

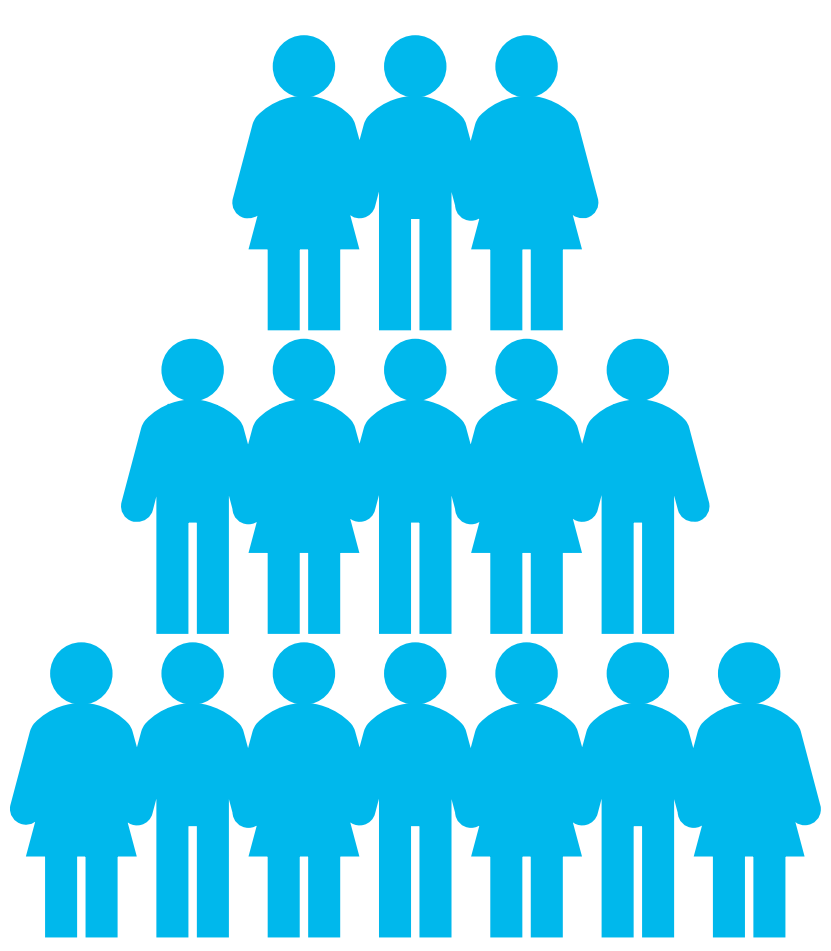
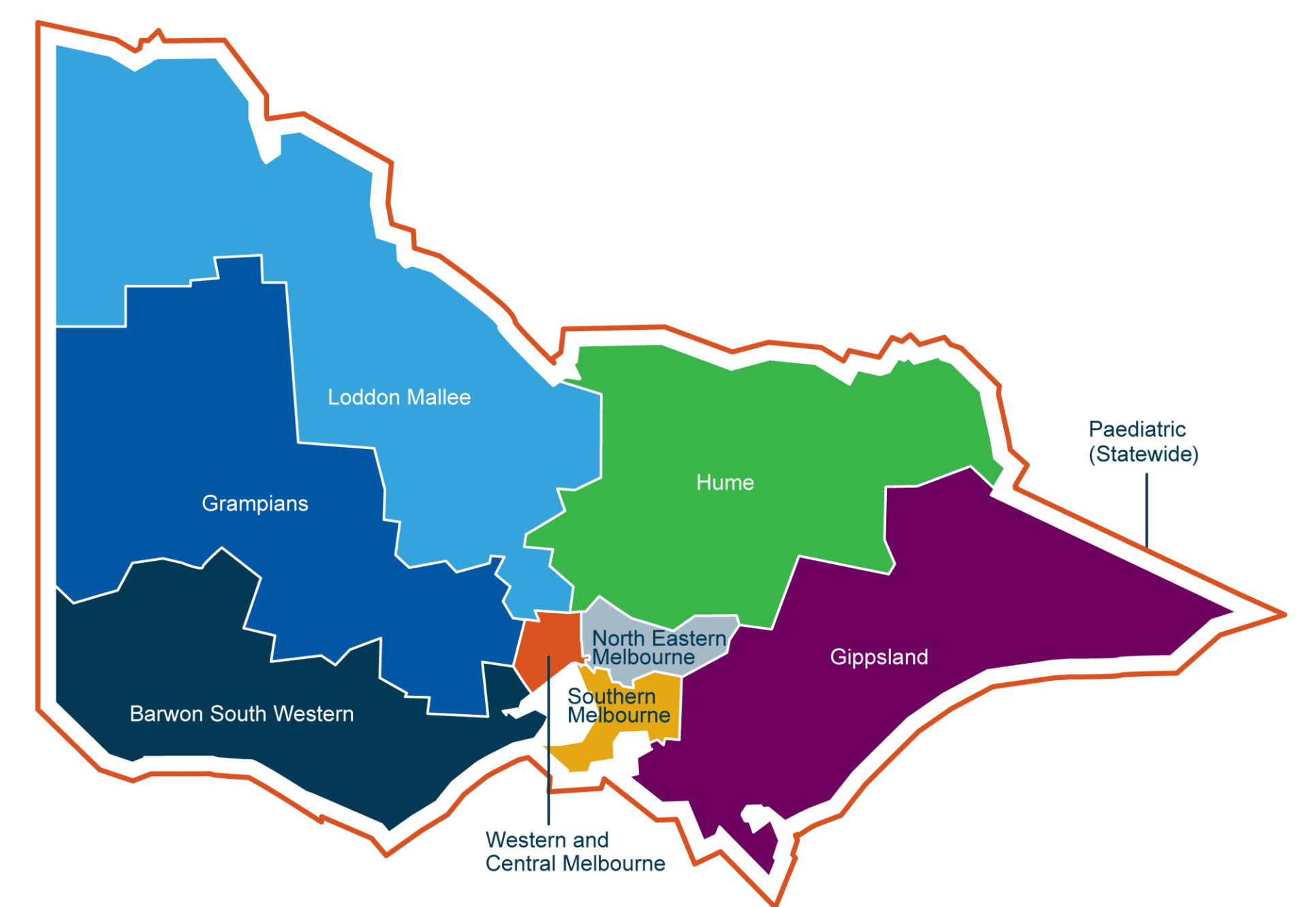
Walk before you run

Co-design evolution at Grampians Integrated Cancer Service (GICS)

What is the Grampians Integrated Cancer Service?

Grampians Integrated Cancer Service (GICS), along with 8 other geographically based, & one statewide paediatric service, form the Victorian Integrated Cancer Service (VICS) Improvement network .

The ICS work with cancer care stakeholders to improve experiences and outcomes for people affected by cancer. GICS activities are aligned with the Victorian Cancer Plan, focusing on those living in the Grampians region.



Our People & Region

Our catchment covers 50,000km² & services a population of more than 260,000 including many small farming communities.

The GICS Consumer Advisory Group (CAG) are an integral part of our team, comprising 10 members who have lived experience either as a patient or carer of a person with cancer. They represent and provide a voice for the people of Grampians. As a cancer improvement service, we continue to evolve in how we work together with our CAG.

“Consumer involvement is not a ‘tick the box’ activity”

Consumers play an active role in our team

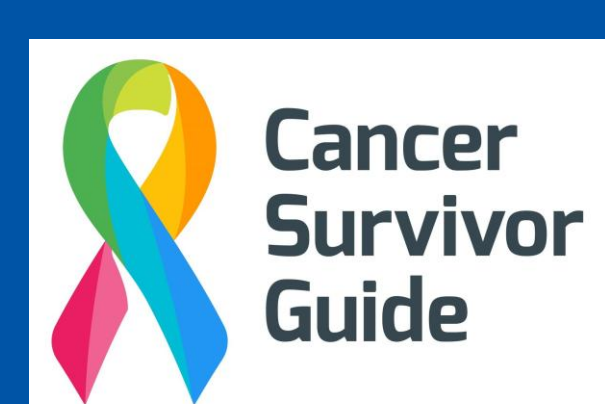
“We are a group who’ve had some experience of cancer and want to work to improve the delivery of cancer health services within the region”
– Ian, long serving CAG member

Consumers are involved in decision making

- An equal voice at the GICS table
- Membership on our Governance Group (2 consumers)
- Joint decision making on recipients of GICS Grant funded projects.

Consumers lead projects with our support

- *Cancer Survivor Guide* – creation of a podcast series.



access the podcasts here



- *The Carers Project* - aiming to improve support for carers of people with cancer in the Grampians region.

“The carer’s project has been a great partnership, with consumers leading the activity, with GICS providing methodology guidance & stakeholder engagement assistance.”

- Hannah, GICS Service Improvement Facilitator

Consumers are part of the GICS team

- Providing support and a consumer voice to the work GICS undertakes.
- Working with GICS grant recipients to ensure inclusion of patient perspectives in project planning/delivery .
- Educating their communities on the work of GICS and bringing community ideas for service improvement to attention.



Where we were

- Limited opportunities for consumer group to progress / initiate work
- Ad-hoc process in how consumers were involved in our work – predominately functioned in responding to questionnaires and review of documents
- CAG group diversity and regional representation limited.

Where we are

- Inclusion of a consumer pillar in the 2024 - 2028 Victorian Cancer Plan
- Opportunity for CAG initiated, GICS supported projects to be undertaken
- Structured involvement in core elements of GICS work
- Membership diversification to include people from west of the Grampians region.

“...I was impressed that the consumer was given opportunity to have their say, to be able to have input that was of vital importance to the program...”

- Sandra, new CAG member

Our Vision for the Future

Striving to improve ways we connect with, work with, and represent the diverse nature of people in the Grampians region, in all the work we do.

