

# Family Issues

## Agencies, Programs & Resources

This document has been put together from various sources to guide school staff and youth workers towards the appropriate and useful resources which may assist them in helping local young people. The Banyule and Nillumbik Local Learning and Employment Network (BNLLEN) take no responsibility for any information accessed via this document

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## Local - Data and Statistics

Data sourced from *Source: Adolescent Health and Wellbeing Survey, DEECD, 2009, unpublished.*

### Family types

#### Banyule

Of the 14,717 families with dependents in Banyule, 80.1 per cent were couple families and **19.9 per cent** were one parent families.

Of the 7,321 families in Banyule with **adolescent children**, 77.3 per cent were couple families and **22.7 per cent** were one parent families.

#### Nillumbik

Of the 9,425 families with dependents in Nillumbik, 87.3 per cent were couple families and 12.7 per cent were one parent families.

Of the 5,219 families in Nillumbik with adolescent children, 86.8 per cent were couple families and 13.2 per cent were one parent families.

**These figures demonstrate that as the dependant move into adolescence, their chances of residing in one parent families increases**

### Adolescence living in families with healthy family functioning:

#### Banyule

In 2009, 80.1 per cent of adolescents surveyed in Banyule were living in families with healthy family functioning. This was lower than, but not significantly different to Northern Metropolitan Region (83.3 per cent).

The proportion of adolescents surveyed in Banyule who were living in families with healthy family functioning was lower than, but not significantly different to that reported across Victoria (83.1 per cent).

#### Nillumbik

In 2009, 83.5 per cent of adolescents surveyed in Nillumbik were living in families with healthy family functioning. This was higher than, but not significantly different to Northern Metropolitan Region (83.3 per cent).

The proportion of adolescents surveyed in Nillumbik who were living in families with healthy family functioning was higher than, but not significantly different to that reported across Victoria (83.1 per cent).

**What is measured?** The proportion of adolescents enrolled in Years 7, 9 and 11 who are not exposed to either family conflict or poor family management or both.

### The Rate of Child protection Substantiations in Adolescents

#### Nillumbik

The rate of child protection substantiations in Nillumbik has decreased over the past five years, from 1.0 per 1000 adolescents in 2005 - 2006 to 0.6 per 1000 adolescents in 2009 - 2010.

In 2009 - 2010, the rate of child protection substantiations in Nillumbik was less than a quarter of the rate in the Northern Metropolitan region (3.9 per 1000 adolescents) and less than a quarter of the rate across Victoria (4.4 per 1000 adolescents).

*Note:* - A report is 'substantiated' where it is concluded that the young person is in need for protection

#### Banyule

The rate of child protection substantiations in Banyule has decreased over the past five years, from 5.8 per 1000 adolescents in 2005 - 2006 to 3.3 per 1000 adolescents in 2009 - 2010.

In 2009 - 2010, the rate of child protection substantiations in Banyule was lower than the rate in the Northern Metropolitan region (3.9 per 1000 adolescents) and lower than the rate across Victoria (4.4 per 1000 adolescents).

*Note:* - A report is 'substantiated' where it is concluded that the young person is in need for protection

*Source: Department of Human Services, 2010, Client Relationship Information System, Children, Youth & Families Division, unpublished. ABS Estimated Resident Population*

## Local Agencies

### Berry St Victoria

Useful for: ✓					
Staff		Students	✓	Parents	✓

Is a welfare organisation that aims to support young people and their family. They provide individual resources for crisis and violence situations in the Northern Suburbs as well as help to foster stronger relationships for your family.

This service helps with a number of things including a family mediation service, parent education program, counselling and working with young people

Services for young people include: case management, outreach, life skills, mentoring and accommodation.

677 The Boulevard, Eaglemont 3084

Ph: 9450 4700

Email: [eaglemont@berrystreet.org.au](mailto:eaglemont@berrystreet.org.au)

Web: [www.berrystreet.org.au](http://www.berrystreet.org.au)

## Programs

### Adolescent Support Program

Useful for: ✓					
Staff		Students	✓	Parents	

#### Berry Street:

The Adolescent Support Program is a free service to provide a flexible and responsive outreach service. The service aims to:

- Maintain young people within their families and prevent family breakdown.
- Supporting young people by strengthening their community and school connectedness with school, sports, art, employment and other activities
- Encourage young people to reach their full potential
- Support young people and families to identify their strengths and to come up with their own solutions

The program works with young people between the ages of 12 to 17 who live in the shire of Nillumbik and the City of Banyule

Contact:

Eaglemont Office

677 The Boulevard

Eaglemont VIC 3084

t: 03 9450 4700

f: 03 9450 4701

e: [eaglemont@berrystreet.org.au](mailto:eaglemont@berrystreet.org.au)

### Family Support / Mediation

Berry Street Victoria - Strengthening Families

Useful for: ✓					
Staff		Students		Parents	✓

This service helps with a number of things including a family mediation service, parent education program, counselling and working with young people

Ph: 9458 5788

Heidelberg Ph: 9450 4700

Fax: 9458 5825

[www.berrystreet.org.au](http://www.berrystreet.org.au)

## Lifeworks Relationship Counselling and Education Services

Useful for: ✓				
Staff		Students	Parents	✓

Source: [www.lifeworks.com.au](http://www.lifeworks.com.au) :

### Parenting After Separation:

Web: [www.lifeworks.com.au/shop/item/parenting-after-separation-mixed-gender-groups](http://www.lifeworks.com.au/shop/item/parenting-after-separation-mixed-gender-groups)

This is a group program that explores how to adapt to parenting after a separation and how to manage challenges such as parenting from a distance, conflict with an ex-partner and the children's reactions and responses. This program is designed to support parents and provide a forum to share experiences with others - both men and women. Available as both a weekday or evening program across 5 weeks or a weekend program.

### Being the Parent You Want to Be

Web: [www.lifeworks.com.au/shop/item/being-the-parent-you-want-to-be](http://www.lifeworks.com.au/shop/item/being-the-parent-you-want-to-be)

Many parents find that they respond to their children's challenging behaviours by becoming angry and stressed. Learn how to be the parent you want to be without losing your cool

Parenting Teenagers:

Web: [www.lifeworks.com.au/shop/item/parenting-teenagers](http://www.lifeworks.com.au/shop/item/parenting-teenagers)

Parenting teenagers can be a demanding role. Discover some of the complex issues involved in parenting your adolescent as they 'come of age'.

## MATTERS – Berry Street:

Source: [www.berrystreet.org.au/Matters](http://www.berrystreet.org.au/Matters)

Useful for: ✓				
Staff		Students	Parents	✓

MATTERS is a free service for families experiencing conflict or relationships in need of strengthening. Children, young people and their families meet together to work through issues in a safe and friendly environment.

Team Leader | MATTERS, Berry Street

677 The Boulevard, Eaglemont 3084

t: 94504700 | f: 94504701

e: [kcordukes@berrystreet.org.au](mailto:kcordukes@berrystreet.org.au) | web: [www.berrystreet.org.au](http://www.berrystreet.org.au)

## Reconnect Program

Useful for: ✓					
Staff		Students	✓	Parents	✓

Is an early intervention program for young people aged 12-18 who are at risk of becoming homeless.

This program supports young people at risk of homelessness and their families. It liaises closely with school welfare coordinators, local government and other service providers in a number of youth networks aiming to keep young people engaged with their families, school or employment.

Nillumbik Community Health Service (NCHS)

917 Main Road, Eltham

Phone: 9430 9100

Website: [www.nchs.org.au/](http://www.nchs.org.au/)

## Resources

### CHaT First

Useful for: ✓				
Staff		Students	✓	Parents

Source: [www.chatfirst.com.au](http://www.chatfirst.com.au)

CHaT First is a website for children and teens whose parents have separated or divorced.

They will find lots of information about what happens when their parents' separate and live in separate places, and tips to help you to cope

### Raising Children - The Australian Parenting Website

Useful for: ✓				
Staff		Students		Parents

Source: [www.raisingchildren.net.au](http://www.raisingchildren.net.au)

The Raising Children website offers up-to-date, research-based material on more than 800 topics spanning child development, behaviour, health, nutrition and fitness, play and learning, connecting and communicating, school and education, entertainment and technology, sleep and safety.

RCN works with peak organisations and incorporates the advice and input of more than 180 experts. It researches and commissions original content, forms partnerships to incorporate quality content produced elsewhere and draws on existing parenting information from many sources.

It covers [grown-ups](#), [newborns](#) (0-3 months), [babies](#) (3-12 months), [toddlers](#) (1-3 years), [pre-schoolers](#) (3-5 years), [school-age children](#) (5-9 years), [pre-teens](#) (9-11 years), and [early teens \(12-15 years\)](#).

The section covering the EARLY TEENS 12-15 years ([http://raisingchildren.net.au/early\\_teens/early\\_teens.html](http://raisingchildren.net.au/early_teens/early_teens.html)) covers topics related to:

- Behaviour
- Communicating & Relationships
- Development
- Entertainment & Technology
- Health & Wellbeing
- School & Education

### Victoria Legal Aid Publications

Useful for: ✓				
Staff		Students		Parents

Web: [www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/publications.htm](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/publications.htm)

Some of the publications for Parents focussed on **relationship breakdown and children**

- Child support and parentage testing : [www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/594.htm](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/594.htm)
- Child support fact sheets: [www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/2531.htm](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/2531.htm)
- Child Support Legal Service : [www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/1656.htm](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/1656.htm)
- Divorce workshops: [www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/2923.htm](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/2923.htm)
- Fact sheets for separating families [www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/671.htm](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/671.htm)
- Family law in Australia fact sheets: [www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/3802.htm](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/3802.htm)
- Family law trials fact sheets (PDF only): [www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/familylawtrials.htm](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/familylawtrials.htm)
- The role of an independent children's lawyer : [www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/698.htm](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/698.htm)
- You and family law: a short guide: [www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/819.htm](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au/819.htm)

For more information visit the Legal Aid website [www.legalaid.vic.gov.au](http://www.legalaid.vic.gov.au) or phone 9269 0223.

### Youthbeyondblue fact sheets - Coping with family break-up

Useful for: ✓				
Staff		Students	✓	Parents

Youthbeyondblue fact sheet [Coping with family break-up](#) - Fact sheet 17 [www.youthbeyondblue.com/factsheets-and-info/fact-sheet-17-coping-with-family-break-up/](http://www.youthbeyondblue.com/factsheets-and-info/fact-sheet-17-coping-with-family-break-up/)

For a list of fact sheets and information visit Youthbeyondblue website. [www.youthbeyondblue.com/factsheets-and-info](http://www.youthbeyondblue.com/factsheets-and-info)