

Giving children the best start in life

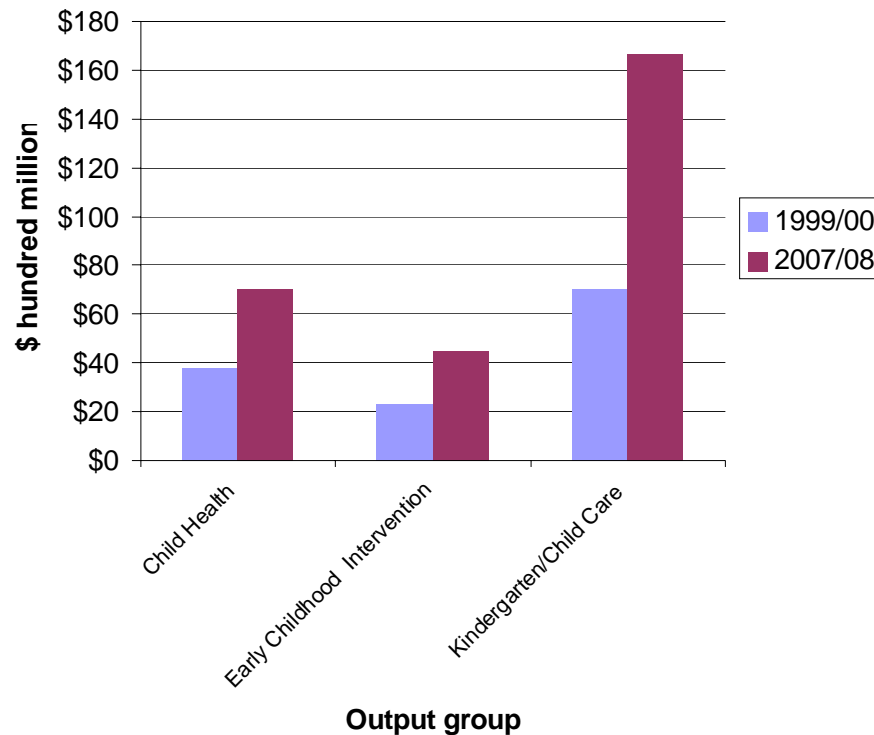


Hon Lisa Neville MP
Minister for Children

Presentation to the Public Accounts & Estimates Committee
14 May 2006

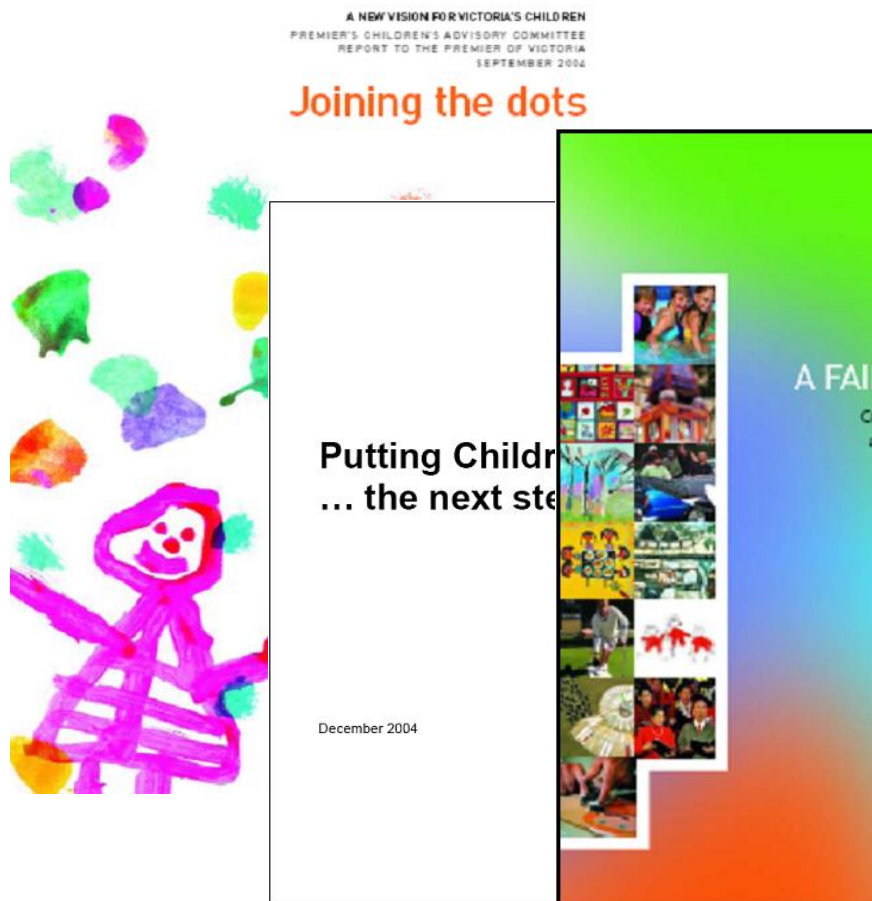
Achievements

Community Services expenditure growth 1999-2000 to 2007-08



- Investment in 55 new or expanded Children's Centres
- 30 new Best Start projects
- 43% of all community based kindergarten services part of a kindergarten cluster
- 95% increase in early childhood intervention services output funding since 1999/00

Research and policy



Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section

PART 1—PRELIMINARY

1. Purposes
2. Commencement
3. Definitions

PART 2—PRINCIPLES FOR CHILD WELLBEING AND SAFETY

4. Principles are for guidance
5. Principles for children

PART 3—CHILD WELLBEING AND SAFETY

6. The role of the Minister
7. Role of the Secretary in relation to the Council

PART 4—VICTORIAN CHILD WELLBEING AND SAFETY COUNCIL

8. Establishment of Victorian Council
9. Constitution of Council
10. Functions of the Council
11. Sub-committees
12. Procedure of the Council

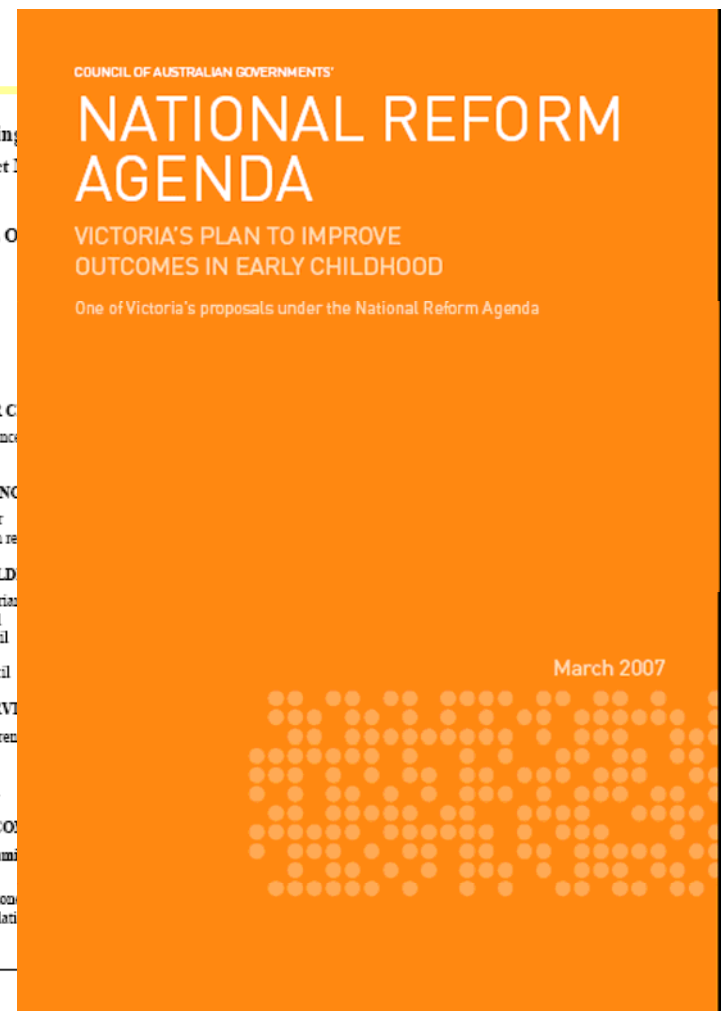
PART 5—CHILDREN'S SERVICES

13. Establishment of Children's Services Board
14. Constitution of Board
15. Functions of the Board
16. Procedure of the Board

PART 6—CHILD SAFETY COMMISSION

Division 1—Child Safety Commission

17. Object of Part
18. Child Safety Commission
19. General functions in relation to the Commission
20. Powers



Challenge: improving access to kindergarten and child care



- Kindergarten initiatives
 - Funding to improve access (\$10m over 4 years)
 - Ensuring kindergarten accessibility for low income families (\$28.9m over 4 years)
- Centralised childcare register
 - \$2m over 4 years

Challenge: integrating services

- Key government objective is to improve infrastructure in children's services
 - Kindergarten and child care centre upgrades (\$15m over 4 years)
- Children's centres
 - \$20m over 4 years



Challenge: improving the health and development of Victoria's children



- Increased support for parents, in particular, the M&CH line
 - \$6.2m over 4 years
- ECIS – 150 new places and 150 new enhanced packages
 - \$6.2m over 4 years
- Home based support for children with complex needs (Health portfolio)
- Young readers
 - \$2.1m over 4 years
- Neonatal hearing screening (Health portfolio)

Challenge: Improving outcomes for disadvantaged children

- Improving services for young Indigenous Victorians
 - \$11.5m over 4 years
- Sexual assault
 - \$1.7m over 2 years to increase the capacity for a timely response



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