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Demand for services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Victoria

Report prepared for the Aboriginal Executive Council

August 2019

SVA Social Ventures Australia

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In response to a rapidly growing population, and greater need for social services across all sectors, the Aboriginal Executive Council (AEC) sought to project future demand to enable planning and advocacy to meet demand

About this report

- Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) operate in sectors that are complex, interconnected and impacted by shifts in government policy towards increased self-determination. In many sectors demand exceeds capacity, and at the same time demand in many sectors continues to rise due to significant population growth in Victoria and other factors
- In response, VACCA commissioned SVA to project future demand for VACCA services. With VACCA's permission, the AEC contracted SVA to prepare a new report (drawing on the original work for VACCA) for its policy and advocacy purposes
- There are three parts to this report: Executive Council sought to better understand growth in the Aboriginal population over the next decade, and to forecast current and future demand for eight priority sectors across metropolitan and regional geographies in Victoria
  1. Executive Summary (pages 3 – 10): High-level summary of the approach, methodology and outputs of the forecast modelling
  2. Aboriginal population projections (pages 11 – 22): Explanation of the modelling approach and assumptions, Aboriginal population forecast to 2028 by DHHS region, and forecast of the vulnerable Aboriginal population to 2028 by DHHS region
  3. Sector projections (pages 23 – 75): Demand projections for the eight priority sectors. For each sector, the report lays out the data and assumptions used, overview of the current state of the sector and how demand is expected to change, demand forecast to 2028 and ACCOs servicing different regions.

Research approach

- SVA Consulting, a for-purpose consulting practice, worked with an analytics firm Taylor Fry to develop a robust approach to forecasting population growth and sector demand. Together the research team developed two related models, with the following elements:

Aboriginal Population Growth Model

- Forecast Aboriginal population (total & households) by age and region
- Forecast 'vulnerable' Aboriginal population at the level of household by location (using poverty line as a key indicator of vulnerability)

Sector Demand Model

- Drivers of demand across eight priority sectors by region
- Forecast future demand based on past trends and policy analysis
- Map of ACCOs within each sector in each region

- The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) areas were used as the primary regions for projecting population growth demand to align with Victorian Government planning and funding approaches
- The researchers engaged with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Department of Education and Training (DET) and several non-profit organisations to understand drivers of change to inform modelling assumptions, and gain access to sector data that is not publicly available
- Variety of data sources were used in the model, including ABS Census Tablebuilder Pro, other publicly available data including ABS and relevant sector specific data. Some data was sourced through formal requests from the relevant Government agencies as inputs to the model. Assumptions about sector demand and growth were tested with Taylor Fry, external stakeholders and SVA subject matter experts

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This involved the development of two intersecting models – a ***population forecast model*** and a ***sector demand forecast model*** – that projected demand in eight sectors at the DHHS regional level

Research methodology

- **Aboriginal population forecast methodology**
  - The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census was used to identify the Aboriginal population in each DHHS area, and forecast using an approach recommended by Taylor Fry based on the average annual change in population in each region, adjusted for regional/metropolitan differences and 'unexplainable' growth levels reported by ABS
  - The model adjusts for the 'undercount' rate for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population as reported by the ABS
  - This approach captures growth trends at the DHHS area level reducing the likelihood of underestimation

- **Sector demand forecast methodology**
  - For each sector, research was undertaken to identify the most relevant data set(s) and develop assumptions to estimate
    1. Demand in each sector to the most disaggregated regional level as possible
    2. Expected growth or reduction in demand for each section
  - Where required, formal data requests were made to Victoria Government departments.
  - For each sector, the best available data was used to estimate current and future demand at the regional level. Details of data reviewed, requested and selected can be found in each sector projections section.
  - To supplement the quantitative data collected, the researchers also conducted a literature review and held interviews with select external stakeholders and SVA's internal subject matter experts
  - The accuracy of forecasts has been ranked from low to high based on data quality (full rankings are available on page 25). The quality of available data was affected by the level of regional disaggregation, incomplete data (data for regions with high rates of sector usage but no data for others), and inconsistent recording of Aboriginal status

Research limitations

- Forecasting Aboriginal population growth is complicated due to the high number of people that are not counted in the national Census, with research and other anecdotal evidence suggesting the rate may be higher, particularly in some regional areas. For this reason, actual demand is likely higher than that reported in this project
- Data quality significantly varies by service area, particularly in understanding differences at a regional level, and should be kept in mind when interpreting results, the result for some service areas is that regional differences have been flattened due to the use of metro/regional statistic rather than different indicators for each regional
- To forecast the number of households living under the poverty line the model uses equivalised household income data from the Census but it was not possible to adjust for housing costs due to lack of available data. This means projections are based on total income rather than disposable income, and therefore likely underestimate poverty in regions with higher housing costs.
- This report was prepared in good faith, using the best available data to available to the researchers at the time of the project. No responsibility will be taken for forecasts which are later found to be different to those made in this report

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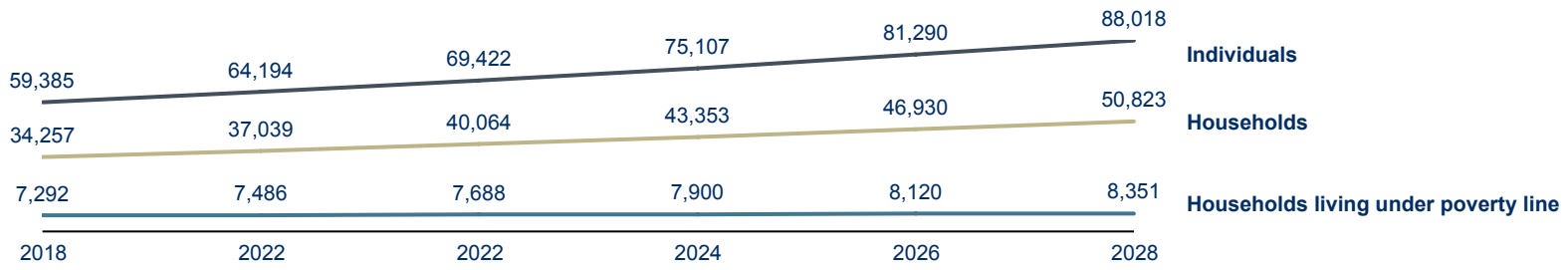
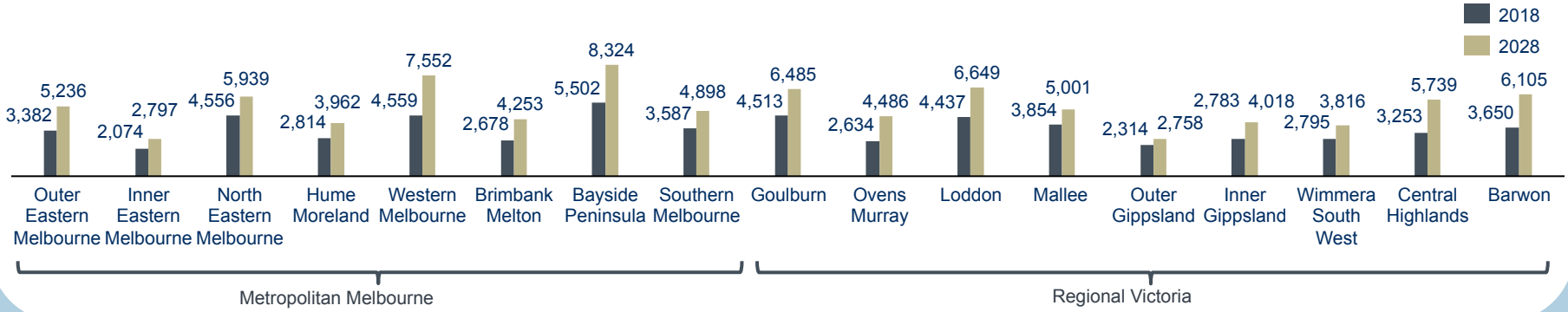
The Aboriginal population is projected to rise by 48 per cent by 2028, with population growth highest in Central Highlands, Ovens Murray, Barwon and Western Melbourne

Victorian Aboriginal population projection to 2028



Aboriginal population projection to 2028 by region

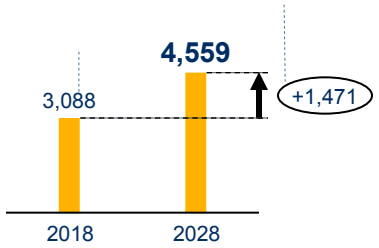


Demand for the range of family and child services is projected to increase significantly over the next decade, and will require increased investment, particularly in prevention services to reduce the need for out of home care and intensive services

1

Early childhood education

*By 2028, **4,500 Aboriginal children** will be ready for early education (between 3 and 6 years old and not in school), and **41 per cent** will be identified as vulnerable when they start school*



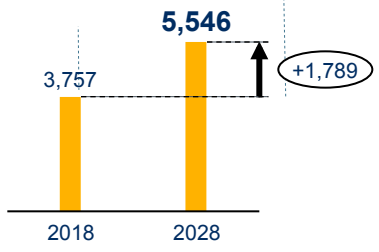
Demand will be highest in:

Regional
- Loddon
- Mallee
- Central Highlands

Metro
- Bayside Peninsula
- North Eastern
- Western

Non-intensive family services

*By 2028, **5,500 Aboriginal households** with children under 15 years old will be living under the poverty line, and be potential family services clients*



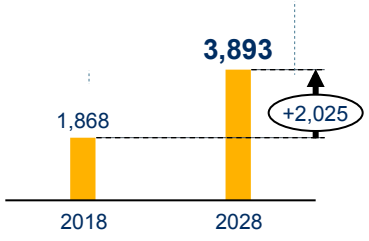
Demand will be highest in:

Regional
- Loddon
- Mallee
- Central Highlands

Metro
- Bayside Peninsula
- Western
- Central Highlands

Out of home care services

*At current growth rates, **almost 4,000 Aboriginal children and young people** will be in out of home care by 2028*



Demand will be highest in:

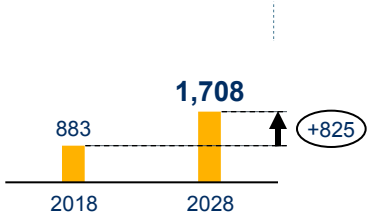
Regional
- Loddon
- Barwon
- Inner Gippsland

Metro
- North Eastern
- Southern
- Bayside Peninsula

Intensive family services

By 2028, at current rates of access **over 1,700 Aboriginal families** will require intensives services due to involvement with child protection*

**current rates of access may be lower than current demand*



Demand will be highest in:

Regional
- Loddon
- Barwon
- Inner Gippsland

Metro
- North Eastern
- Southern
- Bayside Peninsula

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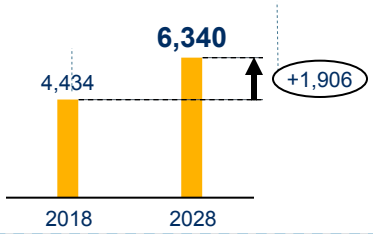
Demand for culturally safe and connected services in the family violence, homelessness and justice sectors will also grow

Family violence

*By 2028, an estimated **6,300 Aboriginal people (mainly women)** will be reported as affected by family violence*, with half of total demand in three regions: Mallee, Bayside Peninsula and North Eastern Melbourne*

** Indigenous status is currently often not recorded so actual demand may be higher*



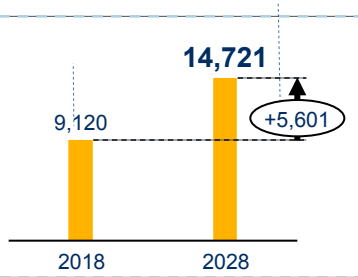
Demand will be highest in:

Regional
- Mallee
- Goulburn
- Outer Gippsland

Metro
- Bayside Peninsula
- North Eastern
- Brimbank Melton

Homelessness

*At current growth rates, Aboriginal people will access homelessness services **nearly 15,000 times** in 2028*



Demand will be highest in:

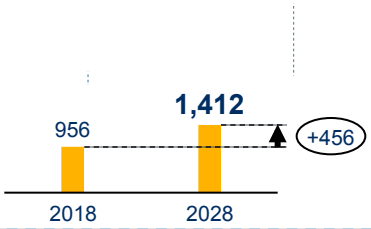
Regional
- Loddon
- Outer Gippsland
- Inner Gippsland

Metro
- Bayside Peninsula
- North Eastern
- Hume Moreland

Justice

*By 2028, at least **1,400 Aboriginal people** will be recorded as offenders, however demand could be significantly higher**

** Indigenous status is currently often not recorded so actual demand may be higher*



Demand will be highest in:

Regional
- Central Highlands
- Loddon
- Mallee

Metro
- Western Melbourne
- North Eastern
- Bayside Peninsula

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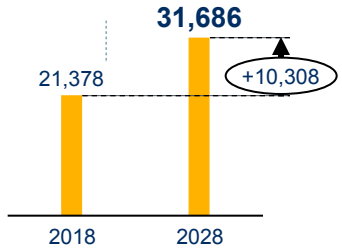
The need for culturally safe mental health and AOD services is also high, with 31,000 Aboriginal people projected to have high or very high levels of psychological distress by 2028, and 9,500 people estimated to need AOD services

Mental health

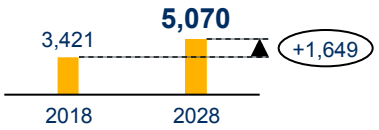
*At current rates, more than **31,000 Aboriginal people in Victoria** (36 per cent) will have high or very high levels of psychological distress by 2028, with **5,000** estimated to be potential users of community support services**

** based on general pop. % of services delivered by community support agencies*

Estimated demand for all mental health services



Estimated demand for mental health services in community support organisations*



Demand will be highest in:

Regional
- Goulburn
- Loddon
- Barwon

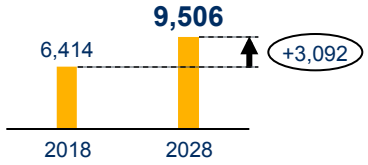
Metro
- Bayside Peninsula
- Western
- North Eastern

Alcohol and Other Drugs

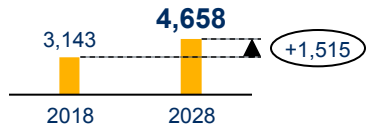
*At current rates, an estimated **9,500 Aboriginal people in Victoria** will be using alcohol at a very risky level by 2028, with around **4,600 estimated** to be potential users of community support services**

** based on general pop. % of services delivered by community support agencies*

Demand for all AOD services



Demand for mental health services in community support organisations*



Demand will be highest in:

Regional
- Goulburn
- Loddon
- Barwon

Metro
- Bayside Peninsula
- Western
- North Eastern

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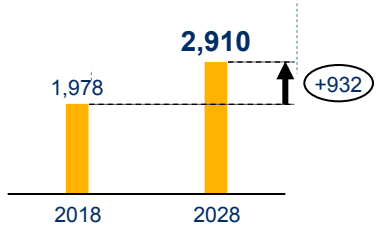
By 2028, around 3,000 Aboriginal young people between the ages of 15 – 24 are projected to be disengaged from work and study, with 1,000 young people under 18 involved in the justice system

Youth engagement

*By 2028, **~3,000 Aboriginal young people** under 24 will be not engaged in education, employment or training, and could benefit from support to increase the likelihood of engagement*



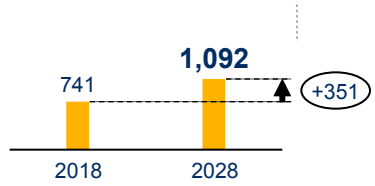
Demand will be highest in:

Regional
- Loddon
- Mallee
- Central Highlands

Metro
- Bayside Peninsula
- Western
- Southern
- North Eastern

Youth Justice

*At current rates, by 2028 approximately **1,000 young Aboriginal people under 18** will be involved with the youth justice system during the year*



Demand will be highest in:

Regional
- Barwon
- Goulbourn
- Wimmera South West

Metro
- Bayside Peninsula
- Western
- Outer Eastern
- North Eastern

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To meet future demand in ways that uphold self-determination commitments, ACCOs across Victoria will need to grow rapidly, and long-term funding will need to be made across all sectors

1

The Aboriginal population in Victoria is growing quickly

- Population projections have been underestimated in the past, potentially complicated by significant rates of 'undercounting' and 'unexplainable growth'
- Population growth varies across regions, with Western Melbourne and the Bayside Peninsula expected to have the highest populations of Aboriginal people by 2028

The Victorian Government is committed to self-determination

- This includes Treaty negotiation, reform to children and family services, justice agreement
- There is also an acknowledgment of the advanced benefit of culturally safe Aboriginal community-controlled services across sectors

Long-term commitment from government to build the capacity of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) is needed to meet current and future demand, and to uphold commitment to self-determination

- Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) are expected to have a significant role in meeting future demand
- This will include taking on a greater proportion of service delivery at the same time as adjusting to significant reforms.
- Increased service demand due to government reform, plus increased demand due to a growing population, will require ACCOs to quickly increase organisational capacity and expand service delivery

Budget planning that accounts for population growth and growth factors specific to sectors is needed to meet future demand

- The Aboriginal population in Victoria is estimated to grow by 48 per cent by 2028, with demand for health and social services forecast to rise correspondingly across all sectors. Demand for out-of-home care and homelessness is forecast to rise faster than population growth, due to current trends and policy context
- The targets outlined in the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework and Closing the Gap will only be achieved if population growth is included into budget planning

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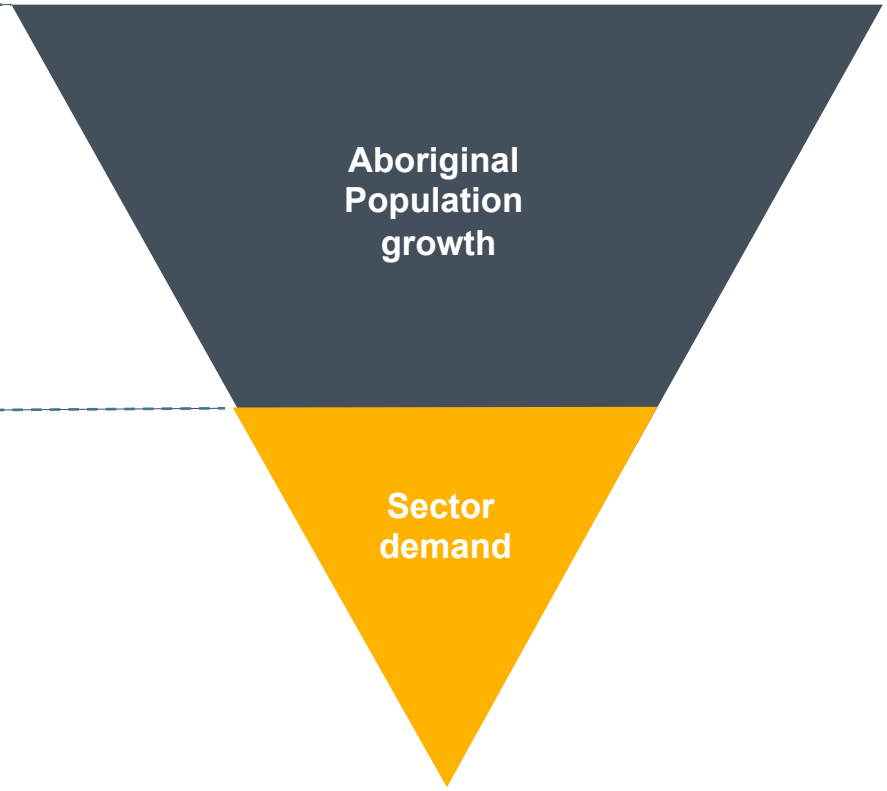
To estimate future sector demand, the model projects the Aboriginal population and combines with current demand and estimated growth rate

2 A

Aboriginal population x **Undercount rate (%)** x **Growth rate (%)** = **Estimated Aboriginal population** x

Demand for service area (%) x **Demand for service type** (Mental Health & AOD only) **(%)** x **Growth rate (%)** = **Estimated demand for service type**



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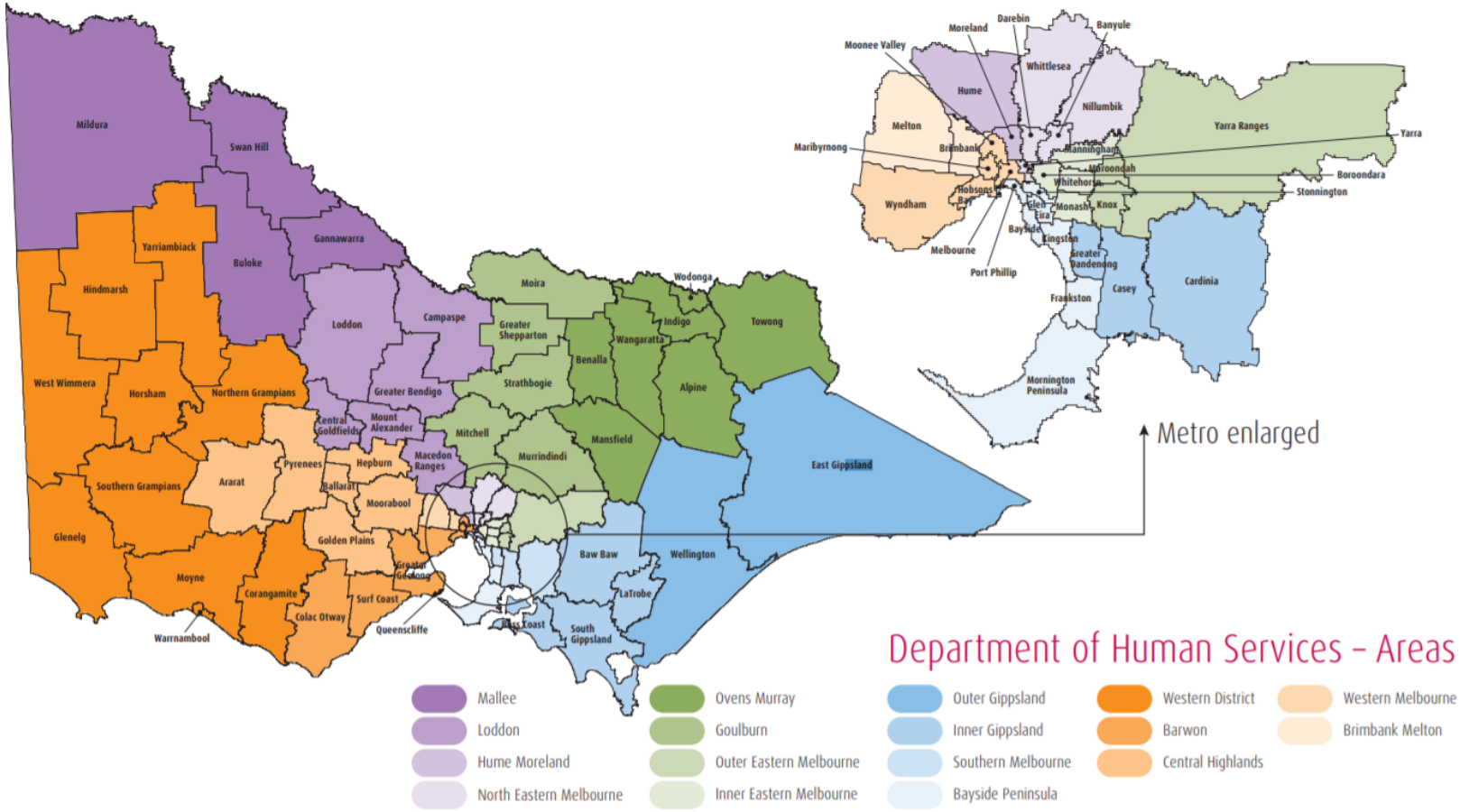
The project uses Department of Health and Human Services areas as the primary region for projecting demand

The Department of Health and Human Services groups the 79 local government areas (LGAs) in Victoria into 17 regions.



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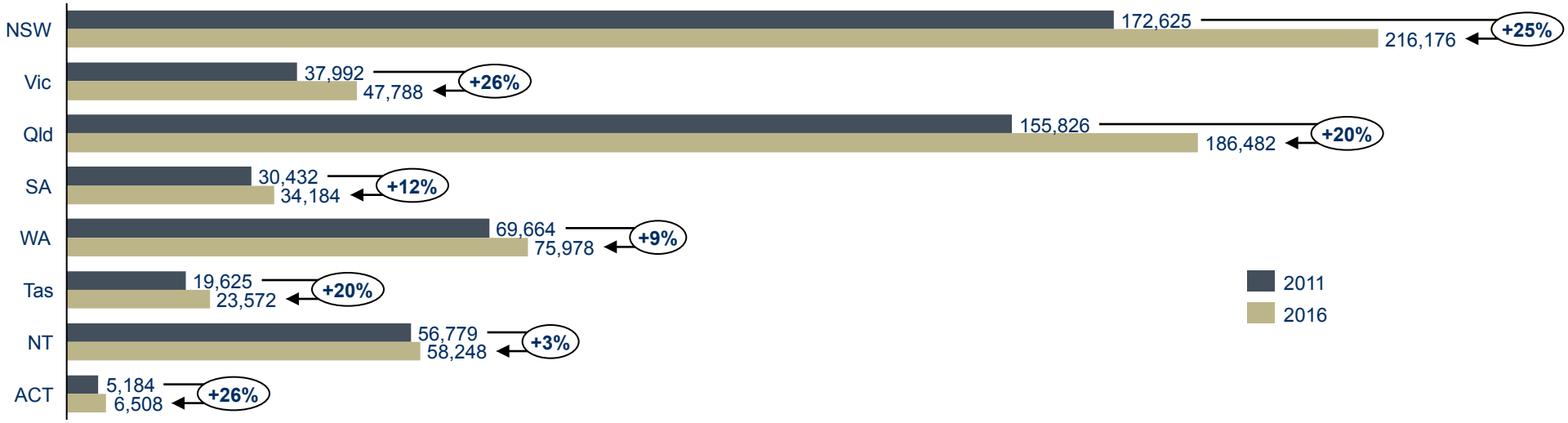
Victoria has the fifth highest Aboriginal population in Australia, with unexplainable change the second largest driver of population growth for every state

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population from Australian Bureau of Statistics Census (2011 - 2016)



Reasons for change in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT
Total change	43,551	9,766	30,656	3,752	6,314	3,947	1,469	1,324
Natural increase	24,814	6,156	23,014	3,869	11,480	2,462	4,699	777
Interstate migration	-2,012	908	1,525	282	213	-200	-961	263
Overseas migration	655	278	573	92	197	52	48	65
Unexplainable change	20,094	2,444	5,544	-491	-5,576	1,633	-2,317	219

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Forecasting Aboriginal population growth is complicated, and traditional approaches have led to forecasts that prove to be inaccurate

Situation

- 25% of the increase in the Aboriginal population in Victoria between the last two Census' was "unexplainable" (not explainable by births, deaths or migration). One reason given for this is an increase in people identifying as Aboriginal. It is possible this could decrease in future, however we have had conflicting insights that it may actually increase as more Aboriginal controlled services become available in different regions.
- The ABS estimates that 15.8% of Aboriginal people in Victoria were not counted in the 2016 Census. There are no estimates of how this breaks down at a regional level, and service workers have indicated that the undercount rates in Gippsland are likely far higher.
- Independent research conducted in Shepparton identified a Census undercount rate of up to 28% (a).
- Due to these issues, traditional population forecasting techniques have routinely underestimated the growth of the Aboriginal population in Victoria, leading to impacts such as inadequate funding allocated for out of home care. This issue has also been identified by DHHS in discussions about this project (b).
- Previous forecasts released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics have projected population growth that was lower than actual growth (c).

SVA approach

- We worked with Taylor Fry to identify an approach that can adjust for issues with undercounting in traditional population forecasting techniques. For the purposes of this project, individuals, households and age groups have assumed an undercount of 15.8%.
- The approach we are using is based on the average annual change in population over the 2011 and 2016 Census, adjusted for the 'unexplainable' portion of growth and with a regional loading reflecting the difference between metro and regional growth.
    - The advantage of this approach is it reduces the likelihood of underestimating the growth in the Aboriginal population in Victoria compared to other possible methods that historically have underestimated due to the challenges of estimating the Aboriginal population.
    - The limitations of this approach is that it does not adjust for different changes across age levels as it applies the same growth rate across the whole population.

a) https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/images/stories/committees/rrc/disadvantage_and_inequality/submissions/036_20100331_GreaterShepparton.pdf
b) SVA Interview (1.04.2019)
c) Australian Bureau of Statistics, 3238.0 - Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, 2001 to 2026

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Forecasting is also complicated by the large difference in the change in Aboriginal population in each DHHS area level across Victoria

Situation

- The change in Aboriginal population in each of the DHHS region between the 2011 and 2016 Census's was not consistent, with large differences in the change observed. For example:
  - The Aboriginal population in Western Melbourne increased 9% per year from 2,438 to 3,553 individuals.
  - The Aboriginal population in Outer Gippsland decreased by 0.1% from 1,939 to 1,934
  - Interstate and inter-regional migration account for a small proportion of this (9% of change in Aboriginal population was due to interstate migration).

SVA approach

- We worked with Taylor Fry to identify an approach that would enable us to adjust the population growth rate according to population growth trends at the DHHS area level, but did not 'overinflate' (due to the low raw numbers that could result in large percentages)
- The model offers two growth scenarios that are adjusted to reduce the likelihood of underestimation population growth (both scenarios), and to take into account large differences in the change in population at the local level (complex scenario)
  - **Scenario 1: Simple**
    - 2 growth rates - Metropolitan and regional
    - Based on the change in average annual change in population over the 2011 and 2016 Census, adjusted for the 'unexplainable' portion of growth and with a regional loading reflecting the difference between metro and regional growth.
  - **Scenario 2: Complex**
    - Different growth rate for each DHHS area
    - Blend between the regional and metropolitan growth rates above, and recent growth observed at the regional level.

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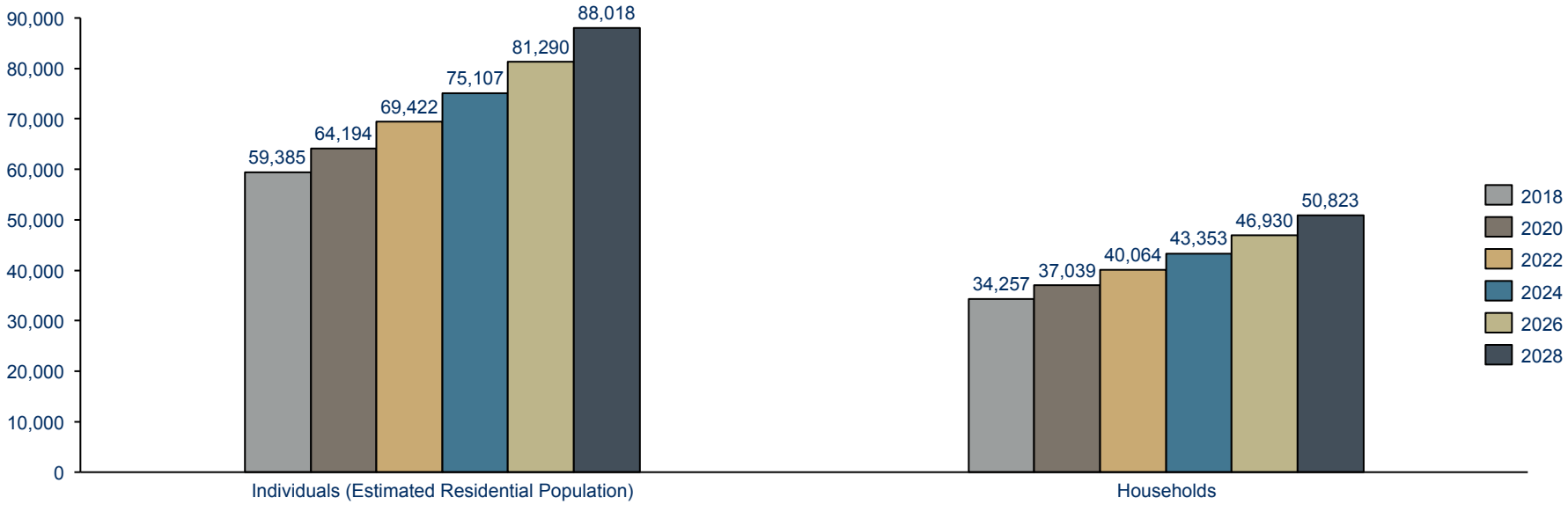
Taking into account the Census undercount rate of 15.8%, our model estimates that in 10 years there will be an additional 29k Aboriginal people or 16.6k Aboriginal households in Victoria

Victorian Aboriginal population (individuals & households) projections
(2018-2028F)



Assumption and notes:
- Individual and household projections adjusted for Census undercount rate of 15.8%
- Regional growth rates calculated using forecast scenario 2 (complex)

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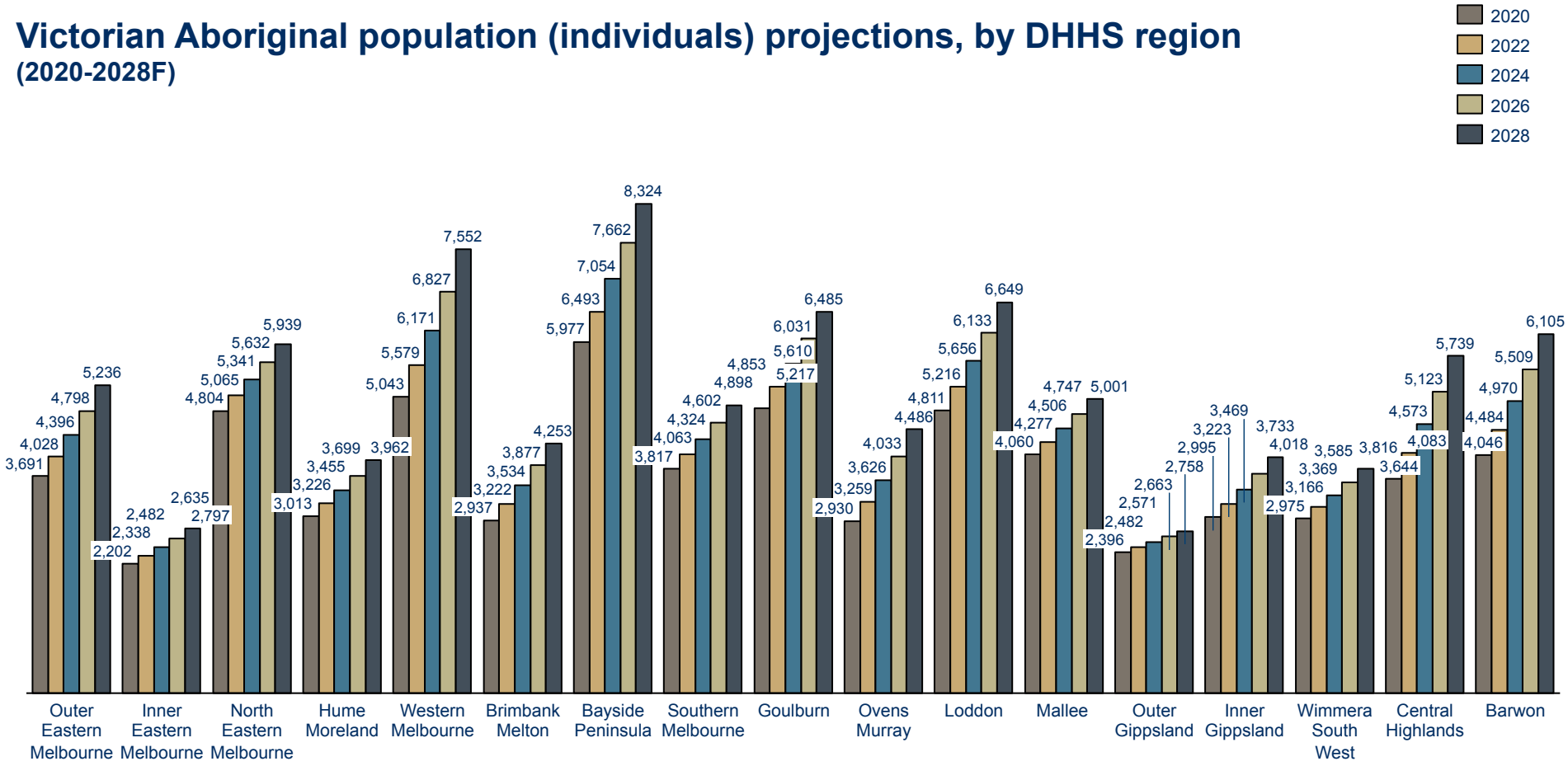
The model can be used to interrogate population growth across different regions

Victorian Aboriginal population (individuals) projections, by DHHS region (2020-2028F)



Assumption and notes:

- Adjusted for Census undercount rate of 15.8%
- Regional growth rates calculated using forecast scenario 2 (complex)

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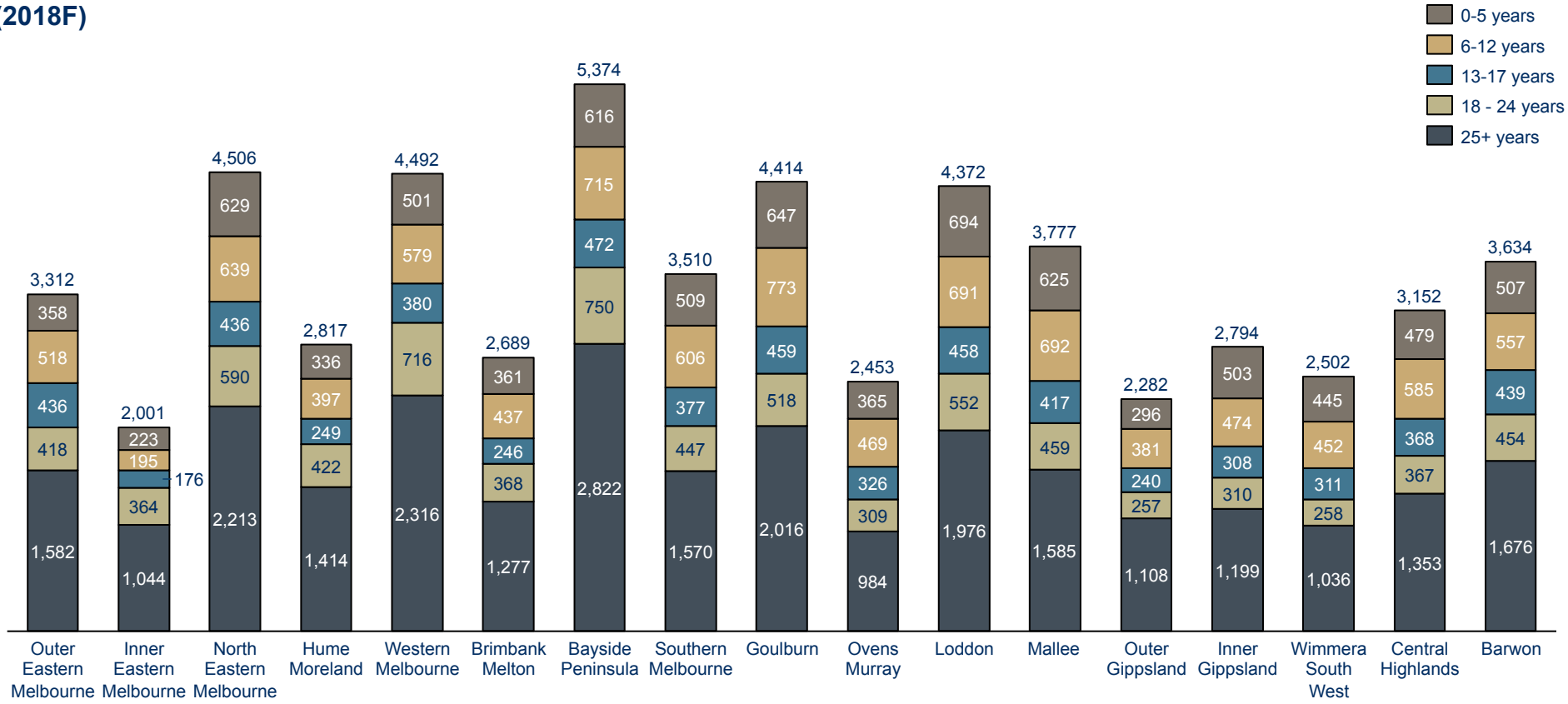
The population growth model also disaggregates across age groups, however, projections by age are less robust

Victorian Aboriginal population (individuals) by age and DHHS region (2018F)



Assumption and notes:

- Adjusted for Census undercount rate of 15.8%
- Data by age groups does not equal estimated population as a small number of Aboriginal people who completed the Census did not provide their age

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To understand 'vulnerability', the population growth model also includes an estimate and forecast of households living under the poverty line

Estimating Vulnerability

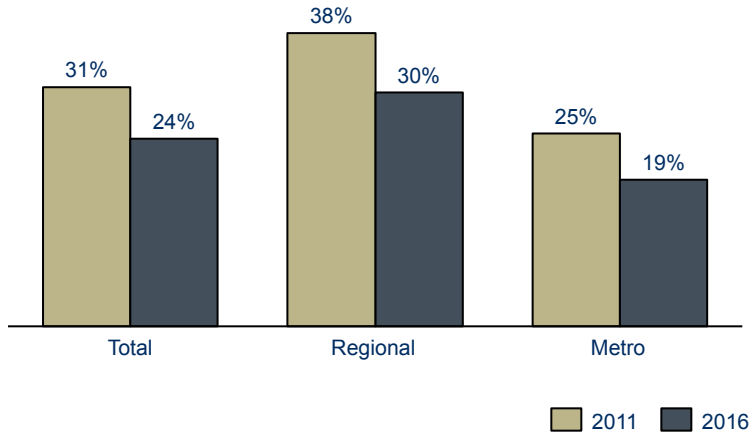
Our approach has involved:

- Identifying the total number of 'Aboriginal households' living under the poverty line.
  - 'Aboriginal households' are defined as a household with at least one Aboriginal person
  - The 'poverty line' is defined as being under 50% of the median household equivalised income (this adjusts for the number of children and adults in the house so it is possible to compare households of different sizes)
  - The 'poverty line' defined above (not adjusted for housing costs) was $426 per week in 2016, and $395 in 2011.
- Analysing data at regional and metropolitan regions, in line with our population growth modelling method

Findings

- Census data indicates that the overall proportion of Aboriginal people living under the poverty line in Victoria is decreasing, and is reducing more in the regional than urban areas.
- ***The total number of Aboriginal people living under the poverty line is projected to increase, as population growth rate is greater than the decreasing poverty rate.***

Change in the proportion of Aboriginal households living in under the poverty line (2011 vs 2016)



- *Please note: We were unable to adjust for housing costs due to lack of publicly available data. This means projections are based on total income (equivalised) rather than disposable income (equivalised), and therefore likely underestimate poverty in regions with higher housing costs.*

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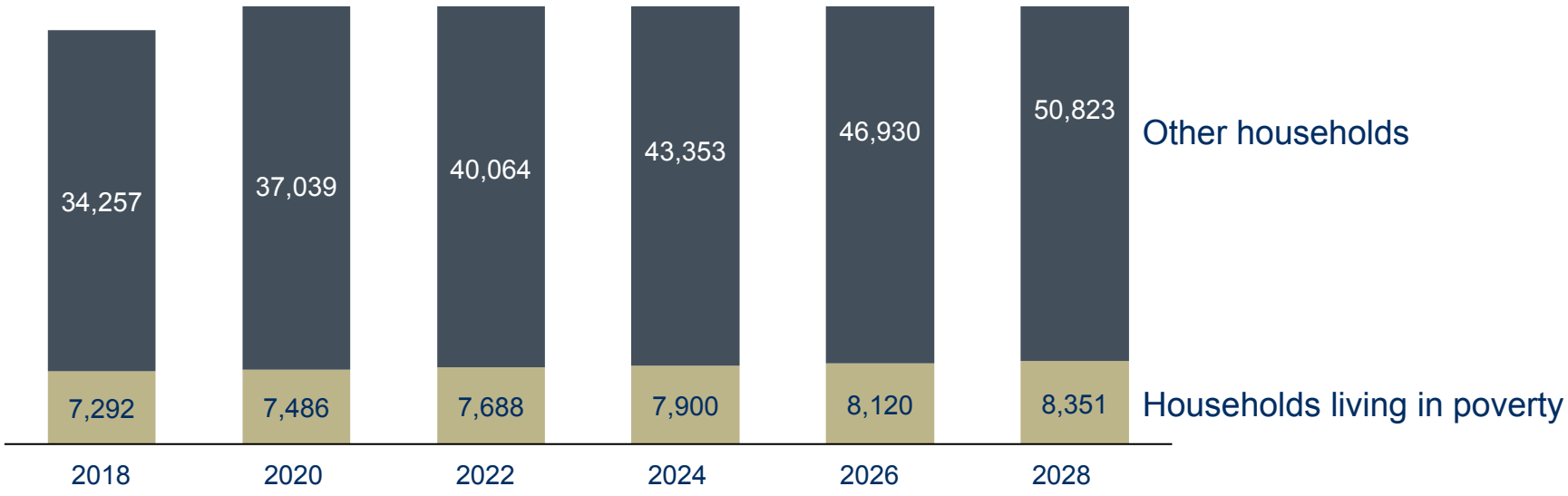
Combining changes in poverty with population growth forecasts, we can project the number of Aboriginal households living in poverty

Projected number of Aboriginal households living in poverty in Victoria
(2018-2028F)

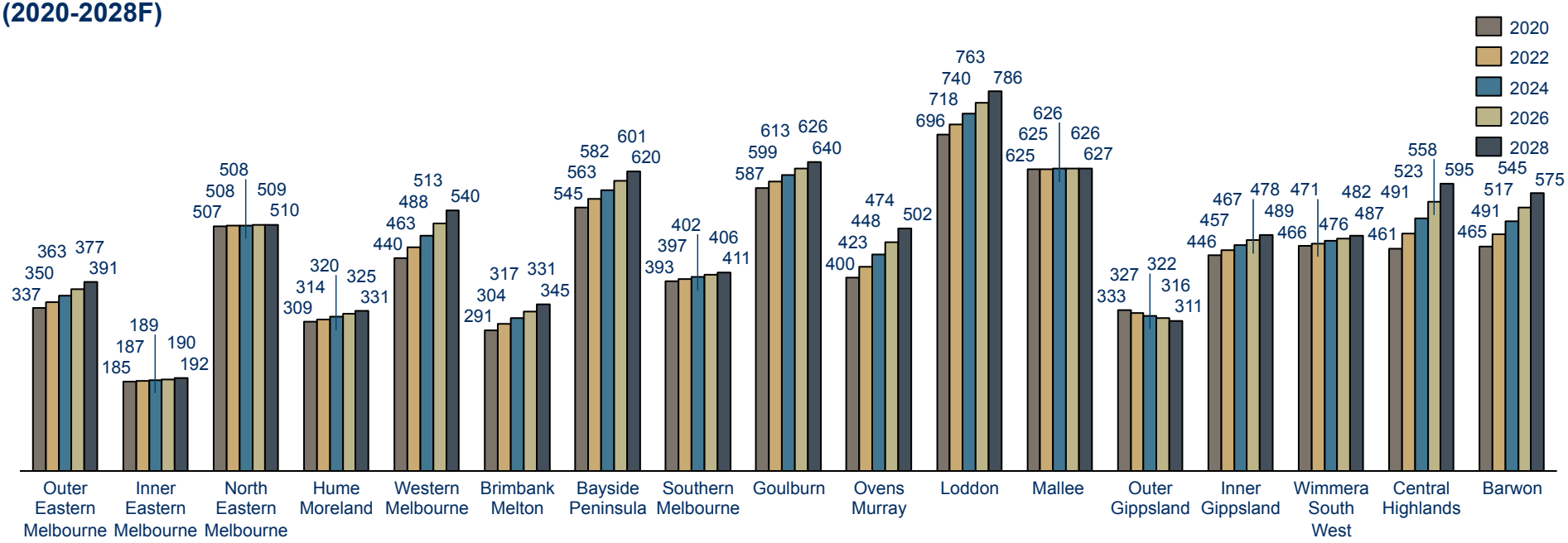


Assumption and notes:
- Population growth is increasing faster than poverty is decreasing so the total number of Aboriginal households living in poverty is projected to continue to increase
- Baseline data comes from 2016 Census
- Household projections adjusted for Census undercount rate of 15.8%
- We are unable to adjust for housing costs due to lack of publicly available data. This means projections are based on total income (equivalised) rather than disposable income (equivalised), and therefore likely underestimate poverty in regions with higher housing costs

SVA Consulting

The projections for household poverty have also been done at a regional level, capturing their unique environments

Projected number of Aboriginal households living in poverty in Victoria, by DHHS region (2020-2028F)



Assumption and notes:

- Population growth is increasing faster than poverty is decreasing so the total number of Aboriginal households living in poverty is projected to continue to increase
- Baseline data comes from 2016 Census
- Regional growth rates calculated using forecast scenario 2 (complex)
- Regions with low or negative growth in the number of houses in poverty have population growth rate that are equal to orr less than poverty reduction rates.
- We are unable to adjust for housing costs due to lack of publicly available data. This means projections are based on total income (equivalised) rather than disposable income (equivalised), and therefore likely underestimate poverty in regions with higher housing costs

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SVA Consulting

For each of sector we have mapped available data and undertaken additional research to understand what is driving change

SERVICE AREAS

EARLY EDUCATION

CHILD & FAMILY

HOMELESSNESS

FAMILY VIOLENCE

JUSTICE

MENTAL HEALTH

ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS

YOUTH

METHODOLOGY

Service area data mapping

- Identify available data for current demand and historical trends
- Formal data request from government data custodians

Service area context

- Explore drivers of need and change in each service area
- Analyse service types and target cohorts
- Identify other ACCOs offering similar services in each DHHS area

Policy context

- Identify past and future policy that may affect total demand and funding to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs)

Projected demand

- Final output is projected demand for each service area

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Data quality significantly varies by service area and should be acknowledged when interpreting results

- The service delivery model projects demand for seven priority service areas using the best available data
- The service delivery model uses different data sources for each of the service types that are project, and these range from low quality to high quality, affecting the accuracy of the projections
- We have ranked the data quality of the data the model currently uses according to the following criteria defined by Taylor Fry:
  - **Low:** A national or state rate applied to all regions
  - **Medium:** Something in between low and high where we have data for some regions with higher rates using evidence that we regard as reasonable. In this level SEIFA is used to estimate the regions for which we have no data.
  - **High:** Reasonably good estimate available at an LGA level for numbers of people requiring a service (e.g. if we have accurate data at the LGA or regional level such as Census data or data supplied by DHHS)

Service area	Service type	Data quality
Education	Early childhood	High
Child and family	Services for vulnerable families	High
	Out of home care	High
	Services for families in child protection system	Medium
Family Violence	Family violence	Medium
Justice	Justice	Medium
Homelessness	Homelessness	High
AOD	AOD	Low
Mental Health	Mental health	Low
Youth	Youth engagement	High
	Youth justice	Medium

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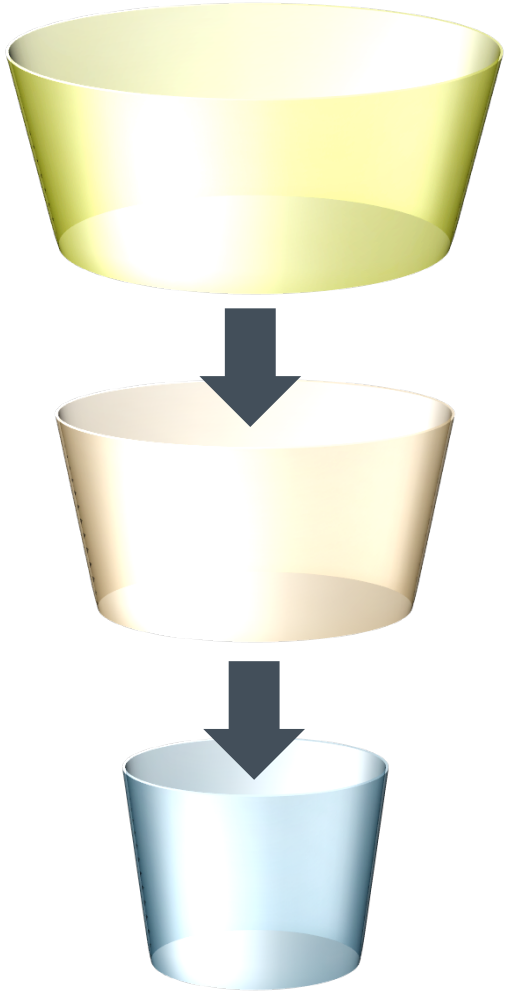
In the early education sector, there are different cohorts for which different types of support and education services are relevant



Any type of education program for children under 6

- Indicator: All children aged 3 to 6

Early childhood education (before school)

- Indicator: Children under 6 not in school

Early childhood education (for children at-risk)

- Indicator: Children under 6 not in school likely to be identified as vulnerable in one or more domains (physical health, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills & communication skills and general knowledge)

The total number becomes smaller across the three levels

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EARLY EDUCATION

We have gained insights into the early education sector, particularly for children at-risk, including the drivers of changing demand

Insights

- In Victoria in 2018 an estimated 4,379 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were aged between 3 and 6 years old (a), of these:
  - 1,622 (37%) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children were in their first year of primary school and 525 (12%) were not in school or early education.
  - 2,264 (51%) were enrolled in a preschool program (does not include children who were enrolled in primary school). Approximately 74 per cent of these attended 600 hours or more per year, and 99 per cent of children eligible for four-year-old kinder were enrolled (b)
- Vulnerability in early years has a large influence in later life, including education outcomes, with evidence of a gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children in Victoria.
  - 40 per cent of Aboriginal students in Victoria are vulnerable in at least one area in their first year of school (compared to 20 per cent for non-Aboriginal students), and 25 per cent are vulnerable in two or more areas (compared to 10 per cent for non-Aboriginal students) (c)
  - The gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students widens through primary and secondary school, requiring extra focus from policy makers to improve outcomes. In Year 3, 10 per cent of Aboriginal students are below national standards for reading and numeracy. By year 9, 15 to 20 per cent of Aboriginal students are below national standards (d).
- To improve outcomes in child development and lifelong social and emotional wellbeing, research demonstrates the need for:
  - High-quality early education that is provided for at least two years before school, and adapted to be relevant and meaningful for Indigenous communities (e)
  - Integrated family support programs targeting the home environment that combine education, health and wellbeing with a holistic focus can improve child development outcomes, particularly if designed and delivered in ways that promote and uphold Aboriginal culture and community values (f)

Drivers of change

- The Coalition of Australian Governments' (COAG) six Closing the Gap targets for overcoming Indigenous disadvantage (with a further target added later) were agreed to in 2008. The enrolment of 95 per cent of all Indigenous four-year-old children in early childhood education by 2025.
- SNAICC has identified a range of individual, systemic and cultural barriers to early childhood participation – including housing instability, income and employment and cultural safety, and has identified the importance for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers and leadership (e)
- The Victorian Government has committed to the Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan 2016-2026, including increasing the number of Aboriginal three-year-old children in preschool programs, improving access to culturally responsive maternal and child health services (including through ACCOs), providing better supports to the Koori workforce, and improving participation of families in early years' support programs (these are referenced separately in the "family service' section of this analysis)

a) Census 2016 data estimated with this model
b) Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services, 2018
c) Australian Early Development Census 2015
d) NAPLAN (2018) Online interactive report, Accessed at https://reports.acara.edu.au/Home/Results
e) Harrison, L., Goldfeld, S., Metcalfe, E., & Moore, T. (2012). Early learning programs that promote children's developmental and educational outcomes. Resource Sheet No. 15.
f) SNAICC. (2012a). Improved outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in early childhood education and care services: Learning from good practice.

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Data from the Australian Early Childhood Census was used to estimate the proportion of Aboriginal children that are vulnerable in one or more key areas

Data identified	Source	Level	Accessed
Aboriginal and Torres Strait children identified as vulnerable in their first school year	Australian Early Childhood Census	DHHS region	Selected
NAPLAN	NAPLAN	Vic	Accessed
Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait children aged between 3 and 6 years old	Census	LGA	Selected
Number of children enrolled in 3 and 4 year old preschool education	Report on Government Services	Vic	Accessed
Pre-school participation rates	Census	Vic	Not accessed but considered

Data selected

The following data has been selected to be used to estimate demand for early education services for at-risk children:

- The number of children aged between three and six years old has been adjusted to estimate the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children that are vulnerable and may require additional support to mainstream early childhood services.
- This involved using Census data and using proportions of vulnerable children by DHHS region using Australian Early Development Census and average of data from 2015 and 2018.

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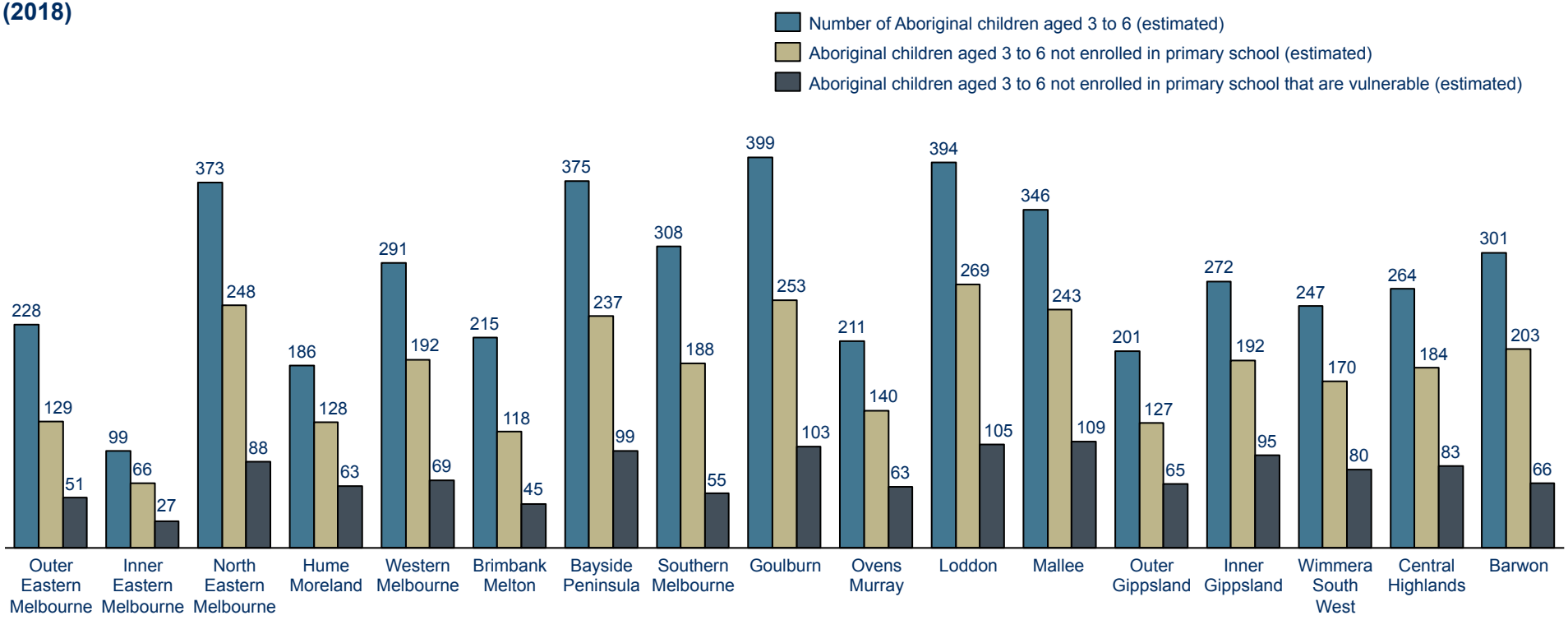
A number of ACCOs work in this space, offering a range of preschool programs for Aboriginal children including playgroups and early learning programs

	ACCOs early education services
Outer Eastern Melbourne	Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place
Inner Eastern Melbourne	
North Eastern Melbourne	Bubup Wilam for Early Learning Aboriginal Child and Family Centre VACCA
Hume Moreland	VACCA
Western Melbourne	VACCA
Brimbank Melton	VACCA
Bayside Peninsula	Dandenong and District Aborigines Co-operative VACCA
Southern Melbourne	Dandenong and District Aborigines Co-operative Willum Warrain Gathering Place VACCA
Goulburn	Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd
Ovens Murray	Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation (Wodonga)
Loddon	Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative Njernda Aboriginal Corporation
Mallee	Mallee District Aboriginal Services Murray Valley Aboriginal Co-operative (Robinvale)
Outer Gippsland	Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association
Inner Gippsland	Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation
Wimmera South West	Dhauwurd Wurrung Elderly and Community Health Service (Portland) Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-operative (Horsham) Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative Ltd (Warrnambool) Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation (Heywood)
Central Highlands	Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative
Barwon	Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative

We estimate that of the 3,000~ Aboriginal children over 3 years old but not at school, 1,200~ will be identified as vulnerable when they start school

Early education and early childhood vulnerability: Current estimated demand (individuals) & by DHHS region

(2018)



Assumption and notes:

- Population growth projection – Adjusted for 15.8% undercount, and uses population growth rate scenario 2 assuming no additional growth
- The projection uses data from the Australian Early Development Census to estimate the number of children aged between 3 and 6 years old that are vulnerable on one or more domains

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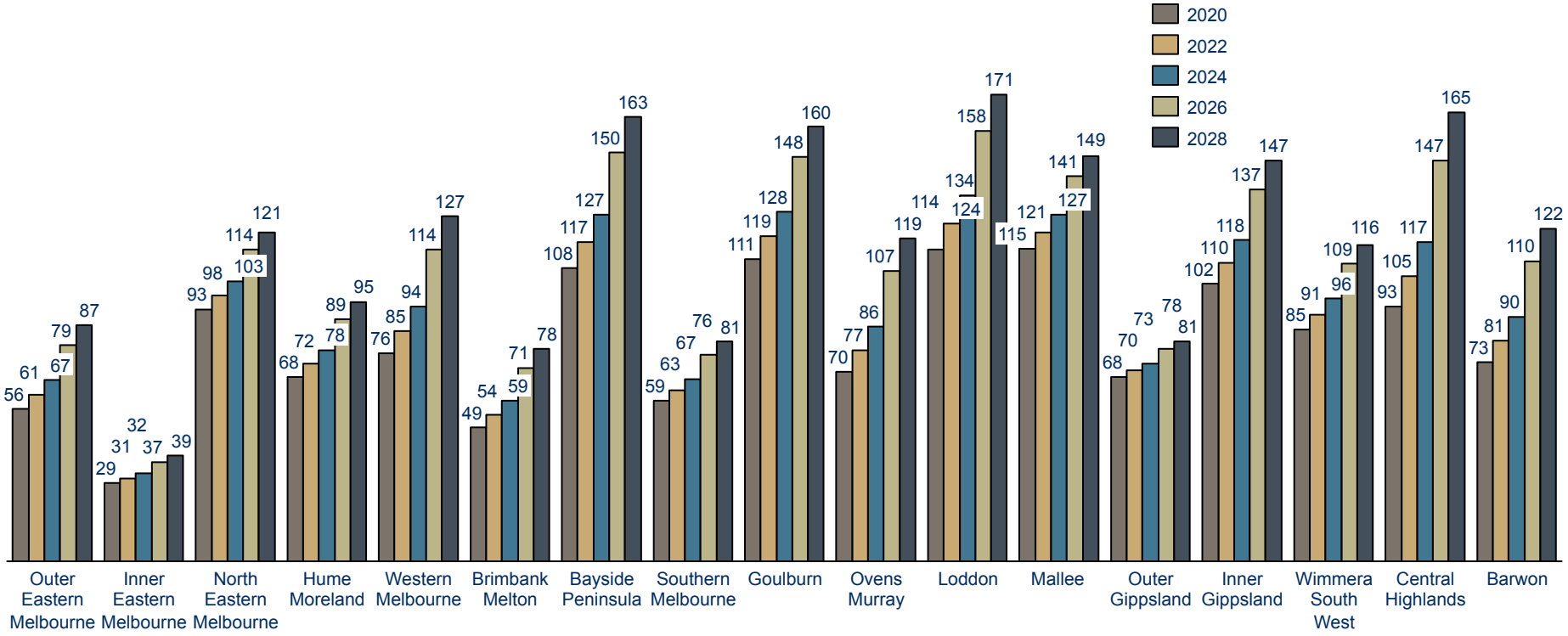
We project that by 2028 there will be over 4,500 Aboriginal children of preschool age (over 3 years old but not in school), and 1,800 will be at-risk of being identified as vulnerable in their first year

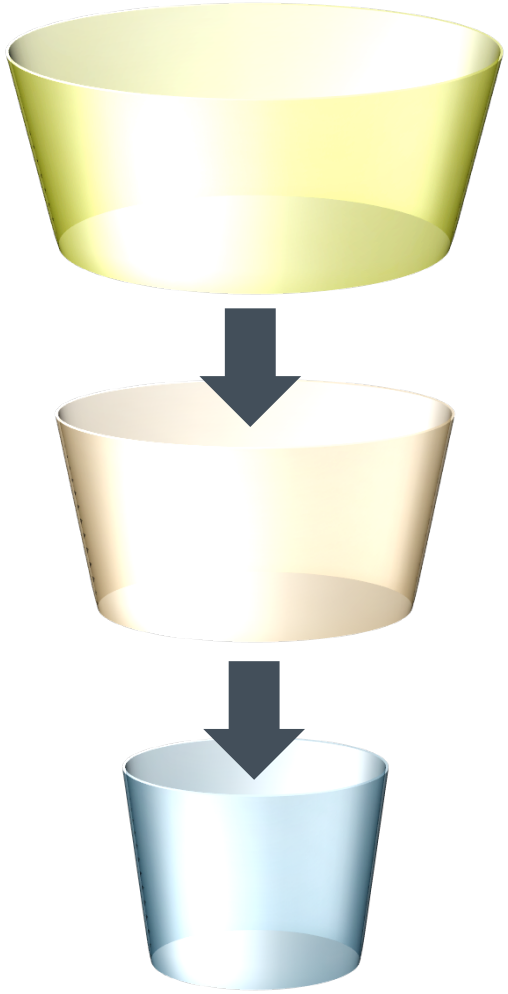
Early education for vulnerable children: Projected demand (individuals) by DHHS region
(2020-2028F)



Assumption and notes:
- Population growth projection – Adjusted for 15.8% undercount, and uses population growth rate scenario 2 assuming no additional growth
- The projection uses data from the Australian Early Development Census to estimate the number of children aged between 3 and 6 years old that may be vulnerable on one or more domains

SVA Consulting

In child and family services, we have grouped services according to the target client cohort and analysed the sector at three levels



Vulnerable families
- Indicator: Families living in poverty

Children in out of home care
- Indicator: Children in out of home care

Families participating in child protection system
- Indicator: Families participating in child protection system

The total number of people in each service type becomes smaller across the three levels

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We have gained insights that have informed our understanding of the drivers of need and change in child and family services

Insights

- 3,711 (12.4%) Victorian Aboriginal children and young people are involved with child protection, ranging from 7.4% in Western Melbourne to 17.7% in Inner Gippsland. Approximately 46% of these children are in parental care and 50% are in out of home care(a).
- The number of Aboriginal children in out of home care has risen by an average of 12.8% per year since 2013 (a). However, the number of children involved with child protection increased by only 4% in the past 12 months. The increasing number of children in out of home care is driven by age of entry into care, exists and re-entries into care, and length of time in care, all of which are worse for Aboriginal children.
- The number of Aboriginal families with children living under the poverty line (4,102) (b) is close to the number of Aboriginal children and young people involved in child protection (3,711) (a) and the number family services cases funded for Aboriginal families by DHHS in 2018 (3,648)(c).
- The Productivity Commission reports that 933 Aboriginal children aged 0-17 commenced Intensive Family Services in Victoria in 2017/2018. At this time 3,533 children were in the child protection system (d), therefore approximately 26% of children in child protection are involved in Intensive Family Services.
- Poverty and homelessness identified as key structural drivers of out of home care
  - 88% of children in out of home care have experienced family violence (e)
  - 87% of children in out of home care have been exposed to drug or alcohol use (e)
  - One in four Aboriginal users of homelessness services was under ten years old (e)
  - The intergenerational effect of forced removals, with anecdotal evidence that a common factor is a parent having previously been in out of home care themselves (f)

Drivers of change

- New mandatory reporting changes – new professions being added that may lead to increase in reports to child protection
- Legislative changes are shortening the amount of time workers can spend with families
- Victorian Government review of the risk assessment framework, which may result in a more risk averse approach resulting in more removals.
- Funding for family services has not increased at the same rate as out of home care

(a) Aboriginal Children's Forum February data pack
(b) ABS, Census 2016
(c) Victorian Government, State Budget 2018 – 2019
(d) Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services, 2019, Table 16A.32
(e) Always Was, Always Will Be Koori Children: Systematic inquiry into services provided to Aboriginal children and young people in out-of-home care in Victoria
(f) Home, B. T. (1997). Report of the National Inquiry into the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families. Sydney: Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission.

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Conversations with DHHS also provided a number of insights into future policy reform in child and family services

New program funding	• Constrained by Vic Government budget changes, particularly with regards to reductions in available funds due to slow down in housing market. Previous budget increases unlikely to continue. • Many competing demands on a shrinking pool of funding (three Royal Commissions currently underway)
Existing program funding	• Transfer of program funding from mainstream to Aboriginal organisations is on the horizon, however speed of transfer is slow due to – existing funded organisations unwilling to relinquish funding – service contracts currently in place (and contract expiry date, typically 5 year contracts). • ~~Vic Government working to increase support of mainstream organisations for ACCO-controlled programs.~~
Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care (ACAC) / Section 18	• Rollout of ACAC expected to be mostly complete within this term of government (four years) • Rollout of Section 18 is a longer-term horizon, impacted by capacity of ACCO's to become an authorised provider (2+ year process with only 2 authorised providers currently in place). Self-determination principles preference local Aboriginal community organisations rather than a state-wide organisation, although role for larger organisations to plug gaps in the interim and build capacity, with a small amount of funding possible for the capacity building. • Demand for services is increasing rapidly, and it will be challenging to scale ACCOs quickly enough and will require capacity building support to meet demand • Constrained by Vic Government budget changes, particularly with regards to reductions in available funds due to slow down in housing market. Previous budget increases unlikely to continue
Prevention and Early Intervention	• Vic Govt made broad commitments to prevention and early intervention during their election campaign
Reduction in demand	• NSW Government made legislative changes and set goals around reduction in demand supported by focused casework and investment in prevention and early intervention, that have led to significant reductions in demand over a short time-frame (not specifically Aboriginal focused) • Vic Government wishes to reduce demand, with a key area of focus in the reduction of kids in residential care. Budget commitments to address this will likely be in the areas of early intervention, family reunification and intensive support, in future budgets during this term of government. • Vic Government is reviewing their risk assessment framework in child protection, focusing on risk rather than reducing demand. Tthis will impact when and how many kids are taken into care, potentially leading to an increase in demand in out of home care.

SVA Consulting

We have mapped and reviewed multiple available data, & identified the best available sources for projecting demand for child and family services

Data identified	Source	Accessed
Families with children living in poverty	Census	Accessed
Families in which both adults are unemployed	Census	Accessed
Number of children in out of home care/child protection (and a range of other data about these services)	Aboriginal Children's Forum	Accessed
Number of Aboriginal families accessing Early Childhood Intervention services	DHHS	Request not received
Number of Aboriginal families receiving Intensive Family Services	Productivity Commission, Aboriginal Children's Forum	Accessed
Number of cases of family services funded by the Victorian Government	Vic Govt Budget paper	Accessed

Data selected

The model uses the following data to project demand for three service groups:

- Services for vulnerable families
  - Families with children living in poverty
- Services for children in Out of Home Care
  - Number of children in out of home care including average annual growth rates
- Services for families in child protection
  - Number of children in child protection disaggregated into DHHS regions (using OOHC ratios), divided by the current percentage of Aboriginal families participating in Intensive Family Services

Data not available or not sufficiently reliable

- Housing and homelessness as it relates to child protection is not available (Family Matters report)
- Family services delivery data reported to DHHS is not good quality and therefore unreliable (Aboriginal Children's Forum)

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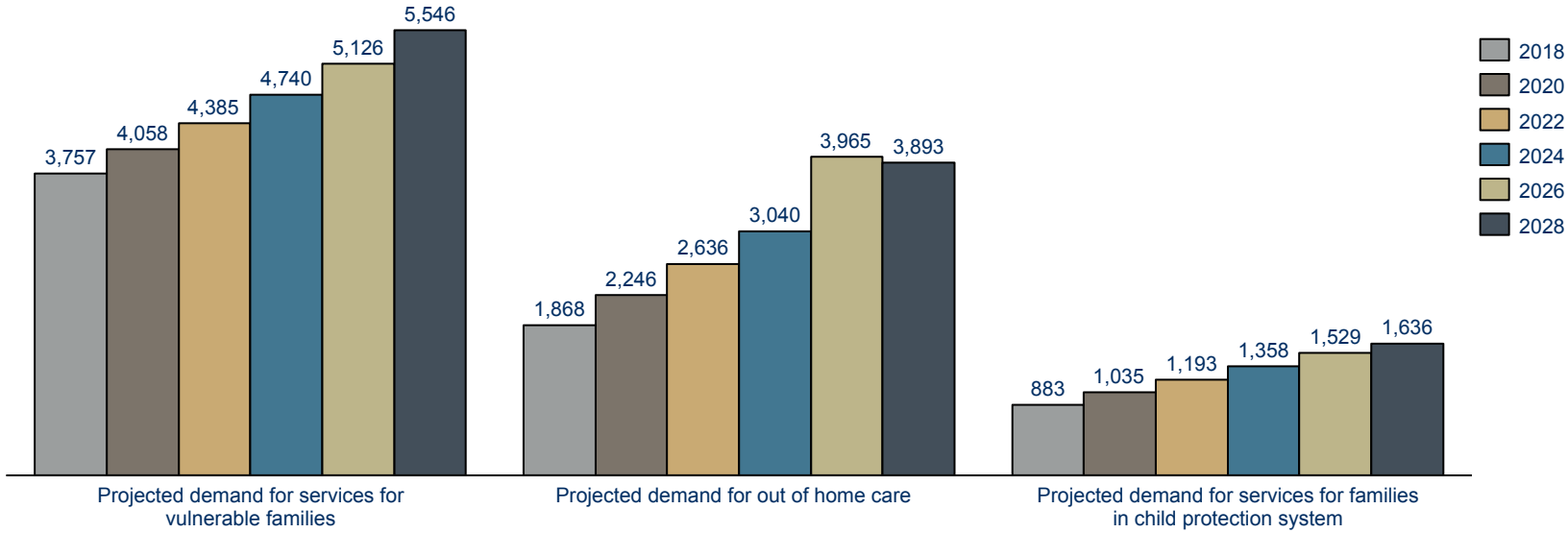
The model analyses data at the state-level, and can allow comparison across the different service types in child and family services

Child & Family Services (family services): Projected demand (individuals) in Victoria
(2020-2028F)



Assumption and notes:
- Population growth projection - Scenario 2 (complex)
- Projections are based on the following data:
  - Services for vulnerable families - Families with children living in poverty (reduction in poverty rate has not been applied to this data)
  - Services for children in Out of Home Care - Number of children in out of home care including average annual growth rates
  - Services for families in child protection - Number of children in child protection disaggregated into DHHS regions (using OOHC ratios), divided by the current percentage of Aboriginal families participating in Intensive Family Services

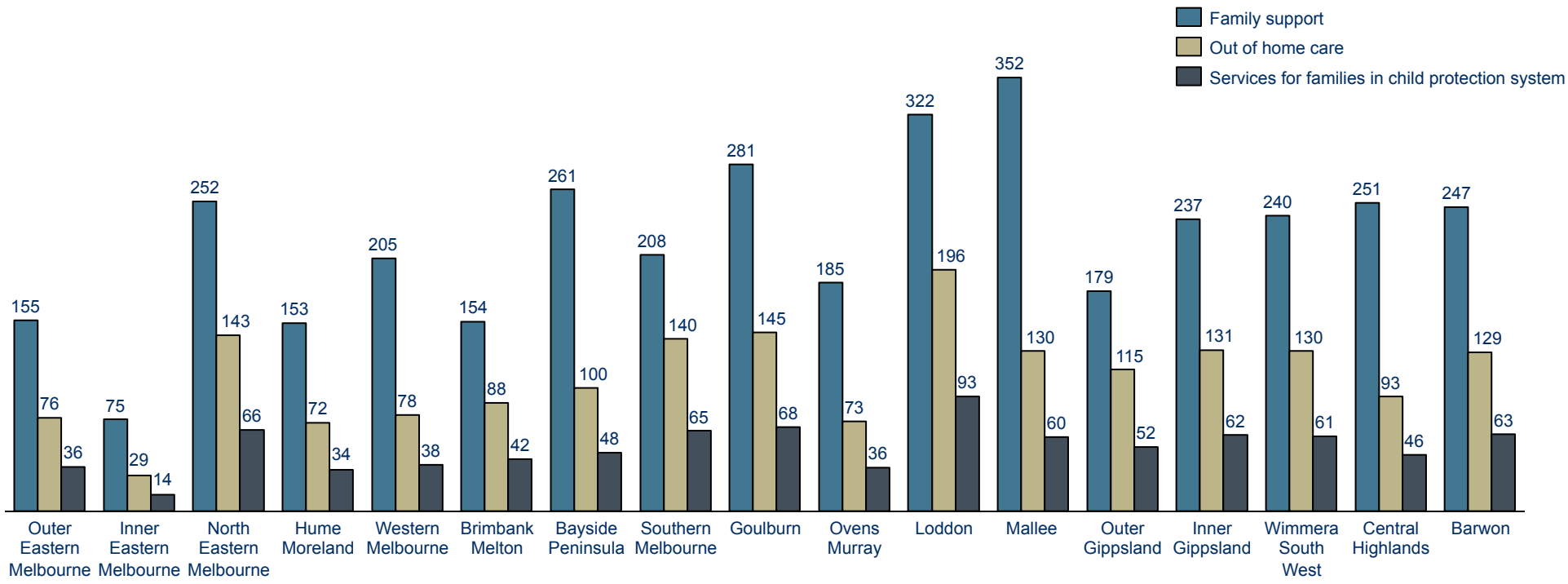
We have also mapped where other ACCOs are delivering child and family services in each DHHS area to inform model analysis

ACCOs providing services	Family services	Out of home care
Outer Eastern Melbourne	Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service VACCA	VACCA
Inner Eastern Melbourne		
North Eastern Melbourne	VACCA	VACCA
Hume Moreland	VACCA	VACCA
Western Melbourne	VACCA	VACCA
Brimbank Melton	VACCA	VACCA
Bayside Peninsula	VACCA	VACCA
Southern Melbourne	Dandenong and District Aborigines Co-operative Willum Warrain Gathering Place VACCA	VACCA
Goulburn	Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd	Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd
Ovens Murray	Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation VACCA	VACCA
Loddon	Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative Njernda Aboriginal Corporation	Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative Njernda Aboriginal Corporation
Mallee	Mallee District Aboriginal Services	Mallee District Aboriginal Services
Outer Gippsland	Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative VACCA	VACCA
Inner Gippsland	Ramahyuck District Aboriginal Corporation VACCA	VACCA
Wimmera South West	Dhauwurd Wurrung Elderly and Community Health Service (Portland) Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-operative (Horsham) Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative Ltd (Warrnambool) Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation (Heywood	Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation (Heywood)
Central Highlands	Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative	
Barwon	Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative	Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative

SVA Consulting

Current demand for family services is estimated to be the highest in the Loddon, Mallee & Goulburn regions

Child & Family Services (Family Services): Current estimated demand (individuals) by DHHS region (2018)



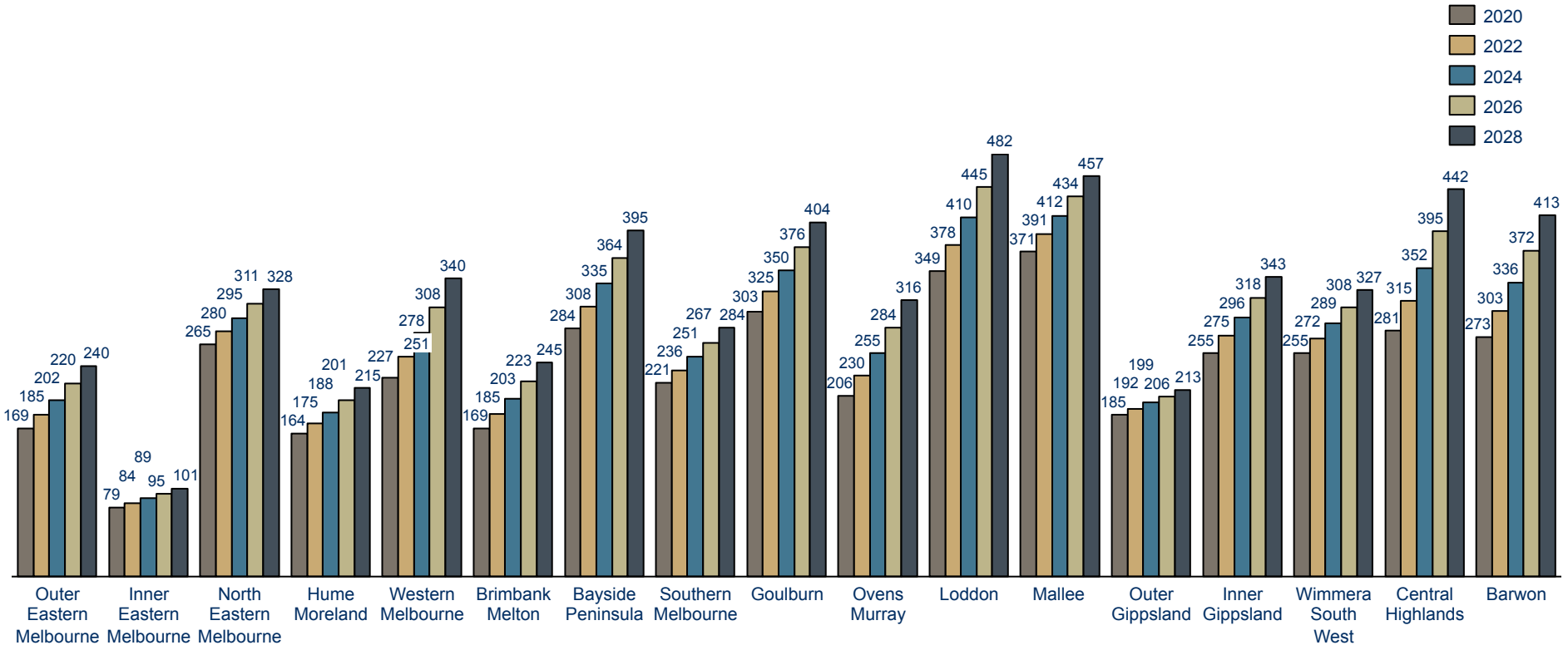
Assumption and notes:

- Population growth projection - Scenario 2 (complex)
- Analysis is based on the number of families with children living in poverty, and that growth in families needing intensive family support increases at the same
- Analysis of support for families in child protection system is based on the total number of children in child protection disaggregated into DHHS regions (using OOHC ratios), divided by the current percentage of Aboriginal families participating in Intensive Family Services

SVA Consulting

Projected demand for services for vulnerable families is highest in regional areas with high Aboriginal populations such as Loddon, Goulburn and Mallee

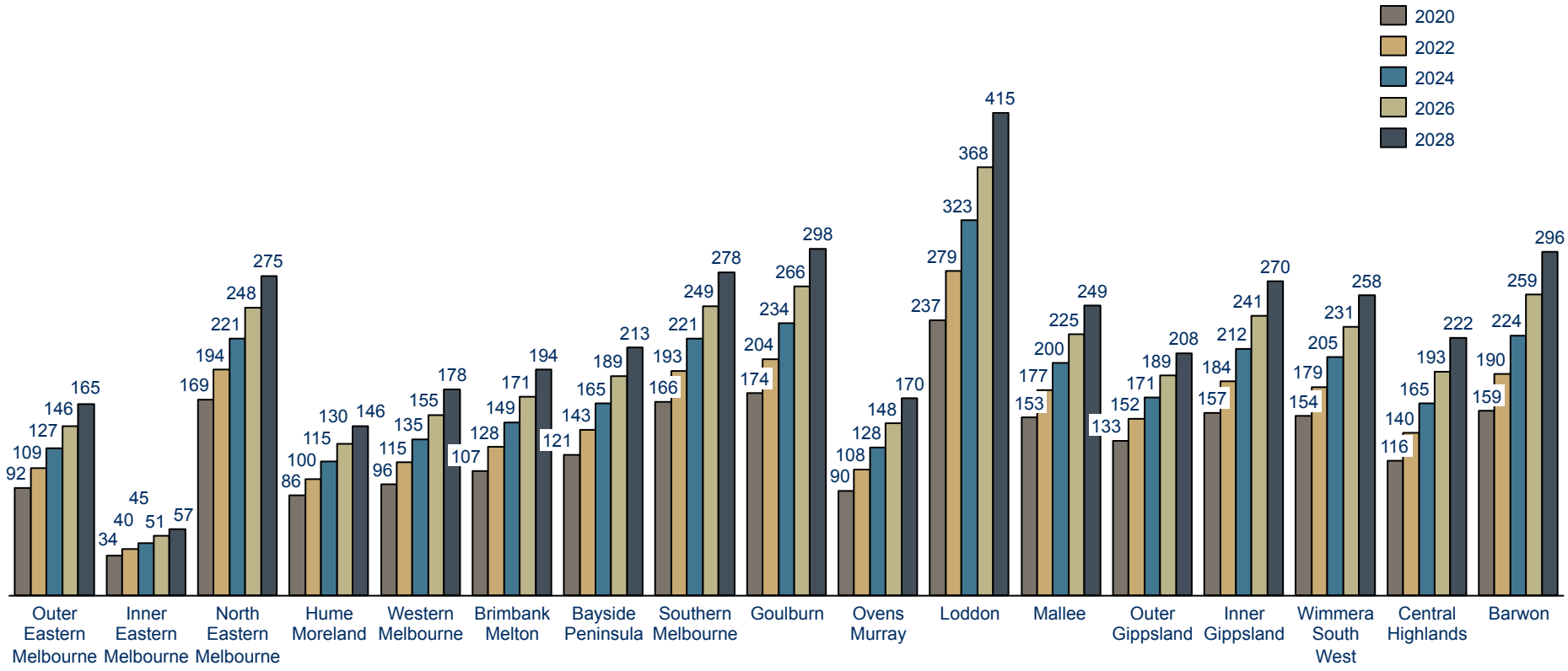
Child & Family Services (Family Services): Projected demand (individuals), by DHHS region
(2020-2028F)



Assumption and notes:
- This projection uses population growth scenario 2 (complex) and assumes that poverty will decrease at 1% a year (although total number of people living in poverty will increase due to population growth)
- Projection is based on the number of families with children living in poverty

The number of children in OOHC is projected to continue to grow faster than population growth, with Loddon forecast to have the most children in care

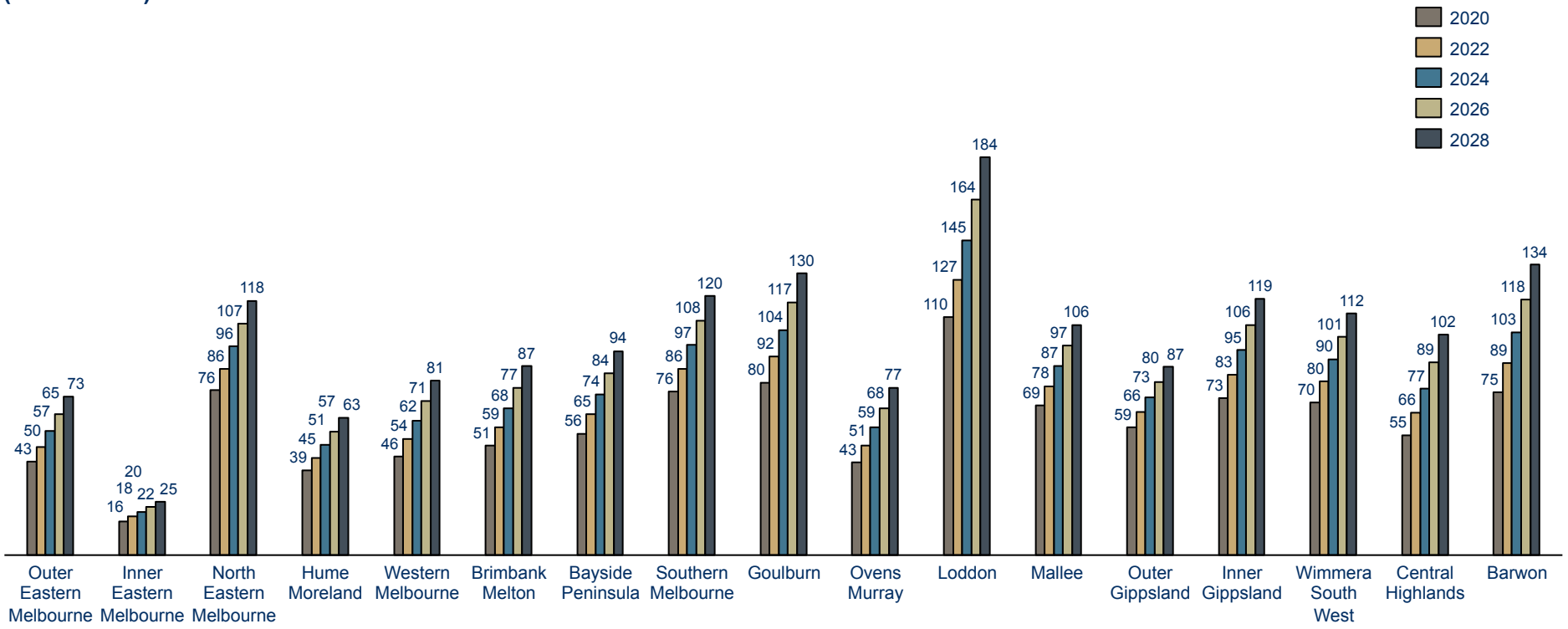
Child & Family Services (OOHC): Projected demand (individuals), by DHHS region
(2020-2028F)



Assumption and notes:
- This projection uses population growth scenario 2 (complex) and assumes that growth in out of home care continues to increase by an average of 10% per year with no additional growth
- The projection is based on the number of children in out of home care including the average annual growth rate for the past five years

Loddon is also forecast to have the highest demand for intensive family services, due to the high number of children currently in care in that region

Child & Family Services (Intensive): Projected demand (individuals), by DHHS region
(2020-2028F)



Projected demand for services for services for families in child protection system by DHHS area

- This projection uses scenario 2 and assumes that growth in families needing intensive family support increases at 8.5% per year (based on Aboriginal Children's Forum data)
- Sector analysis is based on the total number of children in child protection disaggregated into DHHS regions (using OOHC ratios), divided by the current percentage of Aboriginal families participating in Intensive Family Services

FAMILY VIOLENCE

In the family violence sector, lack of data is identified across the board as a key challenge, due to challenges around reporting and disclosure

Insights

- Crime Statistics Agency cautions that data quality has declined over time as there are many police incident records with missing Indigenous status
- Data about access by Aboriginal men, women and children to Victorian Government funded family violence services was very unreliable at the time of the Royal Commission, as Aboriginal status was not consistently recorded.
- AIHW has also identified limited data about the extent and impact of family violence for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as an ongoing problem.
- Of the available statistics, in 2018 (a):
  - The top 6 LGAs for family violence incidents with a child present were: Mildura (124), East Gippsland (121), Greater Shepparton (67), Swan Hill (62), Latrobe (60) and Darebin (39). The average across all other LGA's is 4 incidents.
  - 29% of incidents recorded had a child present.
- Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Victoria routinely sees Aboriginal clients, mostly women, who experience family violence at the hands of men from a range of different backgrounds and cultures.

Drivers of change

- Family violence rates increase significantly (more than 10% per year since 2013) after the Family Violence Royal Commission due to changes in reporting, however anecdotal reports suggest it is unlikely this spike will continue to increase at the same rate over next decade
- DHHS expects to open the 12 remaining Orange Door programs
- Anecdotal evidence from the Orange Door program in Frankston suggests that it has led to a significant increase in referrals for Aboriginal families to Integrated Family Services, in part due to better identification of Aboriginal status and more awareness of culturally safe services, and an associated need for more family violence case management services.
- The Victorian Government remains committed to implementing all of the recommendations from the Royal Commission into family violence, some have been implemented with many still in progress or not yet commenced.

(a) Crime Statistics Victoria

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SVA Consulting

Our data mapping, and conversations with Family Safety Victoria, have identified police data and DHHS service usage data as the best available sources

Data identified	Source	Level	Access
Incidents of family violence	Victoria Mental Health report	Victoria	Accessed
Number of Aboriginal perpetrators of family violence	Crime Statistics Agency	LGA (Top 30)	Accessed
Number of Aboriginal affected family members by LGA, including child present flag (L17) (2014 – 2018)	Crime Statistics Agency	LGA (Top 23)	Accessed
Number of Aboriginal families accessing family violence services	DHHS/Family Safety Victoria	DHHS region	Request unsuccessful
Number of Aboriginal men accessing perpetrator services	DHHS/Family Safety Victoria	DHHS region	Request unsuccessful
Courts data – Family Violence court, Magistrates Court, Children's Court	Relevant courts	-	Not accessed

Data selected

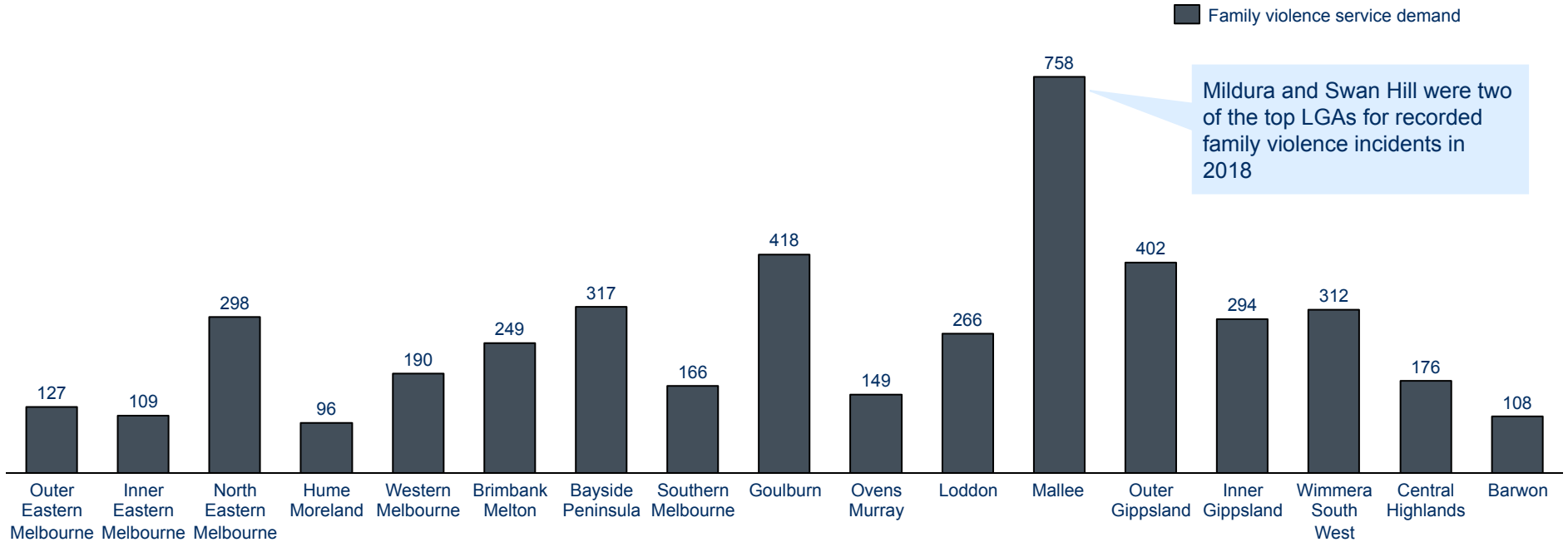
The model uses the "Aboriginal affected family members" data supplied by Crime Statistics Victoria. However, due to confidentially, Crime Statistics Victoria only supplied the top 23 LGA's in Victoria (these represented xx percentage of all incidents). Taylor Fry advised on the best approach for estimating demand in the other LGA's, using this data, total population and the SEIFA index.

When the data requests have been finalised we will consider the best approach for including this information, the options will be:

- Replacing the data in model with the service usage data
- Using both sets of data in the model to enable comparison of police incidents and service usage (could enable identification of service gaps depending on the quality of the data)
- Crime Statistics Victoria cautions that data quality is low due to a high number of family violence incidents with no Indigenous status recorded

We estimate that there are over 5,000 Aboriginal people who currently require family violence support services in Victoria. Mallee has by far the highest demand for family violence services

Family Violence: Current estimated demand (individuals) by DHHS region
(2018)



Assumption and notes:
- Population growth projection - Scenario 2 (complex) and assumes growth increases at the same rate as population growth
- Analysis is based on reported incidents on family violence experienced by Aboriginal people (e.g. victims of family violence)
- Crime Statistics Victoria cautions that data quality is low due to a high number of family violence incidents with no Indigenous status recorded.

VACCA is the only ACCO in many regions – servicing two of the four regions with the highest demand

ACCOs providing services	Family violence services
Outer Eastern Melbourne	Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service VACCA
Inner Eastern Melbourne	
North Eastern Melbourne	VACCA
Hume Moreland	VACCA
Western Melbourne	VACCA
Brimbank Melton	VACCA
Bayside Peninsula	VACCA
Southern Melbourne	VACCA
Goulburn	Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd
Ovens Murray	Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation
Loddon	Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative Njernda Aboriginal Corporation
Mallee	Mallee District Aboriginal Services
Outer Gippsland	
Inner Gippsland	VACCA
Wimmera South West	Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-operative (Horsham)
Central Highlands	Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative
Barwon	Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative

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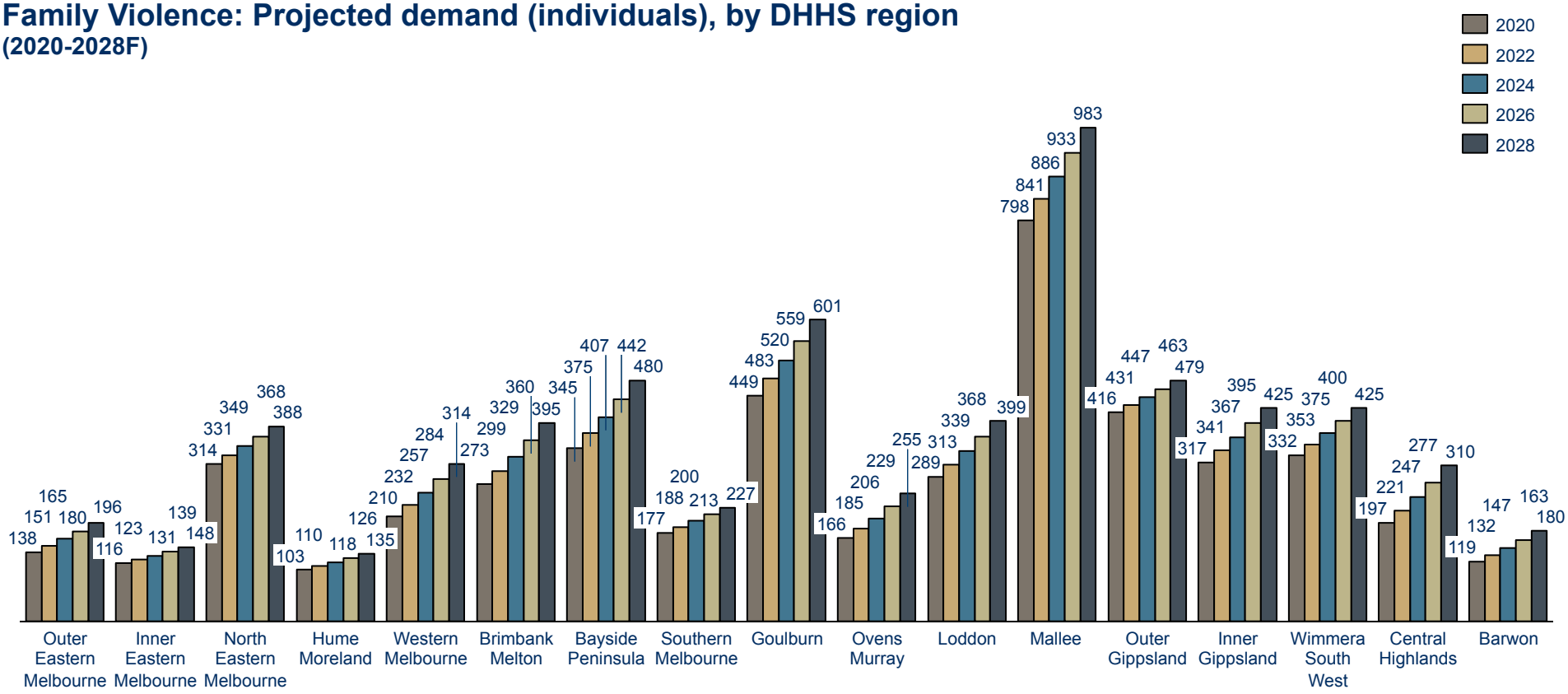
If current trends continue, Mallee, Loddon, Bayside Peninsula and North Eastern Melbourne would represent 51% of the total demand

Family Violence: Projected demand (individuals), by DHHS region
(2020-2028F)



Assumption and notes:
- This projection uses scenario 2 and assumes growth increases at the same rate as population growth
- Analysis is based on reported incidents on family violence experienced by Aboriginal people (e.g. victims of family violence)
- Crime Statistics Victoria cautions that data quality is low due to a high number of family violence incidents with no Indigenous status recorded.

SVA Consulting

HOMELESSNESS

We have also gained insights that our understanding of the drivers of need and change in the homelessness sector

Insights

- Data varies significantly. We found a number of different estimations of Aboriginal homelessness in Victoria:
  - Productivity Commission reported 6,114 Aboriginal people experienced homelessness in Victoria in 2018 (a), whilst 10,885 accessed specialised homelessness services. The number of Aboriginal people accessing homelessness services in Victoria has increased by 25% since 2013/2014.
  - ABS estimates 1,040 Aboriginal people were experiencing homelessness on Census 2016 (b)
  - DHHS reports that 6,769 Aboriginal households (e.g. 'presenting units') accessed homelessness services in Victoria in 2017/2018, 39% who were still homeless after support (c)
  - 27% of Aboriginal "presenting units" accessing homelessness services in Victoria have children, 67% are a lone person (d)
  - 10% of people seeking homelessness services in Victoria are Aboriginal people (e)
- Overcrowded housing is a key driver of homelessness – in Victoria the rates of this for Aboriginal households are 18% in urban areas and 16% in regional areas (f)
- The mains reason for seeking assistance from homelessness services was for domestic and family violence (28%), following by a housing crisis (16%) and financial difficulties (14%) (g)

Drivers of change

- Aboriginal Housing Victoria have projected how much social housing needs to be built to meet the growing need in Victoria, identifying an immediate shortfall, 1,438 houses, and a minimum of 5,085 by 3036. Availability of social housing will affect demand for homelessness services (h)

(a) Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services, House and Homelessness services Table 19A.36
(b) Productivity Commission, Report on Government Services, House and Homelessness services Table 19A.36
(c) Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016 Census
(d) DHHS and Council for Homeless Persons http://chp.org.au/services/capacity-building/making-numbers-count-data-resources/
(e) Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Summit, Discussion paper 6: Homelessness
(f) AIHW, Specialist Homelessness Services, Supplementary Data Table Specialist homelessness services 2017–18 (AIHW 2018
(g) AIHW, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: a focus report on housing and homelessness
(h) Aboriginal Housing Victoria

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SVA Consulting

HOMELESSNESS

The model uses data provided by DHHS, however, due to lack of granularity of the information provided some adjustments were made

Data identified	Source	Level	Access
Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness (2014 – 2018)	Productivity Commission	Vic	Accessed
Aboriginal people accessing homelessness services	DHHS	DHHS areas (metro regions combined)	Accessed
Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness	ABS – Census	LGA	Accessed
Aboriginal people accessing homelessness services and number of support periods	AIHW	Vic	Accessed
Rental stress	Census	LGA	Analysis considered

Data selected

The model uses the data supplied by DHHS at the area level. However, this data consolidates the eight metropolitan regions to four sub-regions (e.g. Hume Moreland and North Eastern Melbourne were combined into the “Northern sub-region”).

To disaggregate this to the eight metropolitan regions we divided homelessness service usage data by the proportion of the Aboriginal population in each of the metro sub-regions. Therefore, the data for the metropolitan regions is an estimate of service usage based on the proportion of the population that lives in that region, rather than exact figures.

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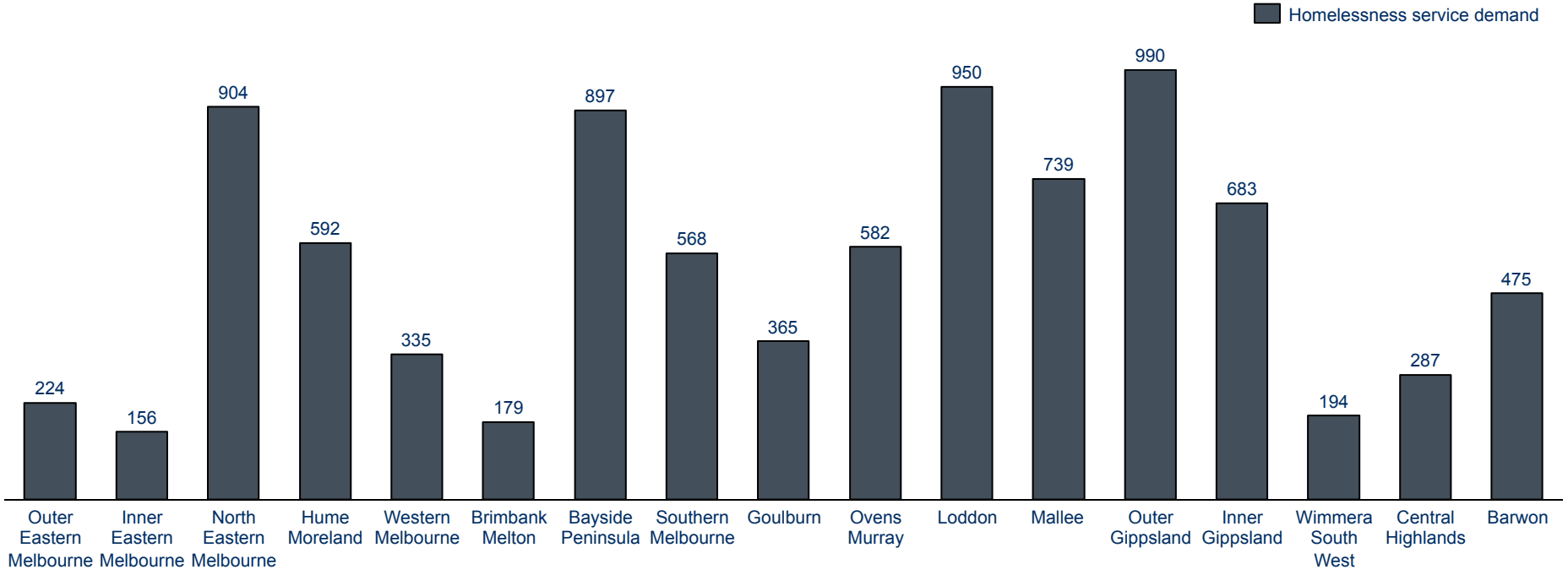
SVA Consulting

We estimate that there more than 9,000 people in need of homelessness services in Victoria

Homelessness: Current estimated demand (individuals), by DHHS region
(2018)



Assumption and notes:
- This projection uses population growth scenario 2 (complex) and assumes that need increases by 6%
- The model uses the data supplied by DHHS at the area level for where homelessness services were accessed. Therefore, data is skewed by the availability and location of homelessness services.
- This data consolidated the eight metropolitan regions to four ‘areas’ (e.g. Hume Moreland and North Eastern Melbourne were combined into the “Northern sub-region”), that have been disaggregated back to DHHS regions to based on the population proportions.

HOMELESSNESS

It appears that currently not many ACCOs operate in the homelessness sector, with many regions serviced by mainstream providers only

ACCOs providing services	Homelessness
Outer Eastern Melbourne	
Inner Eastern Melbourne	
North Eastern Melbourne	VACCA Bert Willams Aboriginal Youth Services (BWAYS)
Hume Moreland	VACCA Bert Willams Aboriginal Youth Services (BWAYS)
Western Melbourne	Bert Willams Aboriginal Youth Services (BWAYS)
Brimbank Melton	Bert Willams Aboriginal Youth Services (BWAYS)
Bayside Peninsula	Ngwala Willumbong Cooperative
Southern Melbourne	Ngwala Willumbong Cooperative
Goulburn	Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd
Ovens Murray	
Loddon	Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative
Mallee	Mallee District Aboriginal Services
Outer Gippsland	Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative
Inner Gippsland	VACCA
Wimmera South West	
Central Highlands	
Barwon	Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative

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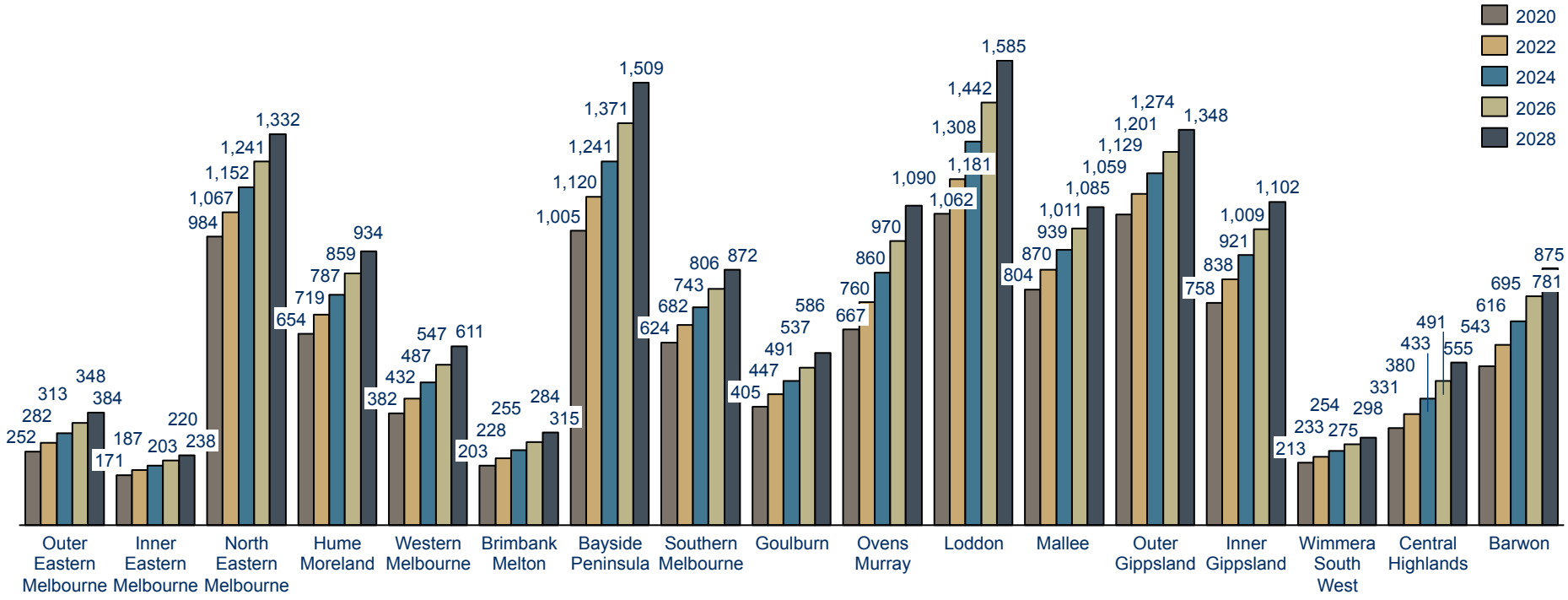
SVA Consulting

HOMELESSNESS

In 10 years, the need for homelessness support services by Aboriginal people is projected to rise by more than 50 per cent

Homelessness: Projected demand (individuals), by DHHS region
(2020-2028F)



Assumption and notes:

- This projection uses population growth scenario 2 (complex) and assumes that need increases by 6%
- The model uses the data supplied by DHHS at the area level for where homelessness services were accessed. Therefore, data is skewed by the availability and location of homelessness services.
- This data consolidated the eight metropolitan regions to four ‘areas’ (e.g. Hume Moreland and North Eastern Melbourne were combined into the “Northern sub-region”), that have been disaggregated back to DHHS regions to based on the population proportions.

SVA Consulting

We have also gained insights that our understanding of the drivers of need and change in the justice sector

Insights

- As with other service areas, crime statistics data are unreliable with 20% of cases having no Aboriginal status recorded.
- Available corrections data shows 690 Aboriginal prisoners in Victoria in 2017-2018. Aboriginal women were 13.4% of all female prisoners and Aboriginal men were 8.6% of all male prisoners, with an average age of 34 years old (a)
- Available Aboriginal offender data shows:
  - 3,525 alleged offenders in 2018 (b), with 933 convicted offenders in FY17/18 (c)
  - In 2018, the 77% of offenders were men and 23% women (c)
  - 57% have previously been in jail (c)
  - The number of offenders has increased by 185% since 2008, from 348 to 933 (c)
- Recidivism, driven by socio-economic disadvantage and intergenerational poverty, is a significant contributor to Aboriginal over-representation in the justice system. Contributing factors identified included (d) :
  - Education – Over half of young people in custody had previously been expelled or suspended from school.
  - Employment – Half of all first time offenders were unemployed at the time of their arrest.
  - Mental health – 72% of Aboriginal men and 92% of Aboriginal women in prison had received a lifetime diagnosis of mental illness.

Drivers of change

- In Victoria, the Aboriginal Justice Agreement (AJA) partnership between government and the Victorian Aboriginal community has been running since 2000. Evaluation AJA Phase 3 demonstrated that successful initiatives are built on local leadership, programs that employ Aboriginal staff and community ownership of initiatives.
- AJA Phase 4, *Burra Lotjpa Dungaludja* makes a commitment to *"An Aboriginal community controlled justice sector"* with clear targets including:
  - Reduce the number of Aboriginal adults under justice supervision by at least 344 by 2023
  - Reduce the number of Aboriginal children under youth justice supervision by at least 43 by 2023.
  - Key indicators relate to early intervention, diversion and rehabilitation
- Policy and legislative changes designed to enhance community safety has led to an increase in the number of Victorians in the justice system, including Aboriginal people in Victoria. These include changes to legislation related to family violence, bail, suspected sentences and community corrections orders.

(a) Corrections Victoria, Annual Prisoner Statistical Profile
(b) Crime Statistics Victoria, Indigenous alleged offender incidents 2014 – 2018
(c) Corrections Victoria, Annual Offender Statistical Profile
(d) Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement Phase 4

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SVA Consulting

We used annual offender data from Corrections Victoria and adjusted it to match DHHS regions

Data identified	Source	Level	Access
Indigenous alleged offender incidents (2014 – 2018)	Crime Statistics Victoria	LGA	Accessed
Number of unique offenders and average number of offences	Crime Statistics Victoria	Victoria	Accessed
Annual Prisoner Statistical Profile (2007 – 2018)	Corrections Victoria	Victoria and DoJ regions	Accessed
Annual Offender Statistical Profile (2007 – 2018)	Corrections Victoria	Victoria and DoJ regions	Accessed
Burra Lotjpa Dunguludja – Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement Phase 4		Victoria	Accessed

Data selected

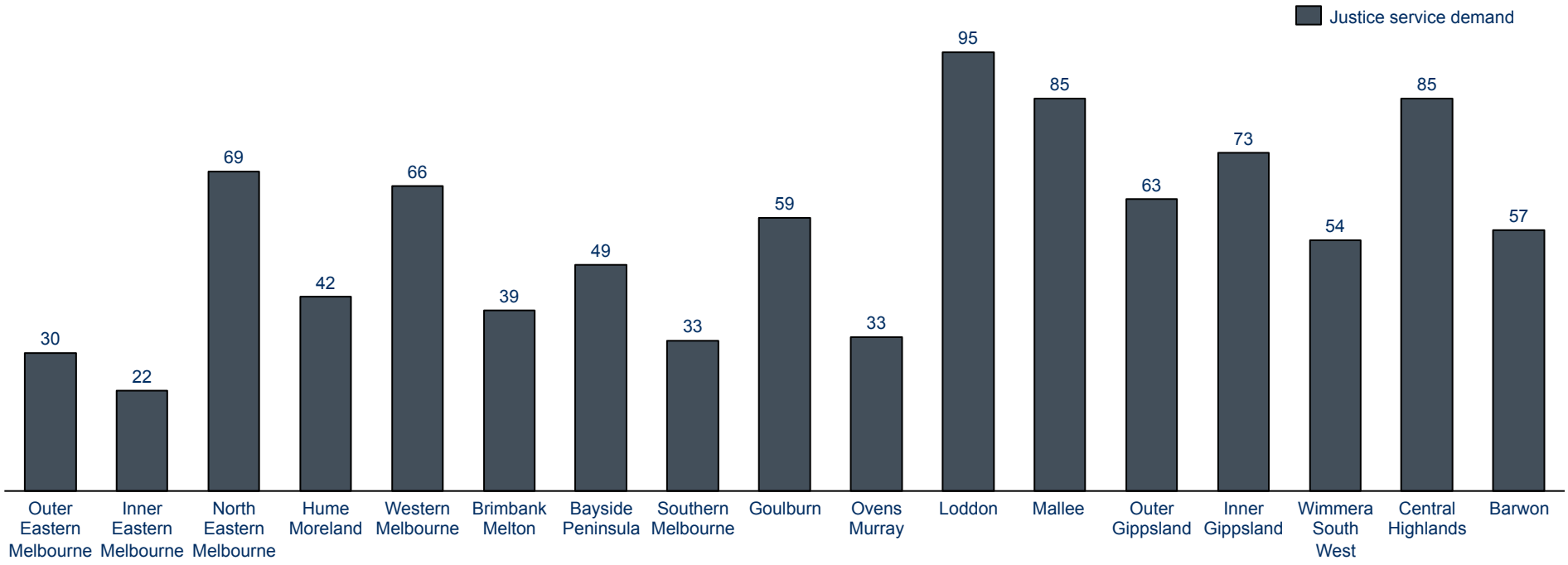
The model uses the annual offender data supplied by Corrections Victoria, to estimate a rate per 100,000 of the total population.

The data provided by Corrections Victoria is aggregated to the level of Department of Justice region. To change this aggregation to DHHS area for the purposes of this model and in the absence of better data, we have used SEIFA and the data we do have at the Department of Justice regional area, to estimate demand at the level of DHHS area.

SVA Consulting

There are approximately 1,000 Aboriginal offenders in Victoria, with the highest number estimated to be in Loddon and Central Highlands

Justice: Current estimated demand (individuals) by DHHS region
(2018)



Assumption and notes:
- Population growth projection - Scenario 2 (complex) and assumes growth increases at the same rate as population growth
- Analysis is based on annual offender data from Corrections Victoria.

There are many regional gaps in availability of justice programs delivered by an ACCO in Victoria

ACCOs providing services	Justice
Outer Eastern Melbourne	
Inner Eastern Melbourne	
North Eastern Melbourne	
Hume Moreland	
Western Melbourne	
Brimbank Melton	
Bayside Peninsula	Ngwala Willumbong Cooperative
Southern Melbourne	Ngwala Willumbong Cooperative VACCA
Goulburn	Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd
Ovens Murray	Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation
Loddon	
Mallee	Mallee District Aboriginal Services Murray Valley Aboriginal Co-operative (Robinvale)
Outer Gippsland	Lakes Entrance Aboriginal Health Association
Inner Gippsland	VACCA
Wimmera South West	Dhauwurd Wurrung Elderly and Community Health Service (Portland) Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-operative (Horsham)
Central Highlands	Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative
Barwon	Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative

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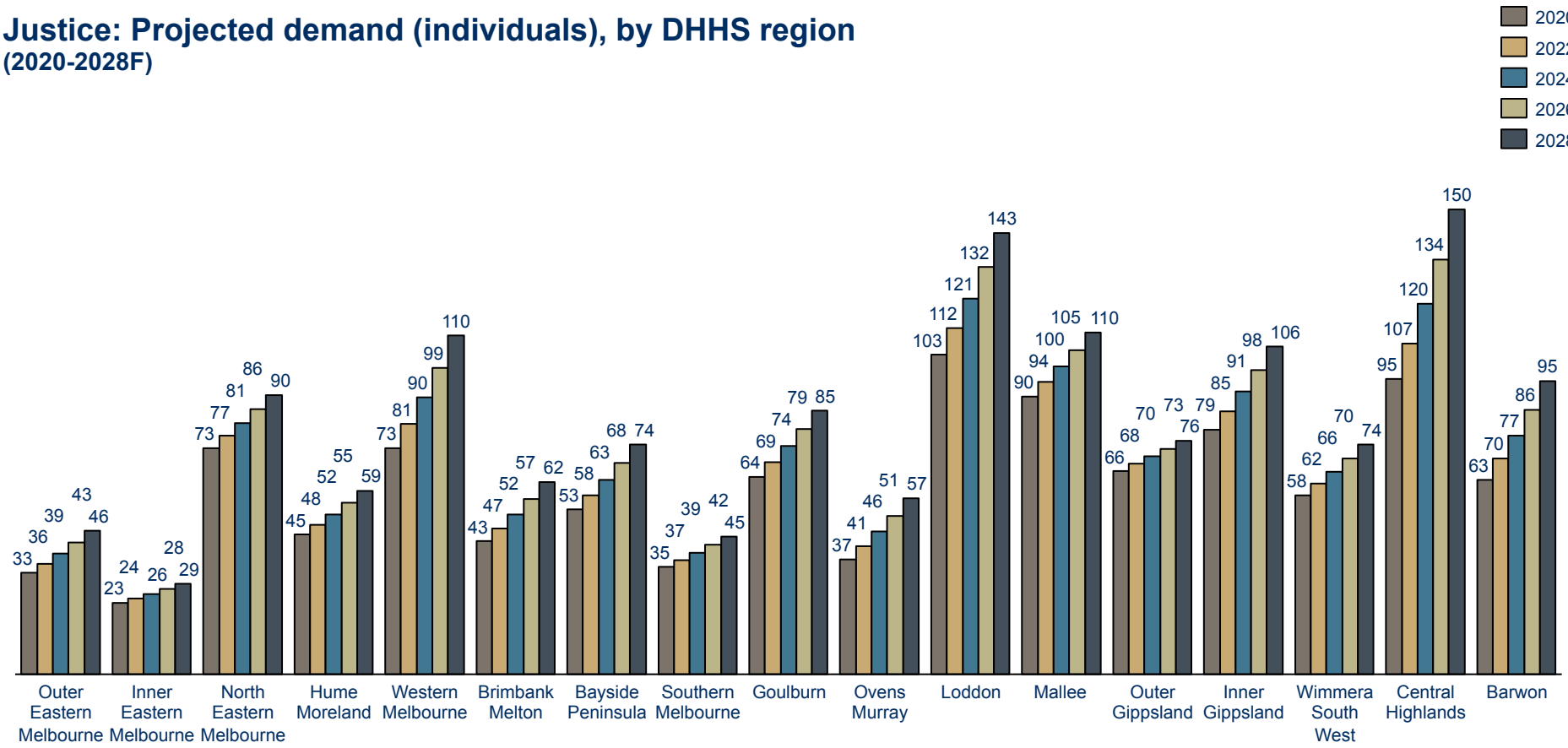
In line with Aboriginal population growth, we expect to see the number of unique offender incidences in Victoria to double in 10 years

Justice: Projected demand (individuals), by DHHS region
(2020-2028F)



Assumption and notes:
- This projection uses population growth scenario 2 (complex) and assumes growth increases at the same rate as population growth
- Analysis is based on annual offender data from Corrections Victoria.

We have also gained insights that informed our understanding of the drivers of need and change in the mental health sector

Insights

- The impact of colonisation, intergenerational trauma and ongoing social, cultural and political marginalisation in Australia has driven experiences of poor mental ill-health for many Aboriginal people in Victoria, with 36% of Aboriginal Victorians reporting high or very high levels of psychological distress (an estimated 21,000 people in 2018) (a).
- A national review of mental health services found that general population services and programmes do not meet the social and emotional wellbeing needs of Aboriginal people, and do not ensure a connected transition through the mental health system (b).
- The Victorian Mental Health Annual Report reports that 1,894 Aboriginal people accessed mental health services, and 156 accessed mental health community support services in 2017 – 2018. Four partnership projects between Aboriginal community-controlled organistions and local health services are underway, aimed at better meeting mental health and social and emotional wellbeing needs (c).
- We estimate demand for mental health community support services to be approximately 3,400 Aboriginal people in 2019, if all those who needed support (those in high or very high psychological distress) accessed community support services at the same rate as all Victorians (16% of people accessing mental health services)(c). A lack of services means actual demand is unknown, however better data will be available following the Victorian Mental Health Royal Commission)
- 60% of children in Out of Home Care came to the attention of child protection as a result of parental mental health issues in combination with other risk factors (f)
- Analysis of service delivery commissioned by DHHS in 2017 found that 37% of all Aboriginal clients who accessed tertiary clinical mental health services were aged less than 25 years in 2016/2017, of these,13% were aged 10 years or less. At the time of the analysis, LGAs with high Aboriginal populations receiving no funding for Aboriginal mental health services, included Hume, Frankston, Mornington Peninsula, Melton, Brimbank, Moreland and Cardinia. (h)

Drivers of change

- The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership in Mental Health (NATSILMH) launched the Gayaa Dhuwi (Proud Spirit) Declaration in 2015 (Endorsed by Australian Governments in the Fifth National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan). Gayaa Dhuwi identifies that:

> *"Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander presence and leadership is required across all parts of the Australian mental health system for it to adapt to, and be accountable to, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for the achievement of the highest attainable standard of mental health and suicide prevention outcomes"*

- In addition to the initiatives identified in Balit Murrup, future funding will be allocated under the new policy: Supporting Aboriginal Self-determination: Prioritising Funding to Aboriginal Organisations.
- The Mental Health Royal Commission process has commenced and the Vic Government has committed to implementing all recommendations. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Victoria are identified in the terms of reference as a key area of focus due to the greater likelikhood of experiencing poor mental health. Recommendations around culturally informed service delivery are anticipated, with release scheduled for late 2020.

a) Victorian Government Aboriginal Affairs Report 2018
b) National Mental Health Commission. (2014). Report of the National Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services: Contributing Lives, Thriving Communities.
c) Victorian Mental Health Annual Report 2017 - 2018
d) Taskforce 1000
e) Frizzell, J, December 2017, Aboriginal Alcohol and Other Drug and Mental Health Mapping Project, prepared for DHHS

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MENTAL HEALTH

Good quality data at a regional level is hard to access in for this sector. Data related to Aboriginal people in Victoria that are experiencing high or very high psychological distress is used as a proxy for demand

Data identified	Source	Level	Access
• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander access to mental health services (Adults by LGA or DHHS region) • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander access to mental health services (12 – 17yo, 18 – 25yo, LGA or DHHS region)	DHHS	LGA	Request underway
Percentage of Aboriginal Victorians with high or very high levels of psychological distress	Victorian Government Aboriginal Affairs Report	Vic	Accessed
Percentage of Aboriginal Victorian young people (15 – 24) with high or very high levels of psychological distress	AIHW	Vic	Accessed

Data selected

The model currently projects the demand for mental health services using an estimate of demand that is the proportion of Aboriginal people in Victoria that are experiencing high or very high psychological distress, and applying this proportion at the level of DHHS area. This proxy has been selected due to a lack of available data.

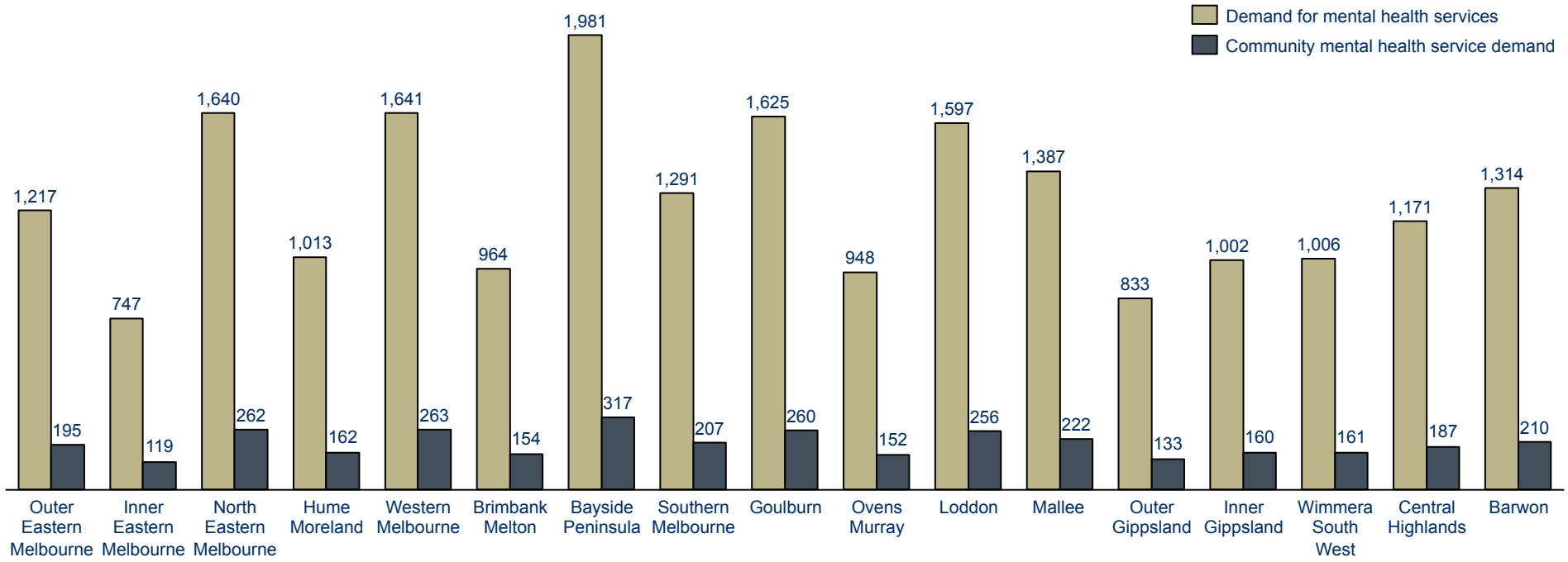
The model also enables users to input how many people experiencing high or very high psychological distress in Victoria would be likely access community mental health services that may be provided within a community organisation (as compared to a clinical context). This acknowledges that there is a spectrum of mental health services depending on a person's need, and that a person's need may be too acute for community support services. This has been informed by the National Mental Health Commission review of National Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services undertaken on 2015, and data from the 2017-2018 Victorian Government Mental Health Report about the number of people (all not Aboriginal) that accessed community based mental health services. The model assumes that 16% of mental health patients access community based mental health support services. This assumption has been made due to a lack of available services meaning the actual demand is unknown. These assumptions can be adjusted as better data becomes available, particularly following the conclusion of the Mental Health Royal Commission.

However, model users can adjust this amount, making an assumption that it is higher (or lower) due to:
a) Aboriginal people will be more likely to access mental health services delivered by an Aboriginal organisation, or
b) Community mental health services are underfunded in Victoria and do not meet current demand.

SVA Consulting

We estimate that there are approximately 3,000 Aboriginal people in need of community mental health support services in Victoria

Mental Health: Current estimated demand (individuals), by DHHS region
(2018)

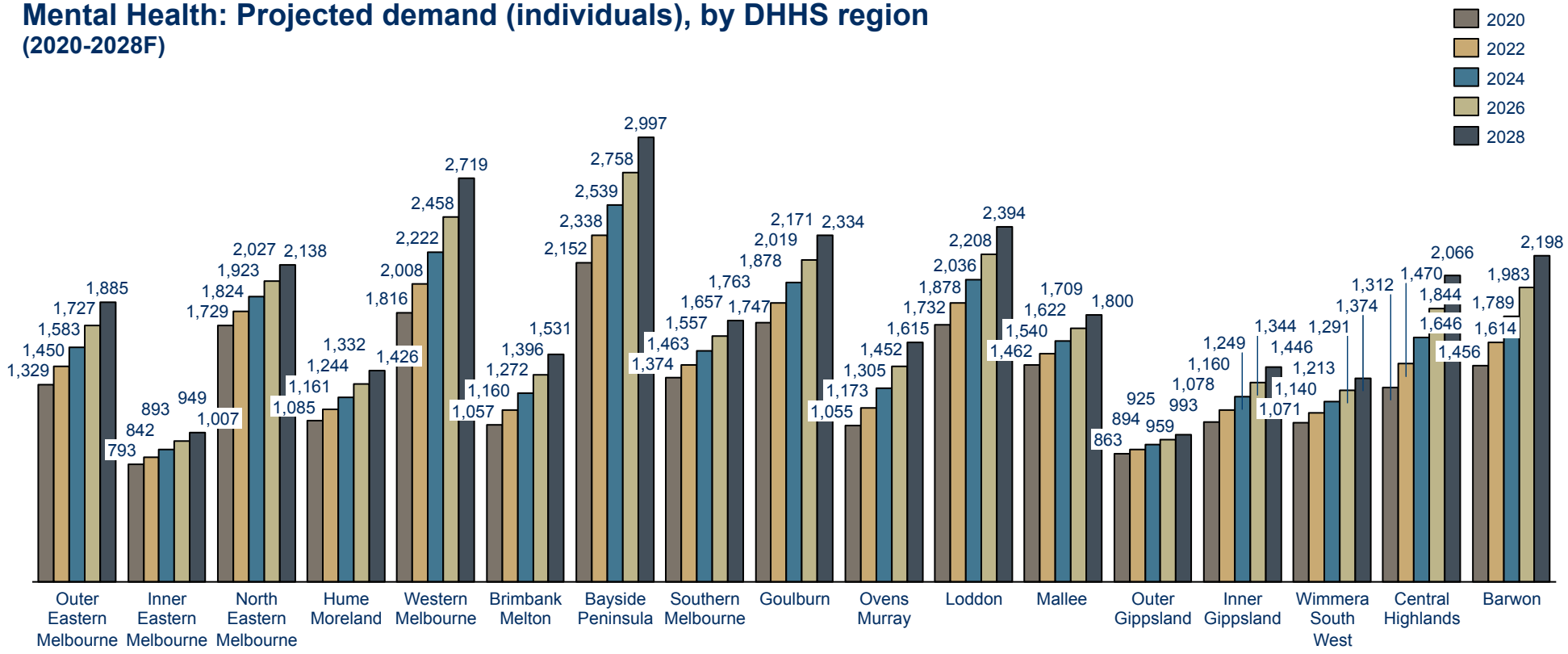


Assumption and notes:

- Population growth projection - Scenario 2 (complex) and assumes no additional growth (in addition to population growth)
- Data is currently based on the number of Aboriginal people in Victoria that are experiencing high or very high psychological distress and estimating the proportion of those that would access community support services (if they accessed these at the same rate as the general population). This assumption has been made due to a lack of available services meaning the actual demand is unknown. These assumptions can be adjusted as better data becomes available, particularly following the conclusion of the Mental Health Royal Commission.

At current rates, more than 31,000 Aboriginal people will be experiencing high or very high psychological distress, and be potential users of clinical or community mental health support services

Mental Health: Projected demand (individuals), by DHHS region
(2020-2028F)

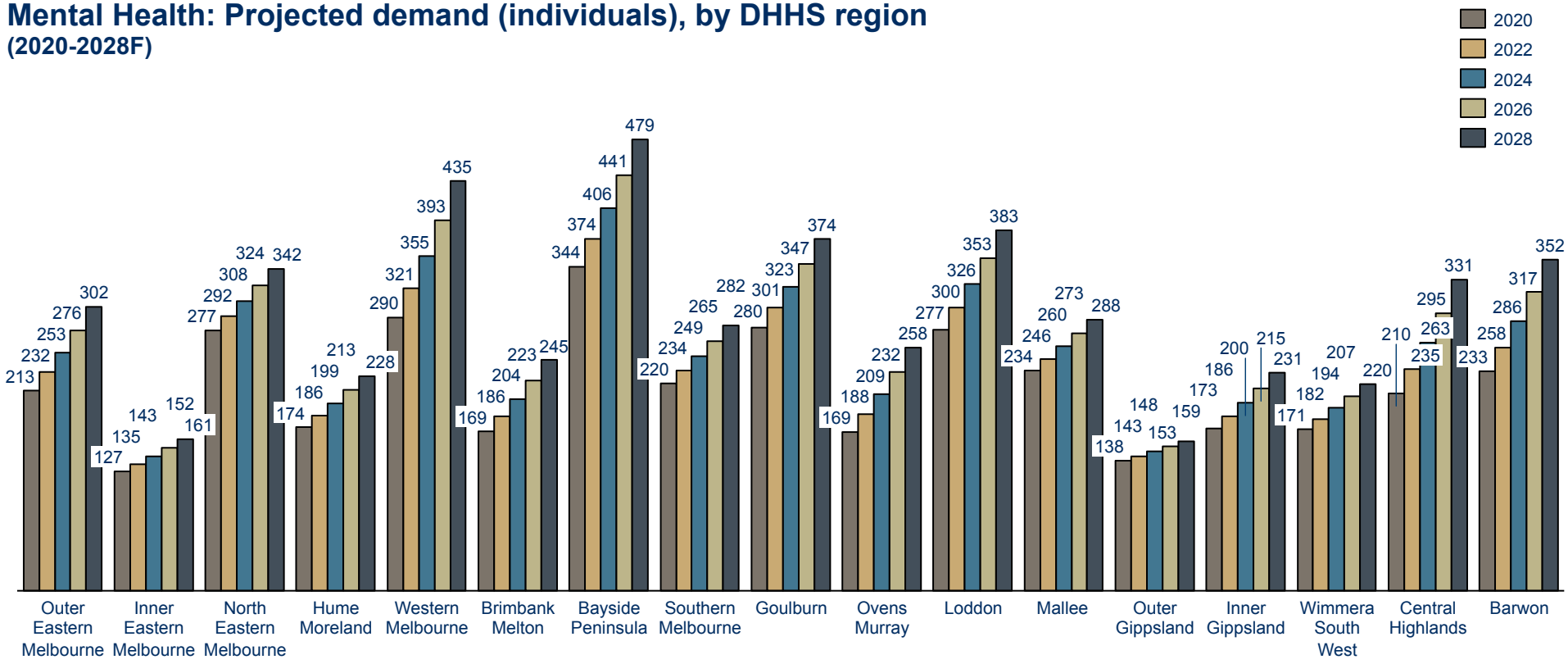


Assumption and notes:

- This projection uses population growth scenario 2 (complex) and assumes no additional growth (in addition to population growth)
- Data is currently based on the number of Aboriginal people in Victoria that are experiencing high or very high psychological distress, and estimating the proportion of those that would access community support services (if they accessed these at the same rate as the general population). This assumption has been made due to a lack of available services meaning the actual demand is unknown. These assumptions can be adjusted as better data becomes available, particularly following the conclusion of the mental health royal commission.

We estimate that more than 5,000 Aboriginal people may access mental health support through a community organisation

Mental Health: Projected demand (individuals), by DHHS region
(2020-2028F)



Assumption and notes:

- This projection uses population growth scenario 2 (complex) and assumes no additional growth (in addition to population growth)
- Data is currently based on the number of Aboriginal people in Victoria that are experiencing high or very high psychological distress, and estimating the proportion of those that would access community support services (if they accessed these at the same rate as the general population). This assumption has been made due to a lack of available services meaning the actual demand is unknown. These assumptions can be adjusted as better data becomes available, particularly following the conclusion of the mental health royal commission.

It appears that currently not many ACCOs operate in the mental health sector, with many regions serviced by mainstream providers only

MENTAL HEALTH

ACCO's providing services	Mental health
Outer Eastern Melbourne	
Inner Eastern Melbourne	Victorian Aboriginal Health Service
North Eastern Melbourne	Victorian Aboriginal Health Service
Hume Moreland	
Western Melbourne	
Brimbank Melton	
Bayside Peninsula	
Southern Melbourne	
Goulburn	Rumbalara
Ovens Murray	Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service Mungabareena Aboriginal Corporation
Loddon	Bendigo DAC
Mallee	Mallee District Aboriginal Services
Outer Gippsland	Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative Moogji Aboriginal Council East Gippsland Inc. (Orbost)
Inner Gippsland	
Wimmera South West	Dhauwurd Wurrung Elderly and Community Health Service (Portland)
Central Highlands	
Barwon	Wathaurong

SVA Consulting

We have also gained insights that informed our understanding of the drivers of need and change in the AOD sector

Insights

- The Alcohol and Drug Treatment Service National Minimum Dataset reported that 2,125 Aboriginal people in Victoria accessed drug and alcohol services in 2017 – 2018, of these 14% were under 19 years old, and 35% were aged between 20 and 29 years old (a).
- At the rates for the Victorian Aboriginal population identified in the most recent National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, in 2018:
  - 23,457 (39.5%) Aboriginal Victorians used substances
  - 6,413 (10.8%) has exceeded lifetime risk guidelines for alcohol consumption (b)
- Analysis commissioned by DHHS in 2017 offers a number of insights (c), including:
  - Utilisation of services has remained steady since 2013, whilst the population has growth significantly.
  - 43% of Aboriginal clients accessed an alcohol and drug service via an Indigenous organisation (57% with mainstream service)
  - 50% of young people accessed youth specific services in 2017
  - Primary drugs of concern are alcohol (31% of clients), cannabinoids (31.5%) and amphetamines (37%)
  - Service utilisation varies significantly across local government areas – Mildura, Greater Shepparton, Campaspe and Darebin have high numbers, and Frankston, Melton and Yarra Ranges are significantly lower.
- Methamphetamine use by Aboriginal people in is higher among Aboriginal people, and users tend to be younger than non-Aboriginal people, with several studies identifying an increase in use (d)

Drivers of change

- Anecdotal evidence from the department suggests that service usage data may not be the best indicator of service demand, due to gaps in service delivery.
- Analysis commissioned by DHHS in 2017 identified gaps that will likely influence future investment, including:
  - A lack of Aboriginal-specific AOD services in the outer south eastern corridor of Frankston, Mornington Peninsula, Casey, Cardinia and Greater Dandenong.
  - The West Division receives the lowest investment by DHHS in Aboriginal-specific AOD services, despite having the highest population.
  - In 2017 no Aboriginal-specific youth AOD programs were funded by the Victorian or Federal government (except for one residential rehabilitation facility)
- The Commonwealth Government and Primary Health Networks also provide time limited funding for Aboriginal-specific AOD programs
- The *Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023* acknowledges the need for specialist drug and alcohol treatment services for Aboriginal Victorians
- The Royal Commission into Mental Health seeks to improve support for those in the Victorian community who are living with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and problematic drug and alcohol use.

a) https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/alcohol-other-drug-treatment-services/aodts-2016-17-data-visualisations/contents/data-cubes
b) NATSISS 2015
c) Frizzell, J, December 2017, Aboriginal Alcohol and Other Drug and Mental Health Mapping Project, prepared for DHHS
d) Snijder M, Kershaw S. (2019). Review of methamphetamine use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Australian Indigenous HealthBulletin 19(3)

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We are using data related to substance and alcohol use to estimate demand for AOD services

Data identified	Source	Level	Accessed
Substance and alcohol use (estimation at state-level)	NATSISS	Vic	Accessed
Number of clients of drug and alcohol services	Balit Murrup report	LGA	Accessed
Hospital presentations for alcohol-related injuries	Vic Govt Aboriginal Affairs report	Vic	Accessed
• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander access to AOD services (Adults by LGA or DHHS region) by age groups • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander presentations to hospital related to alcohol and drugs (Adults by LGA or DHHS region)	DHHS	LGA	Request completed too late to consider
AOD - Number of Aboriginal young people (under 25) accessing AOD services	Balik Murrup	Vic	Accessed
AOD - Number of closed treatment episodes to Aboriginal young people (10yo – 24yo) (2015)	AIHW	Vic	Accessed
Closed Treatment Episodes – All ages	AIHW (from the AOD National Minimum Dataset) Please note the Report on Government Services states that the majority of primary healthcare services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians that are funded by the Australian government do not report to the Alcohol and Other Drugs National Minimum Dataset	Vic	Accessed

Data selected

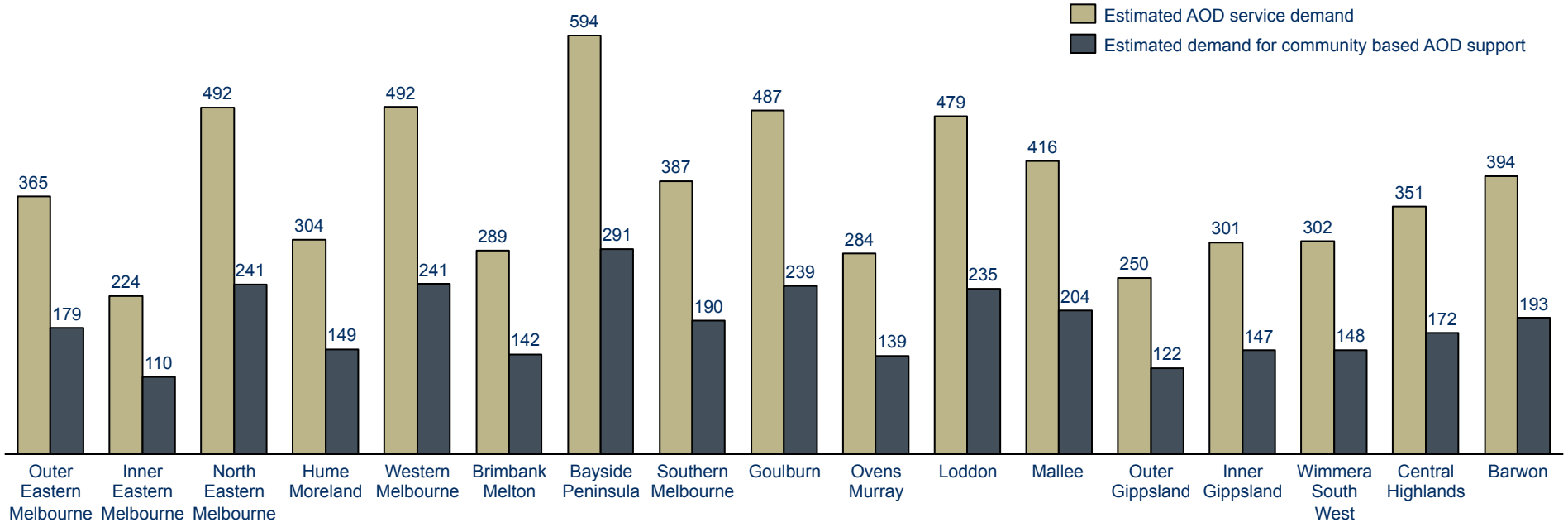
The model currently projects the demand for Alcohol and other drug (AOD) services using an estimate of demand that is the proportion of Aboriginal people in Victoria that exceed lifetime risks guidelines for alcohol usage, and applying this proportion at the level of DHHS area. This proxy has been selected due to a lack of available data in this sector, but will be reviewed as data requests are completed. We will work with Taylor Fry to select the best available data. When we received the data we will consider the best approach for including this information, the options will be:

- Replacing the data in model with the service usage data
- Using both sets of data in the model to enable comparison of demand estimate and service usage (could enable identification of service gaps depending on the quality of the data)

SVA Consulting

We estimate that there are 6,500 Aboriginal people in need of AOD services in Victoria, and half who may access community based support

AOD: Current estimated demand (individuals) by DHHS region (2018)



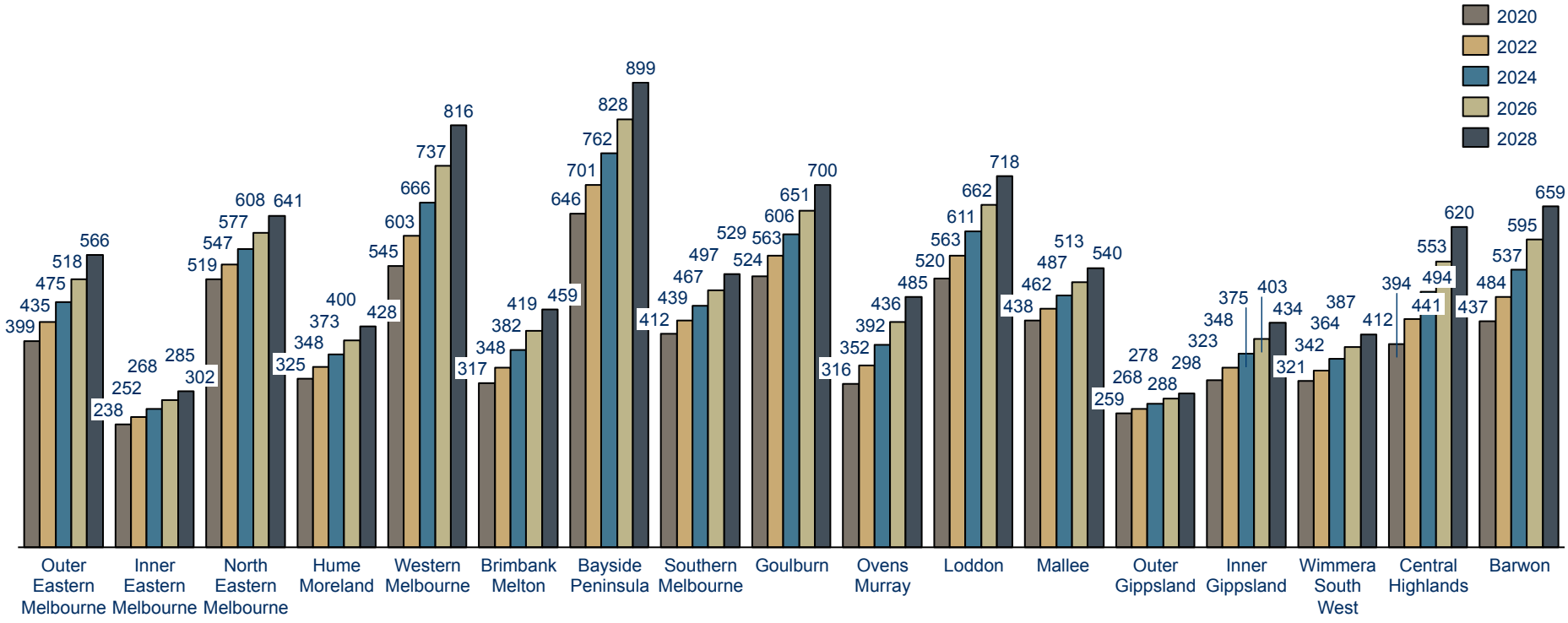
Assumption and notes:

- Population growth projection - Scenario 2 (complex) and assumes no additional growth (in addition to population growth)
- The model currently projects the demand for Alcohol and other drug (AOD) services using an estimate of demand that is the proportion of Aboriginal people in Victoria that exceed lifetime risks guidelines for alcohol usage and applying this proportion at the level of DHHS area.
- The estimated demand for community based AOD services is based on service utilisation data (a) that identifies 49% of AOD service users receive counselling and case management (services typically delivered by organisations operating within the community). This assumption was tested and approved by the Victorian Drug and Alcohol Association (VAADA)

a) Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Alcohol and Drug Treatment Services in Australia 2016 - 2017, Figure 5.5

In line with Aboriginal population growth, we project that almost 10,000 Aboriginal people will need AOD support services in 10 years

AOD: Projected demand (individuals) – All service types (including clinical and residential), by DHHS region (2020-2028F)



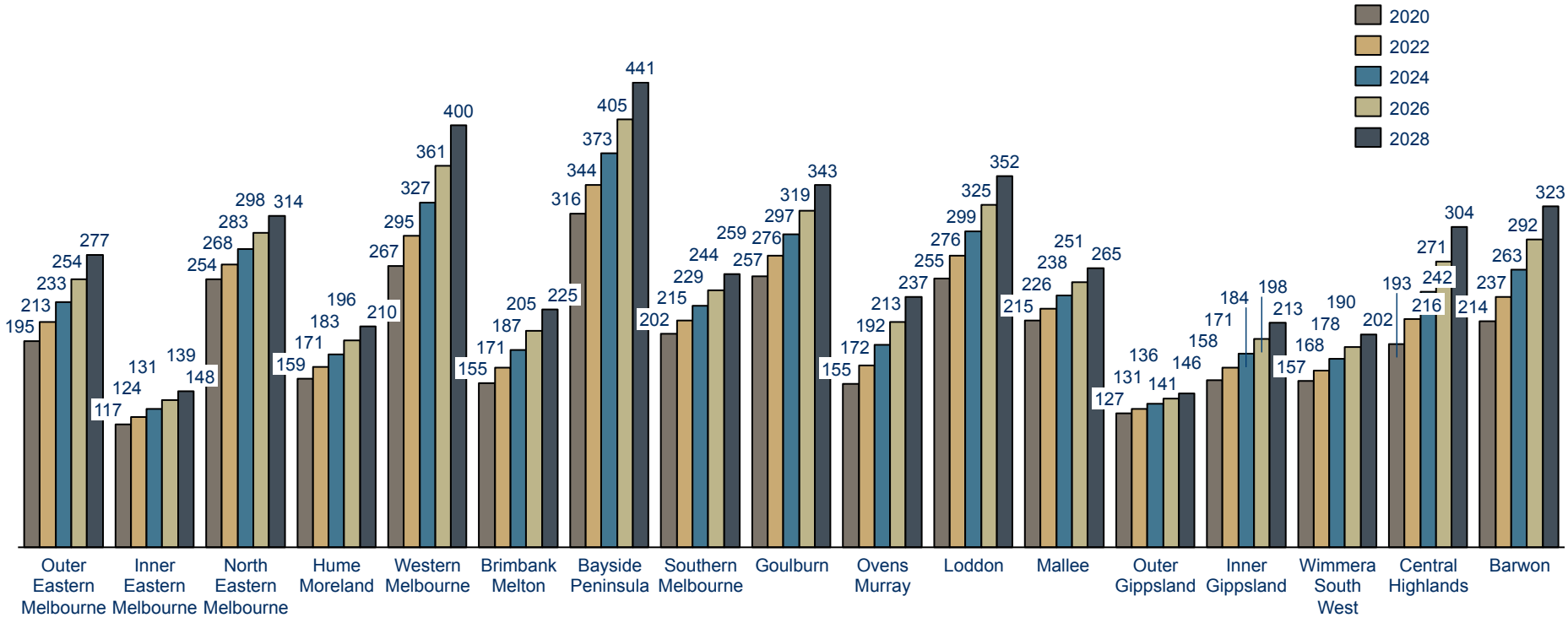
Assumption and notes:

- This projection uses population growth scenario 2 (complex) and assumes no additional growth (in addition to population growth)
- The model currently projects the demand for Alcohol and other drug (AOD) services using an estimate of demand that is the proportion of Aboriginal people in Victoria that exceed lifetime risks guidelines for alcohol usage, and applying this proportion at the level of DHHS area.

SVA Consulting

We expect that 4,600 Aboriginal people will access AOD support services in a community organisation context

AOD: Projected demand (individuals) – Community organisation support services, by DHHS region (2020-2028F)



Assumption and notes:

- This projection uses population growth scenario 2 (complex) and assumes no additional growth (in addition to population growth)
- The model currently projects the demand for Alcohol and other drug (AOD) services using an estimate of demand that is the proportion of Aboriginal people in Victoria that exceed lifetime risks guidelines for alcohol usage, and applying this proportion at the level of DHHS area.

SVA Consulting

Many regions have an ACCO delivering some form of AOD service, but not enough to meet demand

	ACCOs delivering AOD services
Outer Eastern Melbourne	VACCA
Inner Eastern Melbourne	VAHS
North Eastern Melbourne	Bubup Wilam
Hume Moreland	
Western Melbourne	VAHS
Brimbank Melton	
Bayside Peninsula	Ngwala Willumbong Cooperative
Southern Melbourne	Ngwala Willumbong Cooperative
Goulburn	Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd
Ovens Murray	Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service
Loddon	Njernda Aboriginal Corporation Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative
Mallee	Mallee District Aboriginal Services
Outer Gippsland	Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative Lake Tyers Health and Children's Service
Inner Gippsland	Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative
Wimmera South West	Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative Ltd (Warrnambool)
Central Highlands	Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative
Barwon	Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative

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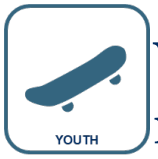

We have also gained insights that our understanding of the drivers of need and change in the youth sector

Insights

- There were 8,967 Aboriginal young people (aged between 15-24) in Victoria in 2016. 4,622 were studying, 3,759 were employed and 1,833 were not in employment, education and training (average of 21% across the state but higher in regional areas). Of those not in employment, education or training were female, 418 were women with at least one child (a)
- There were 132 Aboriginal children under youth justice supervision (in detention and on community-based orders) on an average day in 2016-17 (b).
- Department of Justice and Community Safety reports that between July and December 2018 71 Aboriginal young people were in youth justice detention, 101 received community orders, 247 were supported in the community through the Community Based Koori Youth Justice Diversion program, and 85 supported in Koori Bail and Post Release program (c)
- Disengagement from employment and education increase the risk of an individual committing an offence and being involved in the justice system, and that Aboriginal young people tend to become involved in the criminal justice system younger than non-Aboriginal young people, and with increasing frequency (d)
- A complex relationship exists between child removal, criminal offending and ongoing engagement with the justice system, with 38 per cent of Aboriginal children sentenced or diverted in 2016 and 2017 had been the subject of a child protection report (e)
- Higher than non-Aboriginal reoffending rates contribute significantly to the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and adults in the justice system, requiring effective early intervention, prevention and diversion programs to reduce this in the future (f)

Drivers of change

- The increasing number of children in out of home care, places a growing number of Aboriginal young people at-risk of offending.
- Taskforce 250 is currently examining the cases of 250 young people, and seeks to identify and address structural causes of the overrepresentation of Aboriginal young people in the justice system.
- Burra Lotjpa Dunguludja Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement Phase 4 sets targets for reducing the number of Aboriginal young people in the justice system, including reducing number of young people under supervision (d). Opportunities identified for the next five years include:
  - Designing and delivering approaches that integrate family services reform including Aboriginal child protection and out-of-home care, family violence support and safety hubs
  - Support successful evidenced based prevention programs delivered by ACCOs
  - Expand Koori Youth Justice program
  - Work with ACCOs to build support for the Work and Development Permit Scheme
- A new Aboriginal youth justice strategy is under development, with calls from the Koori Youth Council for systemic changes, more effective services and community-led solutions (g)

a) ABS Census 2016
b) AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2018, Youth justice in Australia 2016-17, Cat. No. JUV 116, Canberra: AIHW; State and Territory governments (unpublished).
c) Vic Government Department of Justice and Safety, Aboriginal Justice Forum, March 2019
d) Victorian Government, Burra Lotjpa Dunguludja, Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement Phase 4
e) Sentencing Advisory Council (2019) Crossover kids: Vulnerable children in the youth justice system
f) https://www.aboriginaljustice.vic.gov.au/the-agreementaboriginal-over-representation-in-the-justice-system/aboriginal-cohorts-under-justice
g) Koorie Youth Council (2019) Ngaga-Dji (Hear me) Young Voices Creating Change for Justice

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SVA Consulting

We made a decision to use two indicators to estimate demand for youth services – *young people not in employment, education and training* and *young people engaged in justice system in Victoria*

Data identified	Source	Level	Accessed
Number of Aboriginal young people not in employment, education and training (14 – 24 years)	Census	LGA	Accessed
Number of young people supervised in the community and in detention centres	Crime Statistics Agency	Vic	Accessed
Number of Aboriginal children and young people in youth justice detention (July – December 2018)	Aboriginal Justice Forum	Department of Justice regions	Accessed
Number of Aboriginal children and young people who received a community order (July – December 2018)	Aboriginal Youth Justice Forum	Department of Justice regions	Accessed
Number of Aboriginal children in Koori Youth Justice programs – Diversion and Post Bail and Release (July – December 2018)	Aboriginal Youth Justice Forum	Department of Justice regions	Accessed

Data selected

The following data has been selected to be used to estimate demand for youth engagement and youth justice services:

- Youth engagement
  - The number of Aboriginal young people not in employment, education and training (15-24).
- Youth justice
  - Sum of young people in detention, in receipt of community order and in a Koori Youth Justice program in each Department of Justice area, using statistical analysis recommended by Taylor Fry to disaggregate into DHHS areas (using population statistics and SEIFA). As this data is only for 6 months, it has been adjusted to estimate a full year (multiplied by 1.5 assuming that half of the young people will remain in the service for longer than 6 months)

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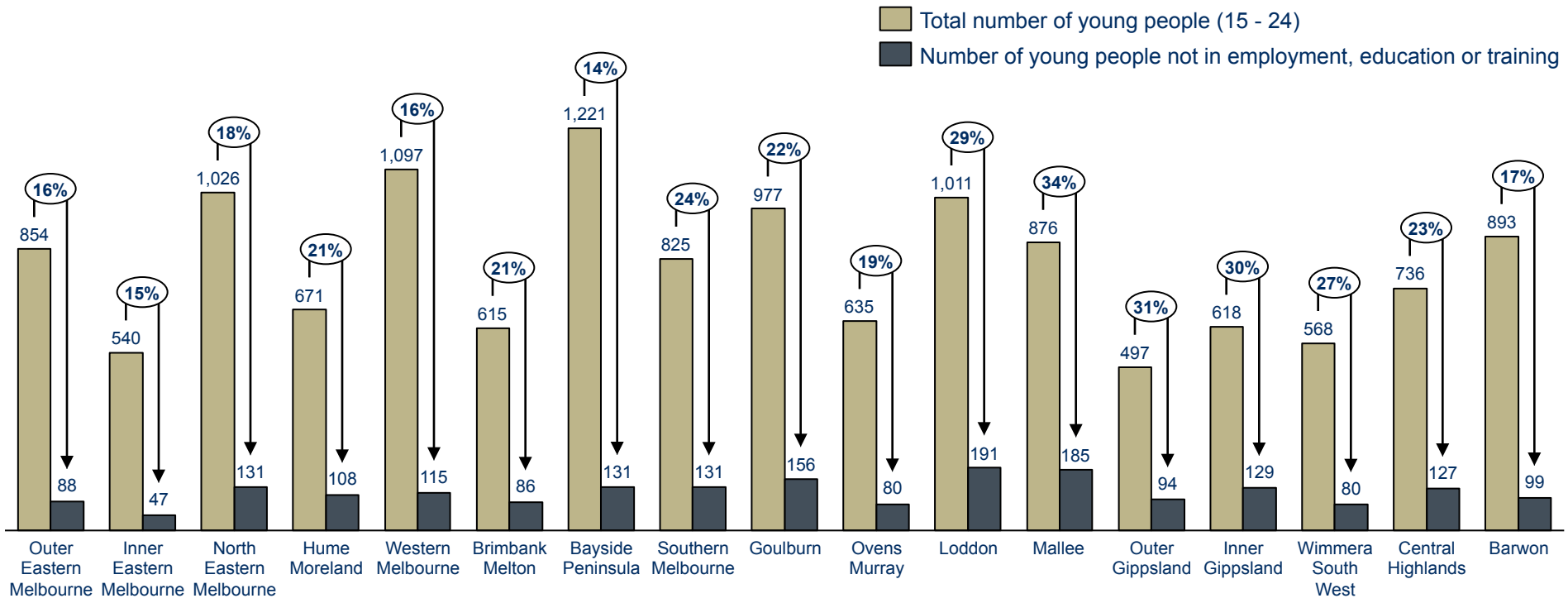
We estimate that 2,300 young people require support in helping engage in education, employment or training

Youth (Engagement) Current estimated demand (individuals) & by DHHS region (2018)

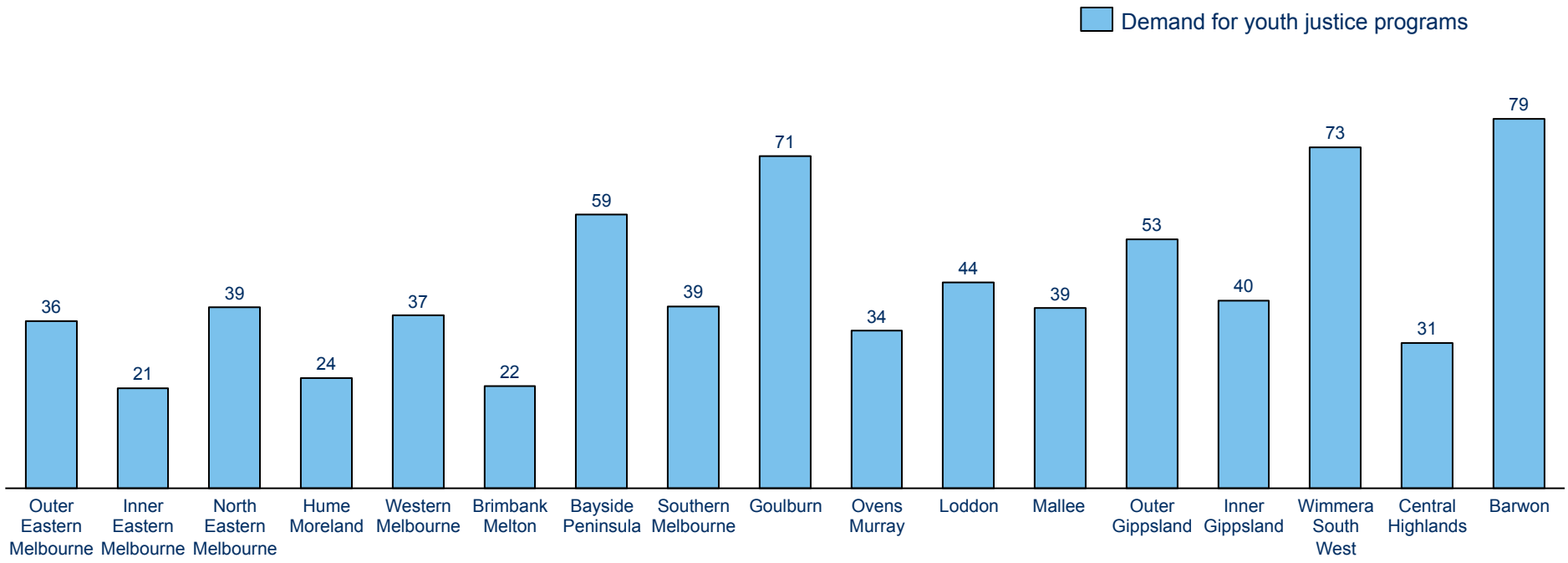


Assumption and notes:

- Population growth projection - Scenario 2 (complex) assumes no additional growth (in addition to population growth)
- The projection uses the number of Aboriginal young people not in employment, education and training (15-24)
- These numbers have not been adjusted by 15.8%

We estimate that the approx. 600 Aboriginal young people exposed to the youth justice system require more intensive support to reduce recidivism

Youth (Justice): Current estimated demand (individuals) by DHHS region
(2018)



Assumption and notes:
- Population growth projection - Scenario 2 (complex) and assumes no additional growth (in addition to population growth)
- The projection uses data of Aboriginal young people in detention, in receipt of community order and in a Koori Youth Justice program in each Department of Justice area, using statistical analysis recommended by Taylor Fry to disaggregate into DHHS areas (using population statistics and SEIFA). As this data is only for 6 months, it has been adjusted to estimate a full year (multiplied by 1.5 assuming that half of the young people will remain in the service for longer than 6 months)

A number of ACCOs work in this space, however, the majority of services are delivered by mainstream (youth) agencies

	ACCOs delivering services for young people
Outer Eastern Melbourne	Healesville Indigenous Community Services Association
Inner Eastern Melbourne	
North Eastern Melbourne	VACCA Bert Willams Aboriginal Youth Services (BWAYS)
Hume Moreland	VACCA Bert Willams Aboriginal Youth Services (BWAYS)
Western Melbourne	Bert Willams Aboriginal Youth Services (BWAYS)
Brimbank Melton	Bert Willams Aboriginal Youth Services (BWAYS)
Bayside Peninsula	Ngwala Willumbong Cooperative Dandenong and District Aborigines Co-operative VACCA
Southern Melbourne	Dandenong and District Aborigines Co-operative Ngwala Willumbong Cooperative Doveton Gathering Place Willum Warrain Gathering Place VACCA
Goulburn	Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative Ltd
Ovens Murray	
Loddon	
Mallee	Mallee District Aboriginal Services
Outer Gippsland	Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative
Inner Gippsland	VACCA
Wimmera South West	Dhauwurd Wurrung Elderly and Community Health Service (Portland)
Central Highlands	
Barwon	Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative

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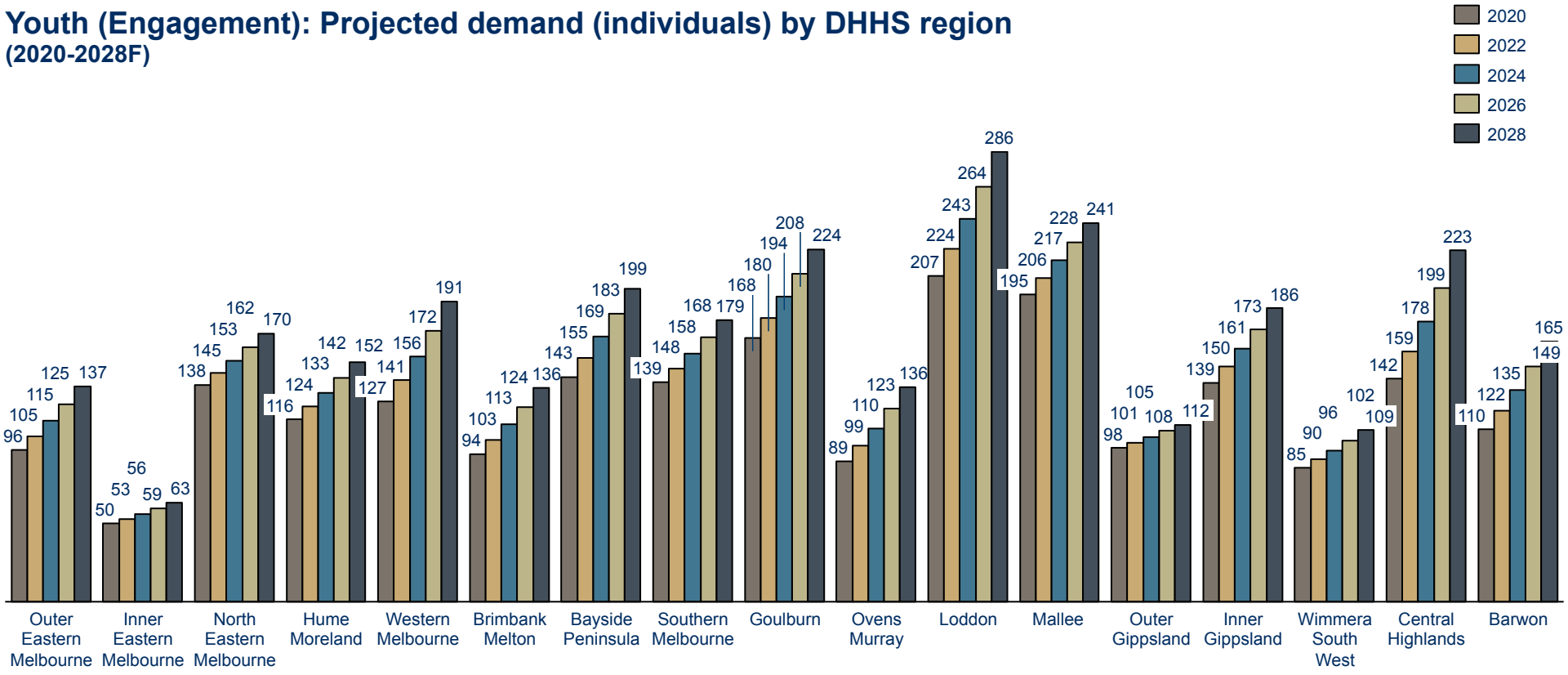
YOUTH

By 2028, ~3,000 Aboriginal young people under 24 will be not engaged in education, employment or training, and could benefit from support to increase the likelihood of engagement

Youth (Engagement): Projected demand (individuals) by DHHS region
(2020-2028F)



Assumption and notes:
- Population growth projection - Scenario 2 (complex) and assumes no additional growth (in addition to population growth)
- The projection uses the number of Aboriginal young people not in employment, education and training (15-24)

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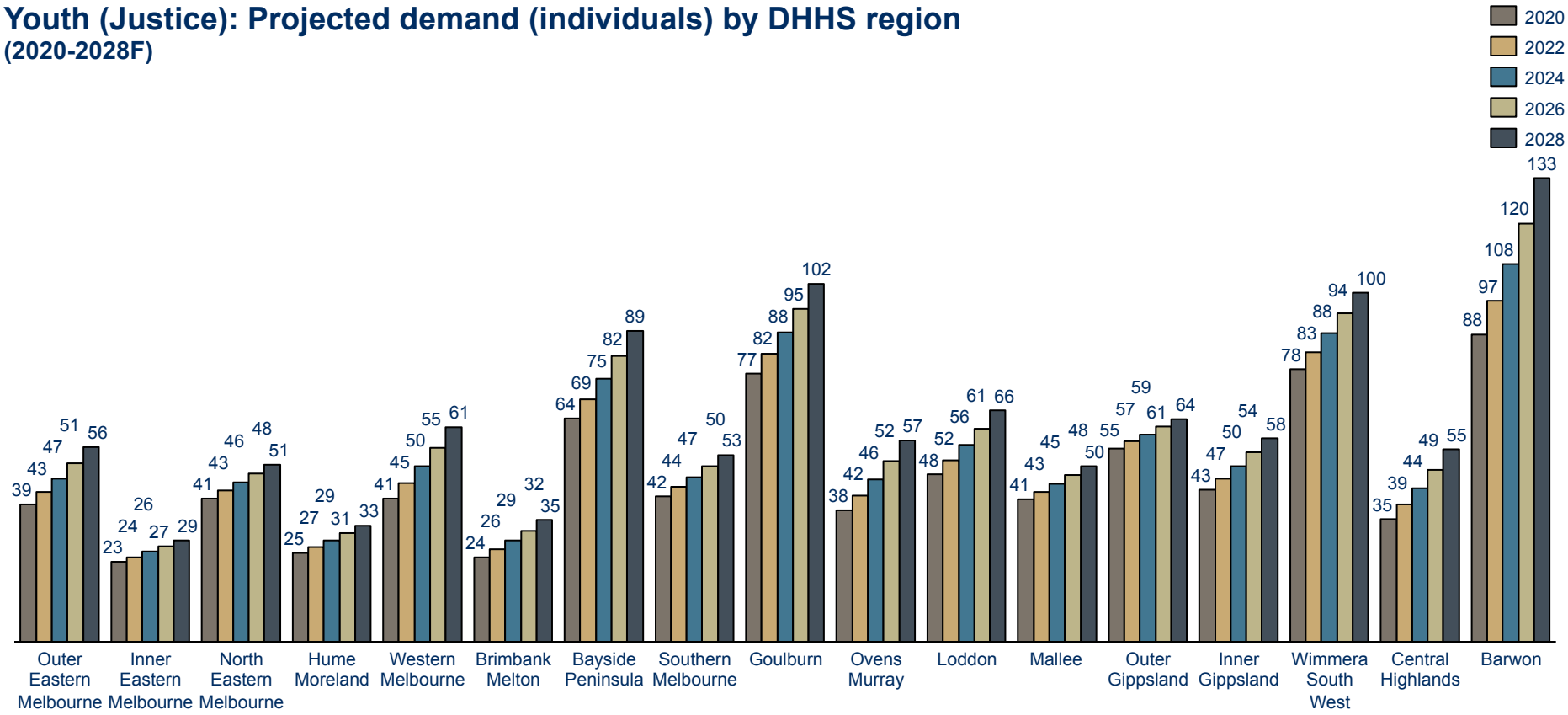
At current rates, by 2028 approximately 1,000 young Aboriginal people under 18 will be involved with the youth justice system during the year

Youth (Justice): Projected demand (individuals) by DHHS region
(2020-2028F)



Assumption and notes:

- Population growth projection - Scenario 2 (complex) and assumes no additional growth (in addition to population growth)
- The projection uses data of Aboriginal young people in detention, in receipt of community order and in a Koori Youth Justice program in each Department of Justice area, using statistical analysis recommended by Taylor Fry to disaggregate into DHHS areas (using population statistics and SEIFA). As this data is only for 6 months, it has been adjusted to estimate a full year (multiplied by 1.5 assuming that half of the young people will remain in the service for longer than 6 months)