

# Women & Girls in the Loddon Shire

A snapshot of gender equality in our region.



## Population Overview



In 2021, there were 3,836 women and girls living in the Loddon Shire region, from a total population of 7,759. Of these, 2.4% of women and girls identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, while 8.8% were born overseas.

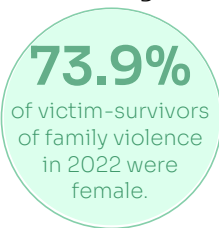
### Age distribution of females living in the Loddon Shire

0-14 years   15-24 years   25-44 years   45-64 years   65+ years



## Violence Against Women

Although preventable, gender-based violence and family violence are significant challenges in the Loddon Shire.



## Sexual & Reproductive Health



**66**

babies were born in Loddon during 2021.

Both the birth rate and the adolescent birth rate were higher than the state average.

**65.6**  
/1000

women of child-bearing age

**18.1**  
/1000

women & girls aged 13-19

Chlamydia was the most diagnosed STI in 2020.

**The rate was the highest of all LGAs in Victoria.**

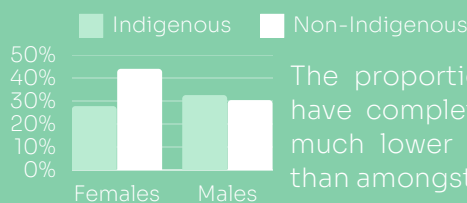


Contraceptive implants (Implanon) are more popular than IUDs amongst women in the Loddon Shire..

## Education



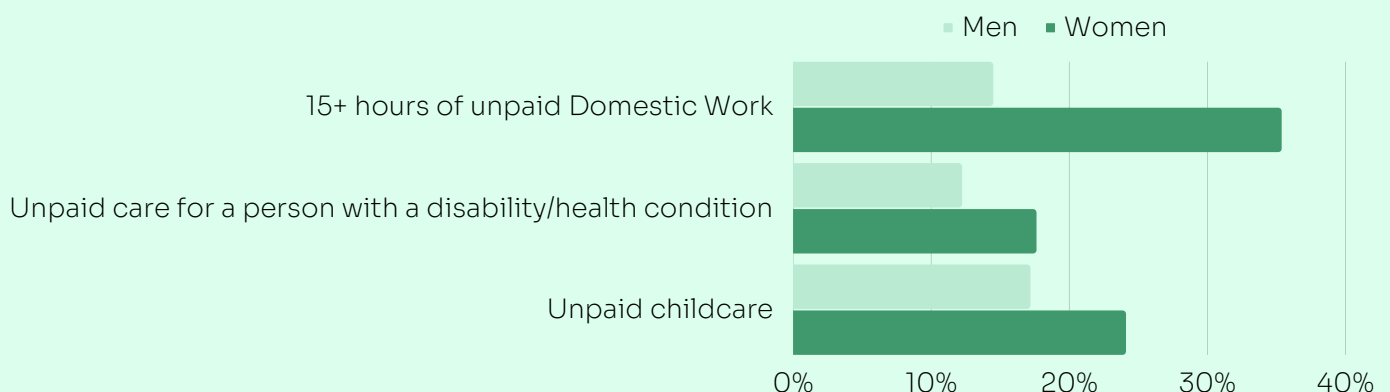
Of all Loddon students enrolled in tertiary education, approximately 67.7% were female.



The proportion of women and girls who have completed year 12, or equivalent, is much lower amongst Indigenous women than amongst non-Indigenous women.

## Care & Unpaid Work

Women in Loddon do more care and unpaid work than the men in Loddon do. In 2021:



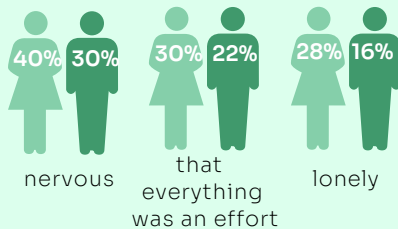
## Mental Health & Well-being

Women and girls in Loddon experience high rates of mental health and well-being challenges. In 2021:

**20.4%** of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander women & girls reported living with a long-lasting mental health condition

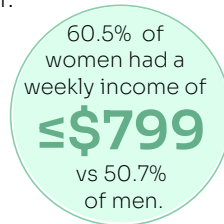
**13.2%** of Non-Indigenous women & girls in Gannawarra.

During COVID-19 lockdowns,, women in Victoria were more likely than men to feel:



## Employment

Women in the Loddon Shire are still not equal in the workplace. In 2021:



## Perceptions of Safety

When asked how they felt walking home alone at night, only 63.9% of women in Gannawarra indicated that they felt safe.



## Local Council



The current Local Council of Loddon includes 2 women and 3 men. The position of mayor is currently held by a man.

## Useful Resources

### Loddon Gender Equality Action Plan

<https://www.loddon.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/our-council/plans-and-strategies/gender-equality-action-plan-2021-2025.pdf>

### Safe and Strong: The Victorian Gender Equality Strategy

[https://www.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-05/Safe-and-Strong-Victorian\\_Gender\\_Equality\\_Strategy.pdf](https://www.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-05/Safe-and-Strong-Victorian_Gender_Equality_Strategy.pdf)

### Change the Story: Our Watch

<https://www.ourwatch.org.au/change-the-story/>

## Support Services

### The Orange Door in Loddon

9am-5pm Monday-Friday  
1800 512 359  
57 View Street, Bendigo 3550

### Centre for Non-Violence

9am-5pm Monday-Friday  
1800 5884292  
96/98 Pall Mall, Bendigo 3550

### 1800 RESPECT

24/7 National hotline for anyone experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, family violence or sexual assault. Also available to friends, family and frontline workers.  
1800 737 732

## Sources of data:

ABS 2022, Loddon 2021 Census Community Profiles,

<https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/community-profiles/2021/LGA23940>

ABS 2022, Births - Australia Data Downloads - Table 3: Births, Summary Local Government Area 2011-2021

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/births-australia/latest-release>

CrimeStatsVic 2023, Latest Crime Data by Area, - Family Violence Dashboard

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

WHV 2021, Victorian Women's Health Atlas Violence Against Women Fact Sheet - Loddon

<https://victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au/reports%2Ffactsheets%2FViolence%20Against%20Women%2FLoddon%2FVWHAAtlas%20Fact%20Sheet%20Violence%20Against%20Women%20Loddon.pdf>

WHV 2021, Victorian Women's Health Atlas Sexual and Reproductive Health Fact Sheet - Loddon

<https://victorianwomenshealthatlas.net.au/reports%2Ffactsheets%2FSexual%20and%20Reproductive%20Health%2FLoddon%2FVWHAAtlas%20Fact%20Sheet%20Sexual%20and%20Reproductive%20Health%20Loddon.pdf>

Document last updated in January 2023.