



2012-13 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Hon Mary Wooldridge

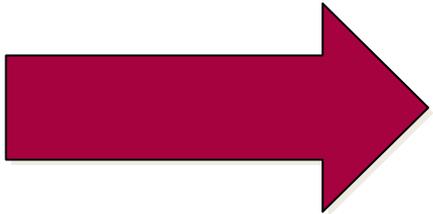
Minister for Women's Affairs

17 May 2012

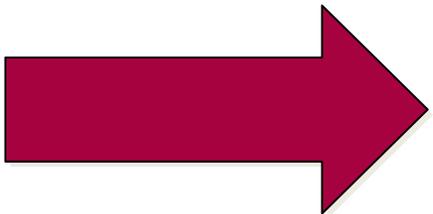
Why the government needs a specific focus on women



The social and economic position of women has not appreciably improved for over a decade



Inequality between men and women has a significant social and economic cost



Improving gender equality is good for productivity

The Office of Women's Policy

- The Office of Women's Policy is the Victorian Government's lead agency on issues relating to Victorian women.
- The Office supports women by providing a whole-of-government focus on:
 - preventing and reducing violence against women and their children;
 - women's economic participation and leadership; and
 - promoting the status of women.

Preventing and addressing violence against women and their children

- In 2011 -12 the Government invested over \$77 million on a range of initiatives to address family violence and sexual assault
- In 2012-2013 we will be investing over \$85 million to address violence against women and sexual assault
- The Victorian Government also allocated \$7.2 million through the community crime prevention grants program to help reduce violence against women and their children through primary prevention and early intervention partnership activities
- The Victorian Government is currently developing a comprehensive Action Plan to address all forms of violence against women and their children



Women's economic participation and leadership

- Focus on increasing women's economic participation and leadership
- 34 scholarships for women to undertake the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) program.
- Supporting the Think Women for Local Government 2012 project which provides assistance to potential women candidates for the 2012 local government elections.
- Allocating up to \$200 million to fund the increase in wages of social and community services (SACS) workers.

Promoting the status of Victorian women

In March 2012, twenty women were inducted onto the Victorian Honour Roll of Women as part of International Women's Day celebrations. There are now 498 women on the Honour Roll.



Victorian Honour Roll Inductees March 2012

Left to right: Ms Andrea Coote MLC, Shirley Harlock, Gaye Tripodi, Kristin Stegley (collecting posthumous award on behalf of Elizabeth Austin), Minister Wooldridge and Cr Yvonne Jennings

Increasing government support for vulnerable women

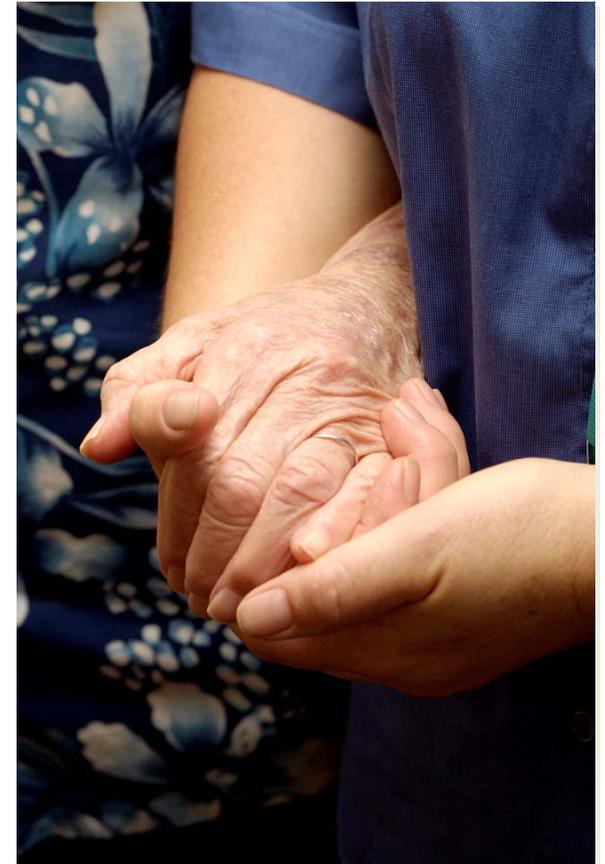
- Additional support for vulnerable women will be provided through the government's response to the Protecting Victoria's Vulnerable Children Inquiry and the introduction of Services Connect.
- New investment to support vulnerable women includes:
 - \$4.6 million over four years in the State Budget to continue the role of 12 regional integration coordinators to better coordinate services to vulnerable families
 - \$9.2 million to establish three new Multi-Disciplinary Centres across Victoria to investigate sexual assaults, child abuse and provide specialist support for victims

Supporting women in their role as carers

- \$38 million for up to 400 new disability individual support packages
- \$900,000 to prepare for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- \$104 million in early childhood development
 - \$62.7 million for free Universal Maternal and Childhood services
 - \$41 million to support vulnerable children early in their lives
- Additional support for vulnerable children
 - \$16.3 million for Enhanced Maternal and Child Health services
 - \$8.3 million to support the continuation of Early Start Kindergarten
 - \$16.5 million to support vulnerable families with children to four years
- \$4.7 million to continue the Healthy Mothers-Healthy Babies program

Investing in women's health and wellbeing

- New investment of \$1.5 billion for health and aged care services, including:
 - \$364 million for capital investment in redevelopment of hospital and aged care buildings
 - \$59.6 million for cancer research
 - \$3 million to respond to young people with severe eating disorders through the intensive eating disorder day program at the Royal Children's Hospital
 - \$72 million for Home and Community Care services to help keep older Victorians living independently in the community





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