

PAEC 2008-09



Budget Estimates Hearing 16 May 2008

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Minister for Children and Early Childhood
Development

Victorian achievements

- Established the role of Minister for Children (2004)
- Significant increase in investment in early years services
- Increased participation in kindergarten
- Development of integrated Children's Centres
- Ensured a strong legislative and regulatory framework



Victoria's achievements

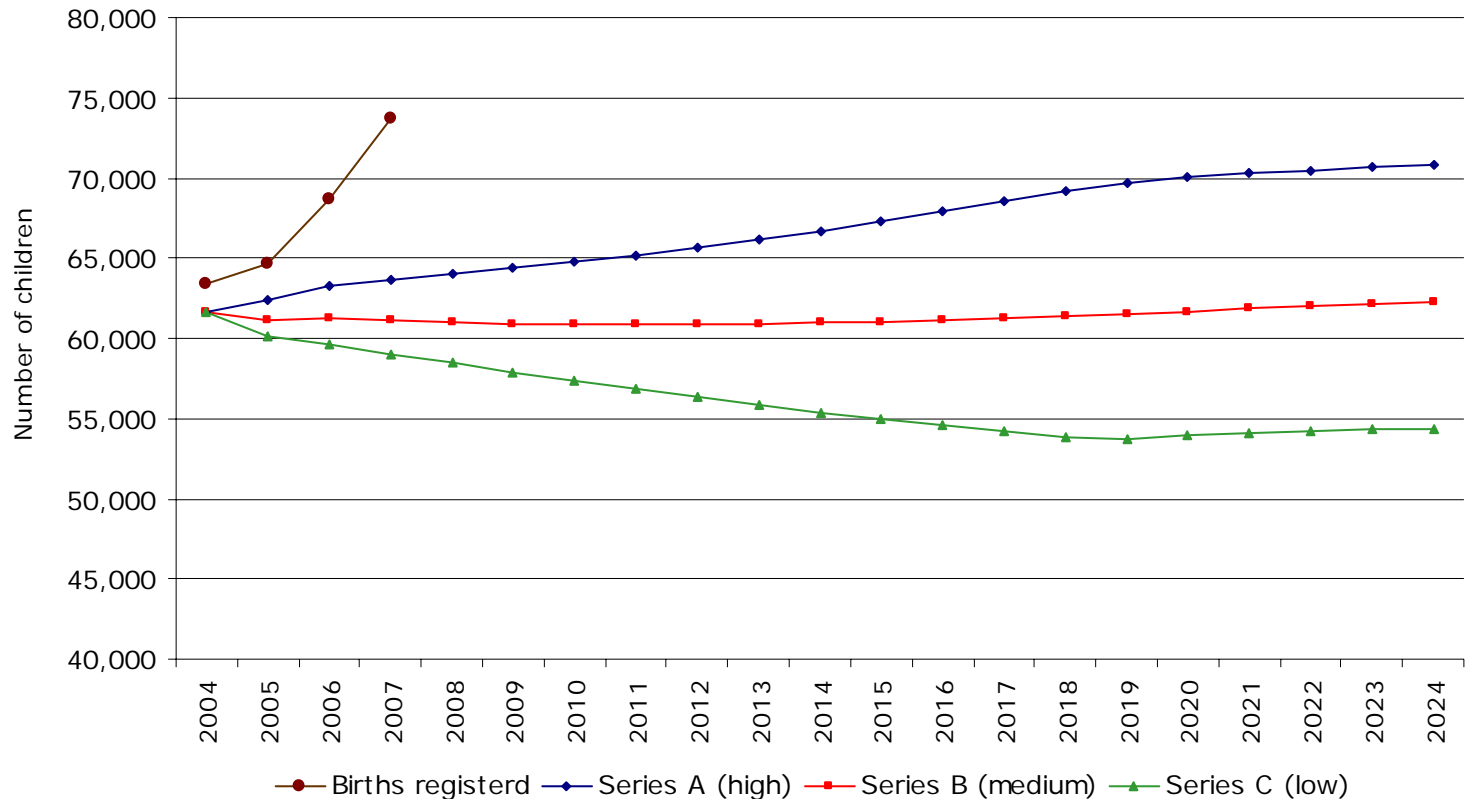
- Increased participation in Maternal and Child Health checks at all stage visits
- Increased funding to Maternal and Child Health services
- Young Readers Program delivered through Maternal and Child Health services





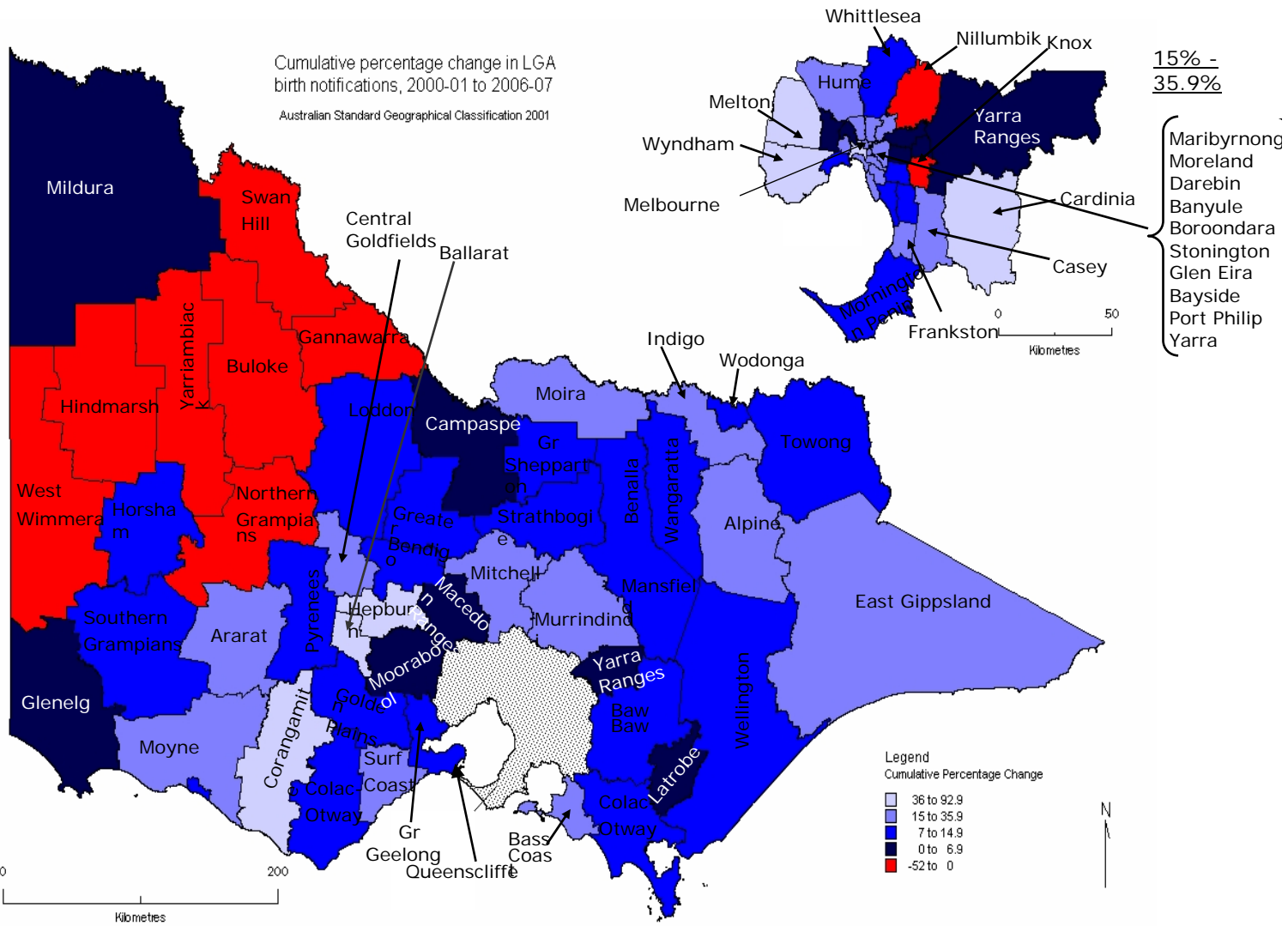
The jump in births

The number of births in 2007 - 73,737 - is already above even the 'high' population projections for 2024 published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics



Source: Births registered, Vic and ABS, 2005

LGA change in birth notifications 2000-01 to 2006-07



2008-09 Early Childhood Development Overview

The 2008-09 Budget provides \$133.8 million for Early Childhood Development initiatives over four years.

Early Childhood Development Budget highlights:

- \$54.9m to expand Maternal and Child Health Services
- \$29.0m for early childhood intervention for children with a disability
- \$15.1m to engage vulnerable families through the promotion of home learning and supported playgroups
- \$16.5m to administer changes to the *Children's Services Act 1996*
- \$10.5m to introduce the Early Learning and Development Framework and Transition Statements to help children move from early childhood education and care to primary school
- \$5.2m for free kindergarten to 3 year olds known to Child Protection
- \$2.6m for the co-location of early childhood services on school sites



Maternal and Child Health

\$54.9m over four years to expand Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services

- additional **universal** MCH services to accommodate growth in birth rates
- additional **enhanced** MCH services to accommodate growth in birth rates





Early Childhood Intervention Services

\$29m over four years to support early childhood intervention for children with a disability

- 1,000 additional Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) places
- additional Kindergarten Inclusion Support Service (KISS) placements
- development of an ECIS workforce strategy



Support for Playgroups in Home Environment

\$15.1m over four years to engage vulnerable families through the promotion of home learning and supported playgroups

- Home learning programs will be provided for up to 2,000 disadvantaged families
- Promotion of literacy learning in the home
- Participation in a multi-state research study
- Extend supported playgroups to an additional 13 local areas



Regulatory reform

\$16.5m over four years for a new focus on quality in Family Day Care and Outside School Hours Care

Introduce regulations and monitoring for Family Day Care and Outside School Hours Care

- staff employed to administer the Act
- capital grants to support compliance



Further initiatives

Partnerships with parents and the community

\$10.5m over five years to help children make the transition to school

- new Transition Statements for all kindergarten students
- development of the Victorian Early Learning and Development Framework for early childhood education and care

\$5.2m to provide free kindergarten programs to 3 year olds known to child protection

- up to 5 hours per week of free kindergarten to 3 year old children known to child protection