



# ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee  
2015-16 Budget Estimates Hearing

**Minister for Aboriginal Affairs**

Hon Natalie Hutchins, MP

Thursday 21 May, 2015

# Aboriginal Victorians

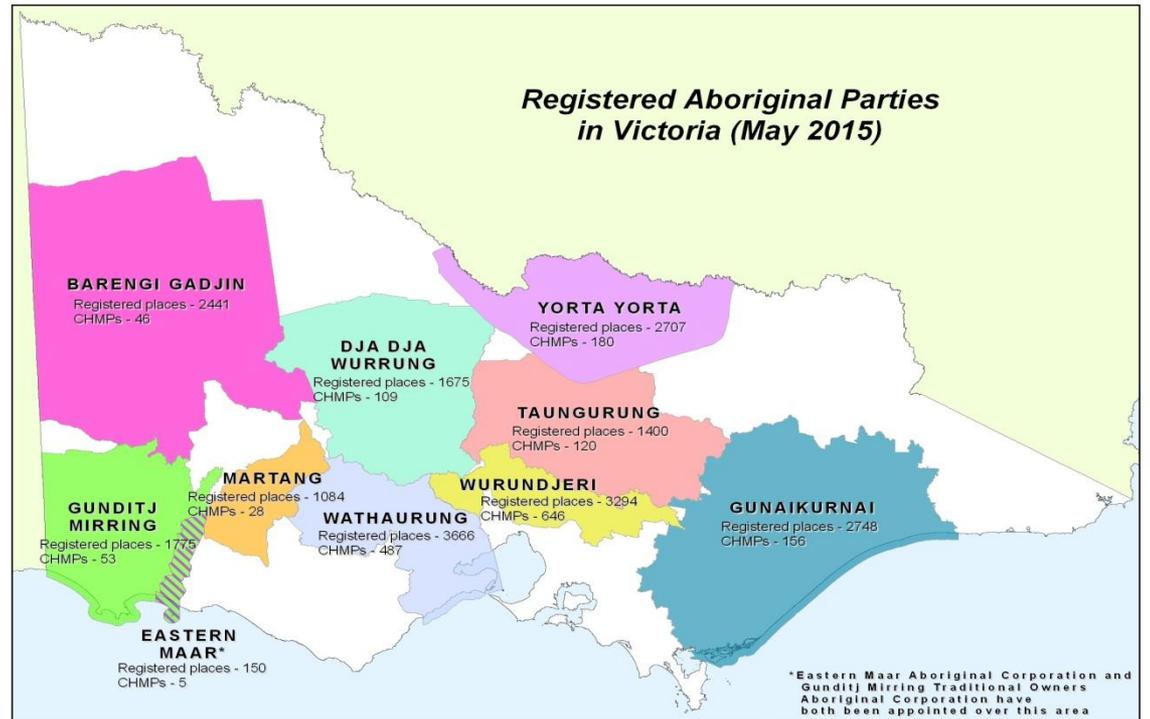
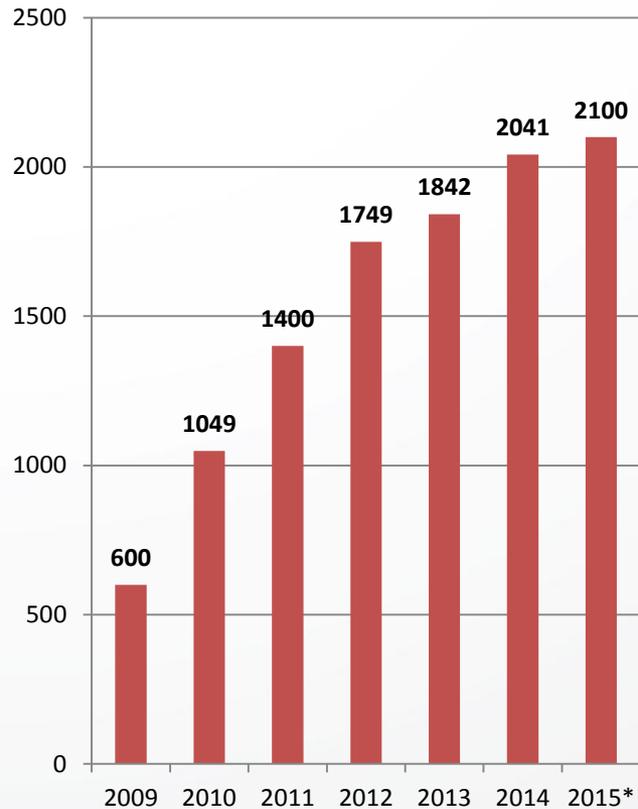
*Over 51,000 Aboriginal people live in Victoria (ABS estimate 2014)*

- By 2026 the Aboriginal population in Victoria is projected to rise to over 70,000
- Just over 50% of Aboriginal Victorians live in regional Victoria
- The median age is 22 years for Aboriginal Victorians, compared with 37 years for non-Aboriginal people

*Aboriginal Community in Victoria*

- Strong leadership and diverse range of voices
- Key stakeholders include: Statewide organisations, regional partners, local co-operatives, Traditional Owners including Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs), Local Indigenous Networks (LINs), Aboriginal community members

## Local Indigenous Network Participation 2009-2015



# Commitment to Closing the Gap

- On 19 March the Premier hosted an event to reaffirm the commitment to close the gaps in the spirit of partnership and bipartisanship
- The Premier also made clear that central to this is Aboriginal self-determination
- We have committed \$30.2 million to Aboriginal Affairs in the 2015-16 Budget
- We have a lot of work to do, in partnership with Victoria's Aboriginal community, to ensure our efforts are focussed and sustained

# Aboriginal Self-Determination

- Aboriginal people's voices must be heard – so knowledge and experiences shape government priorities and effort
- Premier's Gathering with Aboriginal community - 19 May
- Identified priorities important to Aboriginal community and how Government can continue to work and engage with community
- First Statewide Gathering of Victoria's Local Indigenous Networks
- We all want a prosperous future
- By redefining our approach with the Aboriginal community we can make a real difference

# Aboriginal Affairs 2015-16 Budget Commitments

## Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy

- The Victorian Government is strongly committed to empowering Traditional Owners to manage and protect Victoria's unique Aboriginal cultural heritage
- \$20.9 million has been committed to strengthen Victoria's Aboriginal cultural heritage management system
- The first time in four years the system has been allocated a budget for more than one year
- Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) are a vital part of Victoria's Aboriginal cultural heritage management system
- This funding will enable RAPs to build sustainable and effective organisations - provide greater certainty for planning and land uses across Victoria

# Aboriginal Affairs 2015-16 Budget Commitments

Victorian Aboriginal Economic Strategy - \$4.5 million over four years

- Establish the Victorian Aboriginal Economic Board to drive the Strategy through partnerships
- Ensure that Board members are people with influence across the business, finance, investment and further education sectors
- Focus on strategies to leverage partners to ensure job and business opportunities reach Aboriginal Victorians

# Aboriginal Affairs 2015-16 Budget Commitments

**Aboriginal Leadership and Self-Determination program - \$3.5 million over four years**

- Enhance the governance of Aboriginal organisations
- Build Aboriginal inclusion and support reconciliation
- Leadership initiatives developed in consultation with the community

**Reducing Aboriginal Family Violence - \$1.3 million for 2015-16**

- Immediate response in high risk communities
- Targeted state-wide and regional education and awareness campaigns
- Ensure responses to Aboriginal family violence are informed by a robust evidence base

# Registered Aboriginal Parties

