

# Youth Affairs

Presentation to the Public Accounts and  
Estimates Committee

**James Merlino, MP**

**Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth  
Affairs**

15 May 2007



*Department for Victorian Communities*









# Snapshot of Young People in Victoria

- Young people aged between 12 and 25 comprise 19 per cent of Victoria's population.
- There is significant diversity among Victoria's young people.
- 74% of young Victorians were living in the Melbourne metropolitan area in 2002.
- 83% of young people born overseas were from countries where English is not the first language.
- Young people today are a technological generation, with technology enabling them to communicate, network and learn in new ways.
- During 2005-6, more than 625,000 young Victorians (15-24 years) participated in exercise, recreation and sport – a participation rate of more than 91%.



# The Youth Affairs Portfolio in Government

## Programs

<b>Advance</b>	
<b>FReeZA</b>	
<b>FReeZACentral</b>	
<b>Mentoring &amp; Capacity Building Initiative</b>	
<b>Youth Participation and Access program</b>	
<b>youthcentral</b>	
<b>National Youth Week</b>	
<b>Youth Foundations Victoria</b>	
<b>Positive Body Image</b>	

## and Policy



*Department for Victorian Communities*

# The Youth Affairs Portfolio in Government

## *Why?*

- Listen and understand young people
- Lead Policy across Government and, the community
- Co-ordinate activity

## *How?*

- Consultation
- Advocacy and Advice from YACVic and CMYI
- Regional Youth Affairs Networks provide a local perspective
- Inter-Departmental Committee for Youth
- DVC Local teams focus on place and diversity



## Voice of Young People

- Youth Consultation Forums at Community Cabinet
- Victorian Youth Advisory Indigenous Network (VIYAC)
- Regional Youth Affairs Networks
- National Youth Week
- Young People Direct



# A Focus on Outcomes for Young People

- Contributing and making a difference
- Achieving potential through informed life choices
- Having resources and making connections
- Managing healthy active and diverse lives
- Being safe and promoting safe behaviours



# Key Achievements

- Future Directions: An Action Agenda for Young Victorians, significant consultation with young people
- Additional funding for YACVic and CMYI
- Go for Your Life – Positive Body Image Initiative
- *youthcentral* ongoing funding and strengthened youth engagement
- Victoria Rocks & FreeZACentral



# Forward Direction

- Victoria Rocks
  - FReeZACentral
  - Music Equipment Grants
- Future Directions-Outcomes Focus
- Joint Reporting with the Office for Children
- Young People Direct







# The Office for Youth

Department for Victorian Communities

[www.youth.vic.gov.au](http://www.youth.vic.gov.au)

