

Respect Agenda

Presentation to the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Minister for the Respect Agenda

18 May 2010



RESPECT
SELF
OTHERS
COMMUNITY

What We Mean By Respect



- We ***respect ourselves*** by accepting and valuing who we are.
- We ***respect others*** by treating people fairly and appreciating different circumstances and views.
- We ***respect our community*** by welcoming newcomers and lending a hand to each other.

Agenda Objectives



- To reinforce the fact Victoria is a diverse and welcoming place and most Victorians behave respectfully and treat each other fairly.
- To build understanding that respect is central to a healthy, friendly and productive society and that disrespectful behaviour of all kinds undermines us all and damages our reputation as an open and welcoming place.
- To challenge attitudes held by some people that violence, aggression and bullying is acceptable behaviour.
- To promote recognition that respect is everyone's responsibility – regardless of age, background or circumstance – we all have a role to play in creating a society where people respect themselves, others and the community.
- To support actions addressing serious issues such as alcohol-related violence and bullying, and those promoting understanding of diversity and involvement in the community.

Key Focus Areas



Addressing antisocial behaviour

Stemming alcohol related violence in public places

Reducing bullying, including cyber bullying

Preventing violence against women

Understanding difference and diversity

Helping parents to build self-respect in children

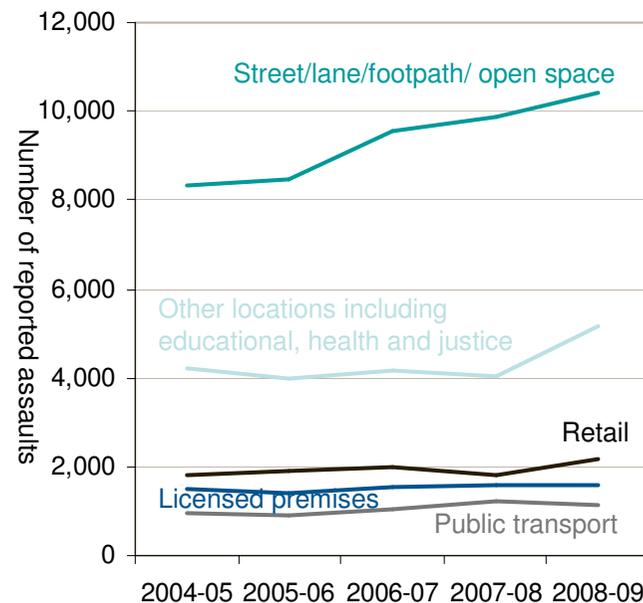
Getting involved in the community

Supporting respectful behaviour

Stemming Alcohol-Related Violence In Public Places



While crime is at very low levels in Victoria, assaults have increased – particularly in public areas



Government action in this area

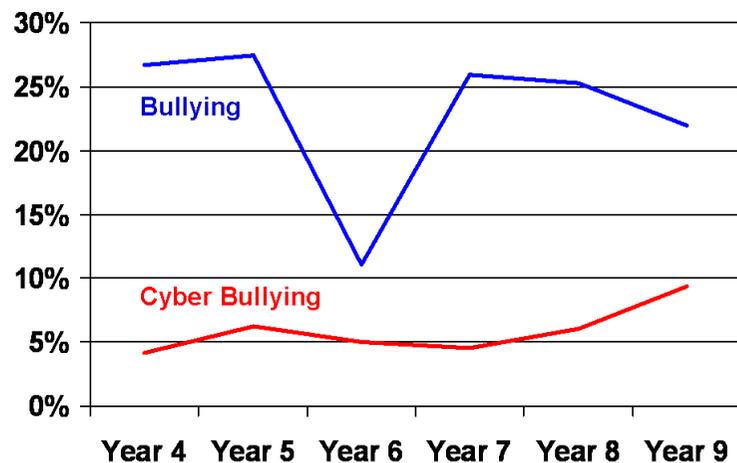
- Increased numbers of police, new powers to search and move people on, tougher penalties for drunkenness
- New risk based fees for liquor licenses, tougher penalties for serving liquor to intoxicated people
- *Victoria's Alcohol Action Plan 2008 - 2013*
- Community Awareness campaigns like *Championship Moves*
- Partnerships with community groups to encourage behaviour change

We need to think about codes of behaviour that guide us when we go out – we need to show respect for ourselves, for others, for their property and their space, and for each person's right to have a good time.

Reducing Bullying, Including Cyber Bullying



Victorian students report prevalent bullying, with cyber bullying more prevalent in older years



N=895

Child Health Promotion Research Centre (2009)
Australian Covert Bullying Prevalence Study

Government action in this area

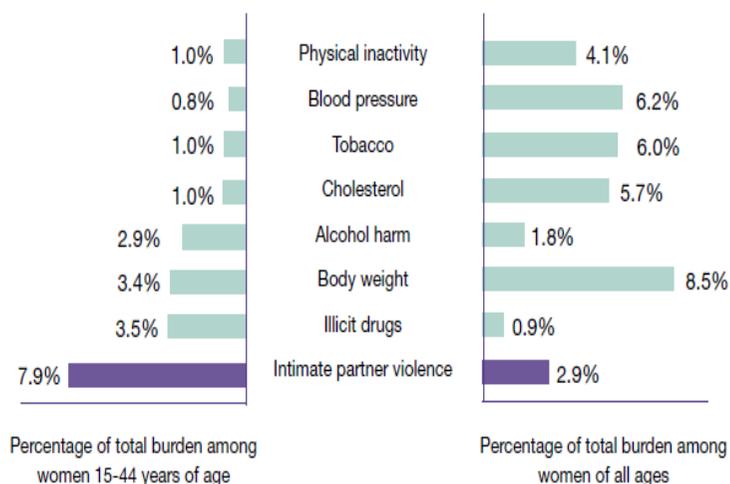
- *Safe Schools are Effective Schools* strategy
- Pilot of the Alannah and Madeline Foundation's eSmart initiative in schools
- Student engagement strategies including the *Leading Responsibly in a Digital World* student summit
- Access to SuperClubsPLUS, a protected and monitored social networking site, provided for primary school students
- Addressing bullying in the workplace by WorkSafe Victoria

Bullying is a serious problem that can affect both children and adults – by learning more about the causes and characteristics of bullying, evidence based strategies can be designed to reduce its prevalence and impact.

Preventing Violence Against Women



Intimate partner violence is a significant contributor to disease burden in Victorian women



VicHealth (2004) *The Health Costs of Violence: Measuring the Burden of Disease Caused by Intimate Partner Violence*

Government action in this area

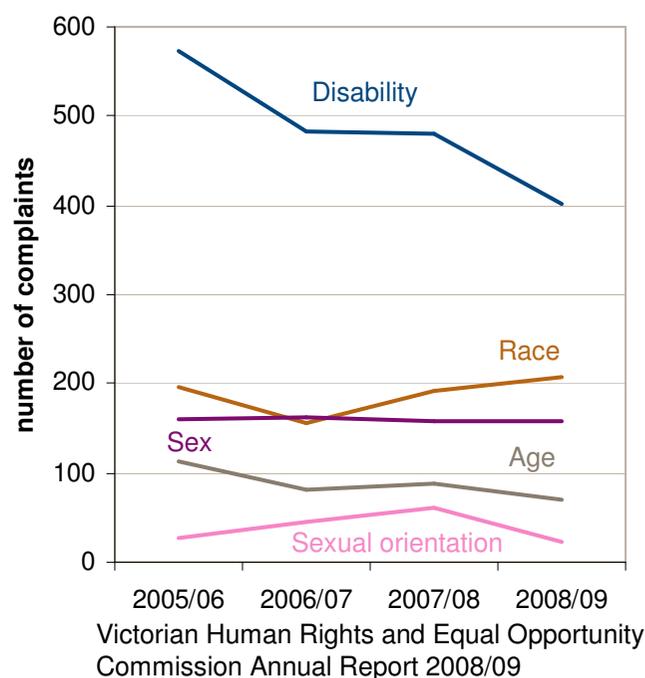
- *Family Violence Protection Act 2008*
- *Police Code of Conduct on Family Violence*
- *Living Free From Violence - Upholding the Right: Victoria Police strategy to reduce Violence Against Women and Children 2009 – 2014*
- *A Right to Respect: Victoria's Plan to Prevent Violence against Women 2010-2020*
- *Respectful Relationships Education in Schools initiative*

Schools, community and sporting organisations, workplaces and the media have a role in teaching skills and promoting attitudes and values that promote respectful relationships in and out of our homes.

Understanding Difference & Diversity



Complaints are declining but racial discrimination remains an issue



Government action in this area

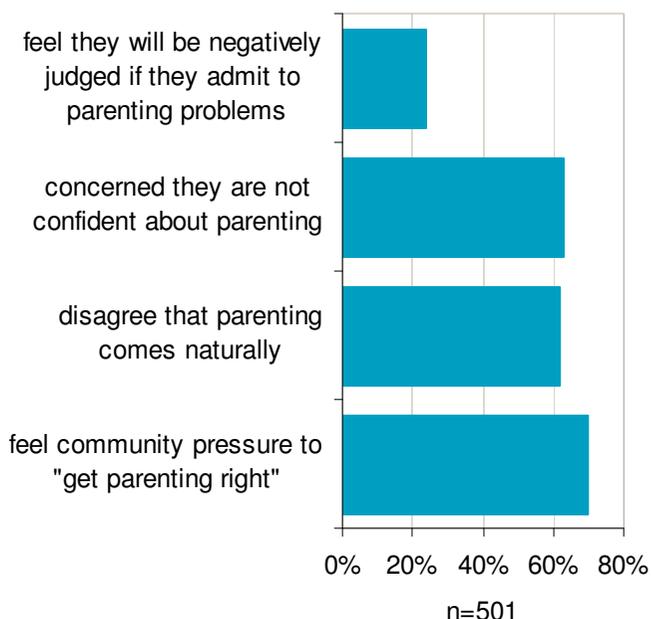
- *Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001*
- Revision of the *Equal Opportunity Act 1995* to transform the Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission
- *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities*
- *All of Us: Victoria's Multicultural Policy*
- *Thinking Global: Victoria's Action Plan for International Education*
- *Victorian State Disability Plan 2001-2012*
- *A Fairer Victoria 2005 – 2010*

Changing the attitudes, behaviours and situations that lead to discrimination is best achieved through approaches that build empathy and break down barriers between people.

Helping Parents to Build Self-Respect in Children



Parents feel pressured to 'get parenting right'



Tucci et al (2005) *The Changing Face of Parenting: Exploring the attitudes of parents in Contemporary Australia*, Australian Childhood Foundation

Government action in this area

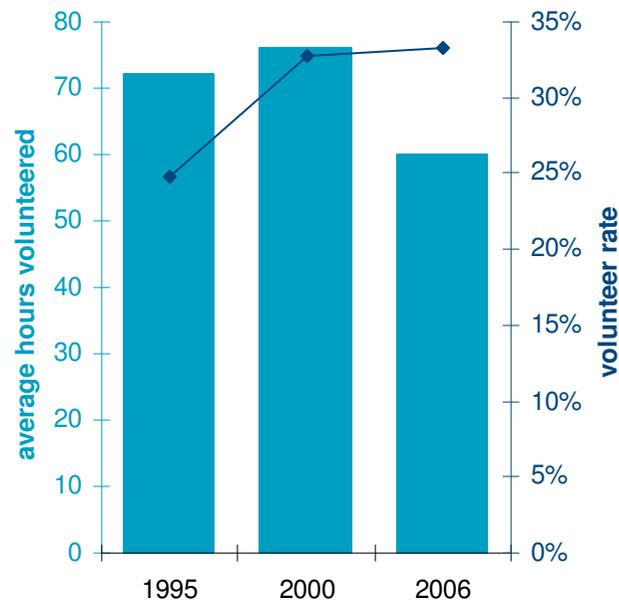
- Maternal and Child Health services across Victoria supporting families, especially new parents
- Parentline (133 22 89) a statewide telephone counselling, information and referral service for parents
- Parenting education and support services that provide advice for children from birth to 18 years
- *Best Start* programs joining up local services for parents and families
- Early Parenting Centres providing intensive early parenting support

Information and support can help parents find out what works for their family at each stage of their child's development, from infancy through to the teenage years and into young adulthood.

Getting Involved in the Community



More people are volunteering but spend less time doing it



Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006) *Voluntary Work, Australia*

Government action in this area

- *Victoria's Volunteering Strategy 2009 – 2011*
- Financial support for local communities through the Victorian Community Support Grants, Victorian Volunteer Small Grants and community sport and recreation grants
- The Advance program getting young Victorians involved in community projects
- Community and Social Enterprise program helping diverse and vulnerable groups to be involved in productive activities
- Youth Foundations providing opportunities for young people to participate locally
- Valuing Volunteers Program valuing attracting and retaining SES volunteers

Participation improves personal wellbeing, develops skills and creates opportunities. Communities benefit from participation because it generates a sense of belonging, increased tolerance, mutual understanding and appreciation of diversity.

Role of the Minister



- Communicate the Agenda in the community and to the broader public, in particular emphasising the Agenda's broad reach.
- Explain the Government's role, which is to provide leadership and a framework of support for respectful behaviour rather than telling people what to do.
- Provide a channel of communication into Government about the community's concerns and ideas about respect.
- Provide high level coordination and support to the wide range of initiatives across Government that are already underway or planned in implementing the Respect Agenda.
- Provide ongoing advice and develop new initiatives in the ongoing implementation of the Agenda.
- Work with other organisations on projects that address the six key focus areas as well as underlying issues that contribute to a lack of respect.

Portfolio Investment



- The 2010-11 State Budget invests \$1.7 million in the Respect Agenda portfolio over three years.
- This will facilitate coordination of Government's approach to existing activities and development of new initiatives to promote respect, including:
 - funding for partnerships with the community sector, business, sporting groups and other organisations that will build individual resilience and promote respectful behaviours and relationships;
 - communicating the Agenda, with activities including release of a communications kit and establishment of a dedicated website; and
 - supporting roundtables, enabling me to meet with a wide cross section of Victorians on Respect-related issues.

Broader Budget Investment



- This will complement significant activity funded in the 2010-11 Budget that will be led by other Ministers, including:
 - \$673.6 million to deploy an additional 1,966 frontline police;
 - \$22 million over four years for 55 additional youth workers to support vulnerable young people engaging in risky behaviour and tackle the knife culture on our streets;
 - \$14.1 million for the implementation of *A Right to Respect – Victoria’s Plan to Prevent Violence Against Women 2010-2020*;
 - \$2.6 million for increased staff training across social service sectors, such as mental health, alcohol and drugs, and medical services, to identify and respond to family violence;
 - \$4.4 million for the *Respect on the Streets* campaign; and
 - \$3.7 million to enable six community based organisations to extend their cyber safety programs to young people in community settings – particularly those from diverse or marginalised backgrounds who are often more at risk of bullying behaviours.