



# A Victorian Approach to Social Inclusion

**"New leadership, fresh approaches-  
advancing the social inclusion agenda."**

Executive Level Leadership Network

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## Material Resources (Economic capital)

Income, jobs, housing  
Services available  
Infrastructure  
Transport

Orienting to people and place  
Individual resources  
Community resources  
(Building capacity)



## Skills and knowledge (Human Capital)

Education  
Training  
Workforce participation  
Good health

### Socially Included Communities



Good networks  
High social & civic participation  
High economic participation  
Employment  
Secure housing  
In education & training  
Access to services  
Quality infrastructure

Social participation  
Positive socialisation  
Inclusive, tolerant, safe  
Involvement in decision-making

### Relationships (Social Capital)

Transition points across the life course  
Early childhood  
School to work  
Active / healthy ageing  
(Optimum times to minimise exclusion)

Government innovation  
Partnerships  
Client centred  
(Overcoming processes that exclude)



# THE CONTEXT



Victoria's approach draws on:

- ❖ Overseas Experience (UK)
- ❖ A Fairer Victoria
- ❖ Community Strengthening and Place based activities
- ❖ National Reform Agenda and COAG
- ❖ Other Victorian whole of government service delivery frameworks

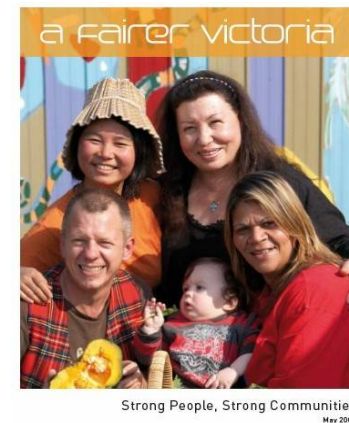
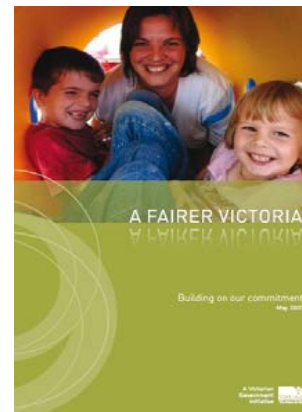
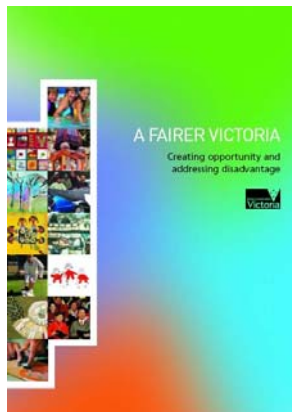


# A FAIRER VICTORIA



Victoria's approach to social inclusion - a whole of government framework working to simultaneously:

- ❖ Improve access to universal services
- ❖ Reduce barriers to opportunity
- ❖ Support disadvantaged groups
- ❖ Support disadvantaged places
- ❖ Make it easier to work with Government



# JOINT GOVERNMENT AGENDA



## Federal Government - ASIB

- ❖ Jobless families
- ❖ Children at risk
- ❖ Locational disadvantage

## State Government – AFV

- ❖ Getting the best start
- ❖ Improving education and helping people into work
- ❖ Improving health and wellbeing
- ❖ Developing liveable communities





# PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING A VICTORIAN RESPONSE



- ❖ Explicit Ministerial and Departmental authority – conferred by the Premier
- ❖ Social Development Committee of Cabinet
- ❖ Social Inclusion Network
- ❖ Actions – definition of social inclusion, agreed approach, priorities for collaboration, priority places





# VICTORIAN PRIORITIES



## for Commonwealth-State collaboration

1. Intensify interventions in existing urban renewal programs especially employment, human services, children's programs, community infrastructure
2. **Jointly fund expansion of urban renewal programs in new areas**
3. Create a new state-wide Commonwealth-State Workforce Partnership targeted at jobless families, Indigenous, migrants, people with disabilities and mental health issues, youth at risk, offenders returning to the community
4. **Expand financial programs like NILS, SaversPlus etc**
5. Work together to improve educational outcomes for disadvantaged communities – youth at risk of disengagement, parental involvement in education



# VICTORIAN PRIORITIES

## Commonwealth-State collaboration on social inclusion

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- **Jointly fund expansion of urban renewal programs in new areas**
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# FUTURE ACTIONS & CHALLENGES



Responding to Changing Circumstances

- ❖ Global Economic Crisis & Bushfires
- ❖ Climate change

Implementation challenges

- ❖ Establishing the evidence
- ❖ Sustaining the effort
- ❖ Managing the collaboration (Governance)



Future Actions



# SOCIAL INCLUSION

## THE CONCEPT



- ❖ Social inclusion means ensuring all people have opportunities to take part in the activities that improve wellbeing
- ❖ Includes human capital (education, health) economic capital (jobs, housing), social capital (social & leisure activities, decision-making)
- ❖ Need to identify barriers (what is excluding people): material resources, skills, ill-health, location, cultural identification, discrimination
- ❖ Affects both quality of life of individuals and cohesion of society
- ❖ Need to recognise all dimensions of exclusion:
  - importance of relationships
  - capacity (of individuals and communities)
  - processes that exclude – especially institutional rules, bureaucratic behaviours



# UK EXPERIENCE



- ❖ Social Inclusion Unit – emphasis on life cycles, early years, the Sure Start program
- ❖ Identification of vulnerable groups
- ❖ The setting of targets – child poverty
- ❖ A new ‘Strong & Prosperous Communities’ agenda – participation, engagement, urban renewal
- ❖ Public sector reform



# A FAIRER VICTORIA



- ❖ Whole of Government framework
- ❖ Long term commitment since 2005
- ❖ Close collaboration with community sector – and based on evidence
- ❖ Current priorities
  - Priority 1: Getting the best start
  - Priority 2: Helping people into work
  - Priority 3: Improving health and wellbeing
  - Priority 4: Support for disadvantaged places
- ❖ Reform approaches
  - Early intervention
  - Place based
  - Joined up



# Neighbourhood/Community Renewal



## Features:

- ❖ In disadvantaged communities – long term - up to 8 years
- ❖ Local governance - residents, local businesses, councils, departments
- ❖ Locally developed action plans that respond to local needs / priorities
- ❖ Collaboration on government investments – public housing, streets, schools

## Linked to other programs

- ❖ Best Start
- ❖ Child FIRST
- ❖ Education Regeneration
- ❖ Workforce Participation / Community Enterprise

## Results so far across NR sites:

- ❖ 14% improvement in self rated health for residents
- ❖ 4% reduction in unemployment between 2002-2006
- ❖ 12% improvement in residents with further education qualifications
- ❖ 12% reduction in crime rates
- ❖ 23% improved perception of physical environment



# NATIONAL REFORM AGENDA AND COAG

- ❖ Participation
- ❖ Human Capital
- ❖ Mental Health, Diabetes
- ❖ Early Years, Education





# POSSIBLE PRIORITY PLACES



DPCD is currently investigating initiatives directed at children at risk and jobless families (including governance processes) in:

- ❖ Broadmeadows (long standing Neighbourhood Renewal, developed school regeneration, Best Start)
- ❖ Heidelberg West (mid way Neighbourhood Renewal, new school regeneration)
- ❖ Dandenong (Dandenong Development Board)
- ❖ St Albans / Sunshine (little existing activity)
- ❖ Corio – Norlane (mid way Neighbourhood Renewal)
- ❖ Bendigo (bushfire affected)