

1 IN 5
reported buying more alcohol than usual

1 IN 3 up from 6% pre COVID-19
are now drinking daily

7 IN 10
reported consuming more alcohol since the COVID-19 pandemic commenced

42.5%
of agencies reported an **increase** in demand

19%
of agencies reported a **decrease** in demand

COVID-19 has reduced residential service capacity

90%
residential agencies noting a reduction in bed availability

Agencies saw a rise in complexity including:

52%
increase in family violence

85%
mental health concerns

58%
financial stress

RECOMMENDATIONS

1 DIVERT PEOPLE FROM THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Residential rehabilitation **ACHIEVES \$204,217 SAVINGS PER PERSON** when compared with prisons through reduced justice and health related expense

2 FUND THE SECTOR

COVID-19 related anxiety **WILL DRIVE UP TO 240,000 PEOPLE** into high risk alcohol consumption

3 SUPPORT CAPITAL WORKS

To ensure treatment services have the capacity to support people and remain COVID-19 safe

4 CREATE MORE BEDS TO MEET DEMAND

Residential rehabilitation **PRE COVID 0.7 CURRENTLY 0.55 BEDS PER 10,000 HEAD OF POPULATION**
Victoria has the second lowest rate of residential rehabilitation beds in Australia

5 FUND AGENCIES TO REMAIN COVID-19 SAFE

Deep cleans
Support for staff to work remotely
Personal protective equipment

6 SPECIALISED OUTREACH SUPPORT

COVID-19 has made it hard for those most in need to access treatment; we need to bring treatment services to them through specialised outreach support