



Wannik – Learning Together, Journey to our Future



The background of the slide features a light-colored, semi-transparent image of a tree with a koala clinging to one of its branches. The tree's trunk and branches are a warm, golden-brown color, and the koala is a darker brown. The overall aesthetic is soft and natural.

Victorian Context

Wannik, Learning Together – Journey to our Future

The Victorian Indigenous Affairs Framework

*The Blueprint for Education and Early Childhood Development
Living, Learning, Thriving: Building on Victoria's Achievements in Early
Childhood Development*

*Be Boorai: the Victorian Charter of Safety and Well-being for Aboriginal
Children and Young People*

Boorron - The Victorian Plan for Aboriginal Children and Young People
(2010-2020)

Wannik



- Education strategy for Koorie students.
- Partnership between the State Government and VAEAI.
- Strategic response to Koorie students not getting the education outcomes that they deserve.
- Holistic approach to student needs.

Koorie Education Workforce Review

- Valued in schools, but not always directed to areas of greatest need.
- The most valued role of Koorie educators is that of linking schools with parents and families of Koorie kids.
- Roles and functions ill-defined and inconsistent across regions.
- Understaffed workforce.
- Little or no professional development over time.

Workforce Reform Old Koorie Education Workforce

School system:

- 56** Koorie Educators (**KEs**);
- 16** Koorie Education Development Officers (**KEDOs**); and
- 8** Home School Liaison Officers (**HSLOs**).

Early childhood area:

- 11** Koorie Early Childhood Field Officers (**KECFOs**)
- 91** Total

Wannik

Learning Together -
Journey to Our Future

Education Strategy for
Koorie Students

VICTORIA 2008

A Victorian
Government
Initiative



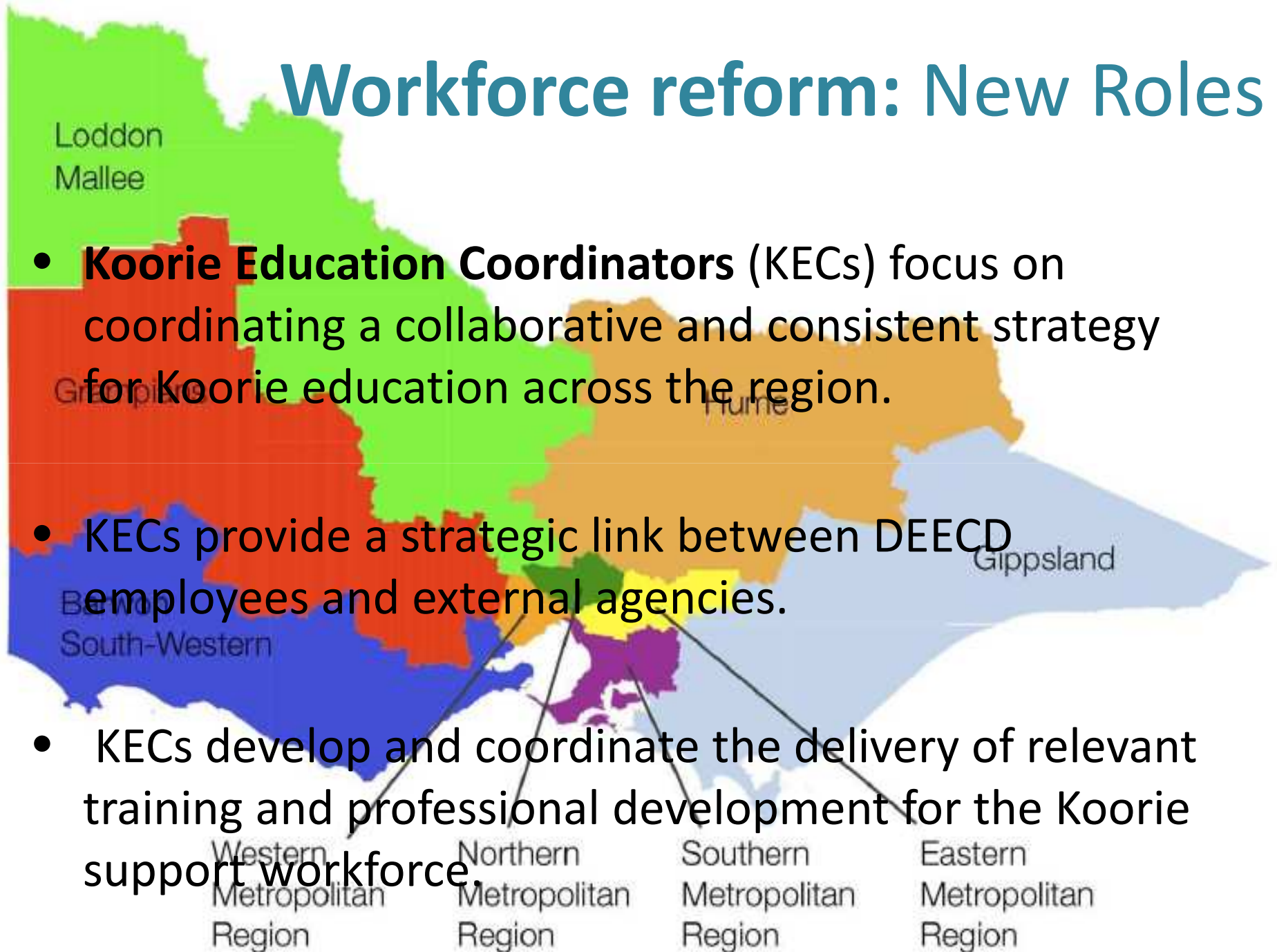
The success of
Wannik will rely
most heavily on
the skills and
capabilities of the
education
workforce.

Workforce reform: New Roles:

1. Koorie Education Coordinators (KECs), and
2. Koorie Engagement Support Officers (KESOs)

Workforce reform: New Roles

- **Koorie Education Coordinators (KECs)** focus on coordinating a collaborative and consistent strategy for Koorie education across the region.
- KECs provide a strategic link between DEECD employees and external agencies.
- KECs develop and coordinate the delivery of relevant training and professional development for the Koorie support workforce.



Workforce reform: New Roles

- **Koorie Education Support Officers (KESOs)** are responsible for coordinating targeted education and early years programs.
- KESOs focus is on **family/caregiver engagement** and providing **expert advice** to regional colleagues, **school communities** and early years providers about the best support for Koorie children and young people.
- 109 KESOs.



Some resources for families and workers

In 2008 VAEAI published early years resources for Koorie families.

These resources promote the early years services that are available.

Resources are needed



Koorie early childhood workforce

- Koorie workers in the field of early childhood assist families with accessing Koorie services, or provide support where there are no services available.



Early childhood workforce

- It is essential that all early childhood workers receive cultural competency training. Through this training they can bring an understanding of traditional and contemporary Koorie society to their interaction with Koorie children...and all children.

DEECD Early Years Initiatives

- **Aboriginal Best Start** has been established in 6 communities across Victoria supporting partnership arrangements between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal service providers. This has strengthened the capacity of Aboriginal families to access culturally responsive and inclusive early years services which are seen to be contributing to the health and well-being of their children.

DEECD Early Years Initiatives

- The **Maternal and Child Health service** has expanded its outreach to 20 Aboriginal communities leading to an increase in the participation of Aboriginal children and families in the Maternal and Child Health Service.

DEECD Early Years Initiatives

- **In-Home Support programs**, established in five Victorian communities, are helping Mums who have complex needs and/or may need extra support with parenting to access the broader service system in the first 3 years of their child's lives.

DEECD Early Years Initiatives

- **Home Based Learning**, operating as an extension to the In-Home Support Program in two locations, is showing some promising results helping parents help their kids with early learning activities (eg. reading and play)

DEECD Early Years Initiatives

- **Supported Playgroups** which require the participation of parents/carers are highly valued and considered critical in the early years of a child's development. Playgroups are providing positive learning experiences in a culturally appropriate setting for children of all ages in the years prior to school as well as providing parents/ carers opportunities to play, learn and interact constructively with their children.

DEECD Early Years Initiatives

- The recent introduction of **free kindergarten** for 3 and 4 year old Aboriginal children, together with the Kindergarten Preschool Assistants and the Koorie Engagement Support Officers has led to an increase in the number of Aboriginal children attending 2 years of a quality early childhood Education program.

DEECD Early Years Initiatives

- Scholarships for Aboriginal early childhood educators have enabled 21 Aboriginal staff to successfully gain an early childhood qualification