoria, the specific challenges and characteristics of homelessness may vary between regions.

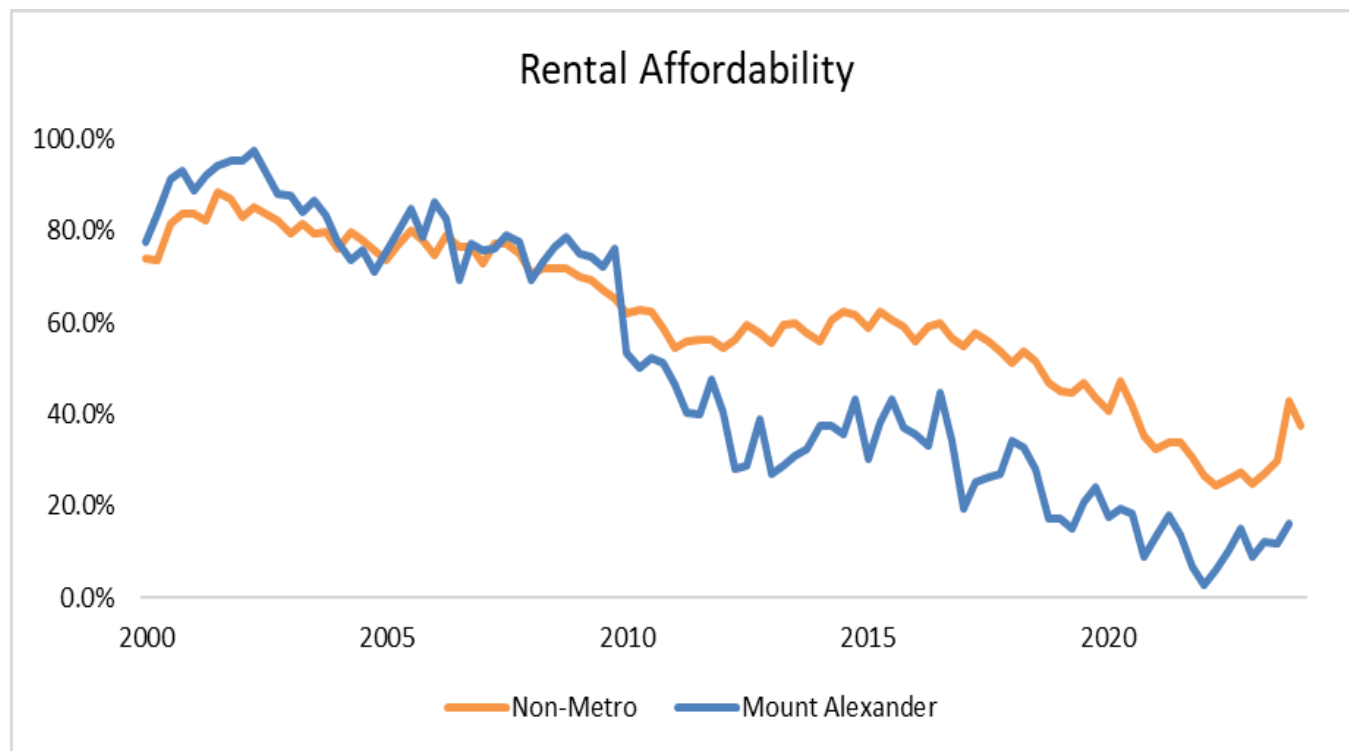
	Number	ASR [^] per 10,000	
	Mount Alexander	Mount Alexander	Victoria
People experiencing homelessness, 2021	41	23.5	46.9

Source: [Social Health Atlas of Australia: Victoria](#)

[^] Average annual ASR per 10,000. Age Standardise Rate (ASR) is used to remove the effect of the differing age distributions that we can make conclusions about the relative decreases or increases in mortality over time.

4.7 Rental affordability

Median rent prices are continuing to increase and becoming less affordable. The graph below represents affordability of rental homes for lower income households. The affordability benchmark used is that no more than 30% of gross income is spent on rent. Mount Alexander Shire has experienced a decline in rental affordability from 2009, with affordability at a low 6.1% in June 2022 and 12.1% in June 2023. Mount Alexander rental affordability is lower than Victorian non metro area (26.9%) in 2023.



Source: [Rental Report - Quarterly: Affordable Lettings by LGA - Dataset - Victorian Government Data Directory](#)
Lower income households are defined as those receiving Centrelink incomes.

5. Education

5.1 Type of educational institution attending

Mount Alexander has a lower percentage of the population attending preschool, primary and secondary education to the state average. Mount Alexander also has a considerably lower percentage of people attending university or other higher education compared to the state-wide average, with Mount Alexander at 14.9% and Victoria at 24.5%.

People attending an educational institution	Mount Alexander	% Mount Alexander	Victoria	% Victoria
Preschool	314	5.5	139,502	7.1
Primary total	1,271	22.2	520,258	26.5
Secondary total	1,100	19.2	412,219	21
Tertiary - Vocational education (including TAFE and private training providers)	337	5.9	155,358	7.9
Tertiary - University or other higher education	514	9.0	325,961	16.6
Tertiary total	853	14.9	482,005	24.5

Source: [2021 Mount Alexander, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au/2021/Mount-Alexander/Census-All-persons-QuickStats)

5.2 Level of highest educational attainment

The data on the highest educational attainment in Mount Alexander for people aged 15 years and over reveals a diverse educational landscape, which is comparable to the Victorian educational distribution. Mount Alexander shows lower percentages of individuals with higher education qualifications (Bachelor's degree and above) but higher diplomas/advanced diplomas. Meanwhile, Mount Alexander has lower attainment of year 12 (10.1%) compared to Victoria (14.9%).

People aged 15 years and over	Mount Alexander	% Mount Alexander	Victoria	% Victoria
Bachelor Degree level and above	5,003	28.7	1,557,447	29.2
Advanced Diploma and Diploma level	1,760	10.1	521,291	9.8
Certificate level IV	557	3.2	179,000	3.4
Certificate level III	2,024	11.6	580,494	10.9
Year 12	1,766	10.1	797,281	14.9
Year 11	1,054	6.1	304,927	5.7
Year 10	1,817	10.4	389,680	7.3
Certificate level II	12	0.1	3,250	0.1
Certificate level I	0	0.0	647	0
Year 9 or below	1,219	7.0	422,139	7.9
Inadequately described	327	1.9	111,674	2.1
No educational attainment	33	0.2	59,722	1.1
Not stated	1,836	10.6	406,049	7.6

Source: [2021 Mount Alexander, Census All persons QuickStats | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au/2021/Mount-Alexander/Census-All-persons-QuickStats)

6. Disability

The provided data on disability shows that the proportion of people with a profound or severe disability in Mount Alexander, whether they live in long-term accommodation or in households, are comparable to the Victorian proportions. This data indicates that people with a profound or severe disability aged 0-64 years are predominately living and being cared for in households (3.5%) rather than long-term accommodation, slightly higher than the Victorian proportion (3.2%).

In Mount Alexander there are 452 people participating in the National Disability Scheme (2.6 ASR/100 pop) in 2022, higher compared to the Victorian Rate (2.2 ASR/100 pop).

Indicator	Mount Alexander	Mount Alexander	Victoria
People with a profound or severe disability, includes people in long-term accommodation (all ages), 2021	1,070	5.6%	6.1%
People with a profound or severe disability and living in households (all ages), 2021	1,041	5.4%	5.4%
People with a profound or severe disability, includes people in long-term accommodation (0 to 64 years)	485	3.5%	3.3%
People with a profound or severe disability and living in households (0 to 64 years), 2021	485	3.5%	3.2%
Estimated number of total persons, living in households, with moderate or mild core activity limitation (modelled estimates), 2018	880	6.4 ASR [^]	n.p.
National Disability Insurance Scheme participants, 2022	452	2.6 ASR [^]	2.2 ASR [^]

Source: [Social Health Atlas of Australia: Victoria](#)

[^]Average annual ASR per 100. Age Standardise Rate (ASR) is used to remove the effect of the differing age distributions that we can make conclusions about the relative decreases or increases in mortality over time.

7. Environment

7.1 Municipal emissions snapshot

Mount Alexander is a rural municipality that is geographically small relative to the state average and has a low urban density. Its major emissions source is on road transportation, due to the community's larger commuting and other travel requirements. The second largest source is electricity consumption.

In 2020/21, there was 530,000 (t CO₂e) total emissions for Mount Alexander, this decreased to 445,000 (t CO₂e) in 2021/22 - this is a reduction of 16%.

Source (2021/22)		Mount Alexander		Victoria	
	Sector	Emissions (t CO ₂ e)	% Emissions (t CO ₂ e)	Emissions (t CO ₂ e)	% Emissions (t CO ₂ e)
Electricity	Residential	37,000	8	13,049,000	15
	Commercial	33,000	7	12,037,000	13
	Industrial	67,000	15	10,798,000	12
Gas	Residential	11,000	2	6,128,000	7
	Commercial			1,192,000	1
	Industrial	32,000	7	4,174,000	5
Transport	On road	168,000	37	17,313,000	19
	Rail			229,000	0
	Aviation			1,171,000	1
Waste		7,000	2	2,683,000	3
IPPU		34,000	8	6,370,000	7
Fugitive				2,911,000	3
Agriculture		56,000	13	11,523,000	13
Land Use		4,000	0	230,000	0
Total municipal emissions		445,000		89,578,000	

Source: [Mount Alexander, VIC:: Snapshot \(snapshotclimate.com.au\)](https://snapshotclimate.com.au)

7.2 Average temperature from a 30-year climate period

Temperatures in the Loddon Mallee region differ significantly from north to south. Mount Alexander experiences an average maximum in summer of 27°C, while the winter average maximum temperature is 12°C. The northern part of the region sees hot summers with an average maximum temperature of 30°C, while winters are mild, and the temperature stays around 10°C on average. Conversely, the southern part of the region experiences cool and rainy winters and warm and arid summers. In the elevated southern regions, the average maximum temperature is below 25°C. Frosty weather is frequent in the whole region.

LGA (1961-1990)	Summer (Ave °C)		Winter (Ave °C)	
	Max	Min	Max	Min
Swan Hill Rural City	31.2	15	15.6	4.6
Mildura Rural City	31	14.8	15.9	5.2
Gannawarra Shire	30.5	14.7	14.8	4.5
Buloke Shire	30	14	14.6	4.4
Loddon Shire	29.4	13.9	13.9	4.2
Campaspe Shire	29.3	14.1	13.9	3.9
City of Greater Bendigo	28.2	13.4	13.1	3.9
Mount Alexander Shire	27	12	12	3.1
Macedon Ranges Shire	24.1	11.2	10.3	3.2
LMR Average	28.9	13.5	13.7	4.1

Source: [Loddon Mallee Environmental Scan](#) | [Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

7.3 Bushfire prone areas

Most of the Loddon Mallee region is classified as bushfire prone area. Indeed, 92% of Swan Hill is classified as bush fire prone. This means high bushfire hazards in the Loddon Mallee intersect with settlements and areas that are experiencing growth in rural, residential and tourism.

The Fire Danger Period (FDP) in Victoria has become lengthier, indicating a trend towards extended fire seasons. The seasonal fire restriction dates are determined by the municipality and are dependent on factors such as amounts of rain, grassland curing, and other local conditions. In 2019-2020, fire restriction dates for Victoria were extended from as early as 23 September, 2019 to 23 March, 2020.

Smoke from fires, including planned burns, can also pose a hazard within the Loddon Mallee region. The individuals most at risk from smoke exposure include young children, adults over 65 years of age, people with asthma or existing heart or lung conditions, pregnant women, outdoor workers, and smokers. Bushfire-prone areas are either subject to or likely to be subject to bushfires, and are subject to specific bushfire construction standards. Nearly all of the land in the region is designated as a bushfire area.

LGA	% Area Bushfire Prone	Bushfire Prone Area* (km ²)	Total Area^ (km ²)
Loddon Shire	100	6,694	6,696
Mount Alexander Shire	99.8	1,527	1,530
Gannawarra Shire	98.7	3,701	3,750
Macedon Ranges Shire	98.6	1,723	1,748
Mildura Rural City	98.3	21,710	22,083
Campaspe Shire	97.7	4,415	4,519
Buloke Shire	97.6	7,807	8,000
City of Greater Bendigo	97.6	2,930	3,000
Swan Hill Rural City	92.0	5,625	6,115
LMR Total or Average	97.8	57,662	58,960

Source: [Loddon Mallee Environmental Scan](#) | [Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

*^ DELWP (2020): <https://discover.data.vic.gov.au/dataset/designated-bushfire-prone-area-bp>

7.4 Areas potentially impacted by flooding inundation

The Loddon sub-region has a significant number of urban settlements exposed to flood risk. Floods have caused significant damage to farms through inundation, isolation, and flash floods following heavy rainfall. Flooding provides important inflows to wetlands and lake systems but may also impact towns and infrastructure.

The flood warning service coverage is shown in the figure below with both the Flood Watch and Flood Warning catchment shown. The table below shows the effected main localities. This is not an extensive list and there are smaller localities that may be impacted. The flood risk and area impacted by flooding varies around the region. Table (below) shows the percentage of each LGA which is impacted by flooding at the 1:100-year average recurrence interval (ARI). There is a one percent chance (1% annual exceedance probability (AEP)) of these areas experiencing flooding of this level in any given year based on flood modelling results from flood studies. The localities listed have some defined built up area in or near the flood impact area defined by the 1:100-year ARI.

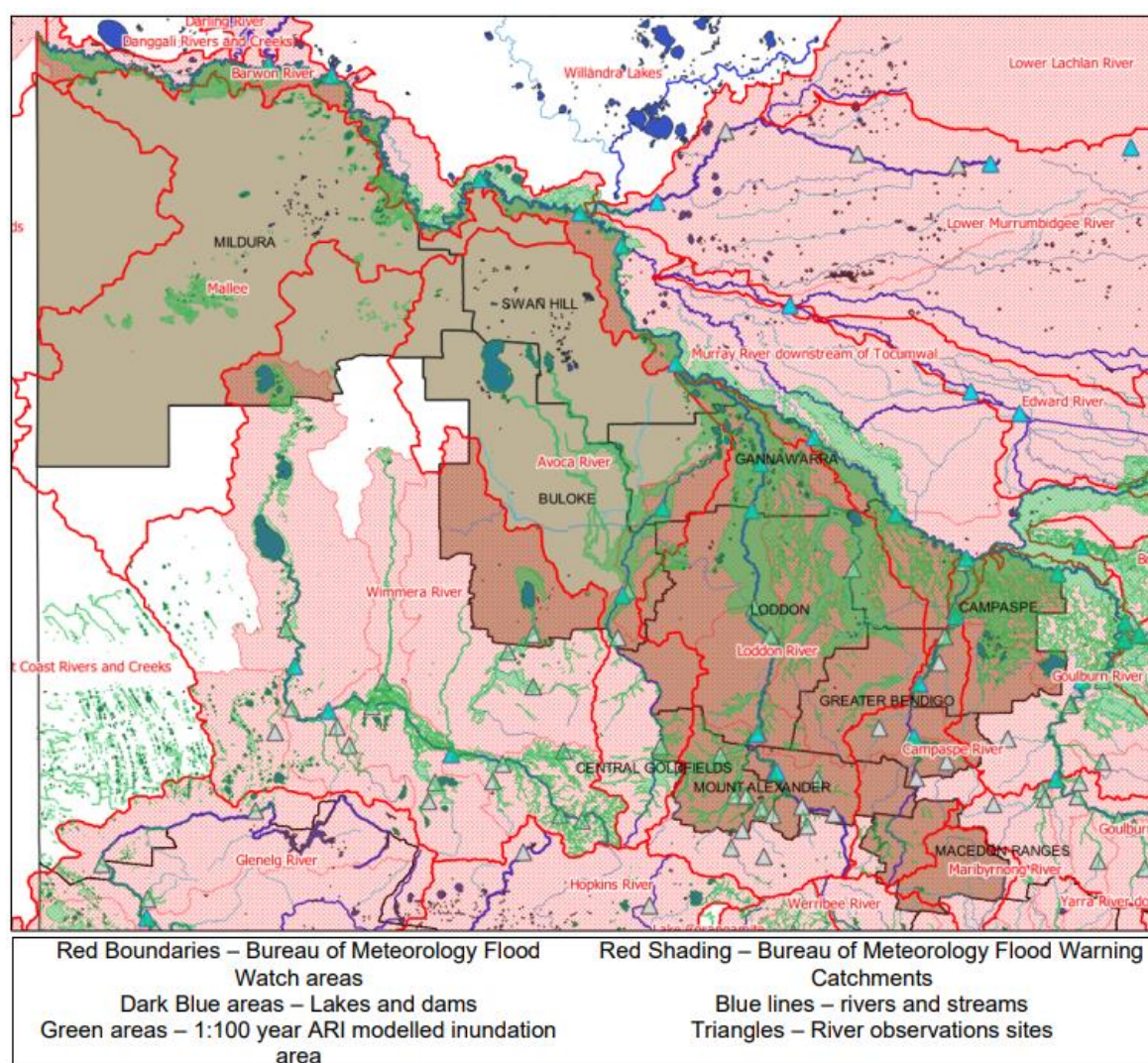


Figure 1: Flood warning and 1:100-year ARI inundation.

LGA	%Included in 1:100 Ari Area^	Main Localities with Affected Built Up Areas
Gannawarra	40.4	Barham (NSW), Cohuna , Kerang ,Koondrook , Quambatook
Campaspe	31.7	Echuca, Kyabram, Moama (NSW), Rochester, Tongala, Wharparilla
Loddon	29.1	Boort, Pyramid Hill
Buloke	11.2	Charlton, Donald
Swan Hill	10.2	Murray Downs (NSW), Nyah, Pental Island, Robinvale, Swan Hill
Mildura	6.7	Mildura , Nichols Point
Greater Bendigo	5.9	Ascot (Bendigo), Bendigo, Eaglehawk, East, Bendigo, Elmore, Epsom, Flora Hill, Golden Square, Heathcote, Huntly, Kangaroo Flat, Kennington, Long Gully, Maiden Gully, North Bendigo, Quarry Hill, Spring Gully, Strathdale, Strathfieldsaye, White Hills
Mount Alexander	2.4	Campbells Creek, Castlemaine, Moonlight Flat
Macedon Ranges	2.0	Gisborne, Kyneton , Riddells Creek , Romsey , Woodend

Source: [Loddon Mallee Environmental Scan | Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

^Percentage of each LGA which is impacted by flooding at the 1:100-year average recurrence interval (ARI).

Abbreviations

Abbreviation Table	
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AEP	Annual Exceedance Probability
ARI	Age Recurrence Interval
ASR	Age Standardise Rate
COPD	Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
FDP	Fire Danger Period
FY	Financial Year
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IPPU	Industrial processes and product use
IRSD	Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage
LGA	Local Government Area
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
TAFE	Technical and Further Education

Resources

LMPHU	Bendigo Health Website - Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit
PHIDU	https://phidu.torrens.edu.au/
Women's Health Atlas	https://victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au/#/
ABS Quick stats	https://abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/quickstats/2021/SAL21682

Feedback

Any feedback on this profile is welcome and should be provided to the Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit via email: lmphu@bendigohealth.org.au