Outline of Today's Program

- Overview of Key Findings from the Dropping off the Edge Report
- Time for Questions and Answers
- Our advocacy position
- 10.50am MORNING TEA – 15 minutes
- Facilitated Discussion

12 noon Finish

About our organisations

Catholic Social Services Australia

- We represent a national network of 59 Catholic social service organisations that provide direct support to more than one million Australians each year. We develop social welfare policies, programs and other strategic responses that work towards the economic, social and spiritual well-being of the Australian community.

Jesuit Social Services

- We work to build a just society where all people can live to their full potential – by partnering with community to support those most in need and working to change policies, practices, ideas and values that perpetuate inequality, prejudice and exclusion.

Why we commissioned this research

- The 2007 Dropping off the Edge Report (and 1999, 2004) led to Governments committing to a place based approach and the establishment of the National Social Inclusion Board.

- We received many requests for updating the data to provide a better evidence base.

- We cannot and should not turn away from the challenge of persistent and entrenched disadvantage.

- We hold hope that the young people in these communities will have a better outlook and life opportunities.

Overview of Report

Dropping off the Edge 2015 studies populations areas in every state and territory of Australia to identify pockets of location-based disadvantage and the unique web of challenges faced by these communities.
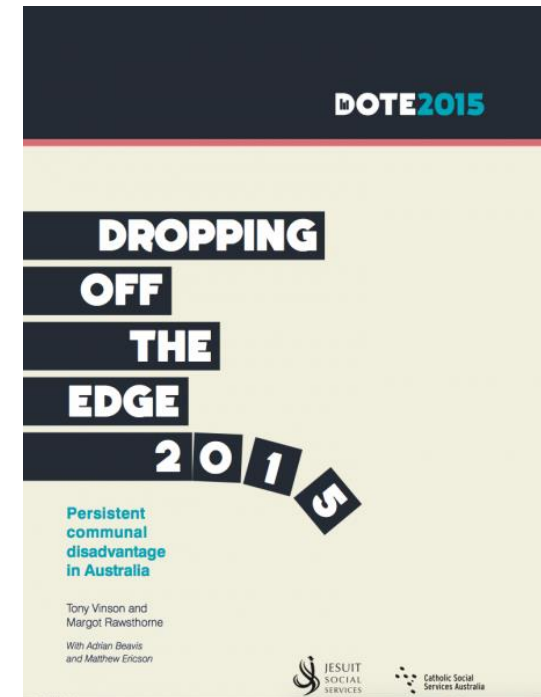
16 years of research

- 1999 and 2004 – NSW and Vic

- 2007 and 2015 – National
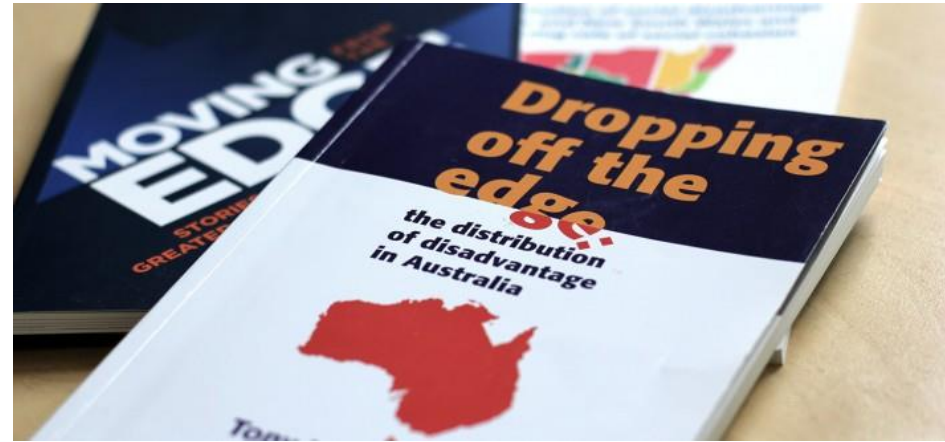
2015 Authors – Prof Tony Vinson and Assoc Prof Margot Rawsthorne (University of Sydney) with Dr Adrian Beavis and Dr Matthew Ericson.

What the research tells us

- Provides a picture of where disadvantage is concentrated
- Presents a snapshot of what attributes dispose an area to be highly disadvantaged
- Looks for patterns of connectedness between the indicators
- Devises a single social disadvantage score (ranking) for each locality within each jurisdiction
- Identifies highly disadvantaged communities warranting national as well as state and territory attention

Indicators –National and State/Territory data

Variable name	Description
Internet access	proportion of households without access to the internet in each counting area
Housing stress	proportion of households allocating 30% or more of income to housing costs in each counting area
Low family income	proportion of households with an income less than $600 per week in each counting area
Overall education	proportion of the population in a counting area aged 16-65 years who left school before 15 years of age
Post-schooling qualifications	proportion of population aged 18-64 years not possessing degree/diploma/grad diploma/grad certificate/postgraduate degree/certificate in each counting area
Unskilled workers	proportion of the workforce (ABS definition) classified as lowest skill (ABS definition) in each counting area
Young adults not engaged	proportion of 17-24 year olds neither engaged in full-time study or work in each counting area
Readiness for schooling	proportion of all children tested for language and cognitive skills (school-based) and assessed as being 'developmentally vulnerable' in each counting area
Disability Support	proportion of people aged 18-64 years in receipt of the Disability Support Pension in each counting area
Long-term unemployment	proportion of the workforce (ABS definition) aged 18-64 years in receipt of Newstart for one year or more in each counting area
Rent assistance	proportion of people aged 18 and over in receipt of rental assistance in each counting area
Unemployment	proportion of the workforce (ABS definition) aged 18-64 years in receipt of Newstart in each counting area
Y3 numeracy	proportion of year 3 students not "At or Above National Minimum Standard Percentage" on the numeracy assessment scales in each counting area
Y3 reading	proportion of year 3 students not "At or Above National Minimum Standard Percentage" on the reading assessment scales in each counting area
Y9 numeracy	proportion of year 9 students not "At or Above National Minimum Standard Percentage" on the numeracy assessment scales in each counting area
Y9 reading	proportion of year 9 students not "At or Above National Minimum Standard Percentage" on the reading assessment scales in each counting area
Child maltreatment	rate of confirmed maltreatment of a child per 1,000 of children and young people under 15 years of age living in each counting area
Criminal convictions	rate per 1,000 of people aged 18-49 years convicted of crime in each counting area
Juvenile convictions	rate per 1,000 of people 10-17 years convicted or found guilty of crime in each counting area
Domestic violence	rate of domestic/family violence orders per 1,000 population aged 18-64 years in each counting area
Prison admissions	rate per 1,000 of people aged 18-49 years admitted to prison in each counting area
Psychiatric admissions	rate of psychiatric hospital admissions per 1,000 of the population over 18 years of age in each counting area

Indicators (20) used in South Australia

Data available for South Australia (2014)*

Internet access	Housing stress	Low family income	Overall education	Post-school qualifications
Unskilled workers	Unengaged young adults	School readiness	Disability support	Long-term unemployment
Rent assistance	Unemployment	Year 3 numeracy	Year 3 reading	Year 9 numeracy
Year 9 reading	Criminal convictions	Juvenile offending	Psychiatric hospital admissions	Prison admissions

* Data was not available for either child maltreatment or domestic violence in South Australia

Main findings – NATIONAL

- Assessment of 2125 discrete areas found disadvantage is concentrated in a small number of communities – 3% appx

- Web of disadvantage – prison admissions, unemployment, lack of formal education, domestic violence, mental health and low income are the most prevalent indicators

- In general, 8/9 out of the top 12 communities have been the most disadvantaged previously

- Regional/rural and Indigenous communities feature in the most disadvantaged – outer metro areas also vulnerable
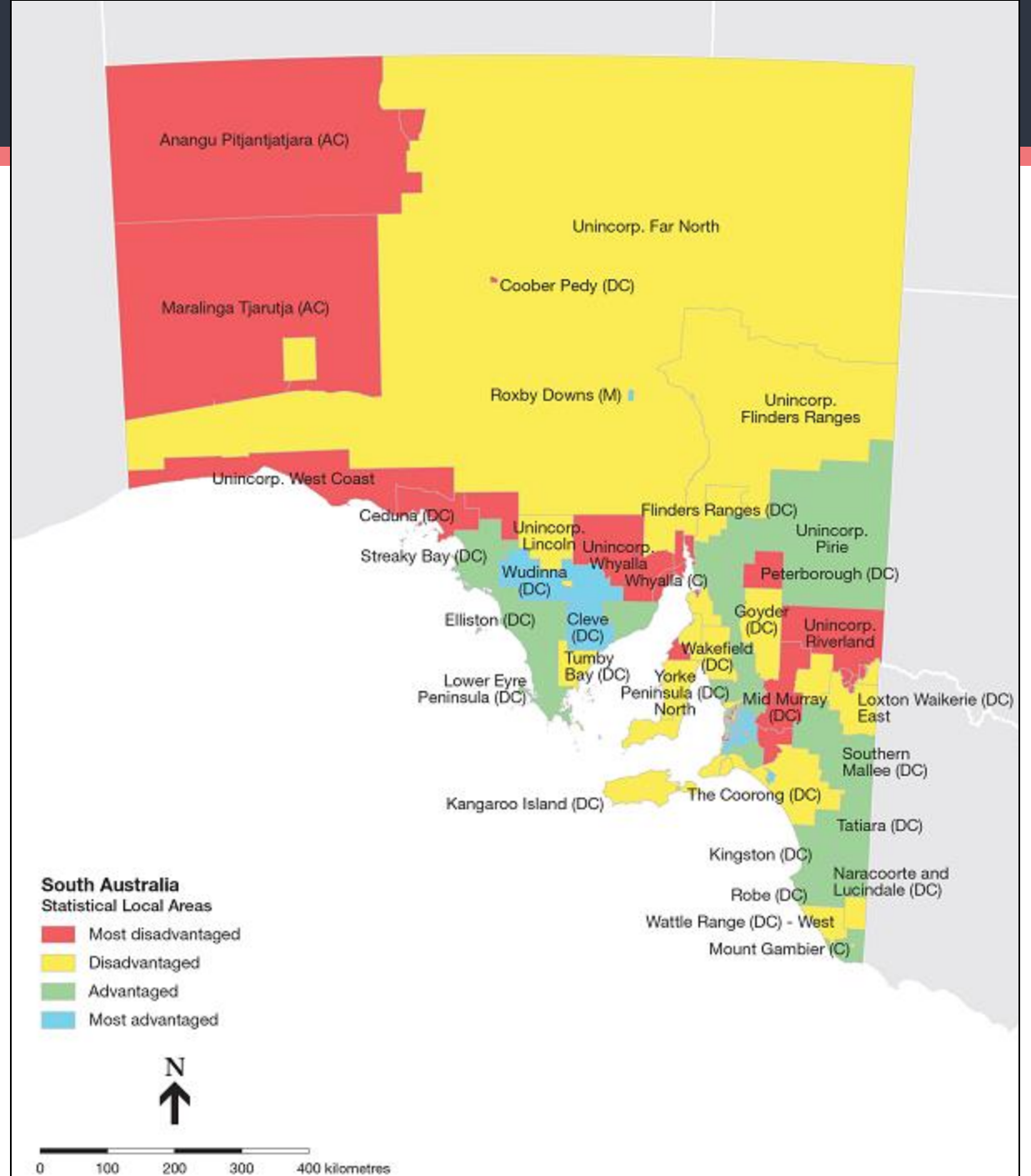
Mapping disadvantage SA

South Australia
Statistical Local Areas

- Most disadvantaged
- Disadvantaged
- Advantaged
- Most advantaged

Table 6-7: South Australia's 30 highest-ranking SLAs on the 'disadvantage' factor

Band	Statistical Local Areas arranged alphabetically	Estimated population	Top 5% 2014 (✓) and Top 10% 2014 (*)	Band in 2007 [20]
	Anangu Pitjantjatjara	2,440	✓	
	Coober Pedy	1,695	✓	1
1	Maralinga Tjarutja	73	✓	
	Peterborough	1,731	✓	1
	Playford – Elizabeth	25,243	✓	1
	Unincorporated Whyalla	211	*	
	Ceduna	2,642	✓	3
	Playford – West Central	16,294	✓	2
2	Port Adelaide – Enfield – Park	382	*	2
	Port Augusta	7,336	*	2
	Port Pirie City Districts – City	17,333	*	2
	Unincorporated West Coast	635	*	
	Berri & Barmera – Berri	4,103		4
	Copper Coast	12,949		2
3	Murray Bridge (RC)	13,892		1
	Onkaparinga – North Coast	2,534		1
	Renmark Paringa – Renmark	7,491		3
	Salisbury – Central	28,485		3

Band	Statistical Local Areas	Estimated population		Band in 2007
	Berri & Barmera – Barmera	4,103		2
	Port Adelaide Enfield – Inner	539		3
4	Port Adelaide Enfield (C) – Port	355		2
	Salisbury – Inner North	9,277		4
	Whyalla	3,733		3
	Yorke Peninsula (DC) – North	7,049		5
	The Coorong	5,525		5
	Goyder	4,162		4
5	Loxton Waikerie West	4,332		6
	Mid Murray	8,136		2
	Onkaparinga Hackham	14,093		4
	Yorke Peninsula South	7,049		4
	Barunga West	2,457		6
	East Murray Karoonda	1,032		
6	Mount Gambier	25,247		6
	Port Lincoln	14,088		5
	Port Pirie City Districts – Balance	3,511		6
	Wakefield	6,662		5

[20] No comparative data available if left blank

Indicators are weighted to give an overall ranking of most disadvantaged bands

Main findings – 128 Statistical Local Areas in SA

- Disadvantage is entrenched and concentrated in a small number of communities in SA with similar results to 2007. (31/40 of most disadvantaged were in top levels in 2007)

- Inclusion of new data for remote communities highlights the severity of disadvantage in these localities.

- In top 3% of disadvantaged communities, people:

  - 10x as likely to have spent time in prison

  - More than 5x likely to have low level of education and disengaged from education or employment as young adults

  - More than 2x likely to have a disability & 3.5x dealing with mental health issues

Main findings –South Australia cont –

- Dominant characteristics of disadvantaged communities in SA – unemployment, poor education levels, long term unemployment, criminal convictions and young adults disengaged.

- In the remote regions, internet access was an issue

- The more urbanised areas had greater housing stress

Unemployment

Poor education levels

Long-term unemployment

Criminal convictions
Young adults disengaged

Extract from 128 SLA Rankings on Indicators (low number is worse ranking)

region_id	Locality name (N = 128)	R.internet.access	R.housing.stress	R.low.family.income	R.overall.education	R.post.schooling.qualifications	R.unskilled.workers	R.young.adults.not.engaged	R.readiness.schooling	R.disability.support	R.long.term.unemployment	R.rent.assistance	R.unemployment	R.y3.numeracy	R.y3.reading	R.y9.numeracy	R.y9.reading	R.child.maltreatment	R.criminal.convictions	R.juvenile.convictions	R.domestic.violence	R.prison.admissions	R.psychiatric.admissions	Avererage Rank	Number of ranks
405150070	Adelaide (C)	118	1	87	113	117	117	116	11	82	56	11	70	49	53	90	104		28	6		29	26	64	20
405150121	Adelaide Hills (DC) - Central	123	77	123	124	122	120	107	83	118	99	113	111	114	112	115	109		116	112		116	114	111	20
410150125	Adelaide Hills (DC) - North	114	72	107	114	95	99	117	110	114	97	111	115	82	75	77	91		77	115		89	116	99	20
405150124	Adelaide Hills (DC) - Ranges	121	80	121	121	118	116	93	56	117	93	112	104	108	91	99	100		103	111		105	118	104	20
410150128	Adelaide Hills (DC) Bal	99	49	98	99	103	95	80	81	106	92	99	112	94	74	3	19		112	99		106	80	85	20
410200221	Alexandrina (DC) - Coastal	68	25	23	75	78	39	40	95	27	31	8	27	85	51	97	113		58	65		75	51	57	20
410200224	Alexandrina (DC) - Strathalbyn	84	36	73	87	74	51	62	102	73	60	69	65	60	69	64	55		86	87		94	47	70	20
435250250	Anangu Pitjantjatjara (AC)	2	122	4	2	1	15	2	1	8	1		1	1	1	1	1		5	31		1	94	15	19
410050311	Barossa (DC) - Angaston	61	64	81	76	63	10	53	48	80	78	74	91	64	99	49	79		67	100		76	22	67	20
410050314	Barossa (DC) - Barossa	105	67	91	103	91	59	68	105	98	75	91	81	70	62	67	87		89	78		103	78	83	20

Whyalla Rankings on 20 Indicators – against 128 SLAs

region_id	Locality name (N = 128)	R.internet.access	R.housing.stress	R.low.family.income	R.overall.education	R.post.schooling.qualifications	R.unskilled.workers	R.young.adults.not.engaged	R.readiness.schooling	R.disability.support	R.long.term.unemployment	R.rent.assistance	R.unemployment	R.y3.numeracy	R.y3.reading	R.y9.numeracy	R.y9.reading	R.child.maltreatment	R.criminal.convictions	R.juvenile.convictions	R.domestic.violence	R.prison.admissions	R.psychiatric.admissions	Avereage Rank	Number of ranks
435058540	Whyalla (C)	38	55	35	61	57	58	9	54	26	10	78	15	37	23	16	20		18	9		27	115	38	20

Top 5 SA Rankings on Selective Indicators

Young Adults Not Engaged
1. Maralinga Tjarutja (AC)
2. Anangu Pitjantjatjara (AC)
3. Playford (C) - Elizabeth
4. Peterborough (DC)
5. Ceduna (DC)

Housing Stress
1. Adelaide (C)
2. Playford (C) - West Central
3. Salisbury (C) Bal
4. Playford (C) – Elizabeth
5. Port Adel. Enfield (C) – Park and Salisbury (C) - Inner North

Year 3 Reading
1. Anangu Pitjantjatjara (AC)
2. Flinders Ranges (DC)
3. Streaky Bay (DC)
4. Coober Pedy (DC)
5. Ceduna (DC)

Examples of Improvements in South Australia between 2007–15

- Onkaparinga (North Coast) – improvements in short term unemployment, prison admissions and mental health

- Yorke Peninsula (South) – improvements in access to internet and small improvements in long term unemployment and household incomes and only appears once in the bottom 20% of NAPLAN results.

Main findings – burden of disadvantage

Table 11-3: Ratio of 3% and 97% in various States

Remaining four States	Ratio 97% to 3% NSW	Ratio 97% to 3% SA	Ratio 97% to 3% TAS	Ratio 97% to 3% QLD
Overall low level of education	2.9	5.3	1.4	4.1
Absence of post school qualifications	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.5
Unskilled workers	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.0
Young adults not engaged	2.2	5.2	2.0	4.7
Disability support	2.0	2.3	1.5	2.4
Long term unemployed	3.3	5.1	1.4	2.3
Rent assistance	1.7	0.7	0.9	1.1
Unemployed	2.9	5.2	1.3	1.7
Child maltreatment	---	---	---	4.2
Criminal convictions	2.3	4.1	1.5	8.5
Juvenile convictions	2.3	2.4	1.8	6.1
Domestic violence	2.8	---	2.3	4.2
Prison admissions	3.6	10.0	1.6	5.2
Psychiatric admissions	1.8	3.5	1.1	---

Testing the impact of social cohesion – (Vic research by Tony Vinson)

- Social cohesion – Connections between people and between them and their wider community

- Do local social connections affect community resilience?

- Can the strengths of these connections lessen the impact of disadvantage?

Characteristics of social cohesion

- Volunteerism
- Membership of local groups
- Group action to help community
- Neighbours help in difficult times
- Feeling safe walking in neighborhood
- Agree people can be trusted
- Attendance at local community events
- Feel valued by society

Physical environment – supporting social cohesion

- Safe places to meet – libraries, parks

- Walking safely– lighting, activity areas

- Community facilities – recreation, halls

- Access to commercial, community & health services

- Public transport – to access services and social networks

- Housing – affordable, well designed for needs

Findings about social cohesion

- Strong social cohesion can "dampen" effects of harmful conditions

- But needs to be supported by other interventions – education, income, health, parenting skills etc

- Place effects have greatest influence on children & late adolescence (eg health, education, parenting support)

- Requires long term intervention

Questions and Discussion on the Findings

Advocacy Position of Catholic Social Services Australia and Jesuit Social Services

Urgent action needed to address disadvantage

A small number of communities experience persistent and entrenched disadvantage.

It is not the responsibility of individuals alone to solve but for governments to work with the community to provide real opportunities for economic and social participation, and a cohesive community life.

Confronting and overcoming disadvantage

We cannot and should not turn away from the challenge of persistent and entrenched disadvantage.

A new approach is needed so we don't continue to fail the 3% of communities that bear the greatest burden of disadvantage.

Starting the conversation – What can be done to address entrenched disadvantage?
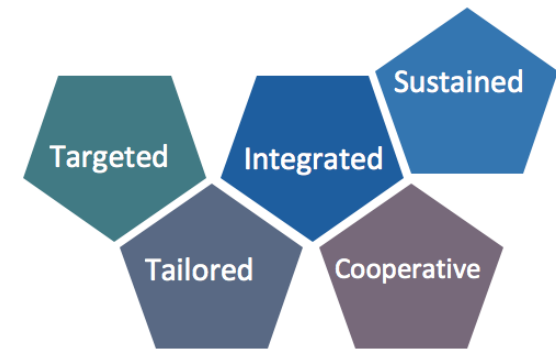
- Focus on most disadvantaged locations

- Develop solutions that are unique to each community

- Response is integrated – across silos and across governments

- Long term

- Involve communities

We need a multi-layered, cooperative and coordinated strategy that is **owned and driven by the community**.

It must involve all layers of government and the business and community sectors, reflecting shared responsibility and joint commitment to resolve this entrenched problem.

The strategy must take account of the unique characteristics and circumstances of local communities and must be sustained over the long term.

Our advocacy position

We call on Government and the community to urgently give priority to changing this unacceptable situation and provide a better future for these communities through:

1. **Sustained and long term commitment to change**
   - minimum of 20 years
   - multiparty agreement across electoral cycles
   - at all levels – national, state and local

Our advocacy position – cont

2. Address economic and social disadvantage at the level of the:

   - Individual – housing, income, education, employment, services and supports

   - community – culture and community norms, role models, social connections, access to services, peers, school and teacher quality

   - macro – economic growth, structural change and institutional functioning

Our advocacy position – cont

3. Working with the community, business and government on local solutions that are targeted, tailored and agile:

- harnessing resources, innovative ideas and strengths
- agreeing feasible local action plans – setting priorities, targets and allocating adequate resources
- establishing local governance mechanisms tailored to the circumstances of the communities
- providing expert assistance and guidance as required

Our advocacy position – cont

4. Integrating government to support local solutions and effectively drive change:

- establishing a lead agency with authority nationally and in each state and territory to integrate and coordinate activity
- establishing performance targets for departments setting priority actions and resource allocation
- allocating adequate funds over required period to deliver change
- monitoring and evaluating effectiveness and developing the knowledge base of what is successful

Morning Tea Break – 15 minutes

DOTE2015

Discussion:

1. What are the issues affecting disadvantage in your community?

2. What has worked well in your community to address disadvantage?

3. What are some further ideas to address disadvantage?

Further information

www.dote.org.au and #DOTE2015

- Report

- Summary Document

- State Fact Sheets

- Maps

- Advocacy Materials

- State Based Briefings

Thank you

Contact:

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