exchange CMHL VICTORIA

March 2021 – December 2021

PURPOSE: To identify the profile and workforce development needs of the Social Work workforce across Victorian area mental health services (AMHS) to support leadership, collaboration, growth, learning and development of our profession.

Victorian Public Mental Health Social Worker Scoping Project

We held virtual consultations, between March 2021 – December 2021, with social work leaders from each Victorian AMHS to complete a scoping data collection tool, collecting information on social work workforce numbers and workforce development priorities.

How many Social Workers?

709 **METROPOLITAN**
463.8 Full Time Equivalent

188 **REGIONAL**
176.2 Full Time Equivalent

897 Social workers are employed in public clinical area mental health services in Victoria (640 FTE)
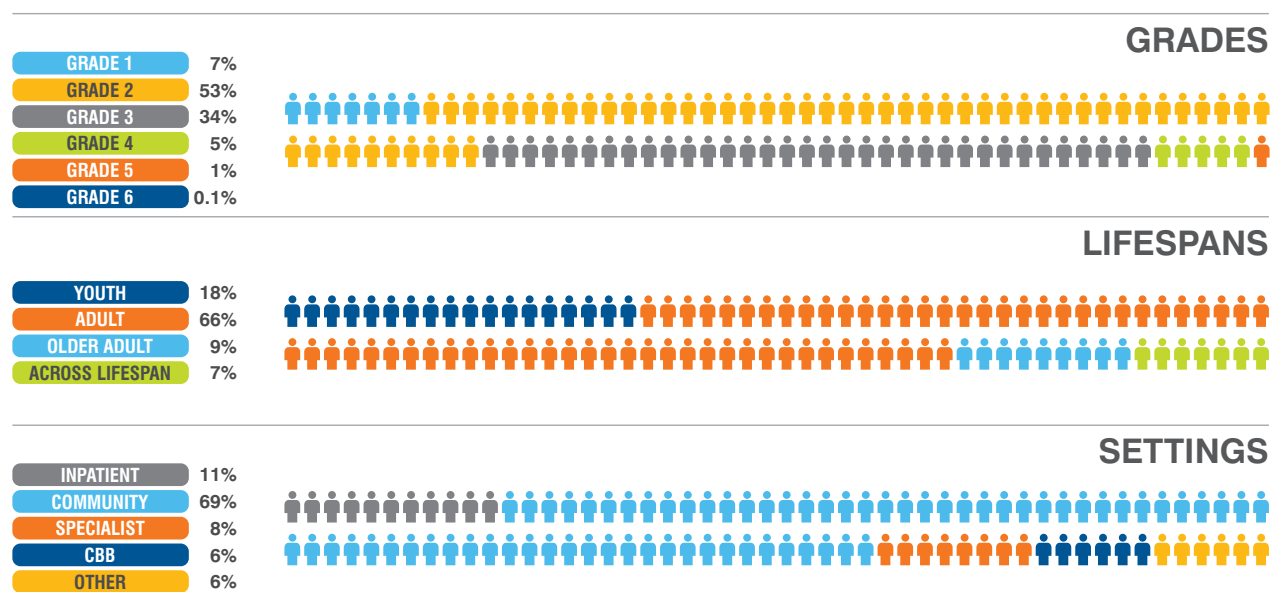
N.B. Data was not collected from 6 AMHS

What have social work leaders asked for?

- Increased EFT for social work specific leadership roles
- A focus on building professional identity and leadership development
- Specific social work leadership training
- More opportunities for advancement and career progression within Area Mental Health Services
- Expansion of work force and positions to be dedicated for social workers in social work specific roles
- A clearer plan and goal for social work as a profession across the sector
- Social work specific clinical educator roles
- More opportunities for social workers in research

Top social work workforce development priorities

1 Family work, with a focus on therapeutic interventions

2 Supervision and reflective practice training

3 Focused psychological therapies

4 Family violence

5 Foundations of mental health social work

Statistics of Victorian Social Workers

GRADES

GRADE 1	7%
GRADE 2	53%
GRADE 3	34%
GRADE 4	5%
GRADE 5	1%
GRADE 6	0.1%

LIFESPANS

YOUTH	18%
ADULT	66%
OLDER ADULT	9%
ACROSS LIFESPAN	7%

SETTINGS

INPATIENT	11%
COMMUNITY	69%
SPECIALIST	8%
CBB	6%
OTHER	6%

DESIGNATED ROLES

Across the sector 9.9% of roles held by social workers are social work specific. At some services up to 25% of social workers are in social work specific roles.