

Access to Justice in the Goulburn Valley



ON THE PATH TO SECURING A
COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE
IN THE
GOULBURN VALLEY REGION

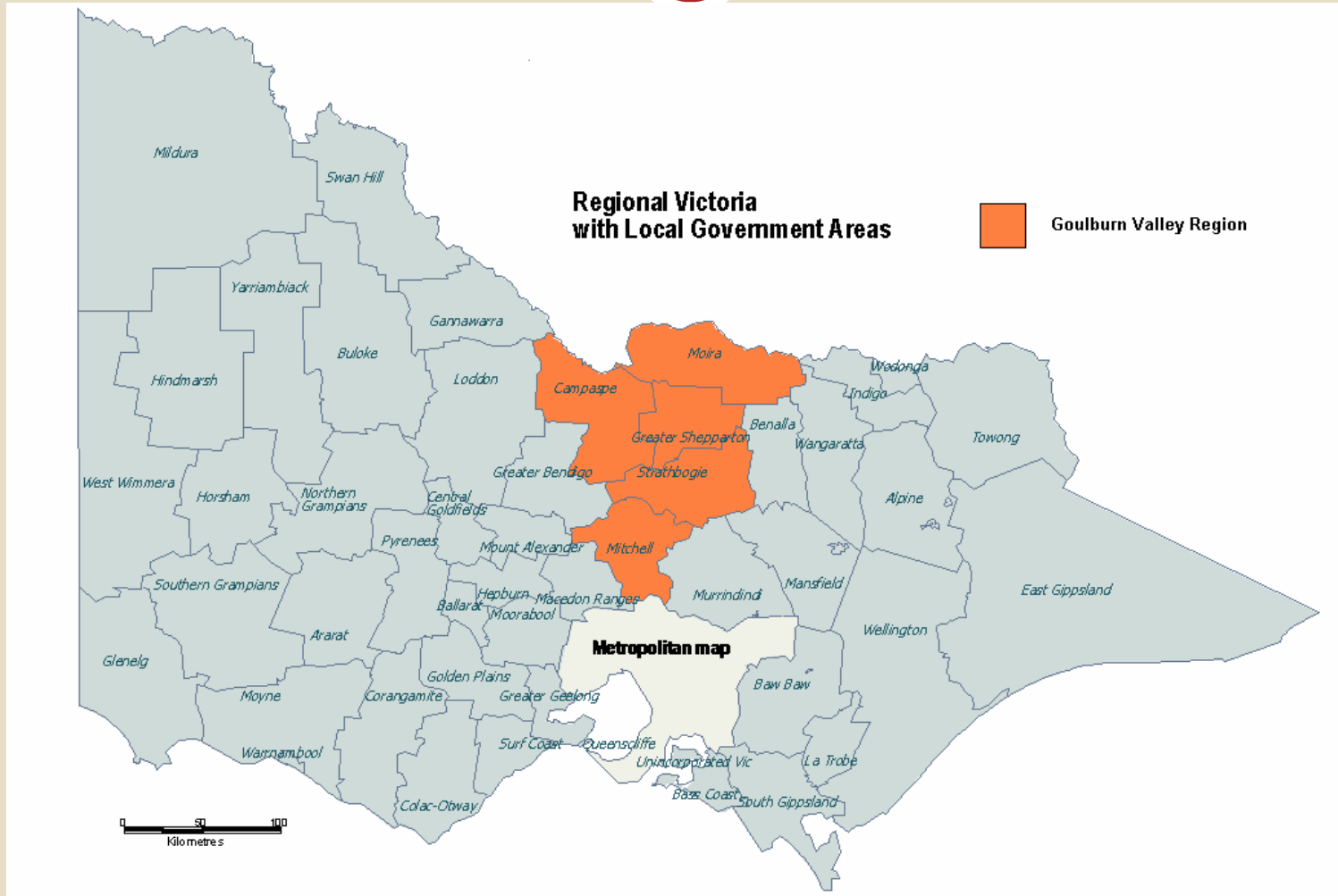


Goulburn Valley Region Community Legal Centre



- State and federal governments have articulated their support for establishing CLC's in areas of need and disadvantage
- High level of entrenched socio-economic disadvantage in local geographic communities in the Goulburn Valley region.
- Further supported by: A research report demonstrating the need for a Goulburn Valley Region Community Legal Centre *“Access to Justice in the Goulburn Valley”* (Aug 2009)

Goulburn Valley Region Community Legal Centre



Goulburn Valley Region Community Legal Centre



- **\$400,000 required annually**
 - Principal Lawyer
 - Community Development and Legal Education Worker
 - Indigenous and Multicultural Liaison Worker
 - Administration Support
 - Transport and Telecommunications
 - Accommodation Costs: rent and utilities
- **Start-up costs to create welcoming space for all**
 - Office Fit Out: furniture, equipment, information displays, appropriate signage and familiar and welcoming design features for the indigenous and CALD communities

Goulburn Valley Region Community Legal Centre



- Secured pilot funding until June 2011
 - Part-time lawyer 2 days pw GV Based
 - Additional telephone support from LCCLC
 - Rental until June 2010
 - Support and buy-in
 - ✦ Greater Shepparton City Council – telephone system
 - ✦ The Bridge, Berry Street, GOTAFE and others – furniture and equipment
 - ✦ Commitment by Goulburn Valley Region Project Advisory Group
 - ✦ Volunteer interest: lawyers and community members

Goulburn Valley Region Community Legal Centre



“When we refer a client out for legal assistance, we know there are times that there’s a high chance they won’t be able to get help, particularly in civil matters.....clients sometimes have to give in rather than fight for their rights”

“I can’t refer my clients to Legal Aid in Shepparton because they can’t afford to buy and run a car, and they can’t afford public transport.”

“We need to see Koori faces there, especially at the reception area, so that they’re there when we come in. You need to have Koories working there – our people won’t come if there are no Koories working there.”

“Everyone needs to feel welcome when they visit – the place needs to give them comfort – it’s not just about being given advice and things to read. We need to feel welcome – that gives you hope, yes.”

Goulburn Valley Region Community Legal Centre



1. Salary to increase access to a lawyer 5 days per week
2. Indigenous Liaison and Multicultural Liaison
3. Community Development and Legal Education
4. Administration support
5. Welcoming features: indigenous artwork, artefacts from different cultural and religious groups
6. Action research to identify and act on legal education and social advocacy priorities: family violence and young people
7. Regional coverage: vehicle, petrol/gas, servicing
8. Promotion and marketing: culturally appropriate, different mediums