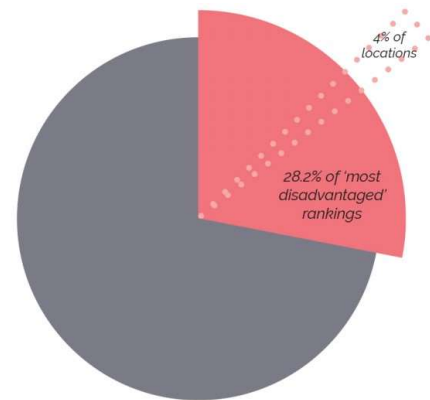


## Inquiry into Youth Justice Centres in Victoria – Response to Question on Notice: *How close is the proposed Werribee site to the disadvantaged postcodes?*

In 2015, Jesuit Social Services – along with Catholic Social Services Australia – released the findings of its fourth *Dropping off the Edge 2015 Report (DOTE 2015)*<sup>1</sup>, which found that complex and entrenched disadvantage continues to be experienced by a small but persistent number of locations in each state and territory across Australia, including in Victoria. Just 27 postcodes (4 per cent of total) account for 28.2 per cent of the highest rank positions across 22 indicators of disadvantage (see diagram below).

Of particular concern for Jesuit Social Services is the concentration and web-like structure of disadvantage within a small number of communities across the state. Our research found that those living in the three per cent most disadvantaged postcodes in Victoria are:

- twice as likely to have criminal convictions
- 3 times more likely to be experiencing long term unemployment
- 2.6 times more likely to have experienced domestic violence
- 2.4 times more likely to be on disability support.



The persistent nature of locational disadvantage becomes obvious when we compare findings of the 2015 study with previous studies undertaken in 2007, 2004 and 1999. No fewer than 25 of the state's 40 most disadvantaged postcodes in *Dropping Off The Edge 2015* were also found to be 'most disadvantaged' in the 2007 study. In fact, 10 of the current top 12 'most disadvantaged' locations were in the 'most disadvantaged' list in 2007.

Our findings demonstrate the entrenched nature of disadvantage and the significant challenge faced in increasing the life opportunities of people living in Victoria's most disadvantaged communities.

A number of the state's most disadvantaged suburbs are located in the western suburbs near the proposed new youth prison. These include:

- 3022: Ardeer (Band 2<sup>2</sup>)
- 3019: Braybrook (Band 2)
- 3021: St Albans (Band 3)
- 3030: Albion (Band 6)

A full table listing the most disadvantaged suburbs in Victoria is accessible at:

<https://dote.org.au/findings/victoria/>.

As shown on the map of metropolitan Melbourne presented on the following page, Werribee sits within a solid band of red (most disadvantaged) and yellow (disadvantaged) areas expanding out from the city centre.

<sup>1</sup> Vinson, T & Rawsthorne, M. (2015), *Dropping off the Edge 2015*, Jesuit Social Services and Catholic Social Services Australia, <http://www.dote.org.au/findings/full-report/>

<sup>2</sup> Bands illustrate the severity of disadvantage experienced by a location, with Band 1 being most severe.



Source data used provided by ABS and relevant State Government Social Service agencies.  
 Cartography by Spatial Vision.  
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