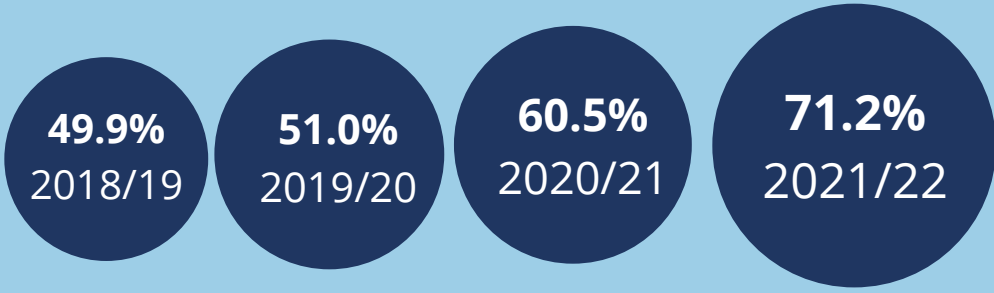




# LEGAL NEEDS ANALYSIS SNAPSHOT

# UNDERSTANDING OUR CLIENTS



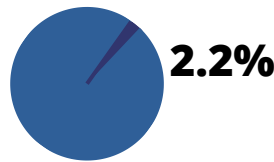
Clients who have experienced or are experiencing family violence has increased by almost a quarter (21.3%) from 2018/19 to 2021/22.

## Increase in clients experiencing family violence



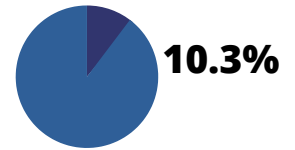
### Increase risk of Homelessness

Increase in clients experiencing or at risk of homelessness from 2018/19 to 2021/22



### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients

Percentage of clients for 2021/22. An Increase from 1.1 % in 2018/19.



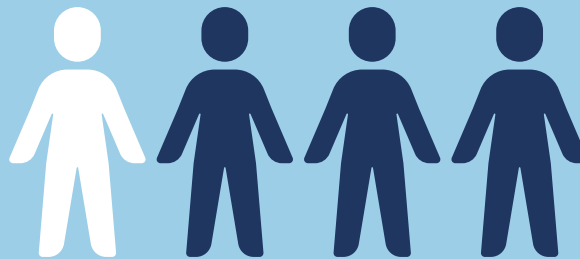
### Culturally and Linguistically Diverse clients

Percentage of clients where main language spoken at home not English for 2021/22.



### Medium Income clients

There has been a 9.5% increase in clients that earn between \$600-\$1249 per/week. Most likely due to our increase in Duty Lawyer assistance



### 1 in 4 clients living with a disability

27.4 % of clients reported living with a disability (physical or mental health condition) (2021/22)



**70.9%**  
Female identifying clients  
2021/22



**25.9%**  
Male identifying clients  
2021/22



**0.3%**  
Other Gender identifying clients  
2021/22

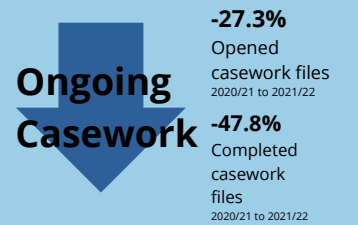
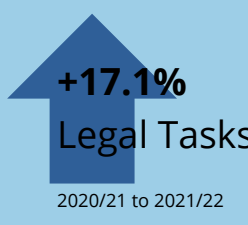
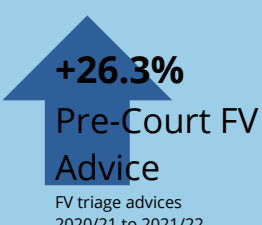
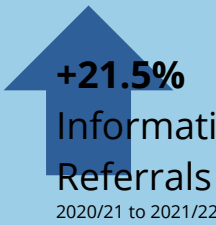
Female identifying clients and other gender identifying clients increased by 6.4% and 0.2% respectively over four financial years (2018/19 to 2021/22). Male identifying clients decreased by 9%.

**82.4%**

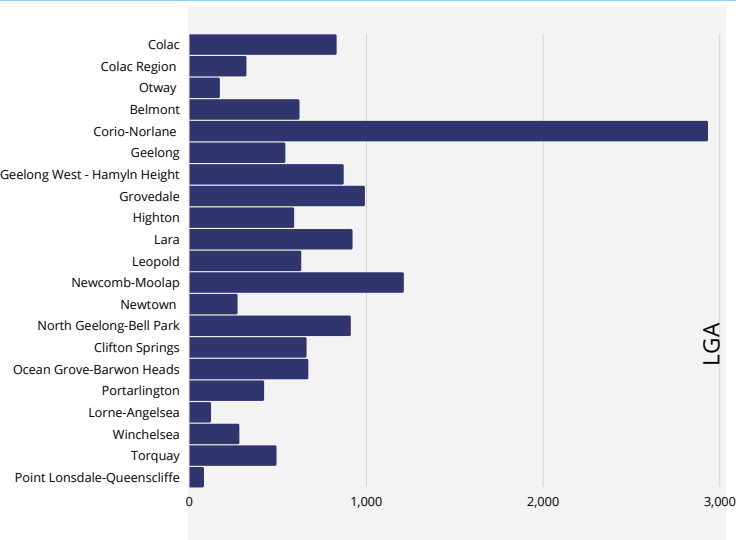
Clients experiencing financial disadvantage (2021/22)

## Increase in demand for family violence legal assistance

In the last financial year we have seen an increase demand for our duty lawyer service and pre-court family violence advice. This increased demand for our family violence related legal services has led to a decrease in both ongoing casework files opened and completed in this period.



# UNDERSTANDING OUR REGION



Population with Need for Legal Assistance (NLAS) Capability Indicator for Barwon Region  
(Law and Justice Foundation Legal Needs Dashboard based on ABS data from 2016)

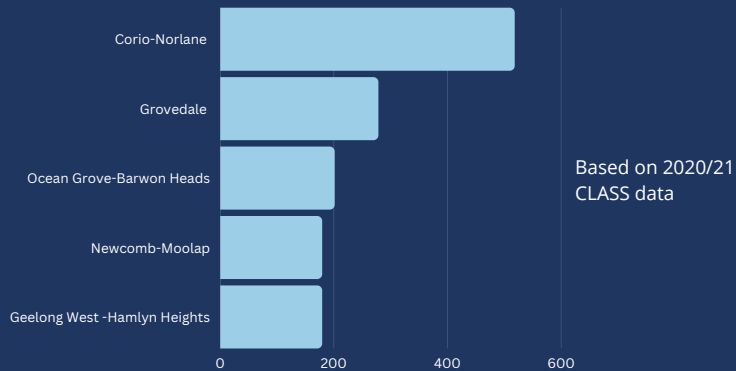
## High areas of legal need in our region

The NLAS Capability indicator is a proxy measure of legal capability for people aged 15 to 64 who have low personal income (<\$26K/yr), relatively low education and no non-school qualifications.

In the Greater Geelong region, it is estimated that the SA2 Corio-Norlane area has approximately 2,930 people with potential legal need. This is the highest level of need in our region and the 3rd highest level of legal need in Australia.

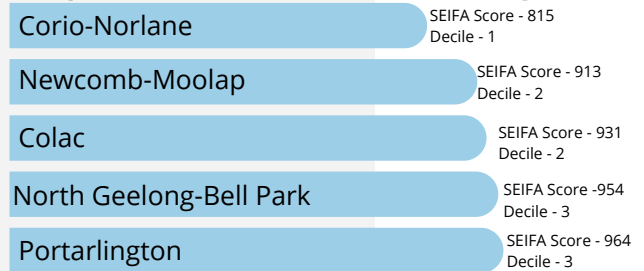
The Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) is an Australian Bureau of Statistics measure to rank areas according to relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. A lower SEIFA score indicates greater disadvantage.

## Top 5 areas receiving most BCLS services



Data shows clients from Corio-Norlane have the most legal need in our region and receive the most services from BCLS. Underserved areas include Colac and Portarlington. Both fell outside the top 10 areas receiving most services.

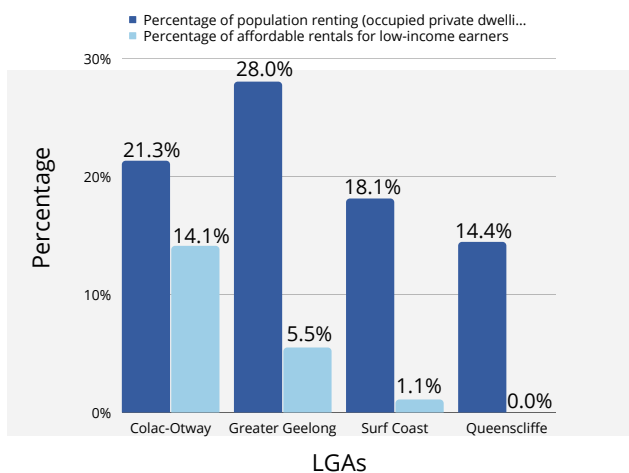
## Top 5 most disadvantaged areas



Evidence suggests that where there is disadvantage in community there are higher levels of legal need. Four of the five most disadvantaged areas in our catchment are in Greater Geelong.

Limitations with data include the fact that SEIFA Indexes are based on 2016 data. We will review revised disadvantage data in our region when it is released in 2024.

## Percentage of population renting vs. percentage of affordable rentals for low-income earners



## Housing impacts legal need

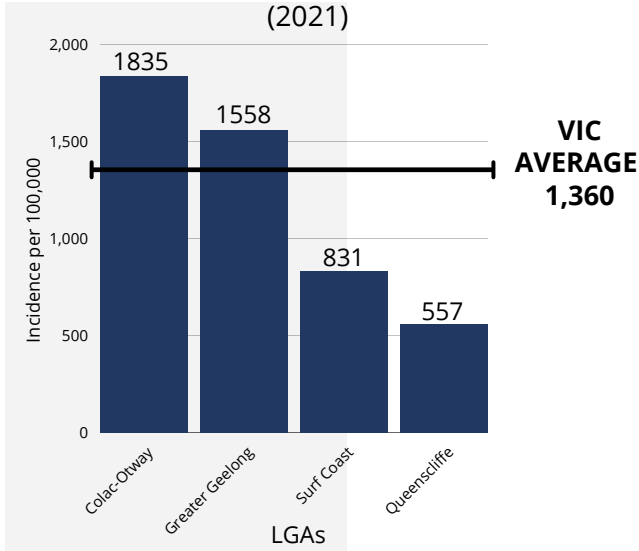
Our analysis revealed a real issue with available affordable housing in our region. Despite the significant percentage of the population who are renting, the percentage of affordable rentals for low-income earners is under 15% for all LGAs. In Greater Geelong only 5.5% of rentals are affordable for low-income earners.

We have seen the lack of affordable housing impact many of our clients experiencing family violence. Putting them at increased risk of homelessness, and experiencing other legal issues.

# UNDERSTANDING OUR REGION



Rate of Family Violence per 100,000, by LGA (2021)



## Family violence

Family violence is an indicator of potential legal need.

Colac-Otway and Greater Geelong have significantly higher incidences of family violence per 100,000, (1,835 in Colac-Otway and 1,558 Greater Geelong), when compared to the Victorian average of 1,360.

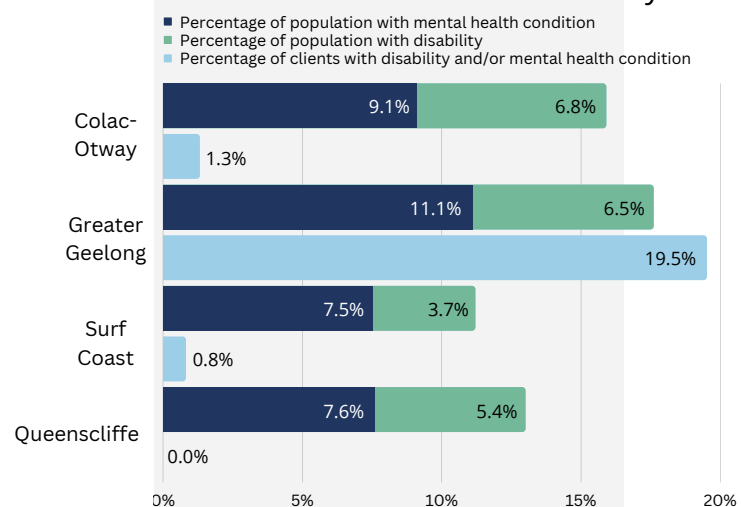
Both these figures are extremely high when compared against the Victorian average, demonstrating the potential for legal need in the Barwon region.

## Disability and Mental Health

In the most recent 2021 Census long term health issues, including diagnosed mental health conditions were examined for the first time [1]. This provides us with new insight into how prevalent mental health conditions are within our community.

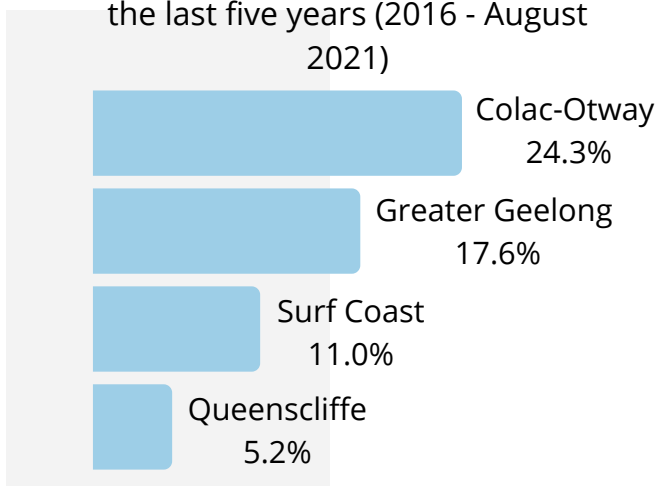
BCLS data reveals that our clients who experience a disability (including a mental health condition) are overrepresented in Greater Geelong. However, for all other LGAs in the Barwon region is significant underrepresentation in our client profile.

Percentage of population with mental health condition/disability vs. percentage of clients with mental health condition/disability



[1] 2021 ABS Census asked - Has the person been told by a doctor or nurse that they have any of these long-term health conditions - mental health condition was included as one of the conditions

Overseas arrivals that have arrived in the last five years (2016 - August 2021)



## Overseas arrivals

From 2016 to August 2021, of the percentage of people born overseas in the Colac-Otway region almost 25% of people arrived in Australia within the past 5 years. This is higher than both regional Victoria (16.6%) and Greater Melbourne (19.7%). This shows Colac-Otway as a region with many newly arrived communities and provides evidence of potential legal need in this area for CALD communities.

CALD communities are likely to face legal issues involving employment problems, discrimination and immigration[2].

[2]Community Legal Centres Australia, 'Legal Needs Planning Guide: A data-informed for the community legal sector', Community Legal Centres Australia (2021), pg. 20, accessed 20 Sept 2022

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Background research and analysis for this report was undertaken by Jordan Galbraith, Emerson Lowe and Alexandria Jones of Barwon Community Legal Service.

Assistance with further analysis was provided by Emma Pritchard and Alex Gruenewald of Lirata Consulting.

This Summary is an abridged and updated snapshot of a report authored by Emma Pritchard, Alex Gruenewald, Alexandria Jones and Mark Planigale. Updated analysis and data was authored by Emerson Lowe.



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Barwon Community Legal acknowledges the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we learn and work, as well as all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People who are part of our Barwon region.