

Presentation to the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

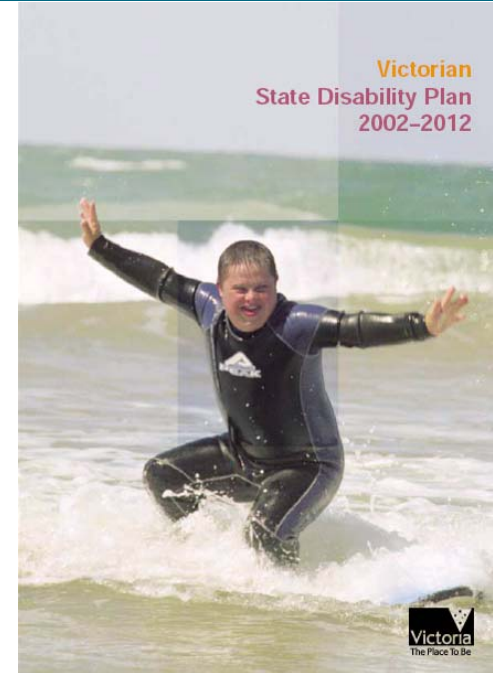


Hon Lisa Neville MP
Minister for Community Services

22 May 2008

Achievements for people with disabilities

- Government is making demonstrable progress in achieving an inclusive Victoria for people with a disability:
 - 105.5% budget increase in Disability Services since 1999-00
 - Improved services through introduction of individualised planning and support for 8315 people in 2007-08
 - Completed closure of Kew Residential Services with approximately 480 residents moved to their new homes
 - Established Disability Housing Trust with initial 80 supported housing opportunities planned or implemented
 - Created *my future my choice* housing options for young people with disabilities living in residential aged care with 43 new supported accommodation places in development
 - Released Victorian Industry Development Plan and funding for capacity development for the disability services sector
 - Introduced the Quality Framework for Disability Services
 - Implemented Disability Action Plans in Government departments
 - New *Disability Act 2006* implemented, including Disability Services Commissioner and Office of the Senior Practitioner



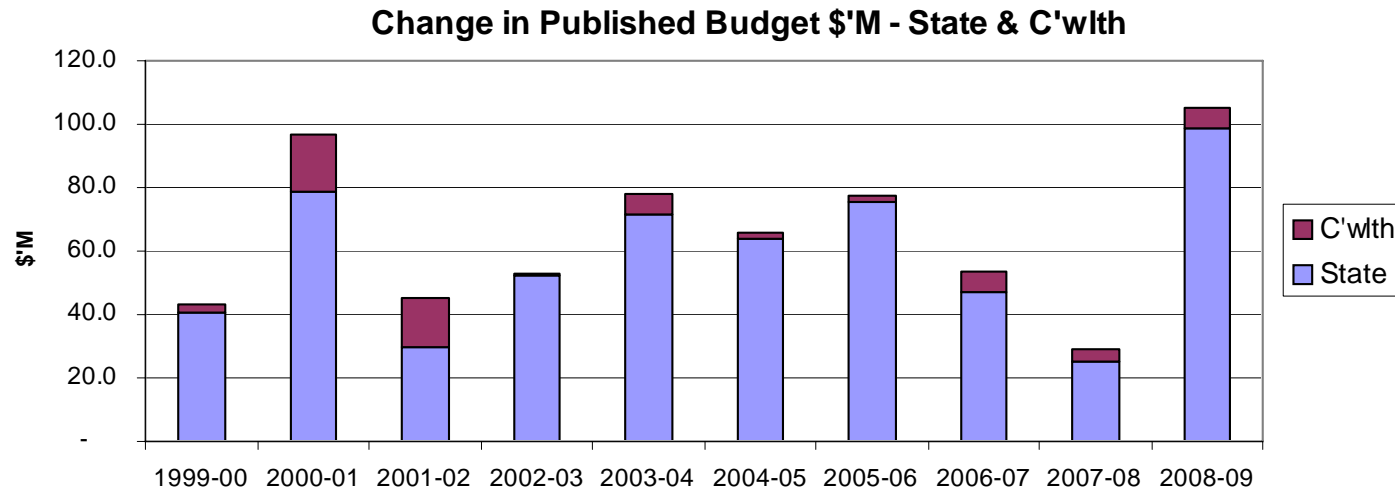
Challenges going forward...

- Meeting the increasing needs of people with disabilities requiring high levels of ongoing support
- Low labour force participation and employment rates for people with disabilities and their families
- Responding to an ageing population and older carers
- Community perceptions undermine independence of people with a disability and influence employment opportunities
- Meeting expectations for more flexible, responsive and person centred support



Addressing the challenges – record new investment in the 2008-09 budget

- 2008-09 Budget represents the biggest ever investment by the Victorian Government in disability services
 - Total Disability Services budget increases by \$105.3 million (9.8%)



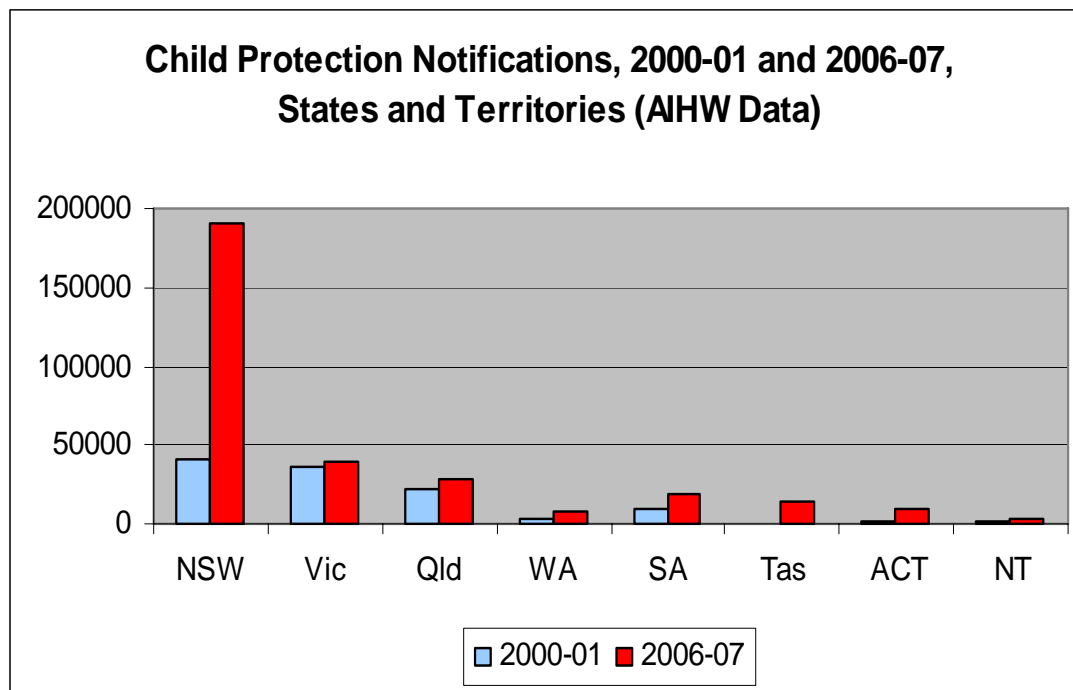
- Includes new initiative funding of \$44.4m in 2008-09- \$233.4m over five years
- Builds on additional \$19.9 million in 2008-09 - \$80.4 million over four years announced in last year's budget
- Over 3,700 additional people will receive services

2008-09 Budget Highlights

- Investment across portfolios - strengthening whole of government action on disability
- \$70.6M over 4 years for more packages of support for individuals and their families
- \$50M of new investment to refurbish, replace or rebuild supported accommodation options
- \$10M over 4 years to support young people to develop job skills and achieve long-term employment
- \$16.0M over 4 years for respite and carer supports
- Funding increase for NGOs for attendant care services and to assist the transition to individualised funding
- \$8.4M over 4 years for a community awareness strategy and expansion of Disability Action Plans

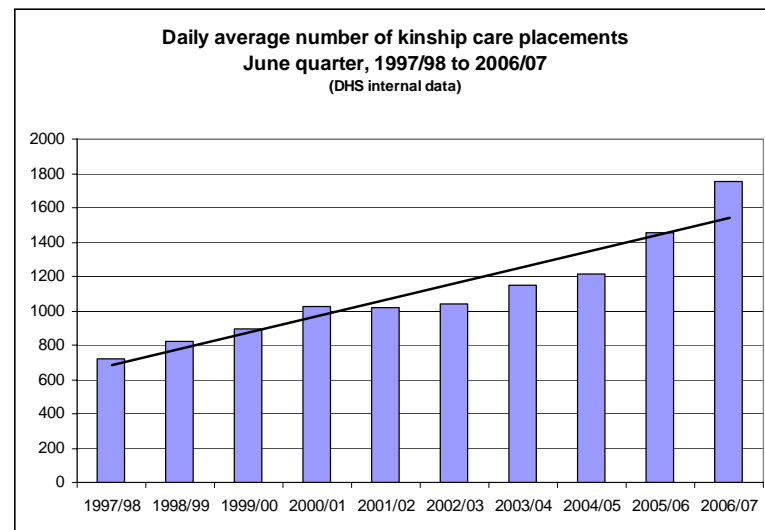
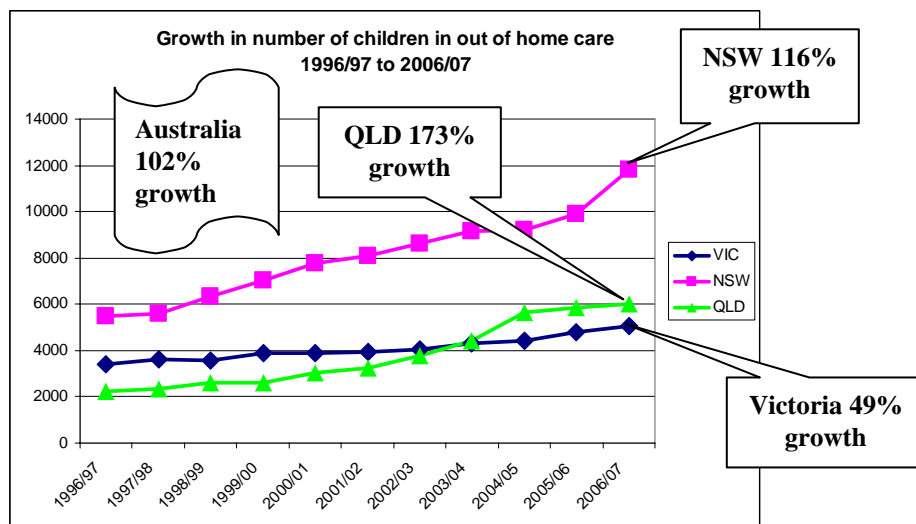
Improving outcomes for Victoria's vulnerable children, youth and families - Achievements

- Modernisation of legislation
- Early intervention and prevention is the focus
- Victoria has maintained zero growth in child protection reports and in having lowest growth rate in out of home care



Emerging Challenges: Ongoing growth in out of home care placements and the experience of the child protection workforce

- Growth in out of home care placements, particularly kinship care – and increasing complexity of children in care
- Residential Care Workforce- skill level and turnover
- Capacity of Indigenous organisations



Improving outcomes for children in out of home care

For children in out of home care:

- New therapeutic model of residential care
- Kinship care support
- Caregiver reimbursements
- 3 year old kindergarten programs

For Indigenous Victorians:

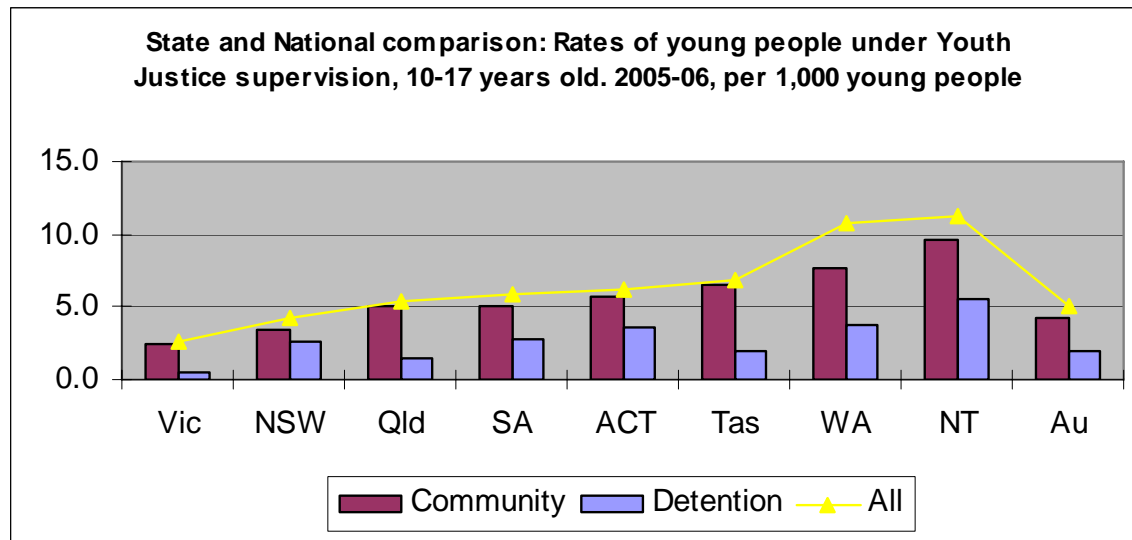
- Residential out of home care
- Strengthen Aboriginal community controlled organisations

For people who grew up in institutional care between 1920 and 1989:

- Support access to essential services
- Legal information
- Search services

A comprehensive approach to Youth Justice

- Focus on prevention and rehabilitation
- Lowest rates of young people on community based and custodial orders
- Continuing growth in proportion on community based orders



Strengthening our response to Family Violence- Prevention now the focus

Next stage of Whole of Government response to Family Violence (\$24.7m over 4 years):

- Increased support for Women and children experiencing family violence (\$4.31m over four years)
- Increased accountability through improved system responses to Men (\$6.05m over four years)
- Strengthening Regional Governance and Leadership (\$4m over four years)



Budget Outcomes: Achievements and Concessions Review

- In 2007-08, over one billion dollars was spent on concessions and concession-related programs that benefited around 1.3 million low income Victorians
- More than 25% of the population and 33% of households now receive concessions

