

2016-17 PLVN Annual Statistical Survey

Early Years Literacy Programs

Summary Report

Report

This report documents and presents data from Public Libraries Victoria Network's (PLVN) 2016-17 Annual Statistical Survey, highlighting results for early years (EY) literacy programs offered across Victoria in the public library sector.

For the first time in 2015-16 libraries across Victoria were asked to report questions related to the EY literacy programs offered within their services. These questions were aligned with the 10 key performance indicators described in the SLV/PLVN *Reading and Literacy for All: Quality Indicators for Early Years Literacy Programs in Victorian Public Libraries*.

Measure	Indicator
Quality	1. % of Victorian public library services with early years literacy services that meet the minimum standards described by the quality indicators.
	2. Average number of hours of early years literacy programs delivered in Victorian public libraries each week.
	3. Feedback from family members and carers and satisfaction with libraries' early years literacy programs.
Uptake	4. Average number of children participating in early years literacy programs in Victorian public libraries each week.
	5. Average number of adult family members or carers participating in early years literacy programs in Victorian public libraries each week.
	6. Turnover rate (loans per collection item) for board books, picture books and ebooks for pre-school age children.
Reach	7. % of pre-school children aged 0 to 6 years who regularly participate in early years literacy programs in Victorian public libraries.
Impact	8. % of pre-school age children aged 0 to 6 years who are read to every day.
	9. % of children who start school 'at risk' or 'developmentally vulnerable' in the domains of language and communication.
	10. % of Foundation (Prep) students whose literacy levels in school entry are assessed as being at or above standard.

These questions were repeated and expanded upon in the 2016-17 PLVN annual statistical survey to provide further insights on the unique contribution of Victoria's public library network to improving literacy standards and school readiness across the state.

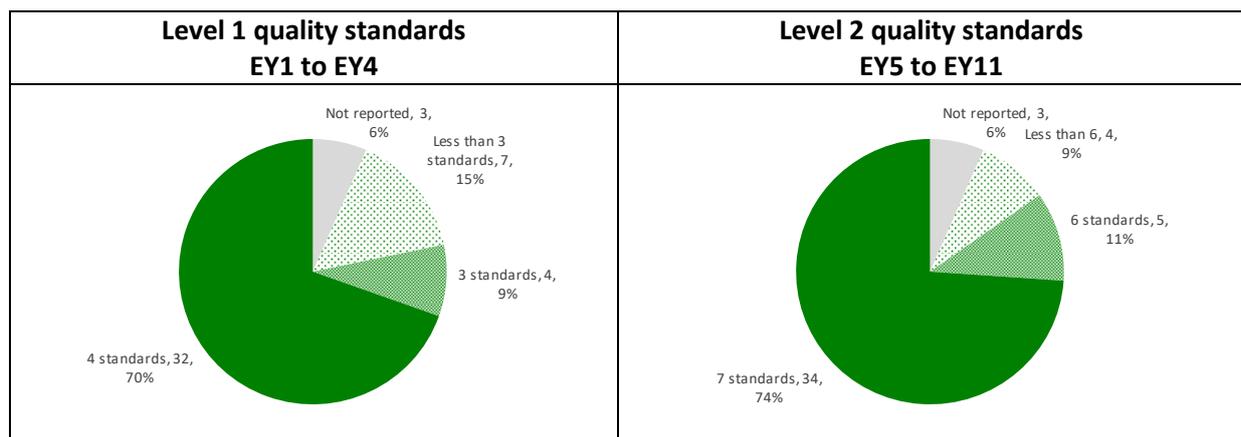
Summary

Early Years Literacy Indicators		2015-16	2016-17	Change
1.	% of Victorian public library services with EY literacy services that meet the minimum standards described by the indicators	-	67%	-
2.	Average number of hours of EY literacy programs delivered each week	530	539	+2%
3.	Satisfaction with libraries' EY literacy programs	8.8	9.2	+5%
4.	Average number of children participating in EY literacy programs in public libraries each week	13,468	15,160	+13%
5.	Average number of adult family members or carers participating in EY literacy programs in public libraries each week	9,768	10,967	+12%
6.	Turnover rate for board books, picture books and ebooks for pre-school age children	7.6	8.2	+8%
7.	% of pre-school children aged 0 to 5 years who regularly participate in EY literacy programs in Victorian public libraries	3.1%	3.4%	+10%

1. % of libraries with EY literacy programs meeting minimum standards

In 2016-17 PLVN's annual statistical survey captured (for the first time) information about the quality of early years literacy services provided by Victorian public libraries. All 46 metropolitan and regional library services and corporations were encouraged to conduct an audit and self-assessment of their early years literacy programs against the standards described in the *Reading and Literacy for All Framework*. Forty three of the libraries reported having undertaken a self-assessment during 2016-17 (most in June 2017).

The results show that 32 of the 46 Victorian public library services (70%) fully met or exceeded the requirements of the four Level 1 quality standards (EY1 to EY4) and 34 library services (74%) fully met or exceeded the requirements of the seven Level 2 quality standards (EY5 to EY11).

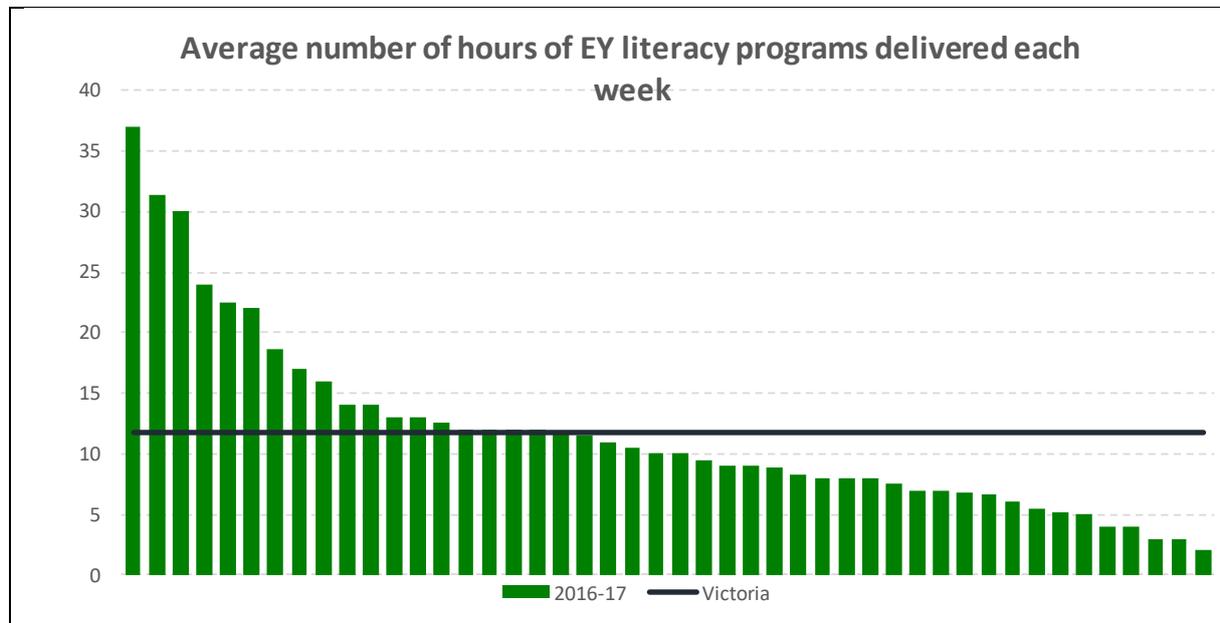


Overall, 31 of the 46 libraries (67%) fully met or exceeded the minimum requirements for all 11 quality standards in 2016-17. Another four libraries (9%) fully met or exceeded the minimum requirements for 10 of the 11 quality standards.

2. Average number of hours of EY literacy programs delivered

Forty four of the 46 library services reported on the number of hours of EY literacy programs delivered each week. For the two that did not report their 2015-16 estimate was used as a proxy.

In total in 2016-17, 539 hours of EY literacy programs were delivered by public libraries across Victoria each week. This is a 2% increase on the 530 hours per week reported in 2015-16.



On average this represents 11.7 hours of EY programs conducted by each library service each week. In practice this ranged from 37 hours in Eastern RLC and more than 20 hours per week in five other library services (Yarra Plenty, West Gippsland, Goldfields, Hume and Central Highlands) to fewer than five hours per week in five small single LGA library services in rural and remote Victoria.

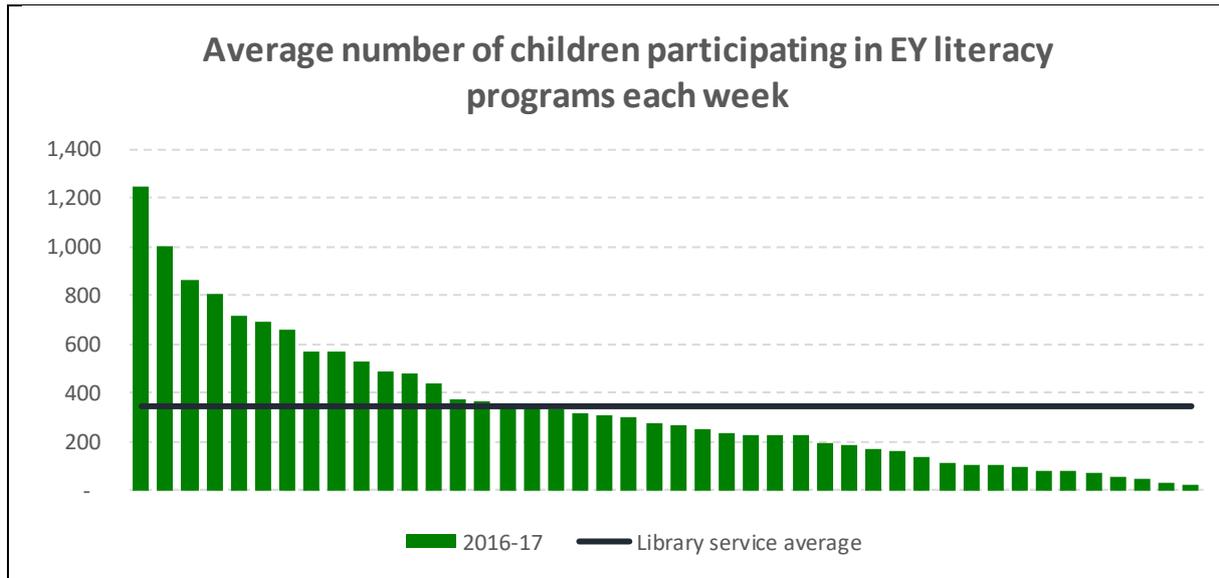
3. Satisfaction rating on the library's EY literacy programs

In 2016-17, only seven of the 46 libraries were able to report on overall satisfaction with their library's EY literacy programs, with an average satisfaction rating of 9.2 out of 10. This was an increase of 5% in the average rating of 8.8 out of 10 reported by nine libraries in 2015-16. Libraries may need to consider how they collect overall satisfaction data related to their EY literacy programs for the future.

4. Average number of children participating in EY literacy programs

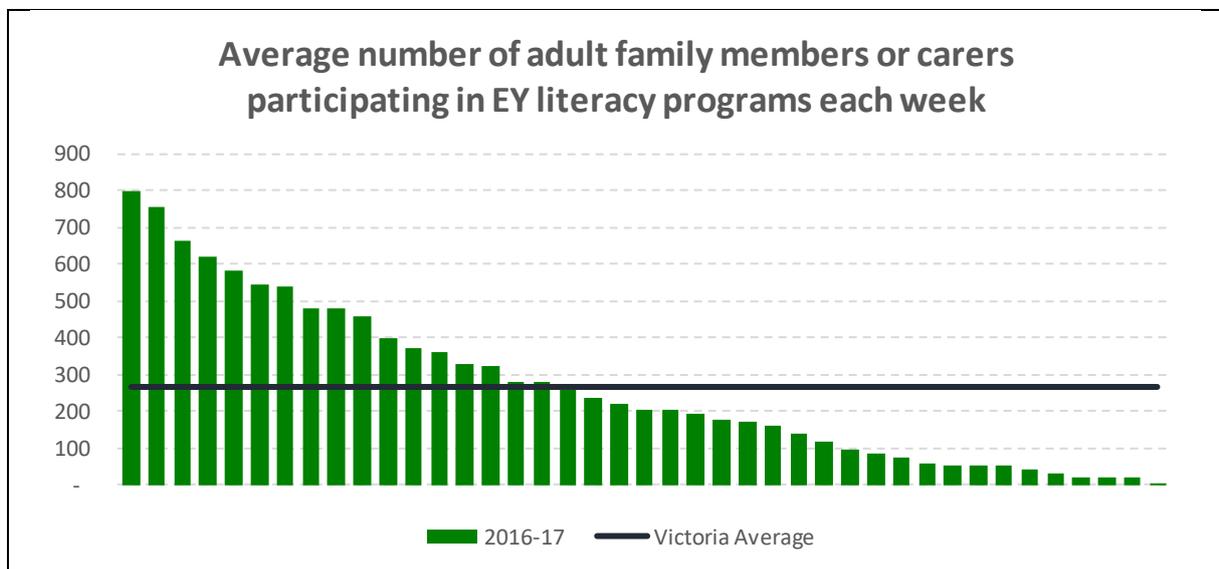
In 2015-16 libraries reported that on average 13,468 children participated in EY literacy programs each week, with Yarra Plenty RLC hosting more than 1,000 children per week. Across Victoria the average number of children supported by Victoria's public libraries was 293.

In 2016-17 libraries reported an average 15,160 children participating in EY literacy programs each week, a 13% increase on 2015-16. On average this represents 345 pre-school age children participating in EY programs in each library service, with both Yarra Plenty and Eastern hosting more than 1,000 children per week.



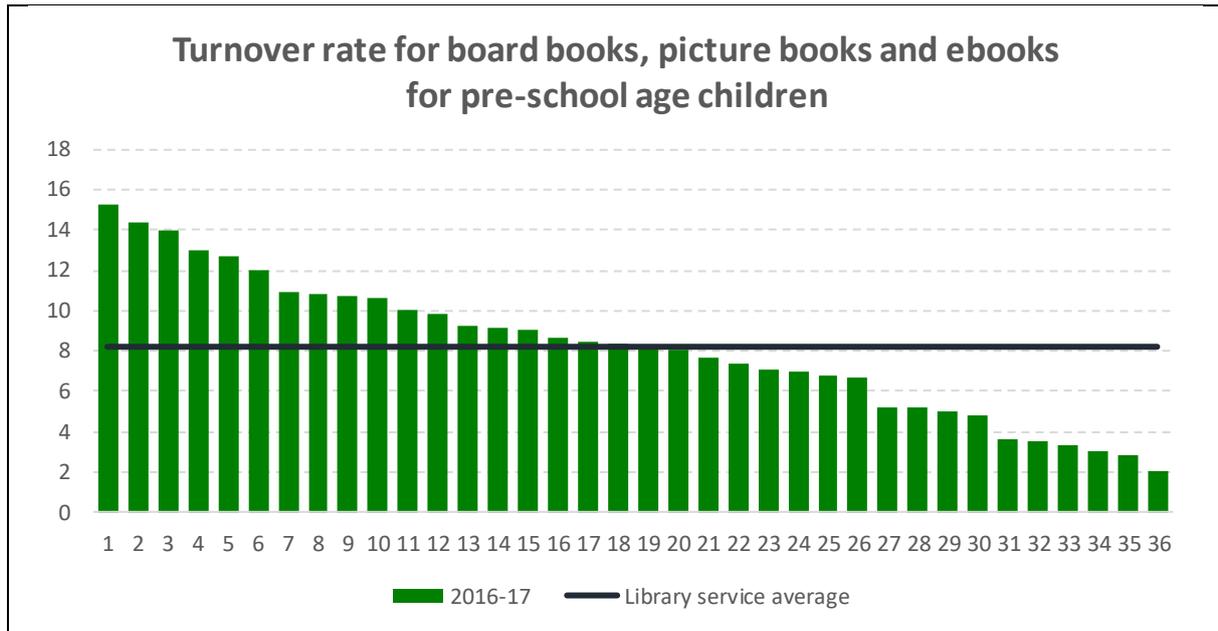
5. Average number of family members/carers participating in EY programs

In providing EY literacy programs for the children, libraries also provide support to the adult family members and carers of those children. In 2015-16 it was estimated that 9,768 adult family members and carers participated in EY programs each week. In 2016-17 this increased 12% to 10,967 adults per week, an average of 267 adults per library service ranging from nearly 800 in Eastern and Wyndham to fewer than 40 per week in the smallest library services. On average the adults bring 1.4 children to the EY literacy programs.



6. Turnover rate for board books, picture books and ebooks for pre-school age children

Libraries were asked to report on the turnover rate of their early years' collections, including board books, picture books and ebooks that were available for pre-school children. Thirty six library services reported data, however some libraries were only able to provide data for some of the items within the category. The average number of loans per item increased from 7.6 in 2015-16 to 8.2 in 2016-17.



7. % of pre-school age children aged 0 to 5 years who regularly participate in EY literacy programs at the library

The 2016 census shows that there were 444,000 children aged 5 years or less living in Victoria in 2016. While it is acknowledged that some of these children are attending school, and therefore less likely to be participating in library literacy programs, on average this indicates that around 3.4% of children aged less than 6 years attend library EY literacy programs each week. The equivalent figure from the 2015-16 PLVN surveys was a 3.1% participation rate.