

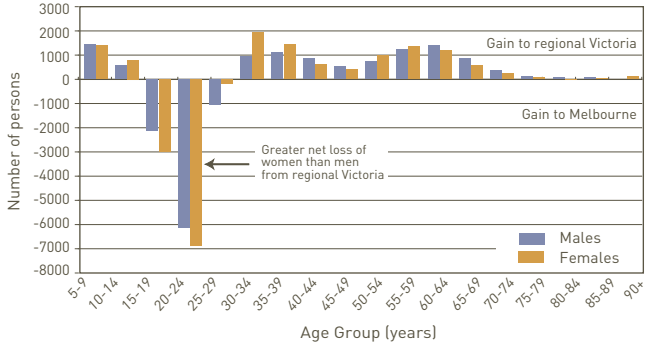
# Finding a partner

## Where have all the women gone

Population data show that many rural areas have an imbalance in the numbers of men and women. The difficulty for single men seeking a partner in these areas can be significant and can have flow on impacts in terms of psychological wellbeing and feelings of isolation. Migration data reveal that more young women are moving from rural areas to the cities, leaving a higher proportion of men behind.

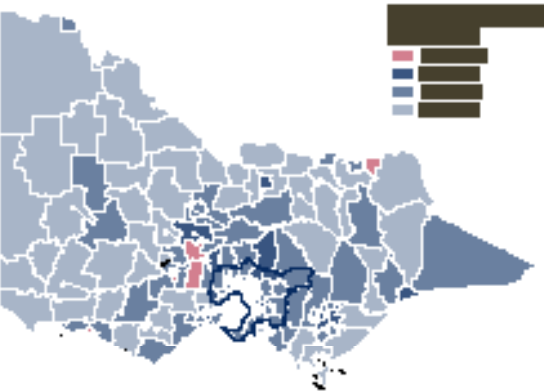
## Net migration of males and females<sup>1</sup>

Movement between Melbourne and regional Victoria 1996-2001



## Male-female ratio among single persons\* aged 20 to 39 years<sup>2</sup>

Statistical Local Areas, 2001

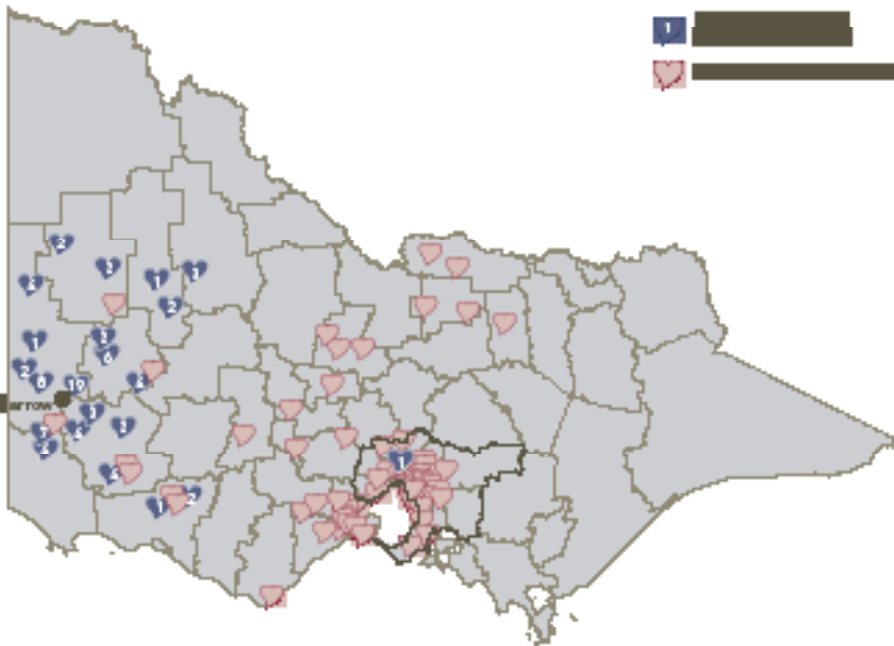


\* persons who have never been married

## The Beaut Blokes™ program

The Beaut Blokes™ Program originated in Harrow as an attempt to combat the loss of young women from the district. A weekend program of events was advertised with the aim of attracting single women to the area to meet the local bachelors. The program initially targeted young local men but after the success of its first weekend, men of all age groups travelled within and across state boundaries to be part of the program. An event for 'A Beaut Bloke with a few Ks on the Clock' has also been organised to focus on older men who have experienced divorce or spousal death and who wish to start a new relationship.<sup>3</sup>

## Beaut Blokes™ attendance in 2003<sup>3</sup>



NOTE: The program also hosted attendees from New South Wales and South Australia

Sources <sup>1</sup>DSE unpublished migration data based on ABS Census & population counts <sup>2</sup>ABS Census 2001 <sup>3</sup>Newton 2005 unpublished data; Beaut Blokes™ website [www.beautblokes.com.au](http://www.beautblokes.com.au)