



Public Accounts and Estimates Committee 2012-13 Budget Estimates Hearings

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

The Hon Jeanette Powell MP
18 May 2012



Shared Goals and Aspirations

- Aboriginal Victorians have goals and aspirations for a prosperous future
- However, social and economic indicators identify major gaps in health, education, economic, housing and justice outcomes
- The Victorian Government is committed to closing the gaps
- Sustained effort is required for generational change



Aboriginal Victorians

- 37,600 Aboriginal Victorians (ABS estimate)
- More than half live in regional Victoria – 42% live in metropolitan Melbourne
- The median age is around 22 for Aboriginal Victorians, compared with around 37 for the rest of the population
- 56% of the Aboriginal population is under 25
- Young population provides the chance to make a difference



Driving change through services

- A responsible Budget that gives priority to economic activity and vulnerable Victorians
- 2012-13 Budget - \$21.2 million funding for Aboriginal Affairs Victoria
- 2012-13 Budget initiatives:
 - \$700,000 for RAPs
 - \$800,000 for the Victorian Indigenous Youth Advisory Council
- Funding for many services to Aboriginal Victorians provided by other portfolios



Key Achievements 2011-12

- Victorian Indigenous Honour Roll
- Funding for Reconciliation Victoria
- Parliamentary Inquiry into Registered Aboriginal Parties
- National Indigenous Reform Agreement commitment
- Victorian Government Indigenous Affairs Report
- Departmental Action Plans
- Review of the Aboriginal Heritage Act
- Launch of Wayaperri
- Governance training



Forward Agenda for Aboriginal Affairs

- A revised Victorian Indigenous Affairs Framework (VIAF) will be released later this year and will outline the Government's focus and priorities:
 - Economic participation and development
 - Improving service delivery outcomes, including through departmental action plans for inclusion
 - Protecting and improving support to vulnerable children
 - Improving accountability and value for money



Economic Participation and Development

- Improving economic outcomes is a priority
- A renewed and revitalised focus on economic participation is critical to improving quality of life outcomes and breaking the cycle of disadvantage
- Having a job and a valued place in the economy builds confidence and self esteem and contributes to Victoria's competitive advantage
- A joint bilateral summit with the Commonwealth in July 2012
- Victorian Aboriginal Economic Participation and Development Strategy later this year



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