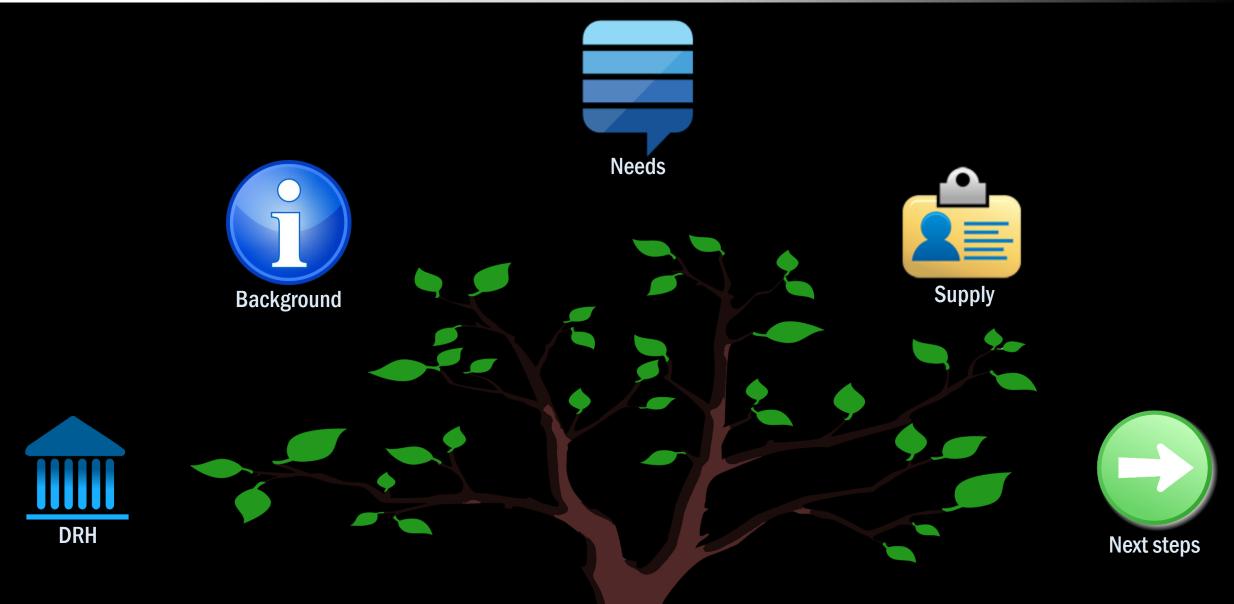
Department of Rural Health

# Health care in regional South Australia – Have we got it right?

Dr. Matthew Leach, Assoc. Prof. Martin Jones, Prof. Esther May, Dr. Marianne Gillam

Department of Rural Health | University of South Australia



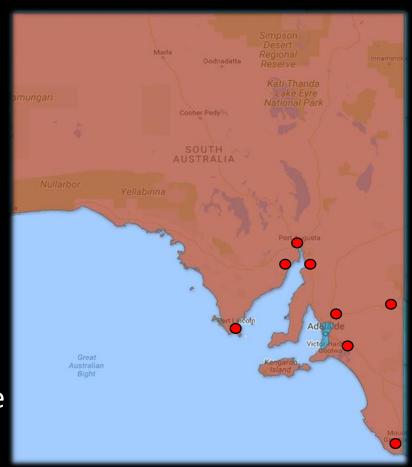


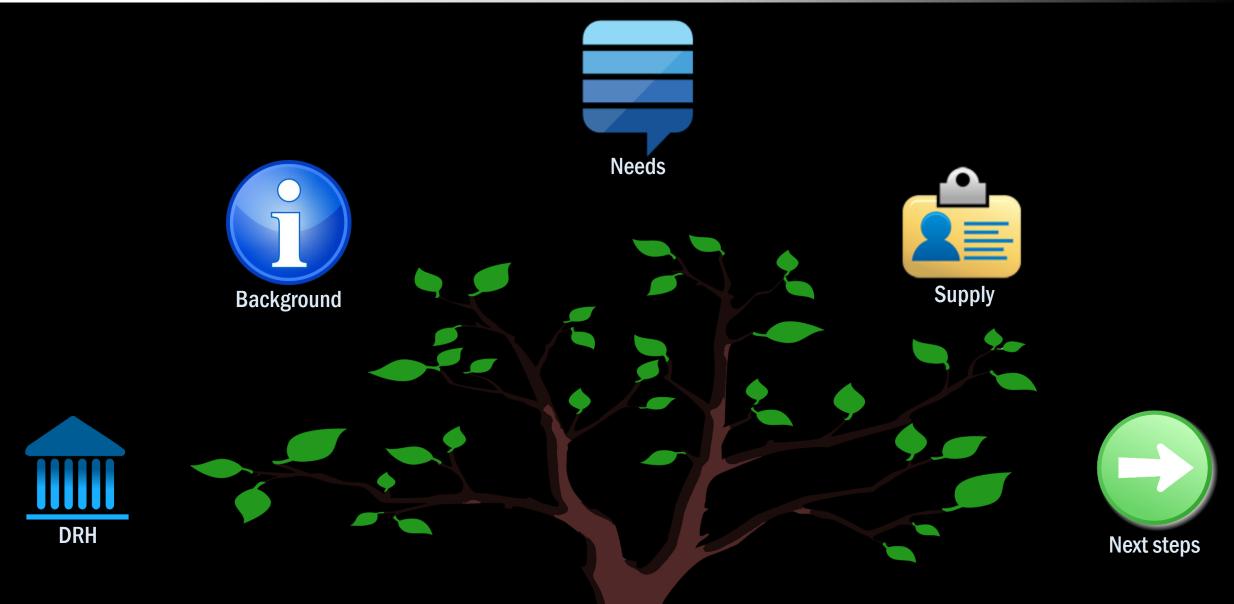
#### The Department of Rural Health



The UniSA Department of Rural Health...

- Is 1 of 12 Commonwealth funded units in Australia
- Has a catchment area of 99% of the state
- Has 8 major training sites across SA
- Has 2 primary goals:
  - To improve health service delivery across regional, rural and remote SA
  - To improve the health and wellbeing of people living in regional, rural and remote SA



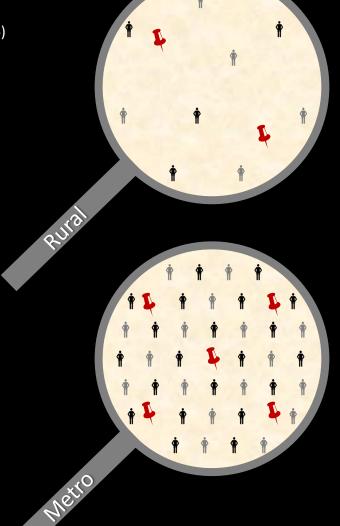


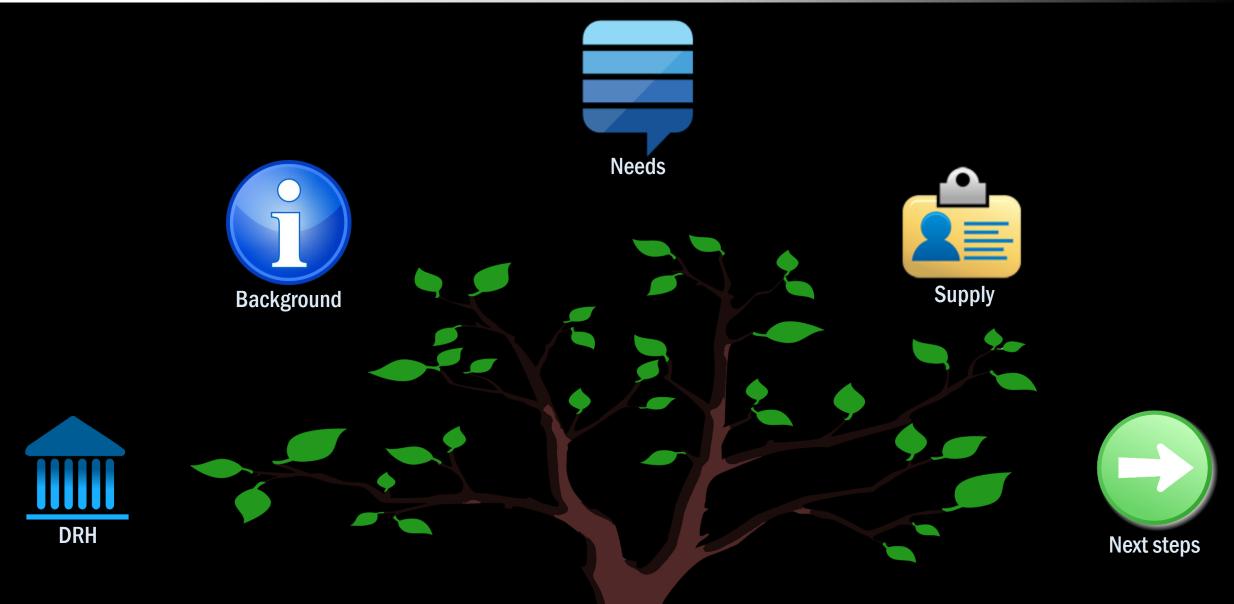


#### **Rural Communities**



- More than **381,881 people** live in regional, rural and remote SA (or 23% of the SA population) (ABS 2016)
- Regional, rural and remote SA covers 98 million hectares (or 99.7% of the state) (ABS 2016)
- People living in rural communities are more likely to report problems accessing health, welfare, financial and social services (Baxter 2011)
- Rates of chronic disease, transport accidents, death and suicide are higher for people living in rural communities (AIHW 2016)
- People living in rural communities have a greater sense of community (Anton 2014; NCLS 2003)









- Survey research helps us to understand health care need
- What is the Regional SA Health Survey?
- What does the Health Survey hope to find out?
  - Demographic profile
  - Health profile
  - Lifestyle
  - Health care use
  - Satisfaction with care
  - Health care experience
  - Health care attitude
  - Information sources
  - Barriers to health care





### Demographic profile

**Regional SA Health Survey** 

**2016 Aust. Population Census** (Regional SA data)

Age (median)	58 years	45 years
Sex (% female)	67%	50%
Marital status (married)	63%	50%
Country of birth (Australia)	84%	81%
Religion (no religion)	45%	35%
Weekly household income (median)	\$1,058	\$1,027





### Overall health rating

All of SA

Excellent / Very Good

55%

\_\_\_\_

Poor / Fair

16%

Regional SA

Excellent / Very Good

42%

-----

Poor / Fair

23%

**Limestone Coast** 

Excellent / Very Good

43%

-----

Poor / Fair

21%





### Health care utilisation (health providers only)

All of SA

Conventional healthcare

93%

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Complementary healthcare

27%

Regional SA

Conventional healthcare

90%

----

Complementary healthcare

43%

**Limestone Coast** 

Conventional healthcare

89%

-----

Complementary healthcare

47%



### Most frequently consulted health providers

(past 12 months)

	All of SA	Regional SA	Limestone Coast
CONVENTIONAL HEALTH PROVIDERS			
General practitioner	86%	87%	85%
Pharmacist	-	65%	66%
Medical specialist	36%	47%	45%
Optometrist / Optician	-	54%	57%
Dentist	50%	57%	61%
COMPLEMENTARY HEALTH PROVIDERS			
Massage therapist	-	28%	32%
Chiropractor	4%#	18%	21%

<sup>#</sup> National data





### Main reasons for not seeking health care (conventional & complementary services)

Regional SA

Cost

31% & 25%

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Distance

32% & 25%

-----

Self-manage

33% & 26%

Limestone Coast

Cost

28% & 24%

-----

Distance

28% & 22%

-----

Self-manage

29% & 31%





### Most prevalent health conditions - Depression -

All of SA

10%

Regional SA

24%

**?** 

**Limestone Coast** 

23%





### Most prevalent health conditions - Anxiety -

All of SA

11%

Regional SA

22%

**Limestone Coast** 

21%

P





# Most prevalent health conditions - High blood pressure -

All of SA

13%

Regional SA

32%

**Limestone Coast** 

35%

P





### Most prevalent health conditions - High cholesterol -

All of SA

8%

Regional SA

23%

**Limestone Coast** 

25%

P





### Most prevalent health conditions - Diabetes -

All of SA

6%

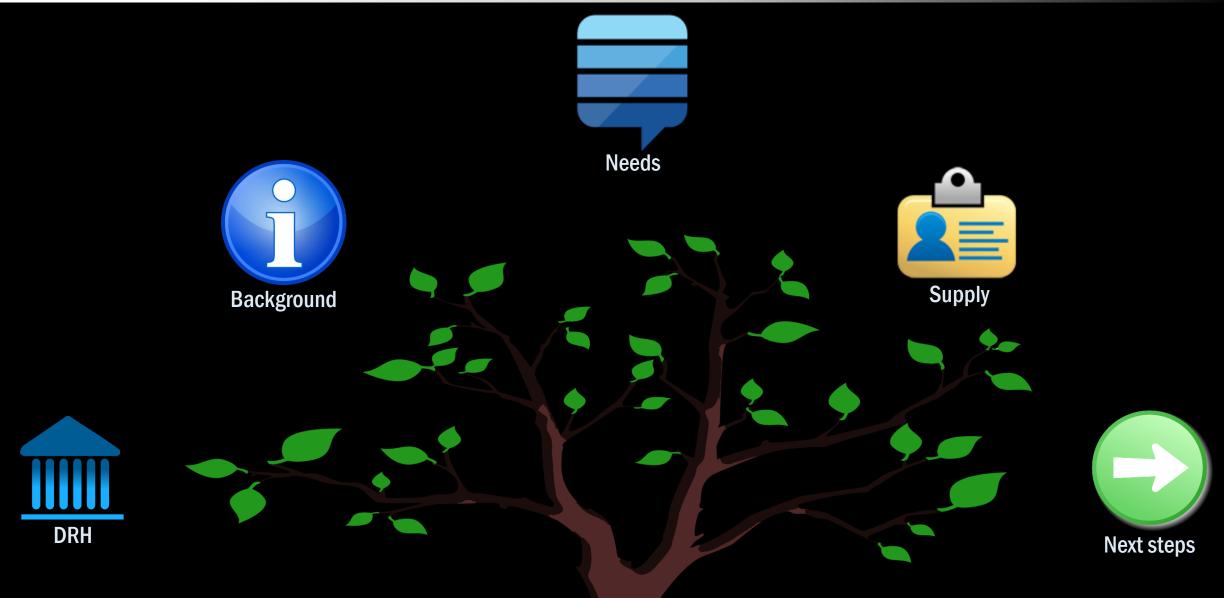
Regional SA

11%

**Limestone Coast** 

11%

**?** 







- Workforce research helps us to understand health workforce supply
- What is the Regional SA Health workforce project?
- What does the workforce project hope to find out?
  - Age of workforce
  - Gender mix
  - Level of qualifications
  - Industry of employment
  - Hours worked
  - Distribution of workforce





### Proportion of the workforce aged over 50 years

Metro SA

33.7%

3

Regional SA

40.7%

**Limestone Coast** 

40.7%





### Proportion of the workforce with a degree qualification or higher

Metro SA

52.7%

3

Regional SA

39.9%

**Limestone Coast** 

37.2%





### Number of Registered Nurses per 10,000 population

Metro SA

115.6

3

Regional SA

63.8

**Limestone Coast** 





# Number of General Practitioners per 10,000 population

Metro SA

24.1

3

Regional SA

11.2

**Limestone Coast** 





### Number of Occupational Therapists per 10,000 population

Metro SA

5.3

3

Regional SA

2.1

**Limestone Coast** 





# Number of Social Workers per 10,000 population

Metro SA

12.8

3

Regional SA

8.2

**Limestone Coast** 





### Number of Dieticians per 10,000 population

Metro SA

1.6

3

Regional SA

0.8

**Limestone Coast** 





# Number of Physiotherapists per 10,000 population

Metro SA

9.8

3

Regional SA

4.8

**Limestone Coast** 





# Number of Psychologists per 10,000 population

Metro SA

7.3

3

Regional SA

2.0

**Limestone Coast** 





### Number of Dentists per 10,000 population

Metro SA

6.1

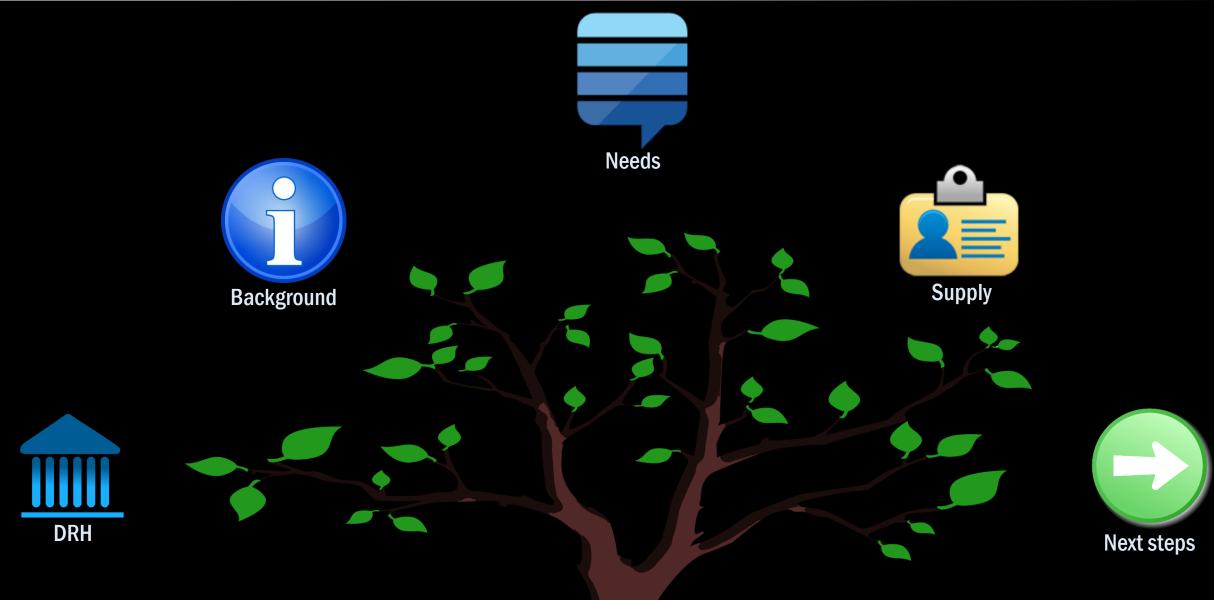
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Regional SA

2.9

**Limestone Coast** 

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#### **Next Steps**



#### PROBLEMS: Major areas of health need

- Overall health rating
- Mental health
- Cardiovascular disease
- Diabetes

#### **SOLUTIONS: Addressing health needs**

- Supporting self-management
- Reducing out-of-pocket health care costs
- Overcoming distance as a barrier
- Addressing health workforce supply
- Re-designing the health workforce

#### **Next Steps**



#### PROBLEMS: Major areas of health need

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