

Gaps in cancer information and support

Survey of women rural consumers and service providers

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Acknowledgements

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Overview

- Project Background
- Cancer Context
- Methods
- Focus Groups /Surveys/Roundtable
- Conclusions
- Recommendations

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Project background

- Needs analysis funded by Victorian Dept of Health and Human Services in 2015
- Aim – identify potential service improvements with a focus on developing a sustainable and transferable model of information and support for women living with cancer in rural and regional Victoria

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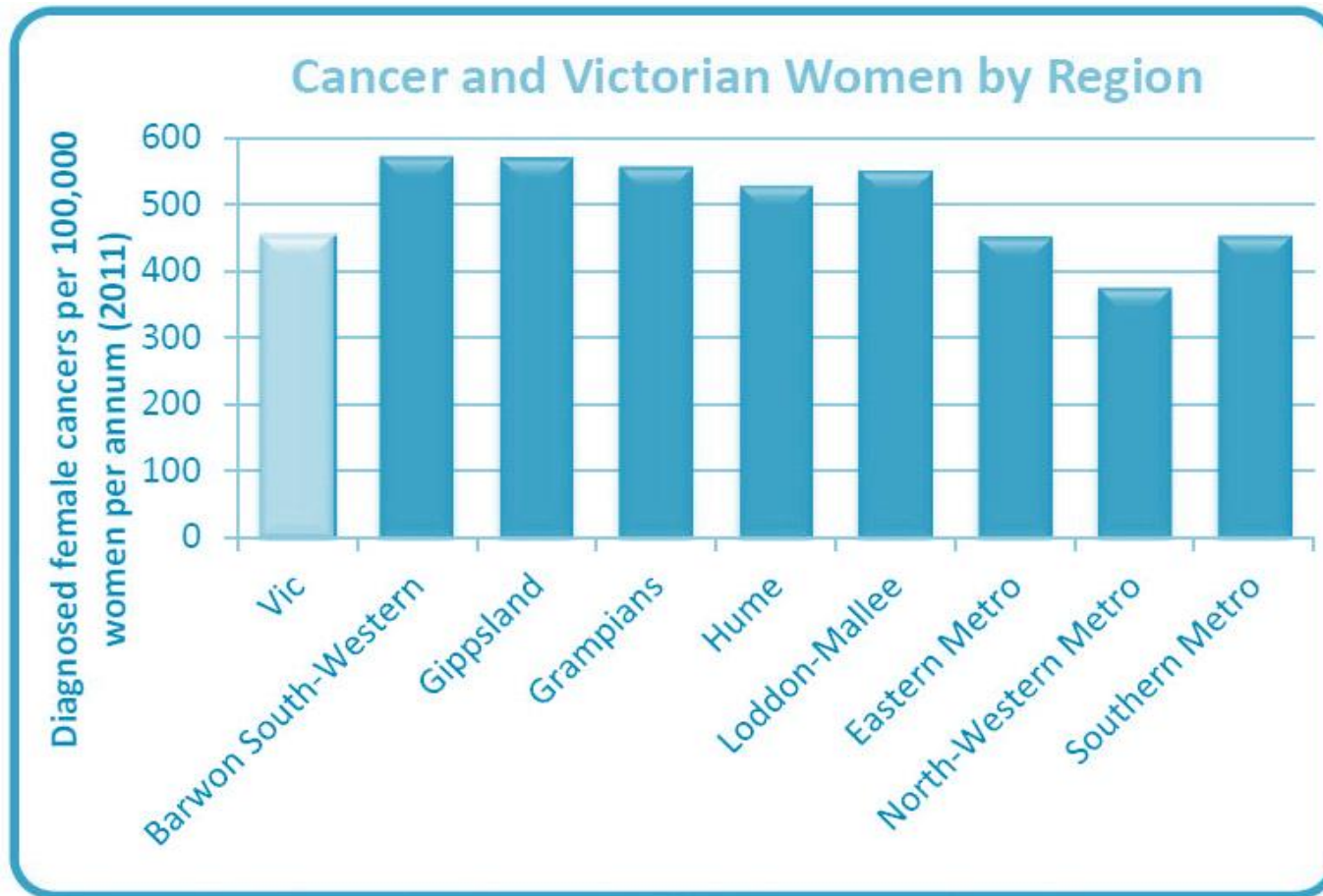


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Cancer Context



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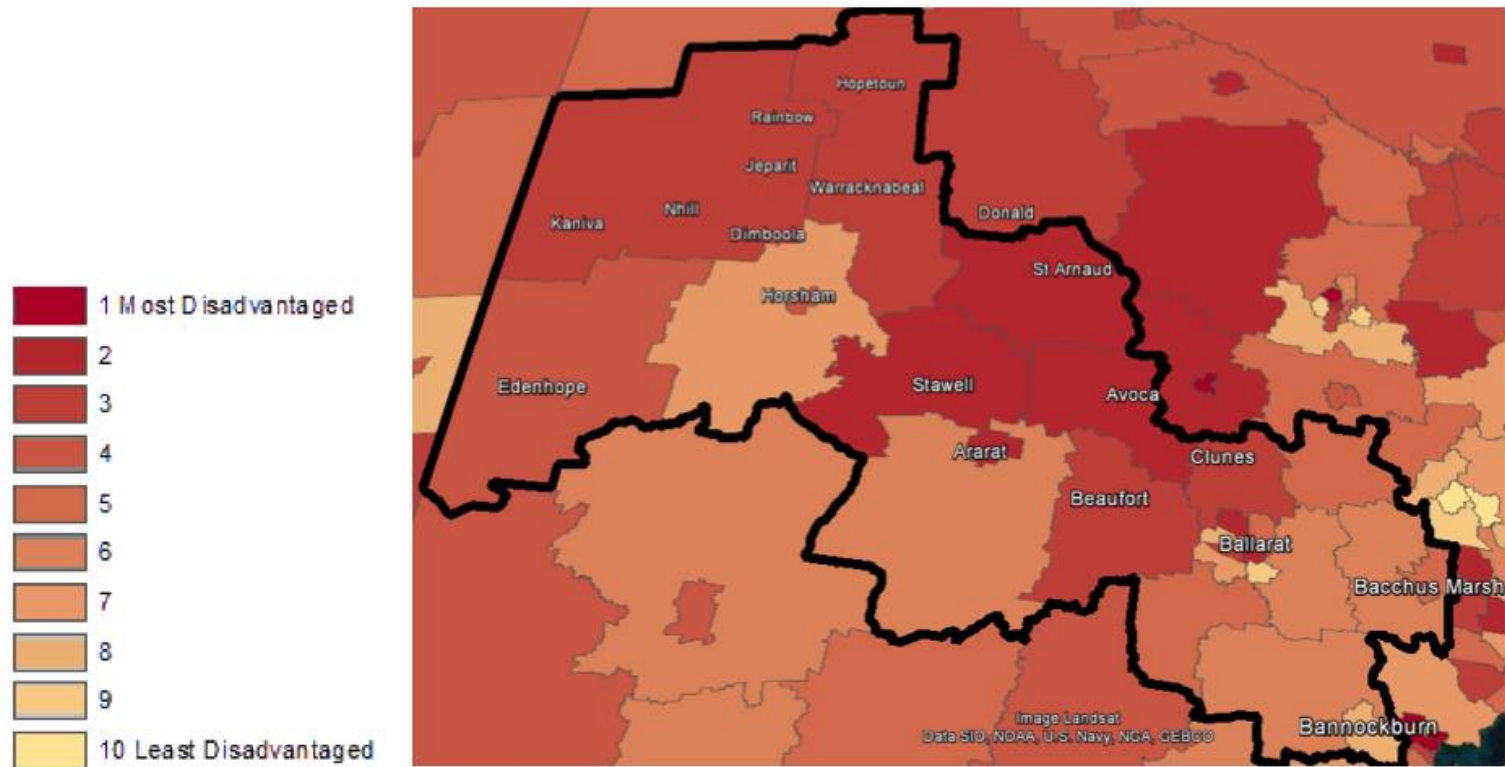


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Regional context

Grampians Region - Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage



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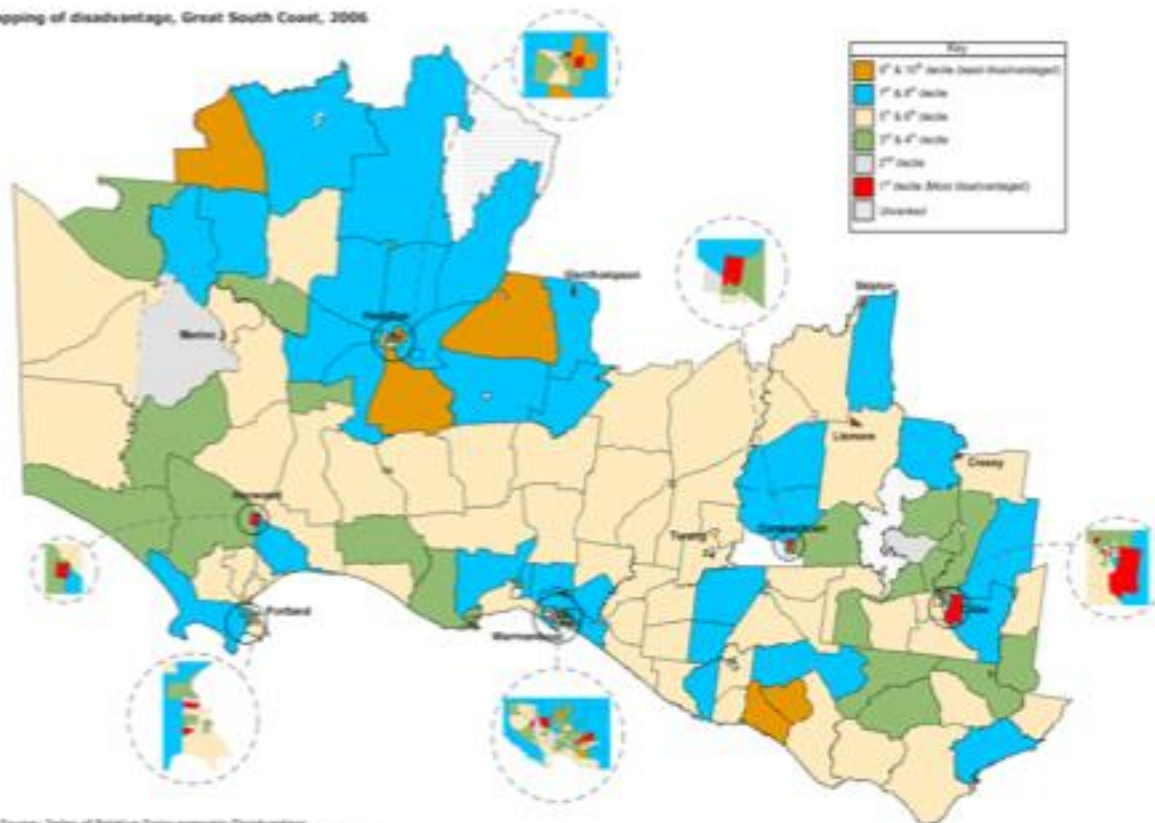
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Regional context (cont'd)

Mapping of disadvantage, Great South Coast, 2006



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Methods

Community consultation				Community Collaboration
Scoping Interviews N = 6	Focus Groups Attendees N = 42	Consumer Survey N = 130	GICS Cancer Conversations with consumers	Round Table Luncheons with consumer and service providers N = 54
		Service Provider Survey N = 170		

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Surveys

Consumer demographics – n=130

- 81% over the age of 50 (39% 65+)
- 56% have a Health Care Card
- 31% achieved Primary School attainment and some High School
- 75% Breast Cancer
- 25% Other (6% ovary, 4% bowel & 15% other)
- 70% 1-5 years since diagnosis (1-2 years 23%)
- 45% received treatment in a public hospital, 25% private, 29% a combination, Unsure 1%
- 25% of respondents travelled more than 100 km for treatment.

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Surveys continued

Service provider demographics – n=170

- 64 % GPs (n116)
- 36% other (surgeons/oncologists/cancer nurses/nurses/social workers)

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Roundtables

- Share findings
- Seek feedback
- Develop recommendations and prioritise

Attendance:

- Consumer n=32
- Service providers n=20

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Information topics (importance and satisfaction)

Top 8 topics rated highly important	Quite a bit/ very important	Quite a bit /very satisfied
Cancer Type	94%	78%
Treatment	96%	81%
Immediate side effects	89%	70%
Long-term side effects	88%	57%
Emotional and psychological support	81%	51%
Communicating with family and friends	76%	50%
Support for family & friends	73%	46%
Cancer support organisations	72%	65%
Exercise	72%	54%

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Support (importance and satisfaction)

	Quite a bit/very important	Quite a bit /very satisfied
Physical needs	80%	65%
Psychological needs	80%	54%
Social needs	79%	44%
Spiritual needs	49%	47%

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Top 7 sources for receiving valuable information

Source	Proportion (%)
Surgeon	78.57%
Oncologist	76.38%
Cancer Nurse	72.13%
Nurse	61.74%
GP	55.74%
Radiologist	46.77%
Cancer support organisations	44.44%

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Service provider response to top consumer topics

Common topics	Other service providers		GP	
	Not part of my role	I don't provide this information	Not part of my role	I don't provide this information
Child care	39%	33%	37%	18%
Financial support and entitlements	31%	14%	26%	37%
Complementary therapies	26%	19%	39%	12%
Spirituality or religion	35%	25%	37%	19%
Peer support	19%	17%	23%	5%



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BSWRICS
Barwon South Western Regional
Integrated Cancer Service



**Grampians Integrated
Cancer Service (GICS)**



Service provider perception of role

Statements from the survey		Both GPs & other service providers	GPs only	Other service providers
I am the right person to:	Provide information for many topics	68%	71%	70%
	Inform about support services	85%	87%	79%
I have time to:	Provide women with information	74%	77%	79%
	Inform about support services	78%	73%	77%
I would like to be better informed:	About some topics so I can provide women with the information	76%	80%	66%
	About where women can go to obtain more information & access support services	77%	83%	68%

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Service provider perception of availability

Perceived availability of support from the perception of service providers

	Low availability	High availability
Psychological needs	40.72%	11.98%
Spiritual needs	42.17%	30.12%
Physical needs	21.34%	66.46%
Social needs	41.32%	47.90%

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Correlations: consumers and service providers

	GP	Other service providers
Low satisfaction topics for consumers	Don't provide info about this topic	Don't provide info about this topic
Child care	55%	71%
Fertility	17%	39%
Financial support and entitlements	63%	45%
Complementary therapies	51%	45%
Spirituality or religion	55%	49%
Peer support	28%	36%

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Conclusions

- Reiterated high unmet need in emotional and psychological support
- Peer support options identified as important
- Variations across tumour streams
- Correlation between consumer and service provider responses
- While none of these could be described as surprising it is important to note that despite the sector's awareness of these issues, there continue to be gaps in and barriers to accessing information in these areas.

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Recommendations

- Broaden access to peer support options for women with cancer in rural and regional areas;
- Collaborate with general practice to raise awareness of the information and support needs of patients diagnosed with cancer;
- Increase awareness of state-wide cancer support websites (either existing or in the process of development) by improved promotion of these initiatives;
- Identify opportunities for the provision of local information hubs where they do not exist; and
- Provide education (regular and targeted) for service providers about non-clinical issues for people diagnosed with cancer.

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Questions?

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