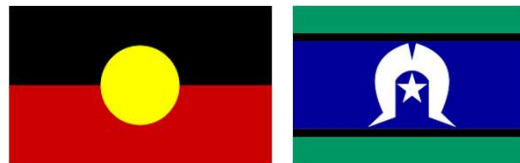




**Charry Owens**  
Project Leader  
Western Health Melton Campus

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*Western Health acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and learn, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.*



# *Babaneek Booboop* Early Years Project

*'Babaneek'* means 'Mother' and *'Booboop'* means 'Child' in the Woi-wurrong language.

*Babaneek Booboop Project* is a referral and support program that aims to promote the health and developmental outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children residing in the City of Melton and Moorabool Shire.

We link children and their families to local early years and child health services, promote cultural safety, encourage relationship-building and self-determination.



## Project background

- In 2016, DHHS hosted an Aboriginal Early Years Forum and invited services to address the health and wellbeing service gaps and access inequalities affecting Aboriginal children in the Western suburbs of Melbourne.
- Community consultation was held. Project model and scope were defined.
- The project was named '*Babaneek Booboop*' from Woiwurrung language meaning '*mother and child*'.
- Melton and Moorabool Koolin Balit Consortium was formed including;  
ACCOs- Kirrip Aboriginal Corporation and VACCA  
LGAs- City of Melton and Moorabool Shire  
Family services- Mackillop Family Services and VACCA  
Health Services- Western Health and Djerriwarrh Health (Project Lead)  
DET and DHHS- advisory roles

## Project background (con't)

### 2017

Project Coordinator and Pathway Workers were employed

Client recruitment commenced

Project team hosted a number of health promotion and cultural events

### 2018

*Koolin Balit* Victorian Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Strategy changed to *Korin Korin Balit-Djak*.

Engaged an Aboriginal consultant to deliver Cultural Awareness training to ECEC and Child Health Services. Cultural Safety Working Groups and Action Plans delivered

### 2019

Project evaluation completed.

Positive client engagement: over 60 families, 120 children engaged in project.

Finalist for the 2019 Victorian Early Years Award in promoting Children's Health and Wellbeing.

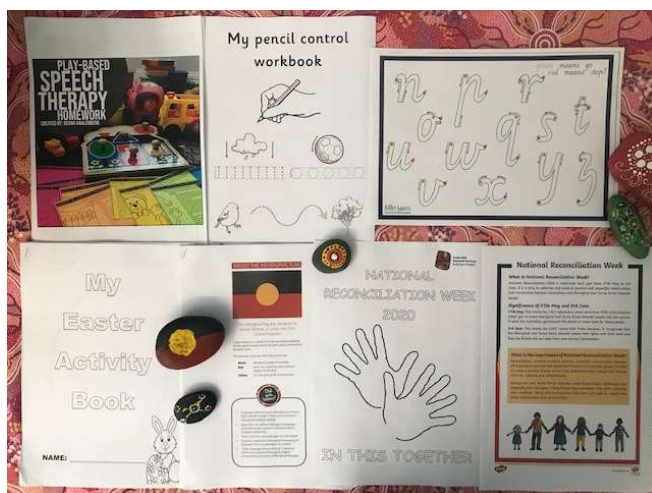
# Project background (con't)

## 2020

Followed up phone calls to children and families experiencing vulnerability  
 Being creative about cultural resources and activity packs  
 Participated in COVID 19 Community Support Networks  
 Diversion to telehealth/online delivery of service  
 Attended virtual Care Team meetings to co-ordinate support

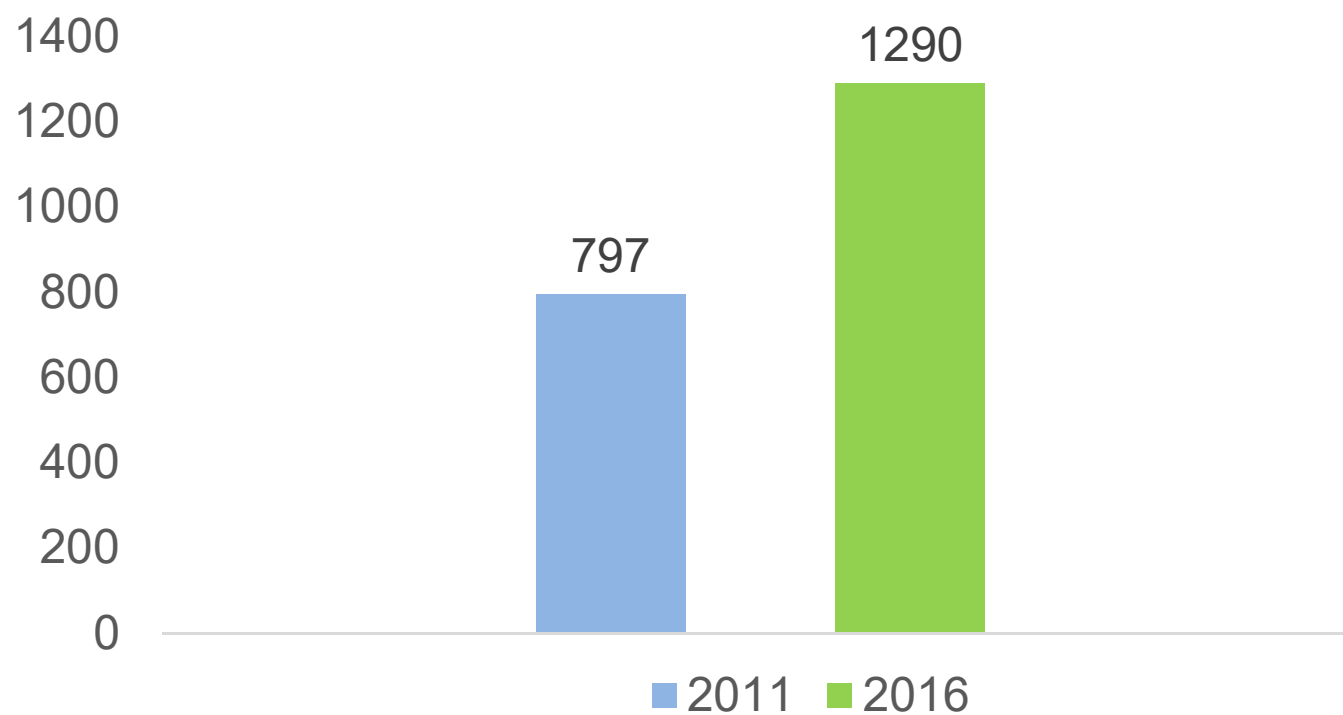
## 2021

Amalgamation between Djerriwarrh Health and Western Health  
 Responding to community needs throughout intermittent lockdowns



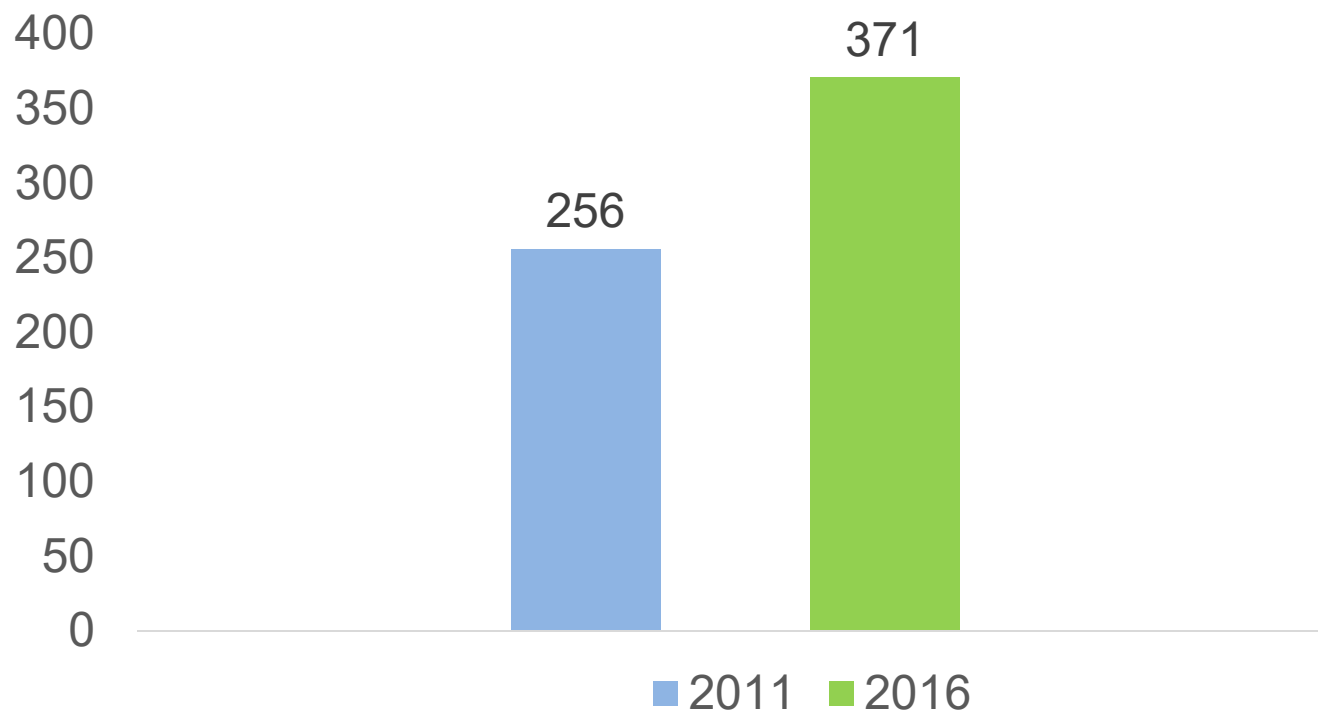
# City of Melton

## Population of Aboriginal People 2011-2016



# Moorabool Shire

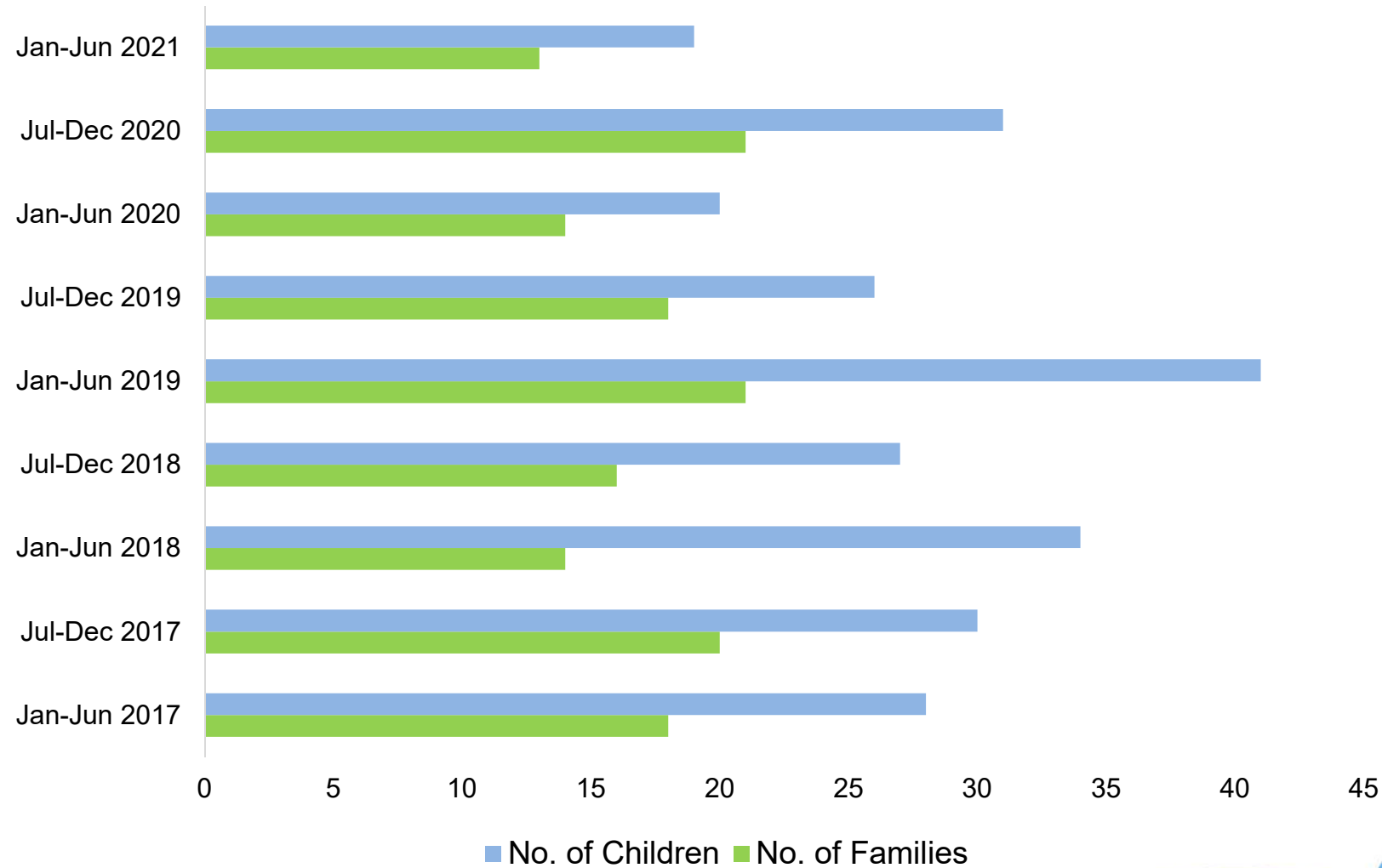
## Population of Aboriginal People 2011-2016





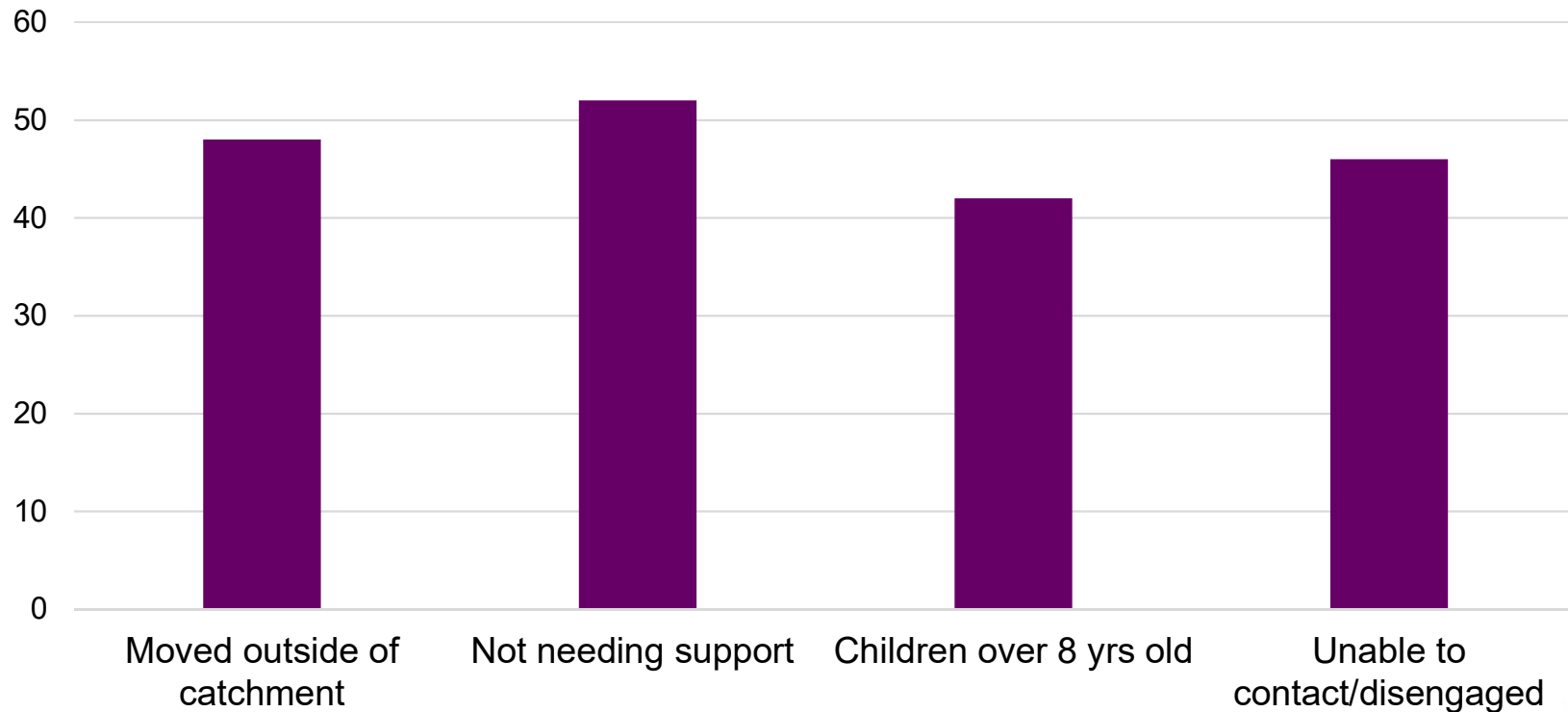
# Project Participants

## Jan 2017- Jun 2021



# Client flow 2017- 2021

Current No. of Active/Engaged Clients: 48 Families and 81 Children



## Enablers and strengths



- **Strong partnership and collaboration** with families and local services
- **Innovative approach** to delivery of services
- **Commitment** to supporting the local community
- **Services are supportive of reflective practise** – provide and seek feedback, evaluate data, consult/collaborate with each other, value client experience, reflect on what works/doesn't work in current practice and partnership

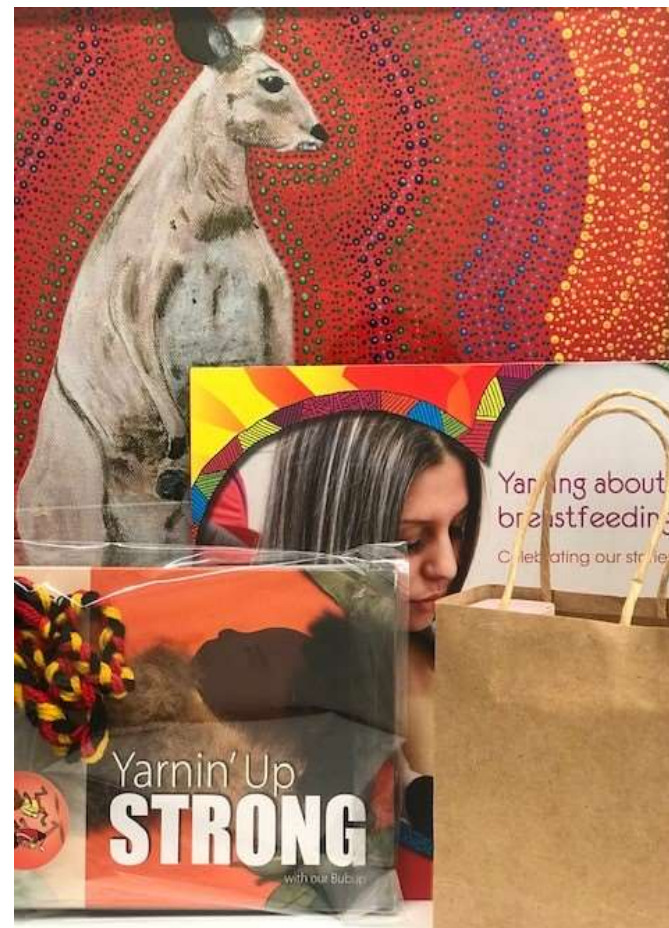


## Deficits and challenges

- **Short-term funding** –impacting on staff retention, client engagement and project sustainability
- **COVID 19** — isolation, decreased community participation and social cohesion
- **Deeper cultural and socio-economic determinants** — impacting child and family health  
ie: housing and income insecurity, family violence, family separation
- **Population growth** —balance between service demand vs supply; ability to provide services in a timely manner

## What we've achieved so far....

- Increased participation of Aboriginal children in Key Age & Stages (KAS) Maternal and Child Health assessments
- Increased attendance in local Paediatric and Allied Health services through Western Health – Melton Health & Community Health
- Increased engagement and attendance of pregnant women in maternity services through the Koorie Maternity Service (KMS) and the *Galindjera* Case Load Model at Joan Kirner Women's & Children's (Sunshine) Hospital
- Increased participation in Early Start Kindergarten and local Playgroups.



# What we've achieved so far....(con't)

- More children and families are participating in local Cultural events and programs.
- Increased attendance at health promotion activities and events – Koorie Kids Dental Day, Healthy Lunchbox sessions for Kinders, Hearing Checks and Optometry checks.
- Children with developmental concerns are linked in with Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) NDIS supports.
- Children transitioning to school are linked in with the KESO





*We acknowledge and value the strength and resilience of the children and families who **trusted** us to support them in their journey.*

It is a privilege to see the children grow and being nurtured by their family and community.

**Any questions?**

