# Working in Child Protection

# Office Location Information

As part of the International Recruitment program the Department of Families Fairness and Housing are looking for talented and experienced Social Workers and Child Protection professionals who wish to relocate to Victoria and want to make a difference. This resource provides information on each of our divisional office locations to assist with your consideration in relocating to Victoria, Australia.

## Where will I work?

Child protection practitioners are situated in offices across Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional Victoria.



|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | North Division |  |  | West Division |
|  | East Division |  |  | South Division |

Upon application, you will be asked to choose your preferred office from the following **regional** and metropolitan (Melbourne)locations:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **NORTH**  |  | **EAST**  |  | **SOUTH**  |  | **WEST**  |
| **Hume, Merri-Bek (formerly Hume Moreland) & North Eastern Melbourne** Preston**Loddon**Bendigo**Mallee**Swan HillMildura | **Inner & Outer Eastern Melbourne**Box Hill**State-wide Services** (Based in Box Hill)**Central After Hours****Intake****Goulburn** SheppartonSeymour**Ovens Murray**WangarattaWodonga | **Bayside Peninsula**FrankstonCheltenham**Southern Melbourne**Dandenong**Inner Gippsland**WarragulLeongathaMorwellTraralgon**Outer Gippsland** SaleBairnsdale | **Brimbank, Melton & Western Melbourne** Footscray**Barwon** Geelong**Western District**HamiltonHorshamPortlandWarrnambool**Central Highlands**Ballarat |
|  |  |  |  |

### **North Division**

The North Division starts in the inner-urban suburbs of Fitzroy, Collingwood and Richmond, and stretches through Victoria’s central highlands, as far as the cities of Swan Hill and Mildura on the Murray River in far north-west Victoria to the South Australian border township of Murrayville.

### North Division comprises four local areas including:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Hume-Merri-Bek** (metropolitan) * Preston Office

**North-East Melbourne** (metropolitan)* Also based from the Preston Office
 | **Loddon** (regional)* Bendigo office

**Mallee** (regional)* Swan Hill Office
* Mildura Office
 |

### **Living and working in the North Division |** metropolitan

* Easily accessible via public transport.
* Great dining options including cafes, restaurants and bars.
* Shopping opportunities including Northland Shopping Centre, factory outlets, designer clothing and furniture and vintage wares.
* Fitzroy has local street art and commissioned murals, studios, galleries and workshops.
* Parks, recreation and leisure opportunities including playgrounds, sport, golf and leisure centres, gardens and walking and cycling tracks.

## **Our metropolitan office location**

Further information

[Preston, Victoria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preston%2C_Victoria)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preston,\_Victoria

[Preston Market](https://www.prestonmarket.com.au/)

https://www.prestonmarket.com.au/

[Exploring Merri-bek](https://merri-bek.vic.gov.au/exploring-merri-bek/)

https://merri-bek.vic.gov.au/exploring-merri-bek/

[The City of Darebin Council](https://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/)

https://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/

[Discover Hume](https://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Residents/Things-to-See-and-Do/Discover-Hume)

https://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Residents/Things-to-See-and-Do/Discover-Hume

[Metropolitan public transport](https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/more/maps/)

https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au

### Preston

With a population of 33,790, Preston is a vibrant

multicultural metropolitan centre and is located

only 9km from the Melbourne CBD.

Preston is well connected by public transport

and the Preston markets are a drawcard with

fresh produce and a variety of shops.

### **Living and working in the North Division |** regional

The Loddon Mallee region occupies more than a quarter of Victoria. It has one of the most consistently warm climates in the state, and people are drawn to the region for the waterways of the Murray River, acclaimed restaurants and wineries, heritage towns, and grand forests.

It is an agricultural region with substantial dairy farming, beef, sheep and wool, pigs, poultry, fruit and vegetables, grain, viticulture and wine production.

### Our three regional office locations

### Bendigo

Further information

[Living in Bendigo](https://regionalliving.vic.gov.au/explore-regional-victoria/loddon-campaspe/greater-bendigo)

https://regionalliving.vic.gov.au/explore-regional-victoria/loddon-campaspe/greater-bendigo

[Visit Bendigo](http://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Goldfields/Destinations/Bendigo.aspx)

https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Goldfields/Destinations/Bendigo.aspx>

[Welcome to Greater Bendigo - for New Residents](https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-05/City-of-Greater-Bendigo-New-Residents-booklet.pdf)
https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-05/City-of-Greater-Bendigo-New-Residents-booklet.pdf
[Regional public transport](https://www.vline.com.au/home/)
https://www.vline.com.au/home/

With a population on 119,980Bendigo is a vibrant

contemporary regional centre, boasting

beautiful streets created from one of the world’s

greatest gold rushes.

The people who live here create fascinating

products, services and stories that add to the

richness of the region’s gold-mining history.

Bendigo is located 150km from the Melbourne

CBD or approximately 2-hours by car. One-way

travel to Melbourne by train is also

approximately 2-hours.

Swan Hill

Further information

[Living in Swan Hill](https://regionalliving.vic.gov.au/explore-regional-victoria/mallee/swan-hill)

https://regionalliving.vic.gov.au/explore-regional-victoria/mallee/swan-hill

[Visit Swan Hill](http://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/The-Murray/Destinations/Swan-Hill.aspx)

https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/The-Murray/Destinations/Swan-Hill.aspx

[Welcome to the Swan Hill Region](https://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Swan-Hill-Resident-Guide_updated-Web-version.pdf)

https://www.swanhill.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Swan-Hill-Resident-Guide\_updated-Web-version.pdf
[Regional public transport](https://www.vline.com.au/home/)
https://www.vline.com.au/home/

The Swan Hill region is home to approximately

20,534 people, and is a region rich in culture,

bathed in sunshine, blessed with a bounty of

delicious local produce and home to great dining,

wine and shopping.

Swan Hill is built along one of the country’s most

beautiful assets, the Murray River – the border to

New South Wales.

Swan Hill is located 340km from the Melbourne

CBD or approximately 4-hours by car. One-way

travel to Melbourne by train is approximately 4.5

hours.

#### Mildura

Further information

[Mildura City Profile](https://www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Council/About-Council/City-Profile)

https://www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Council/About-Council/City-Profile

[Visit Mildura](http://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/the-murray/Destinations/mildura)

https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/the-murray/Destinations/mildura

[Mildura Airport](https://milduraairport.com.au/)

https://milduraairport.com.au/

[Regional public transport](https://www.vline.com.au/home/)
https://www.vline.com.au/home/

Located near the top left corner of the State of

Victoria and with a population of approximately

55,937 Mildura is set on the banks of the

magnificent Murray River – Australia’s most

important waterway.

Mildura is famous around Australia as a paradise

of food and wine, some of the warmest weather in

Victoria and a gateway to the outback.

A beautiful regional city, Mildura is a 70-minute

flight to Melbourne and boasts the busiest

regional airport in Victoria.

Mildura is located 550km from Melbourne CBD or

approximately 6-hours by car. One-way travel to

Melbourne via public transport that can be

between 9 – 12 hours.

## East Division

The East Division extends from the inner eastern suburbs out through the outer suburbs of Lilydale and Belgrave to the Murray River in north-east Victoria and from the Alps to Tatura in central Victoria.

### East Division comprises four local areas including:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Inner Eastern Melbourne** (metropolitan)* Box Hill Office
* **Outer** **Eastern** **Melbourne** (metropolitan)

(Also located from the Box Hill Office)* **Statewide Services**

(Also located from the Box Hill Office) | **Goulburn** (regional)* Shepparton Office
* Seymour Office

**Ovens** **Murray** (regional)* Wangaratta Office
* Wodonga Office
 |
|  |  |

## Living and working in the East Division | metropolitan

* Easily accessible via public transport and to the city
* Box Hill has a strong multicultural community which has many cafes and restaurants
* The region features recreation and leisure opportunities including parks and playgrounds, sport, golf and leisure centres, walking and cycling tracks all the way to the city.

## **Our metropolitan office location**

### Box Hill

Further information

[Whitehorse City Council](https://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/living-working)

https://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/living-working
[Metropolitan public transport](https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/more/maps/)

https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au

With a population of 14,353, Box Hill is a

multicultural metropolitan centre and is located

20km from the Melbourne CBD.

The bustling CBD area and includes a large

shopping and dining precinct.

Box Hill is well connected by public transport, close

To major freeways and roads. Box Hill has its own

hospital and there are many childcare facilities and

schools in the area reflective of this urban centre.

### **Living and working in the East Division |** regional

Victoria’s north-east includes the Goulburn Valley and Ovens Murray, one of Australia’s major fruit-growing regions with fruit and dairy products exported all over the world. The eastern area of Victoria is perfect for those who like to adventure, with beautiful mountains, lakes and rivers and world class food produce.

There is a regional airport at Albury-Wodonga with direct links to Melbourne and Sydney.

### Our four regional office locations

### Shepparton

Further information

[Living in Shepparton](https://greatthings.com.au/where-to-live)

https://greatthings.com.au/where-to-live

[Visit Shepparton](http://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/The-Murray/Destinations/Shepparton.aspx)
https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/The-Murray/Destinations/Shepparton.aspx

[Regional public transport](https://www.vline.com.au/home/)
https://www.vline.com.au/home/

Shepparton has a population of approximately 68,361

and is the centre of Victoria’s oldest and most famous

fruit-growing district.

Shepparton is surrounded by dairy farming and

agriculture, including wineries and orchards. It offers

great shopping and recreational opportunities and

is situated on the banks of the Goulburn River.

Shepparton is 165km to Melbourne CBD or

approximately 2.5 hours by train.

### Seymour

Further information

[Living in Seymour](https://www.goseymour.com.au/live)

https://www.goseymour.com.au/live

[Visit Seymour](http://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Daylesford-and-the-Macedon-Ranges/Destinations/Seymour.aspx)
https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Daylesford-and-the-Macedon-Ranges/Destinations/Seymour.aspx

[Regional public transport](https://www.vline.com.au/home/)
https://www.vline.com.au/home/

Seymour is a beautiful old town on the banks of the

Goulburn River. Attractions include wineries, art

galleries and a vibrant local racing scene.

Seymour plays a key role in servicing the nearby

Puckapunyal Army Base, one of the Australian Army’s

most important training centres. Seymour has a

population of approximately 6,569 people.

Seymour is approximately 115km to Melbourne or

1.5hrs on the train.

### Wangaratta

Further information

[Living in Wangaratta](https://www.livewangaratta.com.au/Home)

https://www.livewangaratta.com.au/Home

[Visit Wangaratta](http://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/High-Country/Destinations/Wangaratta.aspx)

https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/High-Country/Destinations/Wangaratta.aspx

[Wangaratta Council](https://www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au/Home)

https://www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au/Home

[Regional public transport](https://www.vline.com.au/home/)
https://www.vline.com.au/home/

Wangaratta has a population of approximately

29,740 and is surrounded by breathtaking beauty.

Rich agricultural land yields gourmet food and world

class wines.

Wangaratta is home to major manufacturing,

Transport and business activities. The nearby Alps

are great for skiers in winter, and fishing,

bushwalking and cycling in the summertime.

Located in north-east Victoria, Wangaratta is 245km

from Melbourne CBD or approximately 2hrs 45mins

by car. One-way travel to Melbourne by train is

approximately 3-hours.

### Wodonga

Further information

[Living in Wodonga](https://www.visitalburywodonga.com/always-in-season/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIouD55qL4-wIV8p7CCh1waQGpEAAYASAAEgKwKfD_BwE)

https://www.visitalburywodonga.com/

[Visit Wodonga](http://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/The-Murray/Destinations/Albury-Wodonga.aspx)

https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/The-Murray/Destinations/Albury-Wodonga.aspx
[Moving to Wodonga](https://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au/Services/People-and-Pets/New-residents)

https://www.wodonga.vic.gov.au/Services/People-and-Pets/New-residents

[Settlement Support](https://www.awcommunityguide.com.au/?view=706)

https://www.awcommunityguide.com.au/Home/view/706

Wodonga is situated on the Murray River – the border

between Victoria and New South Wales and is

surrounded by hills, agricultural valleys, wineries,

fine foods and historic towns.

With a population of over 43,183 plus the adjoining

New South Wales City of Albury (population of 55,654,

it has excellent health and education, sporting and

recreation facilities for perfect work-life balance.

Wodonga is 321km from Melbourne CBD or

approximately 3.5-hours hours by car.

 One-way travel to Melbourne by train is

approximately 4.5 hours.

## South Division

The South Division includes extensive coastline, national parks and state forests, spanning from South Melbourne in the inner city, to the rural town of Mallacoota near the border of New South Wales, 423 kilometres east of Melbourne.

### South Division comprises four local areas including:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Bayside Peninsula** (metropolitan)* Cheltenham Office
* Frankston Office

**Southern Melbourne** (metropolitan)* Dandenong Office
 | **Inner Gippsland** (regional)* Warragul Office
* Leongatha Office
* Morwell Office
* Traralgon Office

**Outer Gippsland** (regional)* Sale Office
* Bairnsdale Office
 |

### **Living and working in the South Division** | metropolitan

* Shopping activities including Dandenong Market Westfield Shopping Centres and Direct Factory Outlets
* Recreational facilities including premium golf courses.
* Cafes and eclectic dining along the Acland Street in St Kilda.
* Prestigious public and private schools.
* It is just a short drive to some of Melbourne’s best beaches including St Kilda, Brighton, Chelsea and Frankston beaches.
* The region has traditional shopping villages, heritage buildings and large parks.
* Visit the nearby Mornington Peninsula.

### Our three metropolitan office locations:

### Cheltenham

Further information

[Kingston City Council](https://www.kingston.vic.gov.au/Home)

https://www.kingston.vic.gov.au/Home

[Metropolitan public transport](https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/more/maps/)

https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au

With a population of 3,969 people, Cheltenham is friendly community with many schools, shopping centres and restaurants reflective of an urban lifestyle.

Cheltenham is well connected by public transport and located 20km from the Melbourne CBD. Cheltenham is also close to beaches, gold courses and sporting facilities.

Further information

[Discover Frankston](https://www.discoverfrankston.com/)

https://www.discoverfrankston.com/

[Frankston City Council](https://www.frankston.vic.gov.au/Home)

https://www.frankston.vic.gov.au/Home

[Metropolitan public transport](https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/more/maps/)

https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au

### Frankston

With a population of 140,809 people, Frankston is among the most affordable suburbs in the South East Bay-side area.

Frankston is well connected by public transport, has access to major freeways and located 41km from Melbourne CBD.

Frankston is close to beaches, bay-side shopping and has its own hospital. Frankston has a variety of schools and universities.

Dandenong

Further information

[Visit Dandenong](https://www.travelvictoria.com.au/dandenong/)

https://www.travelvictoria.com.au/dandenong/

[Dandenong Council](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/)

https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

[Suburb guide to Dandenong](https://goodmigrations.com/city-guides/melbourne/dandenong)

https://goodmigrations.com/city-guides/melbourne/dandenong

[Metropolitan public transport](https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/more/maps/)

https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au

With a population of 175,000 people, Dandenong is one of the most multicultural areas of greater Melbourne, with approximately 60% of residents born overseas.

Greater Dandenong is full of restaurants, shopping centres and activities reflective of a busy urban centre.

Dandenong is well connected by public transport and located 35km from Melbourne CBD.

## Living and working in the South Division | regionalVictoria’s south-east includes inner and outer Gippsland. Victoria's south-east is a nature-lover’s paradise, with more than 20 national parks, rugged mountains, long sandy beaches and the home of the nightly fairy penguin parade at Phillip Island.

The region has rich soil and dependable rainfall, supporting a strong dairy industry. Industries include timber processing, paper-product manufacturing, agriculture, horticulture, fishing and tourism as well as the major source of Victoria’s electricity in the Latrobe Valley

### Our six regional office locationsWarragul

Further information

[Life in Warragul](https://australiamadesimple.com/life-in-warragul/)

https://australiamadesimple.com/life-in-warragul/

[Visit Warragul](https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Gippsland/Destinations/Warragul)

https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Gippsland/Destinations/Warragul

[Baw Baw Shire](https://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Home)

https://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Home

[Regional public transport](https://www.vline.com.au/home/)
https://www.vline.com.au/home/

Warragul is a thriving rural town with a population

of approximately 19,857. With its easy access to

Melbourne and beautiful green landscape, Warragul

is quickly becoming a sought-after residential area.

The region around the town is famous for its dairy

production, and its small, gourmet food and wine

producers.

Warragul is located 103km from Melbourne CBD

and is approximately 1.25 hours by car.

One-way travel to Melbourne by train

is approximately 1.5 hours.

### Leongatha

Further information

[Living in Leongatha](http://www.visitpromcountry.com.au/towns/leongatha)

https://visitsouthgippsland.com.au/place/leongatha/

[Visit Leongatha](http://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Gippsland/Destinations/Leongatha)

https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Gippsland/Destinations/Leongatha

[South Gippsland Shire Council](https://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/)

https://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/

Leongatha is located in a rich dairy region

within south Gippsland, between Korumburra

and Meeniyan and 56kms’ south of Warragul,

with a population of approximately 5,869 people.

Leongatha offers a large commercial centre,

servicing its local population and the surrounding

smaller towns.

Leongatha is located 140km from Melbourne CBD

or 1.5 hours by car. Train travel is not possible to

Melbourne without a connecting bus service.

Morwell

Further information

[Visit Morwell](http://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Gippsland/Destinations/Morwell)

https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Gippsland/Destinations/Morwell

[Latrobe City Council](https://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/)

<https://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au>

[Regional public transport](https://www.vline.com.au/home/)
https://www.vline.com.au/home/

Situated 150km east of Melbourne, with a population

of approximately 14,389, Morwell has been critical to

Victoria's energy industry for decades.

Morwell also plays an important role as a service centre

for surrounding farming communities.

Morwell is located 152km from Melbourne or 2-hours

By car. One-way travel to Melbourne by train is

approximately 2-hours.

### Traralgon

With a population of approximately 26,907,

Further information

[Living in Traralgon](https://australiamadesimple.com/life-in-traralgon/)

https://australiamadesimple.com/life-in-traralgon/

[Visit Traralgon](http://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Gippsland/Destinations/Traralgon)

https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Gippsland/Destinations/Traralgon

[LaTrobe City Council](https://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/)

https://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/

Traralgon is a bustling commercial centre,

surrounded on all sides by some of Victoria's

most scenic untouched countryside.

The town offers fine outdoor dining and excellent

shopping during the day, and great entertainment in

the local pubs and clubs by night. Traralgon is 165km

from Melbourne CBD or 2-hours by car.

One-way travel to Melbourne by train is approximately

2-hours.

### Sale

Further information

[Living in Sale](https://australiamadesimple.com/life-in-sale/)

https://australiamadesimple.com/life-in-sale/

[Visit Sale](http://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Gippsland/Destinations/Sale)

https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Gippsland/Destinations/Sale

[Wellington Shire Council](https://www.wellington.vic.gov.au/)

https://www.wellington.vic.gov.au/
[Regional public transport](https://www.vline.com.au/home/)
https://www.vline.com.au/home/

Originally developed as a port, Sale is a great base

for discovering the magnificent lakes, mountains and

coastline of the Gippsland region. Sale has a

population of approximately 14,250 people.

The recently revitalised port is now home to a myriad

of great cafes, restaurants and shops and it provides

access to the entire lakes region, connecting to the

ocean at Lakes Entrance.

Sale is located 215km from Melbourne CBD or 2.45

hours by car. One-way travel to Melbourne by train is

approximately 3-hours.

### Bairnsdale

Further information

[Living in Bairnsdale](https://australiamadesimple.com/life-in-bairnsdale/)

https://australiamadesimple.com/life-in-bairnsdale/

[Visit Bairnsdale](http://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Gippsland/Destinations/Bairnsdale)

https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Gippsland/Destinations/Bairnsdale

[East Gippsland Shire Council](https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/)

https://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/

Bairnsdale is the gateway to two of Victoria's most

rugged and untouched regions: the Victorian High

Country, and the vast Gippsland Lakes.

The town is the main commercial centre for the region's

wool, dairy, agriculture and timber industries. Bairnsdale

is a laid-back country town close to scenic drives with a

population of approximately 17,470 people.

Bairnsdale is located 280km from Melbourne CBD or

3.25 hours by car. Limited train travel to Melbourne is

available.

## West Division

The West Division covers the Melbourne central business district and the western suburbs, including Footscray, Sunshine, Altona, Werribee, the major growth areas of Point Cook and Caroline Springs, and the metropolitan fringe towns of Melton and Bacchus Marsh.

It also includes the regional city of Geelong, the Bellarine Peninsula, and the Surf Coast, extending to the South Australian border as well as much of the goldfields including the major regional city of Ballarat, and the regional centres of Daylesford, Ararat and Stawell.

### West Division comprises four local areas including:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Western Melbourne** (metropolitan)* Footscray Office

**Brimbank Melton** (metropolitan) * Footscray Office

**Barwon** (regional)* Geelong Office
 | **Western District** (regional)* Hamilton Office
* Horsham Office
* Portland Office
* Warrnambool Office

**Central Highlands** (regional)Ballarat Office |

### **Living and working in the West Division** | metropolitan

* Be a part of the ever-changing neighbourhood, including a growing arts scene and international cultures and cuisine.
* There are great dining options, including cafes in Yarraville, and restaurants and bars with diverse multicultural influences in the surrounding areas.
* Walk, cycle or have a picnic by the Maribyrnong River.
* It is just a short drive to Altona, Williamstown and Werribee beaches.
* Shop at Highpoint Shopping Centre in Maribyrnong.
* Tullamarine Airport is a short drive away.

### Our metropolitan office location:

Footscray

Further information
[Guide to Footscray](https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Melbourne/Destinations/Footscray)

https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Melbourne/Destinations/Footscray

[Maribyrnong City Council](https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Home)

https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Home

[Metropolitan public transport](https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/more/maps/)

https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au

With a population of 17,131, Footscray is an inner-city

centre and is located 5km from the Melbourne CBD.

Footscray is well connected by public transport and

only an 8-minute walk from the train station to the

Footscray office.

## Living and working in the West Division | regional

Victoria’s west and south-west include Barwon, Central Highlands and Western District.

The Western District is home to the spectacular Grampians and Mount Arapiles. The Grampians provide a diverse array of native wildlife, picturesque walking tracks, and breathtaking scenic attractions. The region is home to some of Australia’s leading schools and university campuses.

The south-west’s economic strengths include agriculture (wool, cattle), forestry, horticulture, automotive, aluminium smelting and the tourism industry of the Victorian Surf Coast.

**Our seven regional office locations:**

Further information

[Geelong | Regional Living](https://regionalliving.vic.gov.au/explore-regional-victoria/barwon/geelong)

https://regionalliving.vic.gov.au/explore-regional-victoria/barwon/geelong

[Move to Geelong](https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/movetogeelong/default.aspx)

https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/movetogeelong/default.aspx

[City of Greater Geelong](https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/)

https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/
[Regional public transport](https://www.vline.com.au/home/)
https://www.vline.com.au/home/

### Geelong

Victoria’s largest regional city. Geelong provides

the perfect environment to achieve work–life

balance. With a population of approximately 265,000,

it is the second largest city in Victoria.

Geelong combines the best elements of a cosmopolitan

city with some of the world’s most magnificent

surf beaches close by. It offers a range of lifestyle

choices including inner city, suburban, waterfront,

coastal and rural.

Geelong is located 75km from Melbourne CBD

or 1.15 hours by car. One-way travel to Melbourne

by train is approximately 1-hour.

### Hamilton

Further information

[Visit Hamilton](https://www.visitvictoria.com/regions/grampians/destinations/hamilton)

https://www.visitvictoria.com/regions/grampians/destinations/hamilton

[New resident arrivals support](https://www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/new-resident-arrivals-support)

https://www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/new-resident-arrivals-support

[Live in Greater Hamilton](https://visitgreaterhamilton.com.au/live-in-greater-hamilton/)

https://visitgreaterhamilton.com.au/live-in-greater-hamilton/

Often called the ‘wool capital of the world’, Hamilton

is a charming city located in Victoria’s Western District.

It has a population of approximately 10,100.

The city is notable for its grand buildings, majestic

homesteads, fine landscaped gardens and burgeoning

arts scene. Hamilton is located 300km from Melbourne

CBD or 3.5 hours by car.

One-way travel to Melbourne via public transport is

approximately 4 - 5 hours by train/bus.

### Horsham

Further information

[Living in Horsham](https://regionalliving.vic.gov.au/explore-regional-victoria/wimmera-southern-mallee/horsham)

https://regionalliving.vic.gov.au/explore-regional-victoria/wimmera-southern-mallee/horsham

[Visit Horsham](http://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Grampians/Destinations/Horsham)

https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Grampians/Destinations/Horsham
[Regional public transport](https://www.vline.com.au/home/)
https://www.vline.com.au/home/ >

Horsham has a population of approximately 20,369

is surrounded by sheep and crop farms, and is a short

distance away from some of Victoria's most beautiful

natural landscapes, including the Little Desert,

Mt Arapiles and the northern edge of the Grampians.

Horsham has a campus of Federation University

and the historic Longerenong Agricultural College,

now a new trade training centre.

Horsham is located 300km from Melbourne CBD or

3.5-hours by car. One-way travel to Melbourne by train

is approximately 5-hours.

### Portland

Further information

[Community Resources](http://www.connectglenelg.com.au/directory/com_connect_skillslist.php?cmd=reset)

http://www.connectglenelg.com.au/directory/com\_connect\_skillslist.php?cmd=reset

[Visit Portland](http://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Great-Ocean-Road/Destinations/Portland)

https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Great-Ocean-Road/Destinations/Portland
[Travel to Portland](https://www.visitportland.com.au/travel-times-portland/)

https://www.visitportland.com.au/travel-times-portland/

With a population of approximately 10,700, Portland

is the only deep-water port and lies 362km South West

from Melbourne. Portland was Victoria’s first permanent

European settlement in 1834. It is one of south-west’s

most important commercial and industrial hubs and a

major export point.

Portland offers a great lifestyle with a range of leisure

activities to enjoy, including fantastic beaches, fishing,

whale watching, historical architecture and aboriginal

sites, shopping, and botanical gardens.

Portland is located 360km from Melbourne CBD or

4.5-hours by car. Travel to Melbourne via public transport

is approximately 6-7 hours.

### Warrnambool

Further information

[Living in Warrnambool](https://regionalliving.vic.gov.au/explore-regional-victoria/great-south-coast/warrnambool)

https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Great-Ocean-Road/Destinations/Warrnambool
[New Resident information](https://www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/new-resident-arrivals-support)

https://www.warrnambool.vic.gov.au/new-resident-arrivals-support

[Visit Warrnambool](http://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Great-Ocean-Road/Destinations/Warrnambool)

https://www.visitvictoria.com/Regions/Great-Ocean-Road/Destinations/Warrnambool

Warrnambool is a regional centre on the south-western

coast of Victoria with a population of approximately

35,406. Warrnambool is one of Victoria’s major dairy farming

centres and is the largest city on the south-west coast.

Warrnambool’s coast is also a migration path and

nursery for giant southern right whales as they come

to calve at Logans Beach during winter.

Warrnambool is located 260km from Melbourne CBD

or 3.5-hours by car. One-way travel to Melbourne via

public transport ranges from 3.5 to 5.5 hours.

Ballarat

Further information

[Living in Ballarat](https://www.visitballarat.com.au/about/move-to-ballarat/)

https://www.visitballarat.com.au/about/move-to-ballarat/
[Regional public transport](https://www.vline.com.au/home/)
https://www.vline.com.au/home/

Victoria’s largest inland city, Ballarat is a thriving

hub of contemporary arts, events and food and wine,

with a fascinating heritage backdrop.

Ballarat has a population of approximately 123,150

and reflects the wealth of the gold rush era with its

many fine homes and wide, tree-lined streets.

A range of quality schools and higher education

including University of Ballarat and a campus of the

Australian Catholic University are located in Ballarat.

Ballarat is located 116km from Melbourne CBD or

1.5-hours by car. One-way travel to Melbourne by train

 is approximately 1.5-hours.

# Statewide Services Branch

The Statewide Services Branch is unique from the other regional divisions, as its name suggests it operates across the whole state of Victoria. The division comprises of specialist roles including Intake and After-Hours, with their offices located across Victoria.

### Statewide Services Branch comprises multiple teams including:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Intake Southeast (SE)*** Box Hill & Dandenong Offices

**Intake Northwest (NW)*** Geelong & Preston Offices
 | **Central After-Hours Service (CAHS)*** Box Hill Office
 |

Our metropolitan office locations:

### BoxHill

Further information

[Whitehorse City Council](https://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/living-working)

https://www.whitehorse.vic.gov.au/living-working
[Metropolitan public transport](https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/more/maps/)

https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au

With a population of 14,353, Box Hill is a

multicultural metropolitan centre and is located

20km from the Melbourne CBD. The bustling CBD

area and includes a large shopping and dining precinct.

Box Hill is well connected by public transport, close

To major freeways and roads. Box Hill has its own

hospital and there are many childcare facilities and

schools in the area reflective of this urban centre.

Further information

[Visit Dandenong](https://www.travelvictoria.com.au/dandenong/)

https://www.travelvictoria.com.au/dandenong/

[Dandenong Council](https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/)

https://www.greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au

[Suburb guide to Dandenong](https://goodmigrations.com/city-guides/melbourne/dandenong)

https://goodmigrations.com/city-guides/melbourne/dandenong

[Metropolitan public transport](https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/more/maps/)

https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au

### Dandenong

With a population of 175,000 people, Dandenong

is one of the most multicultural areas of greater

Melbourne, with approximately 60% of residents

born overseas.

Greater Dandenong is full of restaurants, shopping

centres and activities reflective of a busy urban centre.

Dandenong is well connected by public transport and

located 35km from Melbourne CBD.

## Preston

Further information

[Preston, Victoria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preston%2C_Victoria)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preston,\_Victoria

[Preston Market](https://www.prestonmarket.com.au/)

https://www.prestonmarket.com.au/>

[The City of Darebin Council](https://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/)

https://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/

[Discover Hume](https://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Residents/Things-to-See-and-Do/Discover-Hume)

https://www.hume.vic.gov.au/Residents/Things-to-See-and-Do/Discover-Hume

[Metropolitan public transport](https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au/more/maps/)

https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au

With a population of 33,790, Preston is a vibrant

multicultural metropolitan centre and is located

only 9km from the Melbourne CBD.

Preston is well connected by public transport.

The Preston Markets are always a drawcard

with fresh produce and a variety of shops.

Our regional office location:

### Geelong

Further information

[Geelong | Regional Living](https://regionalliving.vic.gov.au/explore-regional-victoria/barwon/geelong)

https://regionalliving.vic.gov.au/explore-regional-victoria/barwon/geelong

[Move to Geelong](https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/movetogeelong/default.aspx)

https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/movetogeelong/default.aspx

[City of Greater Geelong](https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/) https://www.geelongaustralia.com.au/
[Regional public transport](https://www.vline.com.au/home/)
https://www.vline.com.au/home/

Victoria’s largest regional city. Geelong provides

the perfect environment to achieve work–life

balance.

With a population of approximately 265,000, it

is the second largest city in Victoria. Geelong

combines the best elements of a cosmopolitan

city with some of the world’s most magnificent

surf beaches close by. It offers a range of lifestyle

choices including inner city, suburban, waterfront,

coastal and rural.

Geelong is located 75km from Melbourne CBD

or 1.15 hours by car. One-way travel to Melbourne

by train is approximately 1-hour.

## Useful Resources

[Schools](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx)

https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx

[Childcare](https://www.vic.gov.au/child-care)

https://www.vic.gov.au/child-care

[Healthcare](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/)

health.vic.gov.au

 **Public Transport**

[Metropolitan](https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au)

https://www.ptv.vic.gov.au

[Regional](https://www.vline.com.au/home/)

https://www.vline.com.au/home

|  |
| --- |
| To receive this document in another format, email CP Global Attraction <cpglobalattraction@dffh.vic.gov.au>.Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.© State of Victoria, Australia, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, September 2023. |