



# **Opportunities for Community Health Services within the community sector – now and into the future**

**Lill Healy, Executive Director, Community Engagement  
Department of Planning and Community Development**



# Community Organisations

**Community organisations are an essential part of Victorian society – part of everyday life.**

**The sector strengthens the social fabric of communities.**

**\$2.2 billion per year expenditure - 7% state budget.**



# Community Organisations in Victoria

## Key areas of activity:

- Community Welfare Services
- Employment and Health Services
- Education and Childcare
- Sport and Recreation
- Arts and Culture
- Environmental organisations
- Community Housing
- Specific populations, advocacy organisations and representative bodies
- Volunteering and Philanthropic organisations



# Community Organisations in Victoria

120,000 third sector organisations

- mainly informal / unincorporated
- 32,552 Incorporated Associations
- 1,600 Companies limited by guarantee
- 750 Co-operatives

25% of associations employed staff (2004 CAV)

In 2006, 33% of Victorians >18 yrs were volunteers  
90% of organisations rely on volunteers



## Victorian Government Context

A Fairer Victoria - \$4 bil over the past 4 years

- reduce disadvantage
- increase opportunity

AFV 2006 : Strengthening Community Organisations Project

State Services Authority 2006 - Review of Not for Profit Regulation



# Victorian Government Agenda

## 2008 Budget:

Additional \$1 billion in 4 priority areas:

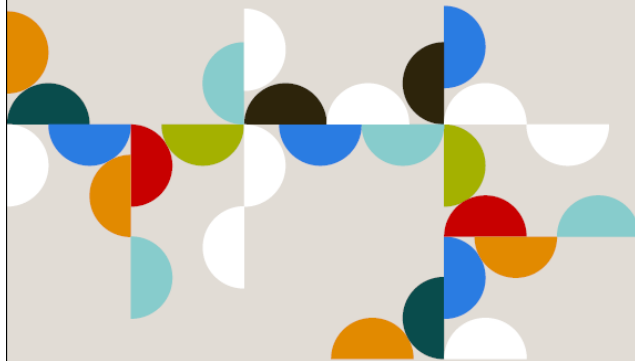
- Early years support services
- Improving education and helping people into work
- Improving health and wellbeing
- Developing liveable communities

The Victorian Government's Action Plan: Strengthening  
Community Organisations

\$13.8 million for implementation



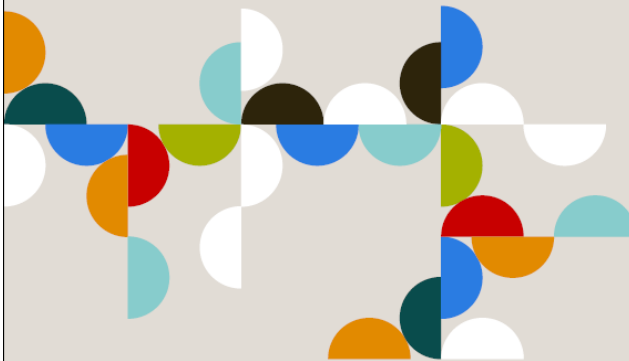
The Victorian Government's  
Action Plan: Strengthening  
Community Organisations



**The Action Plan provides practical ways of giving community organisations the support and leadership they need to keep pace with developments in our economy and society.**

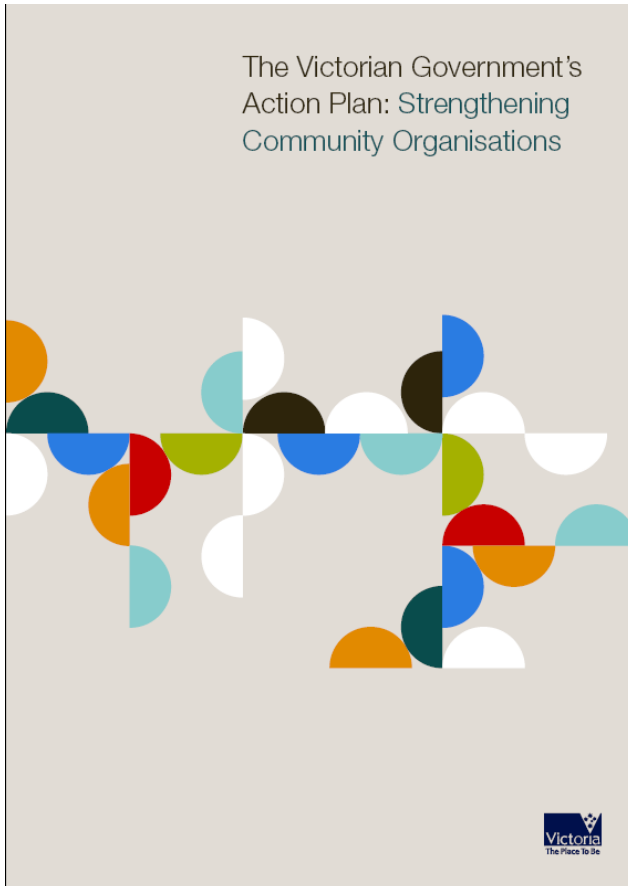


The Victorian Government's  
Action Plan: Strengthening  
Community Organisations



## 5 Themes

- Reducing the regulatory burden and streamlining interaction with Government.
- Building the capacity of community organisations.
- Supporting innovation and growth.
- Enhancing the role of NFPs in local community life.
- Recognising community organisations and coordinating efforts across Government.



## 25 Actions

- Office for the Community Sector within the Department of Planning and Community Development
- Capability Framework
- Portable Long Service Leave
- Investing in Leadership Development



# Federal Government Agenda

New Social Inclusion Agenda –  
establishment of a national Social Inclusion Board

*“The Board will promote social inclusion, which is about ensuring every Australian has the opportunity to be a full participant in the life of the nation,”*

Dr Ursula Stephens, Parliamentary Secretary  
for Social Inclusion and the Voluntary Sector



# Federal Government Agenda

The 2008 Budget announced >\$17 million for the Social Inclusion Agenda initiatives.

The Federal Government priority areas are:

- work on homelessness
- a disability & mental health employment strategy
- closing the gap for indigenous Australians
- universal access to pre-school



# Opportunities for Community Health?

- Contribute to /shape the emerging policy agenda
- Leverage the developments / national harmonisation in regulation and taxation reform
- Shared knowledge and lessons learned across sectors eg CSIF
- Workforce development and capacity building
- National Compact



# Discussion

What other the challenges and opportunities you see for Community Health within the current environment?

Other thoughts?

# Thanks