

People's Policy on Children's Wellbeing 2018

*"It takes a village ... supporting families
and children to thrive"*

THE POLICY

Achieving better outcomes for vulnerable children and their families requires that we go beyond the superficial, beyond the one-off programs and look at structural change to how we look after our kids.

The current funding model needs to be inverted; government needs to move to funding prevention which reduces the growing need for crisis intervention.

Specifically, a future South Australian Government needs to focus on the following;

01 The first 1000 days

- Antenatal and post-natal education and services (for all mothers unless they formally opt out)
- Compulsory at home visits

02 Identifying families at risk and coordinating services

- Local area coordinators to stop children falling through the gaps, to join up services and provide wrap around services for vulnerable families and their children

03 Power to communities

- Programs which enable families to support other families through challenging times and mentoring programs – provided state wide.

04 Exploration of targeted and specific supports for Aboriginal families including an Aboriginal Commissioner

- Aboriginal led and delivered family and community based programs at scale and available for all Aboriginal families

05 Public Awareness campaign

- Enhanced information on parenting and access to available support services
- Developing a role for all community members to play in reaching out to vulnerable families and children

This is a 'womb to tomb' approach that recognises that children's wellbeing depends upon the broader societal context in which children grow up – we need a community to raise children.

THE FACTS

- A **quarter of kids** in our community are the subject of at least one notification of abuse or neglect.
- Around **3,500 young South Australians** are separated from their parents, living in out-of-home-care and too often unable to reach their full potential.
- **Nine out of 10** Aboriginal kids under the age of 10 are the subject of at least one notification.
- Children associated with any notifications have generally **poorer health and education outcomes** than other young people.
- In 2016-17, the **net costs for the Department of Child Protection were \$488 million**, with the costs for a child in out-of-home care having grown to around \$325,000 per child per year.
- **Economic costs are ongoing** - there are significant opportunity costs of people growing up with a diminished ability to contribute positively throughout their adult lives (i.e. through foregone tax revenue, ongoing reliance on social and health services and increased interaction with the justice system).



THE PANEL AND PROCESS

Uniting Communities, SACOSS, The Smith Family, The Wyatt Trust, Community Centres SA, Aboriginal Family Support Services and the Migrant Resource Centre-convened the panel of 28+ South Australians with the assistance of local deliberative democracy company democracyCo.

The opportunity to join the People's Panel was promoted to all South Australians through partner networks, social media, the Messenger Press and 891 Radio. Around 140

people registered to be included, and through a 'random stratification' process the panel was chosen to reflect the overall demographics of South Australia. (See attached overview)

Panel members committed to a process of 4 full days of deliberation over a 3-month period - it is estimated the panel has collectively contributed **over 1500 hours to this process.**

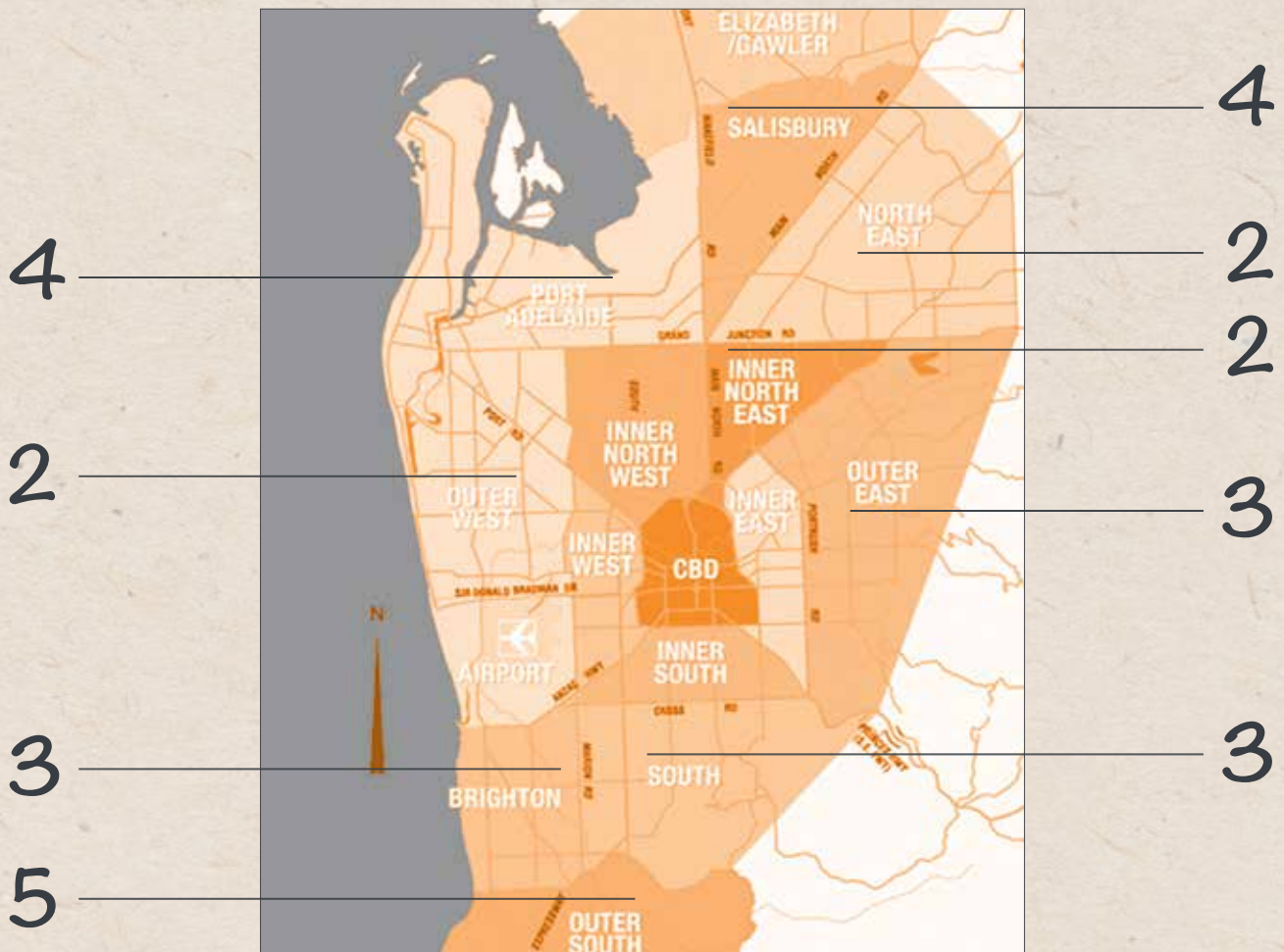
LOCATION OF PEOPLE'S PANEL MEMBERS

27

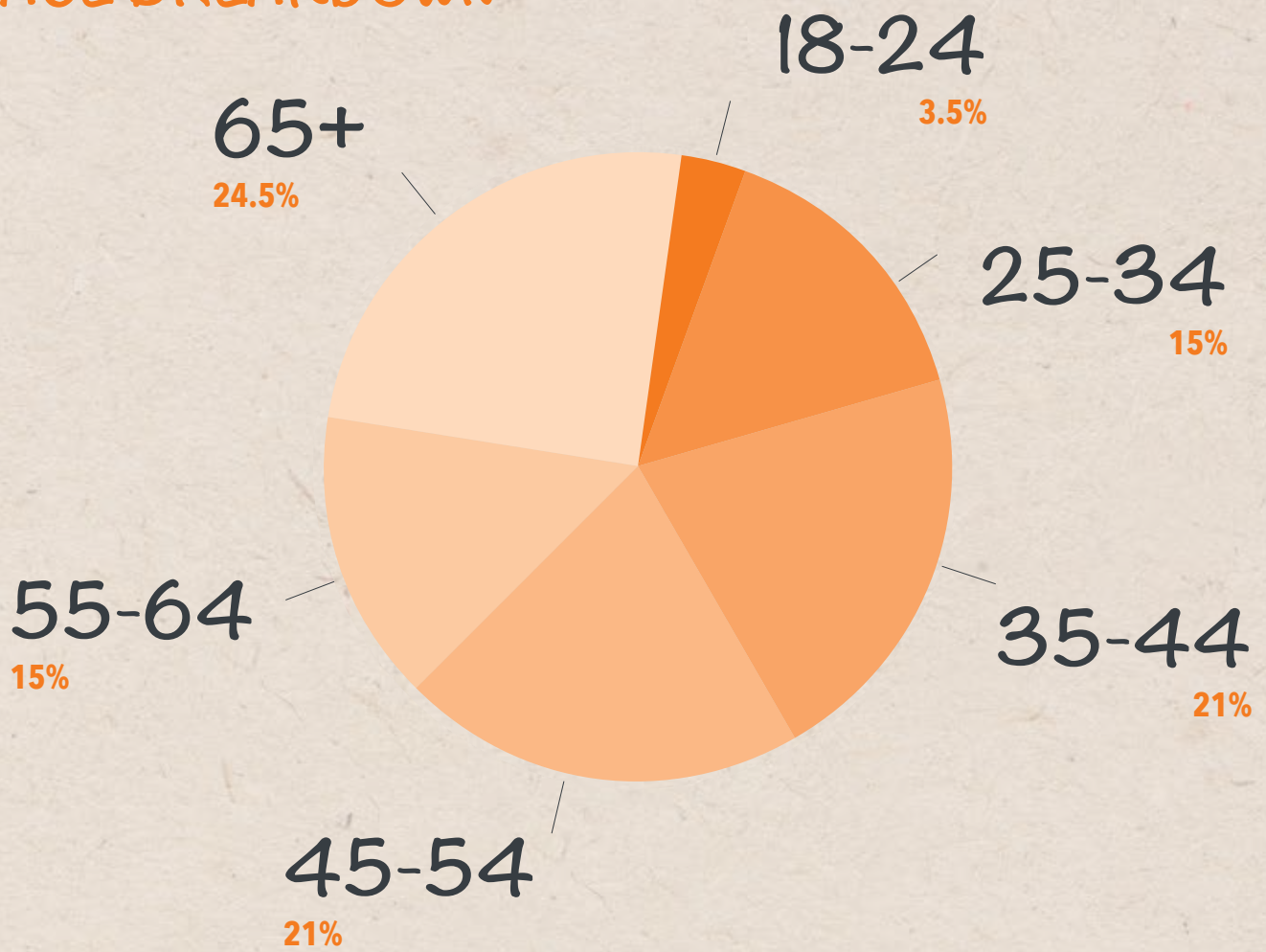
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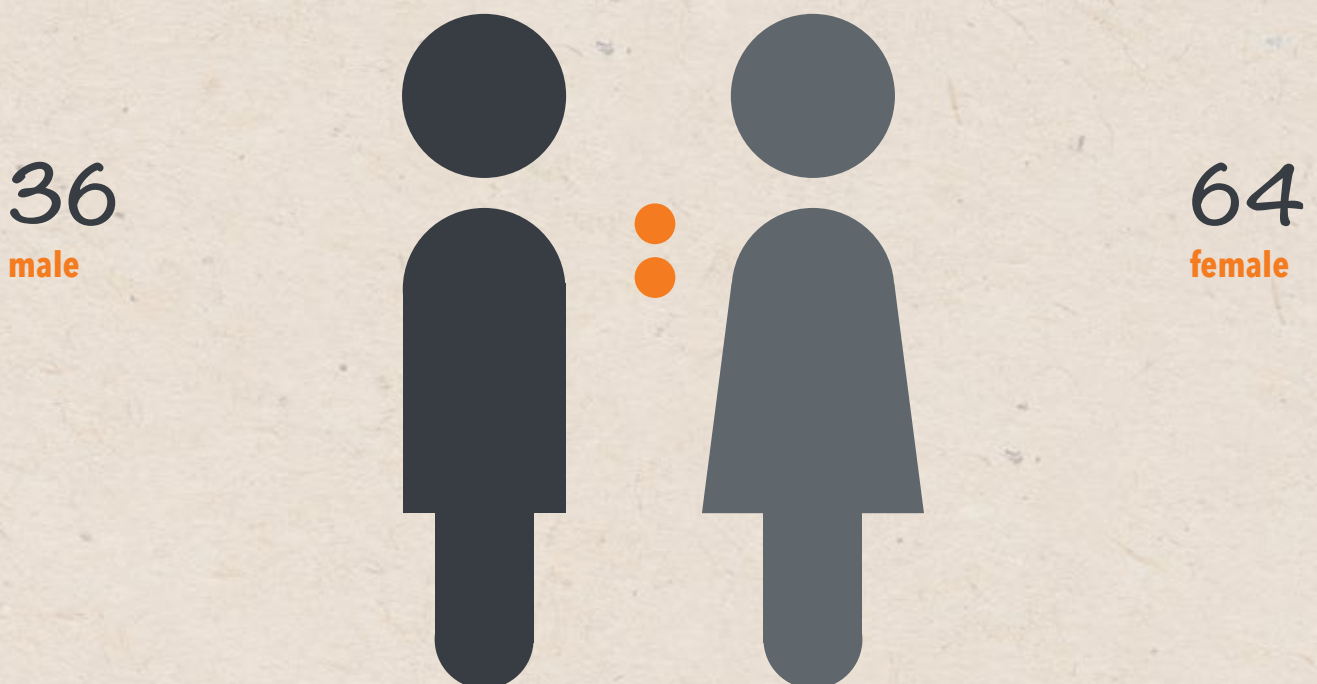
Live in regional
South Australia



AGE BREAKDOWN



GENDER BALANCE



HERITAGE

12%

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander



12%

Culturally & Linguistically Diverse



FAMILY STATUS



21%
are not Parents