

VHA - Rural Health Conference



Rural Health Policy

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The context

- Bushfires drought
- Economic crisis
- Federal agenda
- Federal and State elections
- Victorian upper house hospital enquiry

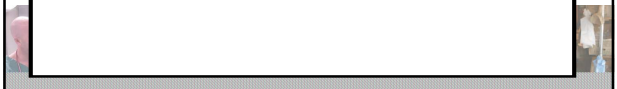
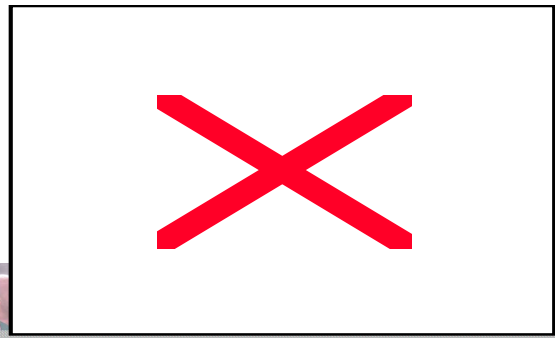


Today's reality

- Demographic changes/aging population/chronic disease
- AVOIDABLE disease

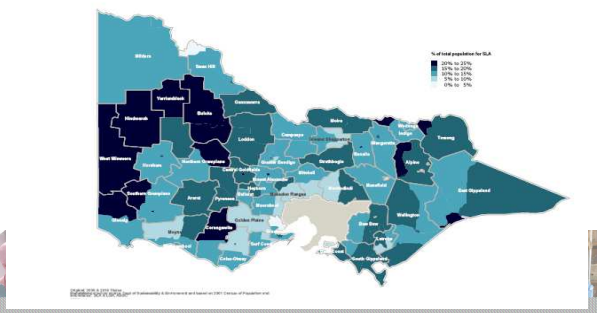


Population change projections 2001-2031



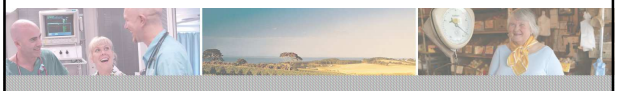
Aged Population profile projection

Map 4: Projected population aged 70 or more – 2016



Today's reality

- Demographic changes/aging population/chronic disease
- Maintaining quality and services with available workforce
- Increasing costs and changing technology
- Managing rising community expectation
- Demand and access



Rural directions for a better state of health

- Released 2005
- Discussion paper 2007
- Update 2009



Policy Objectives

- ✓ Supports good health as well as treatment of illness
- ✓ Patient focussed
- ✓ **Coordinated within areas, with collaboration between services and providers**
- ✓ Emphasis on primary health and care in the community
- ✓ Flexible ... to respond to the diversity of care needs



Maternity services

- 43 health services providing birthing services in rural Victoria
- 85 percent rural births occur in the 17 largest services (81 percent in 2000; 75 percent in 1993)



Summary

- Complex environment
- Rural health services – resilient and innovative
- Policy – planned and developed as a system; locally connected and coordinated; supporting wellness and treatment

