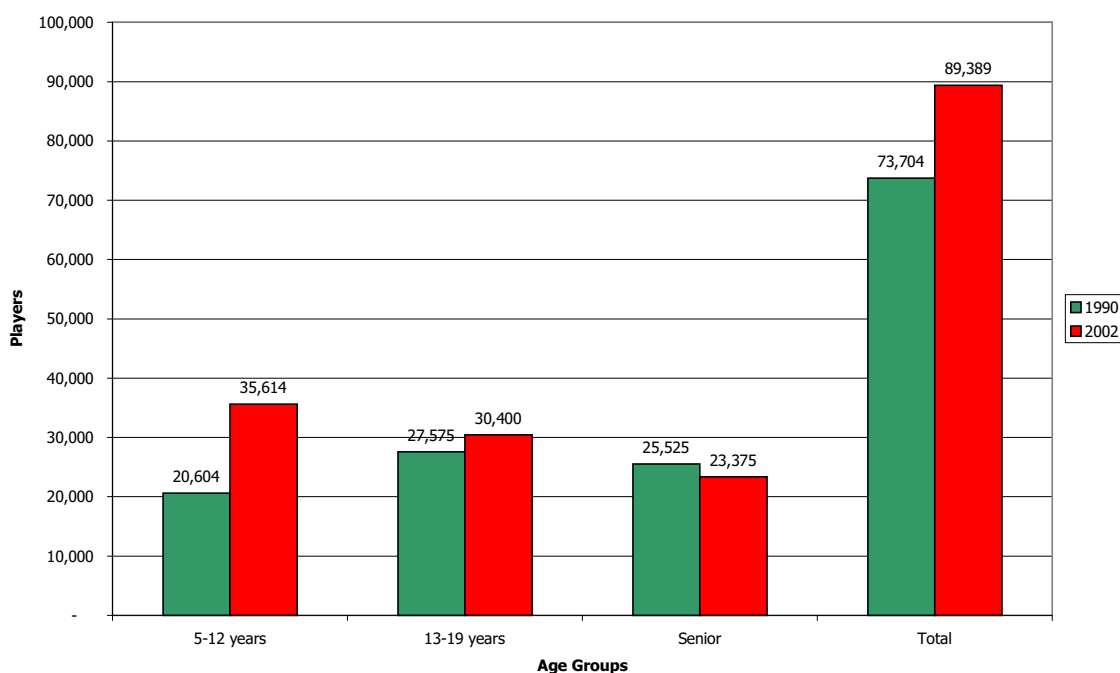


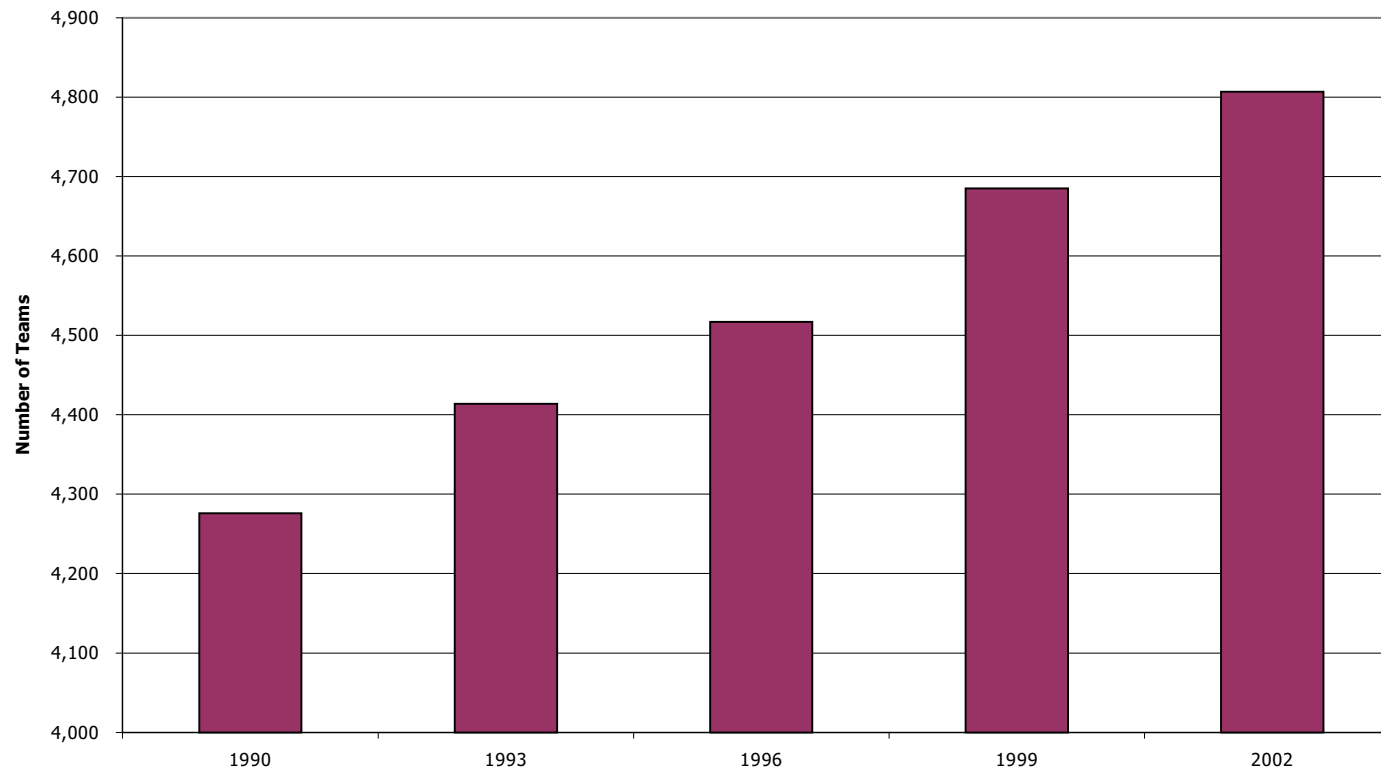
COMMENTS ON AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL PARTICIPATION TRENDS IN COUNTRY VICTORIA 1990 TO 2002

- Australian football participation in country regions has increased by 21% between 1990 and 2002, a growth of 15,685 players.
- Greatest increases occurred in the 5-12 age groups with the introduction of the AFL Auskick program designed to recruit children and parents into football. Player numbers grew from 20,604 in 1990 to 35,614 in 2002, or by 73%.
- Marginal growth of 10% occurred in the 13-19 age levels over the same period, up from 27,575 in 1990 to 30,400 in 2002.
- Demographic change in country Victoria had greatest impact at senior football levels. Senior player numbers decreased by 2,150 players (8%) between 1990 and 2002.





Growth in Victorian Teams 1990 - 2002



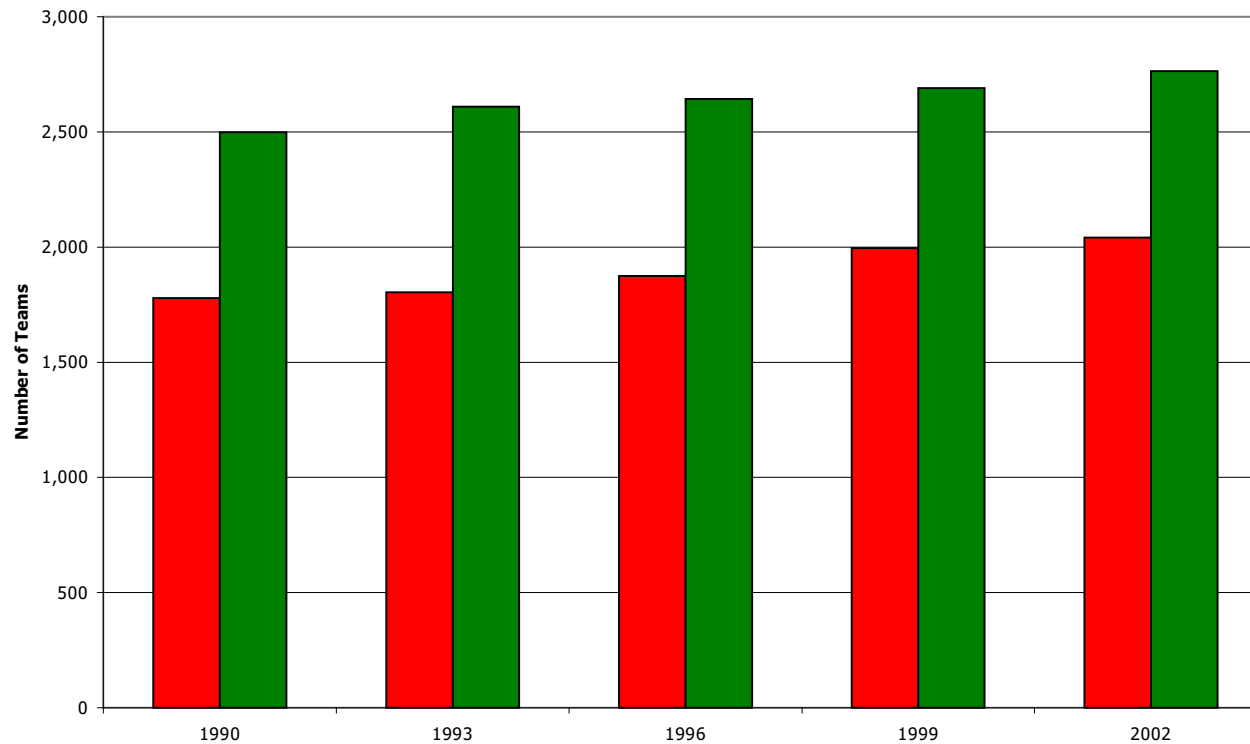
Year	Team Numbers
1990	4,276
1993	4,414
1996	4,517
1999	4,685
2002	4,807

Between 1990 and 2002 teams affiliated to Victorian football bodies increased by 531 teams, which equates to approximately 13,275 players

Source: Football Victoria Community Football Team Census, 2002



Growth in VCFL and Metropolitan Teams 1990 - 2002



Year	Metro	VCFL
1990	1,778	2,498
1993	1,804	2,610
1996	1,874	2,643
1999	1,995	2,690
2002	2,042	2,765

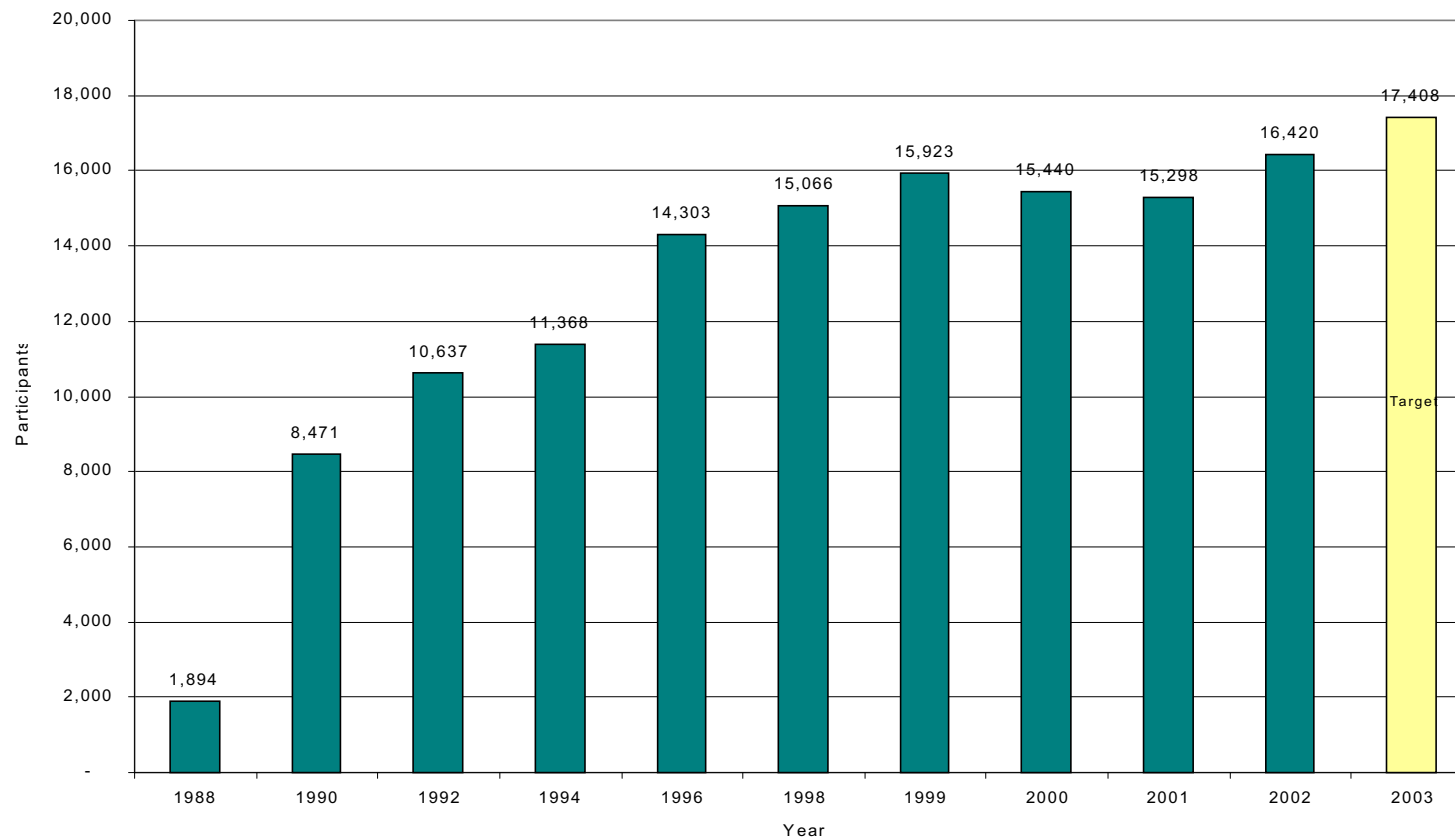
- VCFL teams have increased by 267 teams between 1990 and 2002
- Metropolitan football teams have increased by 264 between 1990 and 2002

Source: Football Victoria Community Football Team Census, 2002

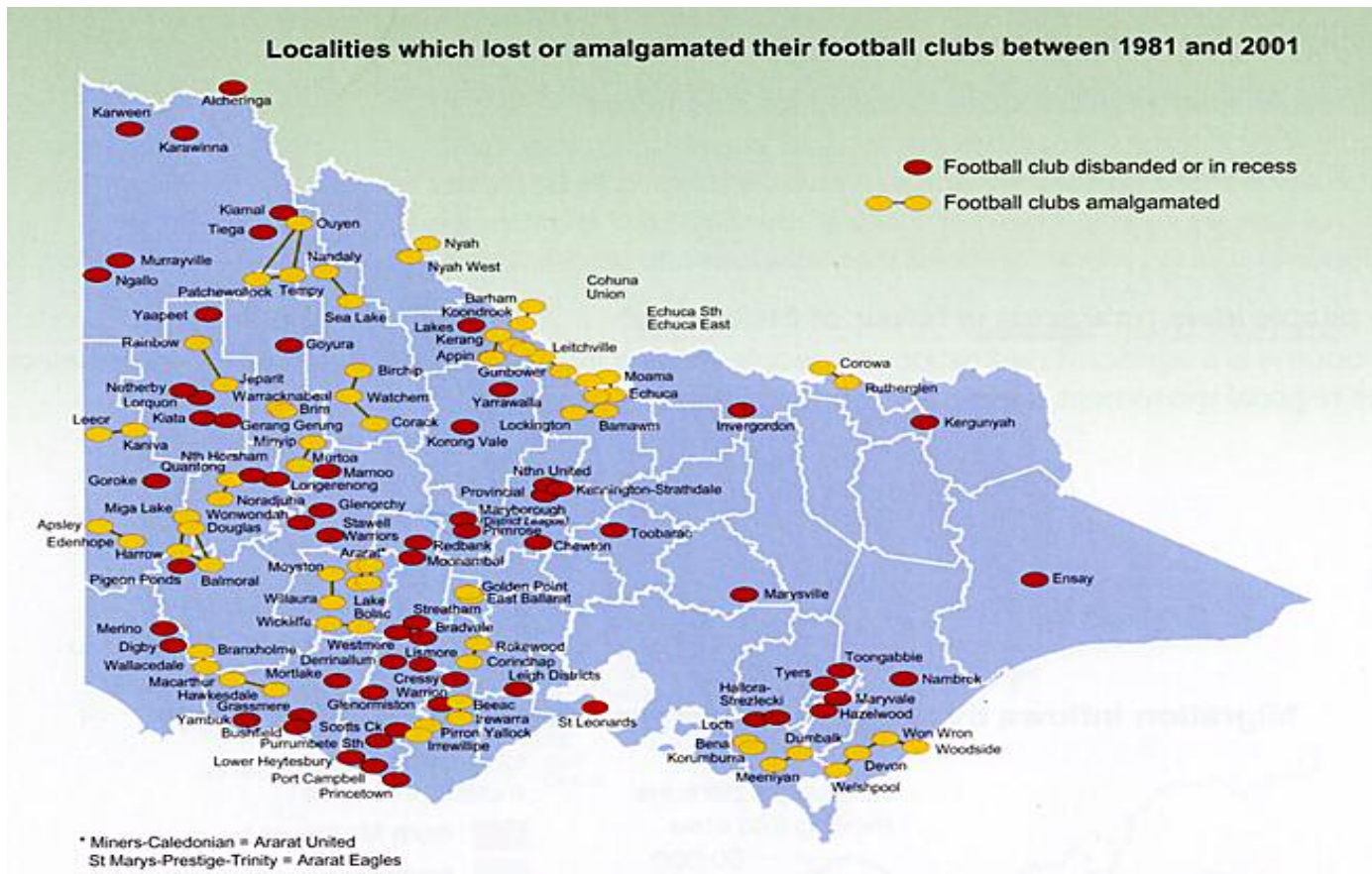


AFL Auskick : Country

Total Auskick Country Participation Trends 1988 - 2002 (2003 Target)



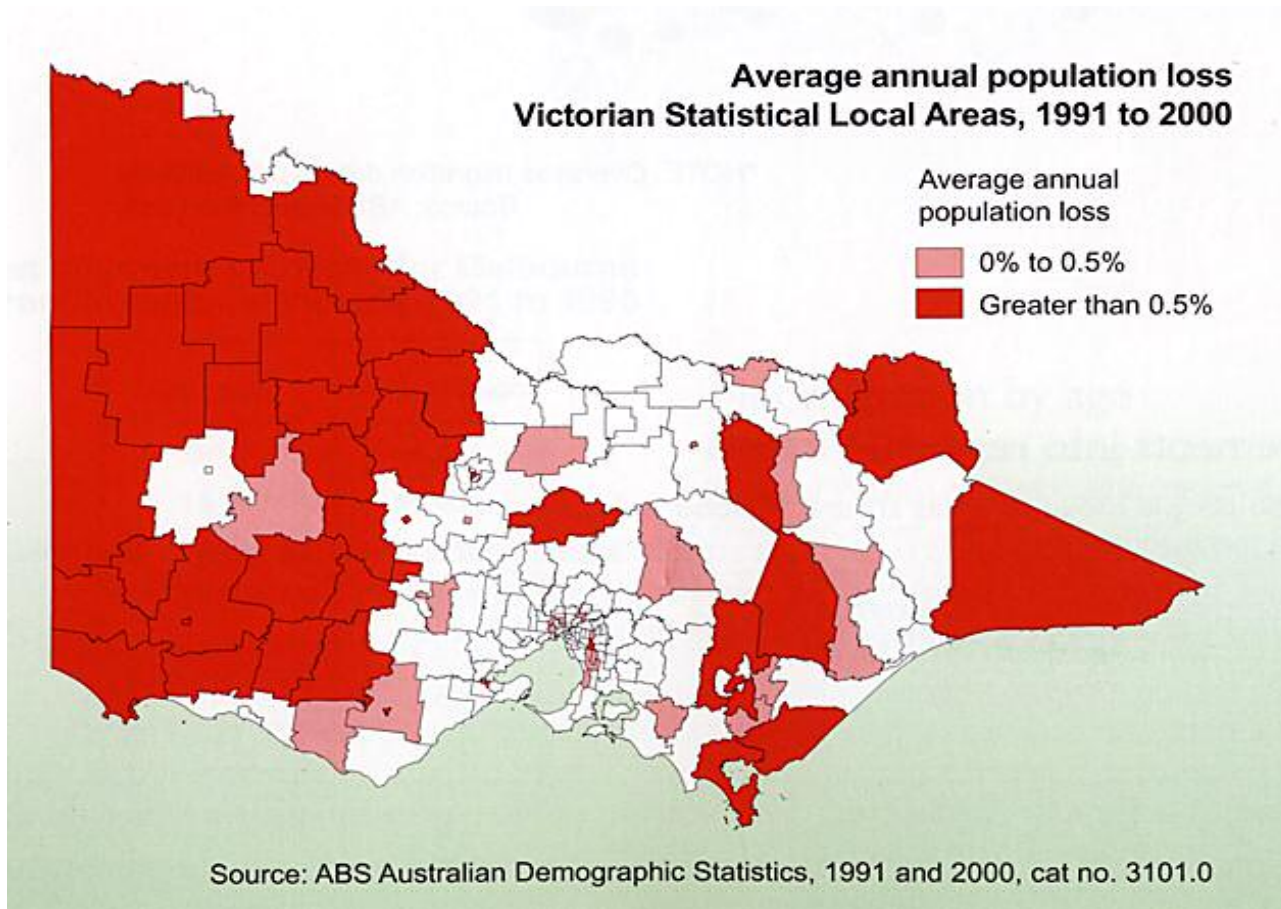
Impact of Population Trends on Country Football



Mapping the loss and amalgamation of country football clubs over the past two decades reveals a clear correlation with patterns of population decline. The decline in population is most prevalent in the western half of the state. Population loss affects the ability of small communities to field sporting teams, and it also impacts upon their ability to sustain the community social fabric and infra structure.

Sources: Atlas of Victoria 1982; Country Football League 2000; Football Victoria 2001

Impact of Population Trends on Country Football



Mapping the change in country football clubs over the past two decades reveals a clear correlation with patterns of population decline. Population loss not only affects the ability of rural communities to field sporting teams, it also impacts upon their ability to sustain organizational structures needed to deliver football management activities such as trainers, umpiring, fund raising and match day volunteer tasks.



Affect of Population Decline on Schools and Football Clubs

- **Football Club**

- **Edenhope**
- **Birchip**
- **Derrinallum**
- **Kiata**
- **Longernong**
- **Mortlake**
- **Gerang Gurung**
- **Lorquon**
- **Pigeon Ponds**
- **Wonwondah**

- **School Reorganization**

- **Amalgamation**
- **Amalgamation**
- **Amalgamation**
- **Closure**
- **Closure**
- **Amalgamation**
- **Closure**
- **Closure**
- **Closure**
- **Closure**

Victorian Country Football League Annual Reports
Victorian Education and Training Regional Data

Reasons for Club Amalgamations

• **CLUBS**

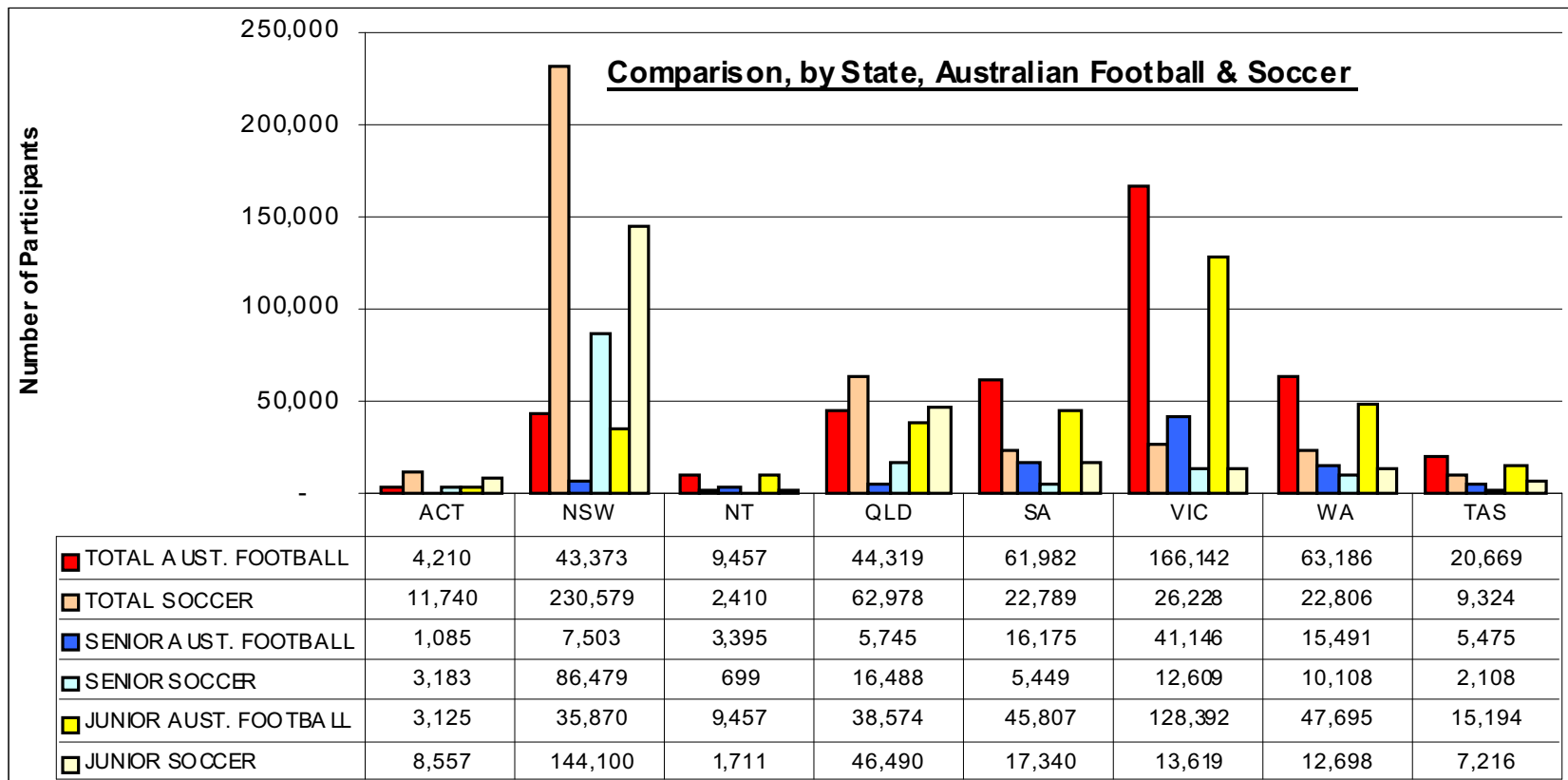
- Harrow Balmoral - Miga Lake
- Sea Lake Tigers - Nandally, Berri Culgoa
- Kerang - Appin, Kerang Rovers
- SMW Rovers - Streatham, Westmere, Mininera
- Ararat United - Miners, Caledonians
- WWWW - Devon, Welshpool, Won Wron Woodside
- Ararat Eagles - Prestige, Trinity, St. Marys
- Minyip Murtoa
- Noradjuha Quantong
- Ouyen Rovers - Patchewollock, Tempy

• **WHY AMALGAMATE?**

- Lack of players
- Declining population
- No players
- No schools
- Collapse of league, declining population
- Lack of players, declining population
- Collapse of league, declining population
- Not competitive, lack of players
- No schools
- Declining population

Victorian Country Football League Regional Reports

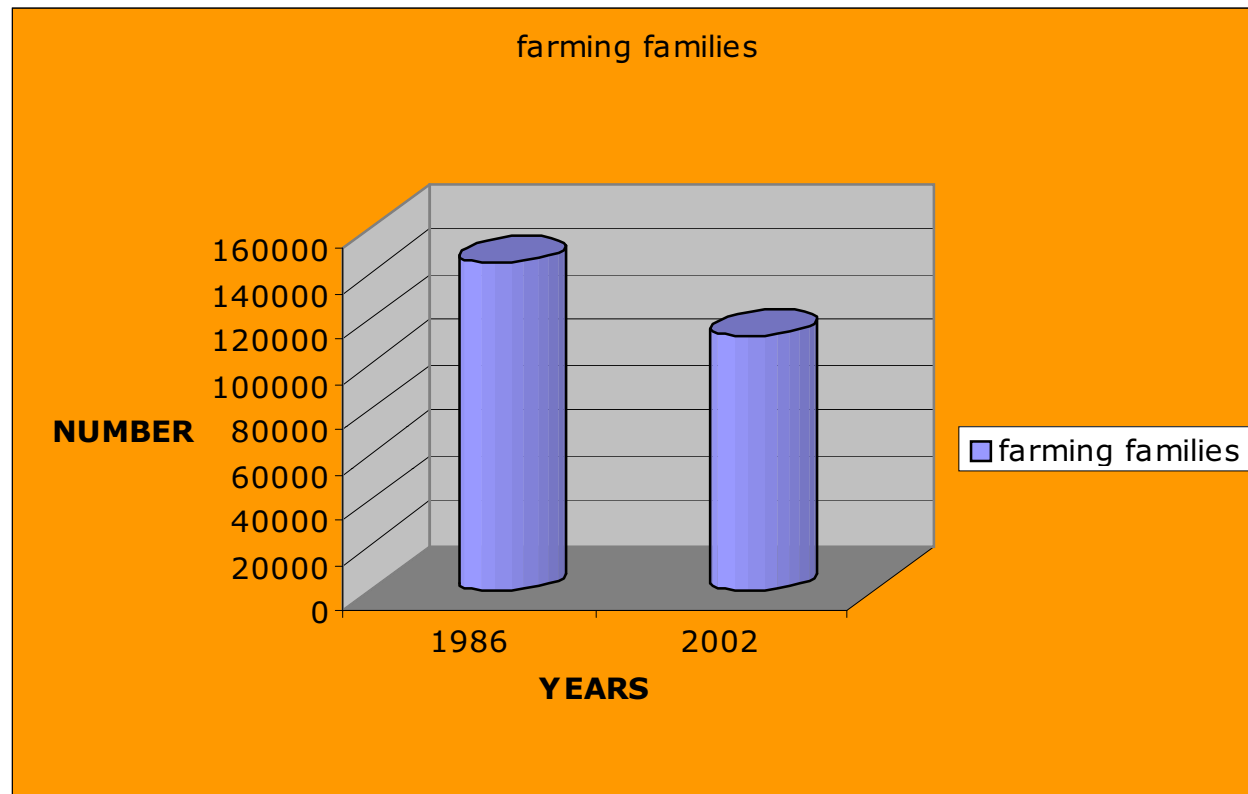
Australian Football Participation Remains Strong Against Other Codes



Sources

- National Census of Australian Football Participation, 2002
- Australian Sports Commission, 2003.

Farming Statistics

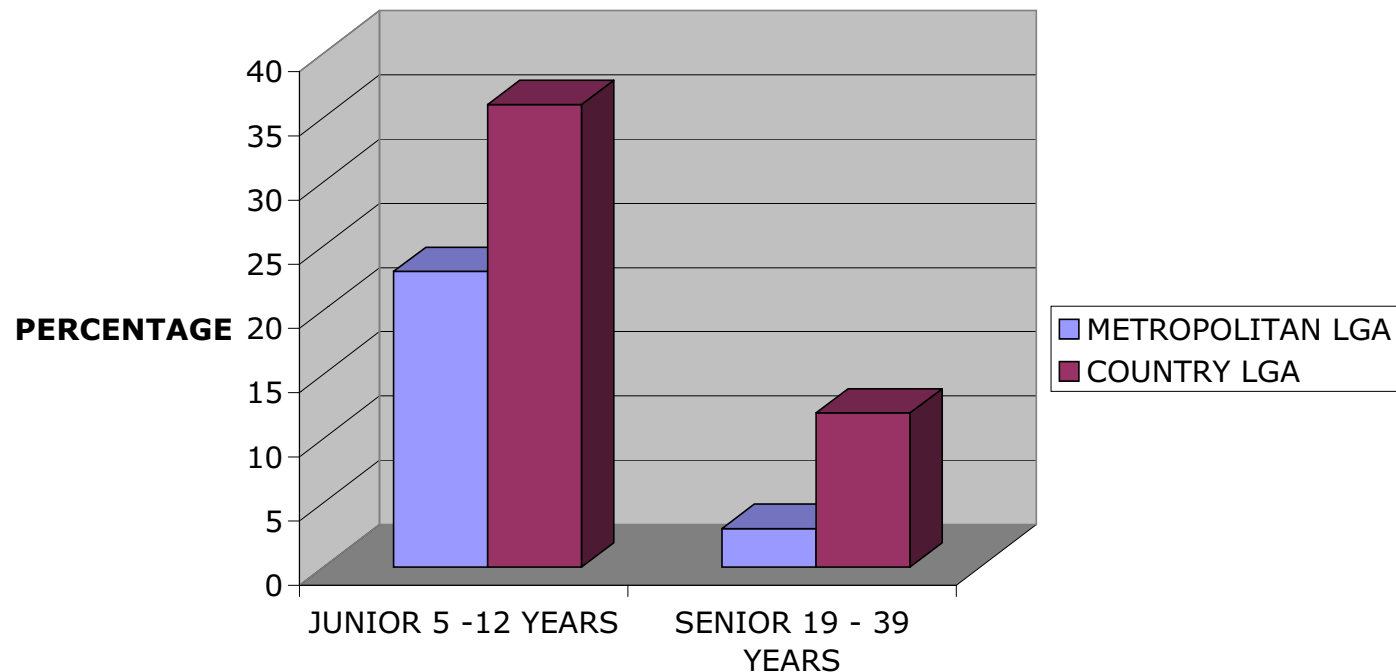


- The number of families living in rural areas has decreased significantly throughout Australia
- Increasingly young people are leaving the land for employment and educational opportunities
- The number of families has decreased by approximately 24%

ABS Demographic Statistics 2002

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

STATEWIDE PARTICIPATION RATES



Country clubs attract 13% more players at junior level than those in the metropolitan areas when compared to the population of their respective local government areas.

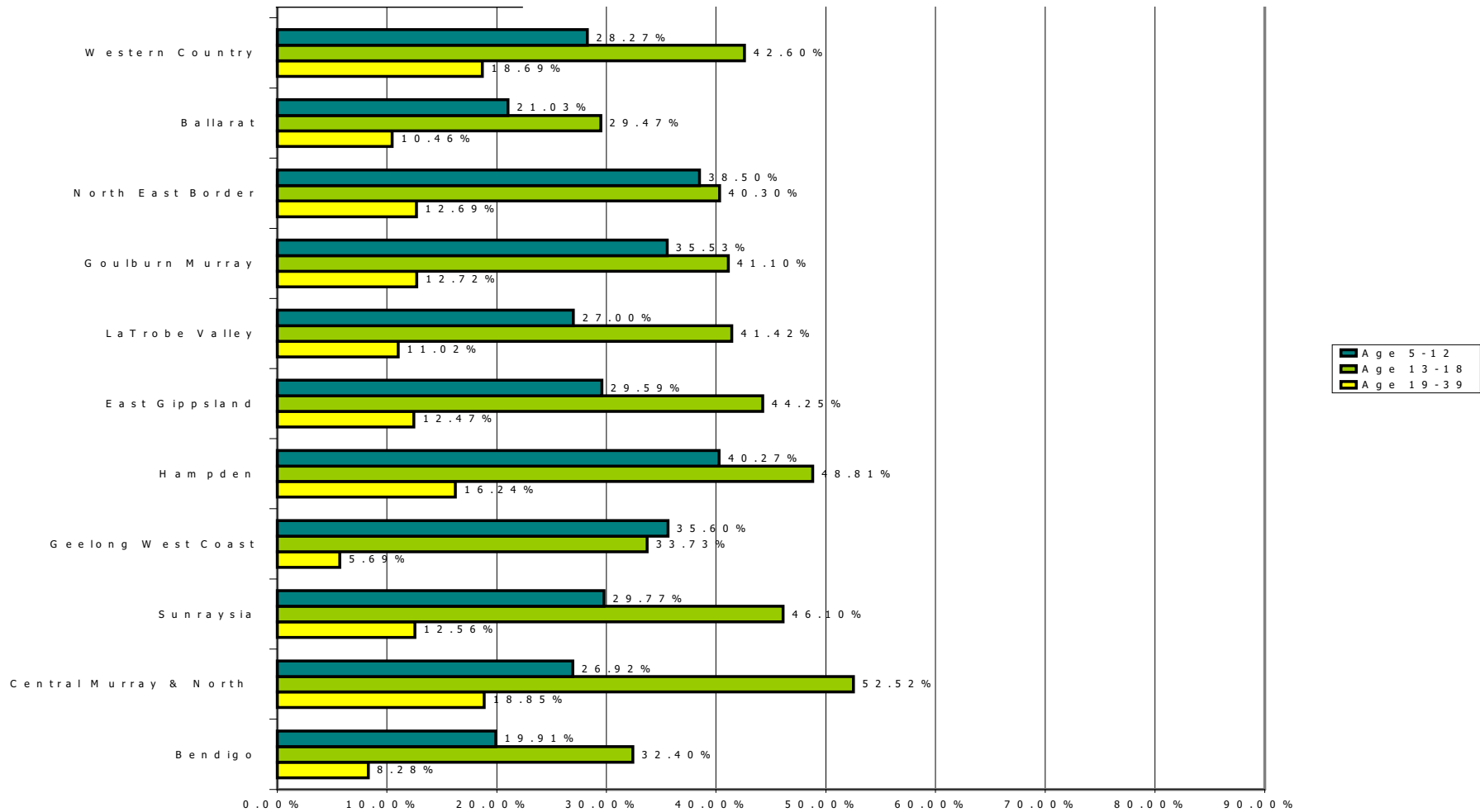
And 9% more at senior level.



PARTICIPATION RATES

VICTORIAN COUNTRY FOOTBALL REGIONS

Football Participation - FVD Country Regions 2002

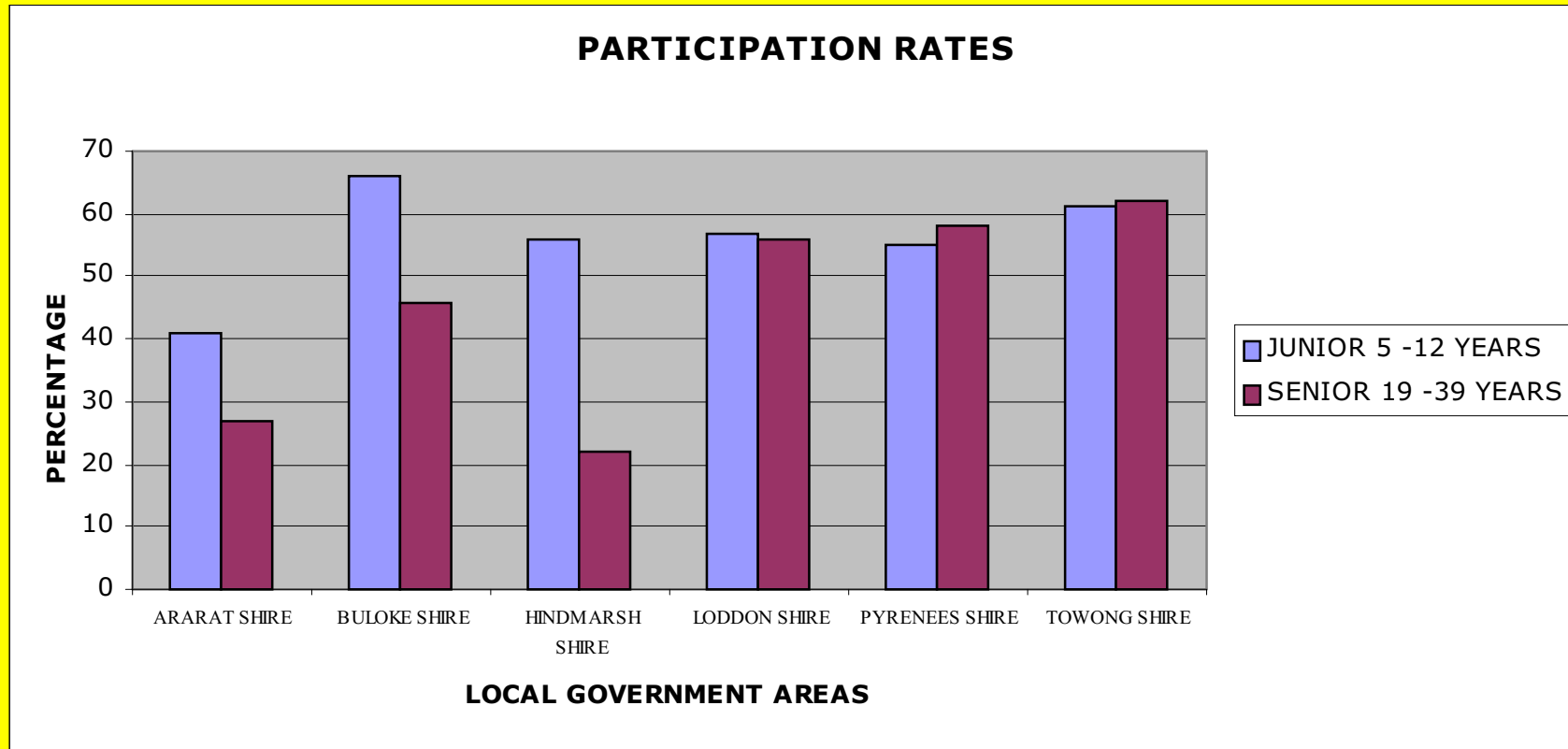


Selected Local Government Major Regional Areas



Football Victoria Annual Report 2002

Selected Local Government Areas - Small Shires



Football Victoria Annual Report 2002



Suicide Statistics Linked to Community Connectedness

- **20% of youth experience some form of mental illness**
- **14% of children 4-17 years have a mental health problem**
- **2% of all deaths are from suicide**
- **About 7 people die every day from suicide**
- **The second most frequent mode of death**
- **5-10% of youth attempt suicide**
- **24% of deaths were in the age group 20 -29 years**
- **25% of deaths were in the age group 30 -39 years**
- **Male suicide rates have increased three fold**

Commonwealth Department of Health and Family Services 2000

Suicide in Australian Farming 1988-1997

- **61% of agricultural suicides in aged group 15-39 years**
- **921 farm suicides identified**
- **97% of suicides were male**
- **ABS data found the rural suicide rate to be approximately 50% greater than the urban rate**
- **During the period 1964 - 1995 there was a 12 times increase in suicide for those living in small towns**

Page and Fragar, 2002

SUICIDE

Contributing Factors

- Break up of relationships
- Loss of cultural identity
- Fear of rejection
- Negative sense of self
- Social isolation
- Interpersonal conflict
- Not connected to community

- **NO FOOTBALL/NETBALL CLUB**





APPENDIX TWO

LEAGUE & CLUB QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY



League & Club Questionnaire

Response to Parliamentary Inquiry

VCFL STATE SUMMARY – July 2003

Based on 112 Submissions (24% of total Senior Clubs)

No.	Question	Comments
1	Ground Rental Charges – What is the annual fee charged by Councils (or Reserve Owners) to your Club annually?	Range from \$0.00 to \$15,000 Average: \$3,566 Total: \$164,285 Many fees include all outgoings
2	What is the annual charge incurred by your Club for Water usage fee's?	Range \$0.00 to \$14,000 Average: \$2857
3	Is your club finding it difficult to obtain sufficient water to water your Oval? <i>Pls provide detail regarding any water restrictions, which may have resulted in your ground being declared unavailable/ unplayable.</i>	55% advise they have no problem obtaining water. (Bores, Irrigation help) IMPORTANT NOTE; This information was received before Stage 2 water restrictions were introduced.
4	What is the annual charge incurred by your Club for Power (Electricity) usage fee's?	Range \$0 - \$4,500 Average: \$2,450 Several clubs have fees included in ground rental
5	Does your Club have Netball facilities within your Football Club complex or precinct?	84.5% have netball facilities within the complex
6	Does your Football Ground have a separate Netball Change & Shower facility?	56% have no suitable change rooms for netballers



7	<p>Has your Club had any volunteer/s complete the Food Handling program? <i>Please advise any fee's incurred in completing this course.</i></p>	<p>89% have qualified food handlers. Fees range from \$85 - \$284 to obtain accreditation</p>
8	<p>Are your Club facilities used for any "non football club" social activities? e.g hiring the venue out for a 21st.</p> <p>If yes, approximately how often over the season?</p>	<p>84% of football club social facilities are used for other town functions throughout the year. Weddings, 21sts, wakes, Red Cross, Weight Watchers e.t.c</p>
9	<p>If yes to Q 8, does your Football Club Ladies Committee ever do the catering for these type of functions?</p> <p>Does your Football Club operate the bar under your own Club Liquor License?</p>	<p>57 % have a Ladies Committee and they assist with catering of outside functions. On 71% of occasions when the clubs facilities are used they utilise the clubs liquor licence.</p>
10	<p>Does your Football Ground have a separate facility for Umpires?</p>	<p>89% have separate umpiring changeroom facilities.</p>
11	<p>If yes to Q 10, does the Umpires facility have their own Change & Shower facility?</p>	<p>86% have suitable separate shower facilities for umpires</p>
12	<p>Does your Club have "sufficient" volunteers to operate your club effectively?</p> <p>Approx. how many 'functioning' Volunteers does your club have? How many do you believe your club would need to run the club to its optimum level?</p>	<p>52% of clubs have sufficient volunteers to operate with although in <u>all</u> cases they could do with more assistance to share the workload. Average number of volunteers per club is 21. Average number of required volunteers is 35 per club. There are many clubs that are running on a minimum number of volunteers and they are putting in 25-30 hours a week to keep the club functioning N.B. The numbers is almost every instant do not include coaches and training.</p>
13	<p>Does your Club have adequate lighting for training purposes?</p> <p>71% of clubs have suitable lighting for training although much of it is at the minimum standard even below the minimum in some instances</p>	



14	Does your Club have “legal level” lighting that would enable “night football” to be played? 20% have excellent lighting suitable for night matches
15	Please add any general comments/feedback or other information here you think would be relevant to the Inquiry. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The deep concern over the availability of water• Support for retention of volunteers• Support for costs associated with compliance, i.e. food handling, liquor licensing, insurance• Shortage of numbers due to population movement to larger towns/cities• Need assistance at ground level i.e. grass roots level• Clubs provide a social base in the town• Concern over old age of volunteers, average estimated over 50 years of age• Possible legal obligations restrict a volunteers willingness to be involved• It actually costs most volunteers to be involved• Local councils hesitant to assist clubs• The importance the club plays in maintaining a suitable environment for the social hub of most communities – “place for farmers to meet”• Football clubs are now virtually a business• Communities dwindling and populations in many smaller towns is aging• Hard to obtain quality/qualified trainers• Need more support for football in schools



APPENDIX THREE

THE INVOLVEMENT OF REGIONAL & RURAL EMPLOYEES & EMPLOYERS IN COUNTRY FOOTBALL



THE INVOLVEMENT OF REGIONAL & RURAL EMPLOYEES & EMPLOYERS IN COUNTRY FOOTBALL

The Victorian WorkCover Authority commissioned **Sweeney Research** to conduct a survey into the awareness and attitudes of regional and rural employers and employees towards the WorkSafe sponsorship of the VCFL.

The research involved 300 random telephone interviews with employers and 300 random interviews with employees.

The research covered the following VCFL Regions:

- Hampden
- Ballarat
- Gippsland Latrobe
- West Coast
- Sunraysia
- Goulburn Valley
- North East Border
- Mornington

On the question of their **"involvement with country football/netball"**

Employers

- **49% of employers personally support a football/netball team in the VCFL**
- **44% of employers had attended at least one football or netball match in a VCFL competition in the past 12 months**
- **30% of business were associated with the VCFL mainly through sponsorship arrangements with football and netball clubs.**

Employees

- **51% of employers personally support a football/netball team in the VCFL**
- **54 of employees had attended at least one football or netball match in a VCFL competition in the past 12 months**
- **23% of employees had further involvement with the VCFL with 35% playing for a VCFL football team.**

Source: Sweeney Research, March 2003