




COVID-19 RELATED IMPACTS


FOR THE ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG SECTOR


 **1 IN 5**
reported buying more alcohol than usual

 **7 IN 10**
reported consuming more alcohol since the COVID-19 pandemic commenced

 **1 IN 3** up from 6% pre COVID-19
are now drinking daily

 **42.5%**
of agencies reported an **increase** in demand

19%
of agencies reported a **decrease** in demand 

 COVID-19 has reduced residential service capacity

 with **90%** residential agencies noting a reduction in bed availability

Agencies saw a rise in complexity including:

52%

increase in family violence


85%


mental health concerns


58%

financial stress

RECOMMENDATIONS


1 **DIVERT PEOPLE FROM THE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

Residential rehabilitation **ACHIEVES \$204,217 SAVINGS PER PERSON** when compared with prisons through reduced justice and health related expense


2 **FUND THE SECTOR**

COVID-19 related anxiety **WILL DRIVE UP TO 240,000 PEOPLE** into high risk alcohol consumption

3 **SUPPORT CAPITAL WORKS**

To ensure treatment services have the capacity to support people and remain COVID-19 safe

4 **CREATE MORE BEDS TO MEET DEMAND**

Residential rehabilitation **PRE COVID 0.7 CURRENTLY 0.55 BEDS PER 10,000 HEAD OF POPULATION**
Victoria has the second lowest rate of residential rehabilitation beds in Australia

5 **FUND AGENCIES TO REMAIN COVID-19 SAFE**

Deep cleans
Support for staff to work remotely
Personal protective equipment

6 **SPECIALISED OUTREACH SUPPORT**

COVID-19 has made it hard for those most in need to access treatment; we need to bring treatment services to them through specialised outreach support