

Families at the Centre research project
Insights into child care and early education:
Dandenong and surrounds

April 2014
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What is this about?

This is about families with young children aged up to 5 years in Dandenong and its surrounding suburbs. We talked to families about their experiences of child care and early education for their children.

Therefore we did a research project in 6 neighbourhoods around Australia, including Dandenong and its neighbouring suburbs. We talked to families about their experiences of child care and early education for their children.

This booklet details what we found out in Dandenong and two surrounding suburbs. It provides information about the research project and the findings for families in Dandenong and its surrounding suburbs.

Where was the research done?

these neighbourhoods were in the inner city, some in the outer suburbs, and

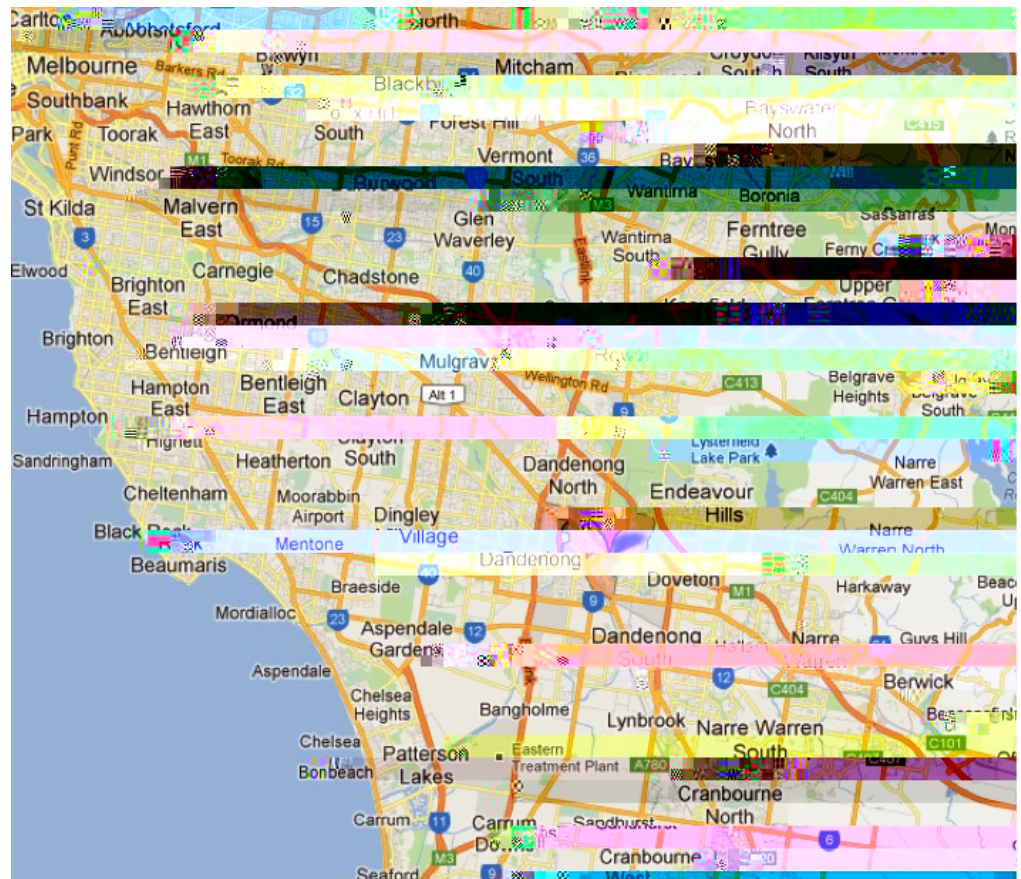
How was the research done?

About Dandenong

Where it is and how it developed

of the City of Greater Dandenong and the City of Casey.

MAP 1: DANDENONG IN RELATION TO MELBOURNE



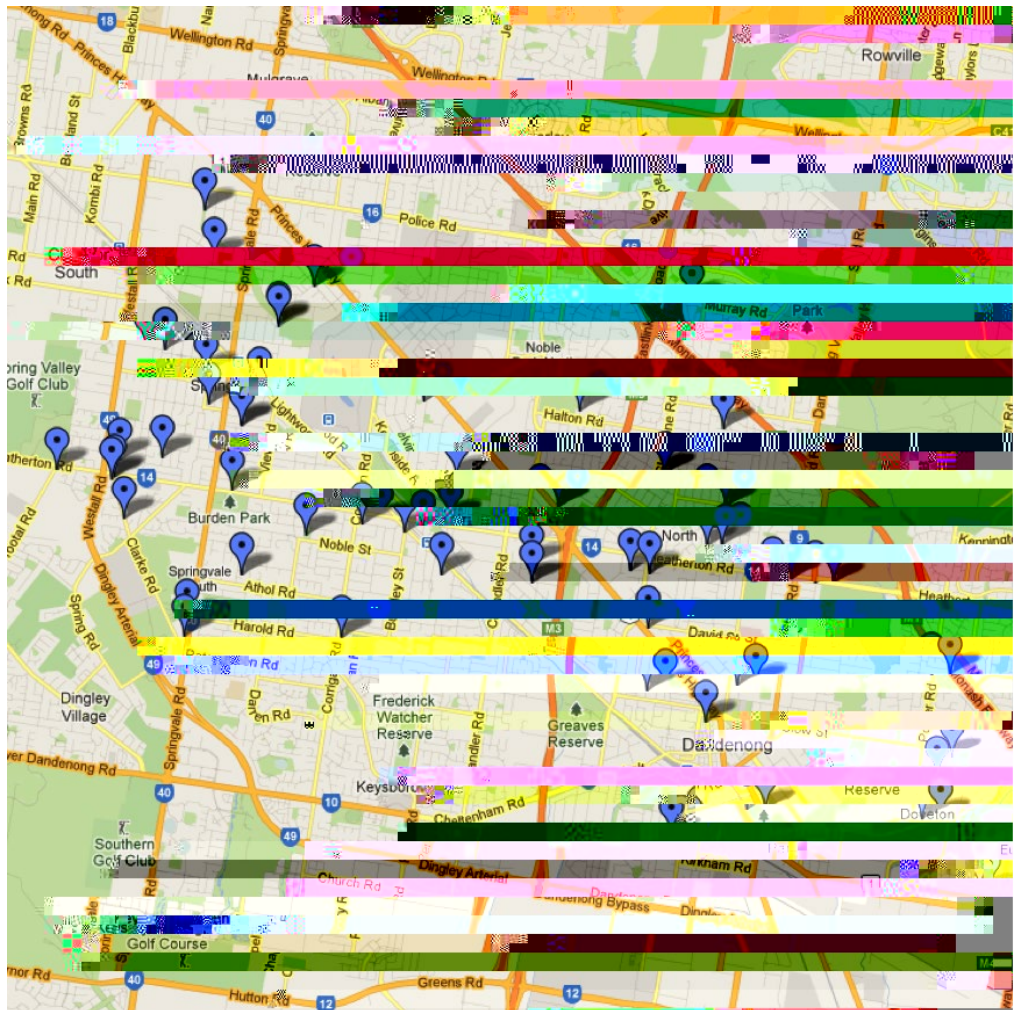
of the City of Greater Dandenong and the City of Casey.

DANDENONG

The people of Dandenong and surrounds

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MAP 2: DANDENONG CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION SERVICES



About families with young children in Dandenong

These maps show the percentage of families with young children living in low income households in Dandenong and its surrounds. The maps are based on the 2011 Census data.

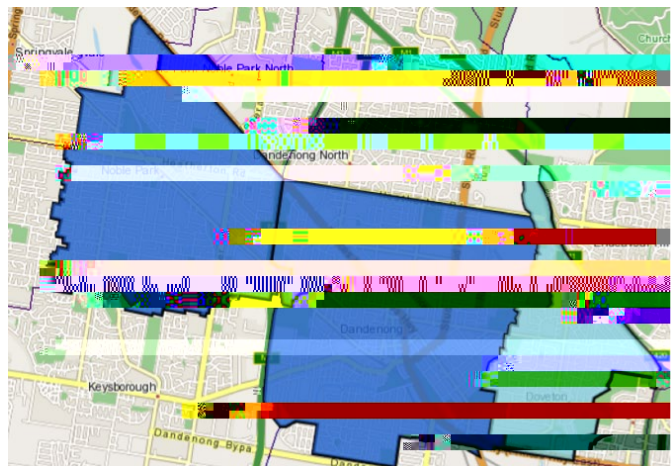
Map 3: Low Income Families in Dandenong and Surrounds

- The map shows that the highest percentage of low income families with young children live in Dandenong North.
- The map also shows that there is a higher percentage of low income families with young children in Dandenong than in its surrounds.
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MAP 3: LOW INCOME FAMILIES IN DANDENONG AND SURROUNDS

Percentage of 0-4 year olds Living in families with weekly incomes of less than \$800 per week, Dandenong, Noble Park and Doveton, 2011 Census



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About the families who talked to us

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families who were born in Australia who had securing housing. The third group
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and the rest were older.
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Playgroups

The families we talked to told us that playgroups are good for mums and children. They said they are good places to talk with other mothers and to ask that they can't do at home. Playgroups are cheap, too, which was important for

“With all three of my kids I've done playgroups. I just think it's the best way. If you need to know something you ask other people and they give you a good answer.”

Grandparents

For those families we met who had family in Australia, grandparents were children to be minded by a friend.

“My mum looks after him, she's like a second mum.”

Being at home with mum

especially their mothers, was really important for young children. They also said child care would mean it wasn't worthwhile.

“At the moment I'm loving looking after them but I'm also going nuts.”

Family day care

A number of parents told us they preferred family day care, where children go to long day care centres.

Costs and subsidies

There are a number of subsidies to help families pay for early childhood of families found it easy to work out what they could get, but others found

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All of the families we spoke to wanted the best for their children and worked
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 childhoods. They said their children had access to good food and secure homes
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 their children were safe, secure, well fed and well educated.

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 a good life.

“The di erence is too much. Before, we don’t have a book, only the teacher. No toys. Not enough food at home. Now, my kids are so lucky, they have anything.”

References

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