

# Video transcript: Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Program Performance

## Some background

Local governments are funded by the Department of Health to deliver the free Maternal and Child Health Service. This includes the Enhanced Maternal and Child Health program, or EMCH, for families with children aged 3 and under who need and want additional, targeted support.

## About this audit

We assessed if the Department of Health oversees EMCH delivery and outcomes, and targets funding to families with the greatest need.

We also assessed if councils delivering EMCH enrol eligible families and have the data they need to monitor program performance.

## What we concluded

We concluded that EMCH is supporting families experiencing challenges.

But the department and councils can't show that only eligible families receive EMCH, that its funding is targeted to those who need it most, or that its intended outcomes are being achieved.

We made 3 key findings.

## Key finding 1

EMCH may not be reaching everyone who needs it.

No audited council could show that all families accessing EMCH were eligible.

And most councils reported delivering fewer EMCH hours than they were funded for.

We also found EMCH data is inaccurate due to both limitations in the system councils use to capture EMCH data and data entry issues.

## Key finding 2

The department does not understand EMCH demand enough to inform its funding allocations.

It does not own or have access to EMCH data and it does not collect all available information from councils.

Funding allocations may not align to demand.

### Key finding 3

Finally, the department does not monitor or accurately report on EMCH performance and outcome measures.

### What we recommended

We made 3 recommendations to the department about:

- improving how it captures and uses EMCH data
- aligning EMCH funding allocations to demand
- monitoring and reporting on EMCH performance and outcomes.

### More information

For more information, or to read our full report, go to [audit.vic.gov.au](http://audit.vic.gov.au).