

Children & Families



The social, emotional and physical development of young children has a direct effect on their overall development; and ultimately the adult they become. The City of Campbelltown is proud to be a child friendly city, seeing children as capable and competent citizens worthy of having a say on topics of importance. Communities play an important role in supporting children and families. This includes providing access to:

- Pregnancy, child, youth and family services
- Supportive breastfeeding environments
- Quality schools, preschools and childcare
- Clubs, groups and organisations to play, learn new skills and make friends
- Places and spaces to play, ride, scoot, skate, explore, problem solve, take risks and learn.

In order to feel a sense of belonging within the broader community, children must feel their ideas and opinions are worthy of sharing, being listened to and implementing, shaping the cities they live in to be child friendly. Federal, state and local governments have an integral role to play in supporting children and their families by providing care, schooling, services and financial support to develop communities with a child friendly focus and advocating for families.

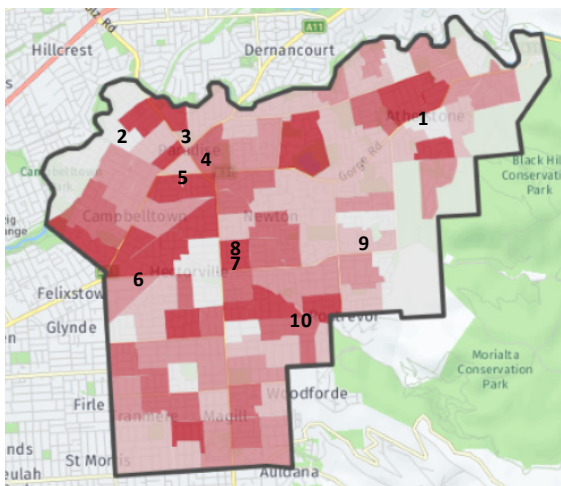
What does the data say about children in Campbelltown?

In Campbelltown every 1 in 8 people is aged under 12

Age	Number	% of Campbelltown	% Greater Adelaide	Change from 2011	% of Children with a Disability
0-4	2687	5.4	5.9	+69	24 children (0.9%)
5-11	3917	7.8	8.2	+155	208 children (6.5%) (5-14 years)
0-11	6604	13.2%	14.1%	+224	232 children (7.4%)

Households: Just over a third of the Campbelltown households are couples living with children, 10% report single parent households and 13.5% children were born in another country, of those 32% English is a second language.

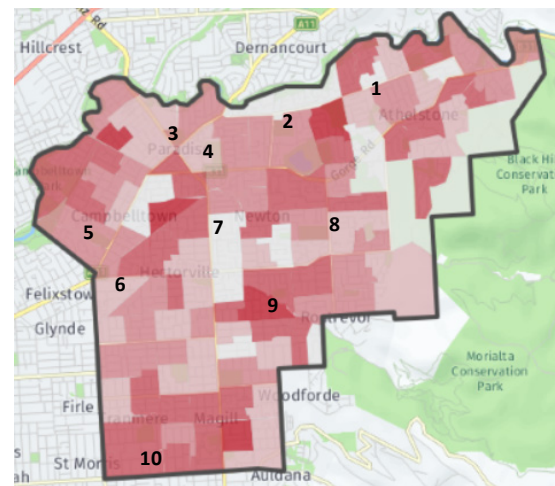
Figure 1: 0-4yo living in Campbelltown.
The darkest red indicates a higher concentration of this age group.



Preschools and Kindergartens

1. Athelstone Preschool
2. Paradise Kindergarten
3. Sunrise Preschool
4. il nido Children's Centre
5. Goodstart Early Learning Centre, Campbelltown
6. Emali Early Learning Centre, Hectorville
7. Campbelltown Community Children's Centre Inc
8. Campbelltown Preschool
9. Thorndon Park Kindergarten
10. Rostrevor Kindergarten

Figure 2: 5-11yo living in Campbelltown.
The darkest red indicates a higher concentration of this age group.



Primary Schools

1. Athelstone Primary School
2. Paradise Primary School
3. Sunrise Primary School
4. Charles Campbell College
5. East Marden Primary School
6. St. Joseph's School, Hectorville
7. St. Francis of Assisi School
8. Thorndon Park Primary School
9. Stradbroke Primary School
10. St. Joseph's School, Tranmere

Australian Early Development Census (AEDC)

Every 3 years the Federal Government undertakes a census of Australia's 5-year-olds through schools. They are assessed against 5 domains: physical health and wellbeing; social competence; emotional maturity; language and cognitive skills; communication skills and general knowledge. This data has been collected 5 times since 2009.

AEDC 2021 reports most children are on track (80%) across the 5 AEDC domains. However, there is a mixed picture when analysing individual domain trends. There has been a significant increase in the percentage of children on track in the physical health and wellbeing domain from 79.5% (2009) to 84.3 (2018). There has been significant increases in the percentage of children vulnerable in the emotional maturity domain from 6.6% (2009) to 8.8% (2021), language and cognitive skills domain from 2.6% (2009) to 5.9% (2021), communication skills and general knowledge domain from 6.0% (2009) to 8.8% (2021).

Summary indicators (see table below) show there has been a significant increase* in the percentage of children who are vulnerable on 2 or more domains when comparing 2009 and 2021 data.

AEDC 5 Waves of Data: 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2021

Summary Indicators	2009	2012	2015	2018	2021
On track %	81.6	78.8	80.4	82.62	80.74
Developmentally vulnerable on 1 domain	17.7	21.2	20.3	17.6	20.1
Developmentally vulnerable on 2 or more domains	7.5*	9.7	7.8	9.4	11.5*

AEDC collects other information including demographic and non-parental early childhood education or care.

A snapshot of 2015 vs 2021 AEDC in Campbelltown	2015	2021
Children born in another country	12.7	13.5
Children with English as a second language	24.1	32.9
Children and families accessing Playgroup	70.6	58.0
Children attending Centre-based care	32.5	40.0
Children being cared for by a Grandparent	34.4	28.5

Social Policy and Children and Families

Federal and State Responsibility

Legislative responsibility in regards to children and families is shared between the Commonwealth and the States and Territories'. Federal responsibility to children and families often sits within law and regulations, with the Constitution outlining the powers and responsibilities of the Commonwealth to make laws which ultimately impact children and families, including immigration & emigration, marriage, divorce and matrimonial affairs, custody and guardianships of children (family law), social security benefits, such as family benefits.

International legal obligations and a commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child means the Commonwealth has a responsibility to the wellbeing of all Australian children. Federal government may also provide funding to State or Territory Governments or private organisations to provide services to children and their families. The States and Territories also have some jurisdiction over legal processes concerning children, including; care and protection; law enforcement and juvenile justice; and education. Each may vest certain powers to one another where deemed appropriate, however this has it challenges. The division of responsibility has created inconsistencies in policy, duplication of services and gaps in services, often resulting in children and families attempting to navigate a complex web of systems and agencies.

What do children and families tell us about being in Campbelltown?

Children and families tell us Campbelltown is a great place to grow up and raise a family. Families value the abundance of open spaces with places for the whole family to explore, play and learn. While relatively affordable for the "leafy green Eastern Suburbs", Campbelltown offers high quality public and private schooling. These assets, coupled with a strong sense of community and belonging, provide a backdrop to support children's development and growth.

In Campbelltown:



Access to nature (trees, creeks, parks, open space and trails) is important.



Children want to have their say. They gain confidence, skills and a sense of belonging when they feel consultation with them is genuine. But adults don't always tell them the results of having their say.



Children have a clear vision for a Child Friendly City. It should be safe, kind, playful, inclusive and fun.



Child friendly streets should be clean, green and safe. If there were less cars and they gave way to children, streets would be safer and more playful.



A child friendly city is a sustainable city, but children are concerned about inaction on climate change.



Children see adult life as stressful. Anxiety and depression are a concern.



Parents/caregivers are concerned about strangers and cars. This limits children's independent mobility.



Nature and risky play access is improving. Adults are balancing risk with benefit assessment in play design.



A decrease in block sizes is increasing the need for child friendly places near home.