

MEDIA RELEASE

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2016/17 budget initiatives welcomed

The Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA) today welcomes the various innovations announced in the 2016/17 Victorian Budget to address AOD related harms.

We welcome the acknowledgement of several items that VAADA has been advocated for over many years, including an investment of

- \$29.5M into the development and implementation of a real time prescription monitoring system;
- \$26M into the expansion of the Drug Court through the establishment of an additional Drug Court at the Melbourne Magistrates Court.
- \$10M for the facilities renewal fund for AOD services (increasing from \$5M in 2015/16); and
- \$6M for an 18-20 bed residential rehabilitation facility in the Grampians region.



Sam Biondo, Executive Officer of VAADA, welcomes these specific investments and states, 'these much needed initiatives will both reduce the AOD death as well as reducing overall AOD related harms. The Drug Court in particular will divert individuals from the prison system, resulting in better health and wellbeing related outcomes for these individuals, and ultimately improved community safety'.

Funding for additional Residential Rehabilitation capacity is also welcome as there are substantial difficulties in accessing services in Victoria due to limited capacity. There are clearly greater limitations in rural and regional Victoria. Mr Biondo continues, 'the development of a new residential rehabilitation unit in the Grampians region will assist in meeting demand for that region, but overall greater access must be afforded to this treatment type in order to meet statewide demand and additional units should be developed throughout the state in coming years'.

In 2015, 420 Victorians fatally overdosed with 330 of those fatalities involving pharmaceutical substances. Mr Biondo continues, 'the increasing presence of pharmaceuticals in fatal overdoses, as well as other measures of harm, such as ambulance callouts, has necessitated immediate action and to this end, we welcome the \$29.5M allocation for a real time prescription monitoring system and look forward to working with government to maximise the effectiveness of this system. With over one fatal overdose per day in Victoria, there is no time to lose in implementing this vital measure. We note, however, that this is only part of the solution and will need to be accompanied by a range of additional endeavours to drive down the toll'.

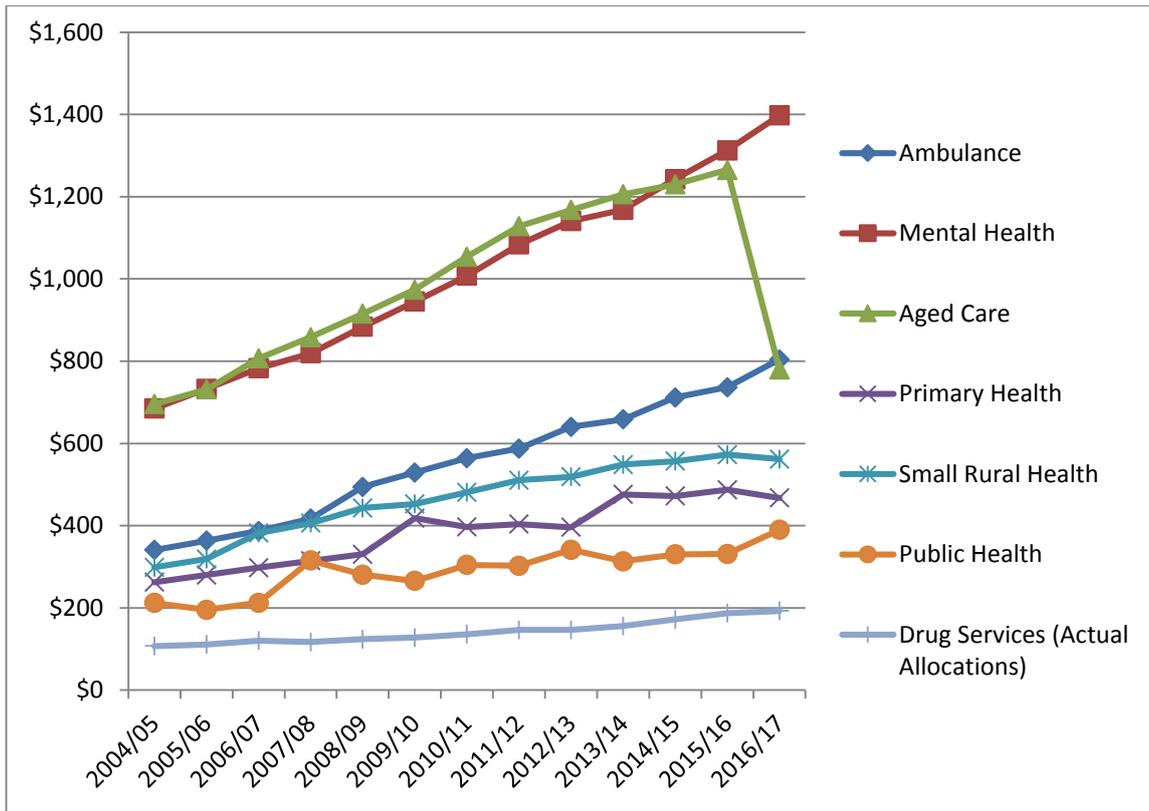
The increased allocation to \$10M for the facilities renewal fund is clearly welcome given the important need to refurbish and meet growing capital investment requirements across the existing ageing Victorian AOD infrastructure.

Significant capacity issues still remain regarding access and capacity across the Victorian AOD system, with the growing recognition of linkages between the AOD sector and child protection and Family Violence issues providing an important reminder of the complexity of this sectors work and the need for further investment and adequate funding to meet demand across these complex areas.

VAADA is the peak body that represents over 80 Alcohol and other Drug services across Victoria. On a daily basis these services are dealing with the effects of harmful alcohol and other drug consumption.

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Sam Biondo on 0414 974 121 for comment or if unavailable, David Taylor on 0413 914 206.

Budget Allocations – Victorian Health Sectors: 2004/05 – 2016/17



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For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Sam Biondo on 0414 974 121 for comment or if unavailable, David Taylor on 0413 914 206.

The following table summarises the Department's total output cost.

Table 2.11: Output summary

	2015-16 budget	2015-16 revised	2016-17 budget	Variation ^(a) %
Acute Health Services ^(b)	10 967.1	11 094.4	11 875.0	8.3
Ambulance Services ^(c)	736.6	736.7	804.1	9.2
Mental Health ^(d)	1 309.0	1 312.8	1 398.0	6.8
Ageing, Aged and Home Care ^(e)	1 288.6	1 265.3	779.6	-39.5
Primary, Community and Dental Health ^(f)	452.3	487.4	467.5	3.4
Small Rural Services ^(g)	578.7	572.5	561.7	-3.0
Public Health ^(h)	339.3	331.3	389.8	14.9
Drug Services ⁽ⁱ⁾	181.3	187.0	192.5	6.2
Disability Services ^(j)	1 780.0	1 774.3	1 952.0	9.7
Child Protection and Family Services ^(k)	990.8	1 021.6	1 105.6	11.6
Youth Services and Youth Justice ^(l)	155.7	154.8	161.4	3.6
Concessions to Pensioners and Beneficiaries ^{(m)(n)}	711.2	712.5	685.1	-3.7
Housing Assistance ^(o)	420.8	422.3	513.1	21.9
Empowering Individuals and Communities ^(p)	137.5	211.8	176.8	28.6
Total	20 048.9	20 284.7	21 062.2	5.1

Source: Department of Health and Human Services

Notes:

- (a) Variation between 2015-16 budget and 2016-17 budget.
- (b) The higher 2016-17 budget primarily reflects funding provided for government policy commitments.
- (c) The higher 2016-17 budget primarily reflects funding provided for government policy commitments.
- (d) The higher 2016-17 budget primarily reflects funding provided for government policy commitments.
- (e) The lower 2016-17 budget primarily reflects the transfer of responsibilities to the Commonwealth for Aged Care and the planned entry of clients into the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- (f) The higher 2016-17 budget primarily reflects funding provided for government policy commitments.
- (g) The lower 2016-17 budget primarily reflects the transfer of responsibilities to the Commonwealth for Aged Care and the planned entry of clients into the National Disability Insurance Scheme.
- (h) The higher 2016-17 budget primarily reflects funding provided for government policy commitments.
- (i) The higher 2016-17 budget primarily reflects funding provided for government policy commitments.
- (j) The higher 2016-17 budget primarily reflects the transfer of funding previously reported in the HACC Primary Health, Community Care and Support output, the Disability Services output and the Mental Health Community Support Services output into the new Victorian Contribution to National Disability Insurance Scheme output.
- (k) The higher 2016-17 budget primarily reflects funding provided for government policy commitments.
- (l) The higher 2016-17 budget primarily reflects funding provided for government policy commitments.
- (m) The lower 2016-17 budget reflects lower estimated costs, including as a result of Commonwealth changes in pensioner eligibility.
- (n) The output summary includes funding for transport concessions transferred to the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources. This funding is reflected in the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources' Integrated Transport output.
- (o) The higher 2016-17 budget primarily reflects funding provided for government policy commitments.
- (p) The higher 2016-17 budget primarily reflects funding provided for government policy commitments.

Drug Services

Real-time prescription monitoring

Pharmacy prescription records for Schedule 8 medicines will be connected in real-time to a centralised system, also accessible to doctors. This will prevent drug misuse and enable pharmacists and doctors to make more informed decisions when prescribing and dispensing medication.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services’:

- Admitted Services output;
- Emergency Services output; and
- Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation output.

Empowering Individuals and Communities

Pathways to Exit

Continued support will be provided to workers wishing to leave the sex industry, through a program offering tailored case management and pathways to education, training and job placement opportunities. The program will be delivered by the Inner South Community Health Service in St Kilda.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services’ Community Participation output.

State Disability Plan 2017-2020

The next four year State Disability Plan will be developed, coinciding with the transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Implementation of the plan will support people with disability through:

- scholarships for people with disability to participate in leadership courses;
- support for Changing Places, a project to ensure public toilets are suitable for people with disability; and
- an economic participation strategy, which will ensure Victorian businesses, including the Victorian Public Service, improve attraction and retention rates of people with disability in the workforce.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office for Disability output.

Drug Services

Drug Services outputs include programs and services aimed at promoting and protecting health by reducing death, disease and social harm caused by the use and misuse of licit and illicit drugs.

Major outputs/deliverables Performance measures	Unit of measure	2016-17 target	2015-16 expected outcome	2015-16 target	2014-15 actual
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Drug Prevention and Control

Encourages all Victorians to minimise the harmful effects of illicit and licit drugs, including alcohol, by providing a comprehensive range of strategies, which focus on enhanced community and professional education, targeted prevention and early intervention, and the use of effective regulation.

<i>Quantity</i>					
Contacts through Family Drug Help	number	5 000	5 000	5 000	6 424
Licences and permits issued to health services or businesses for the manufacture, use or supply of drugs and poisons	number	1 425	1 425	1 425	1 475
Needles and syringes provided through the Needle and Syringe Program	number (000)	8 800	8 800	8 800	8 979
Number of telephone, email, website contacts and in person responses to queries and requests for information on alcohol and drug issues (through the Australian Drug Foundation)	number	1 200 000	950 000	950 000	1 685 665
<i>The higher 2016-17 target reflects the focus on ice and ice-related issues, causing a time-limited increase in requests and queries for information.</i>					
Treatment permits issued to medical practitioners or nurse practitioners to prescribe Schedule 8 drugs, including pharmacotherapy	number	48 000	45 000	48 000	39 773
<i>The 2015-16 expected outcome is lower than the 2015-16 target due to a reduction in Schedule 8 permit requirements.</i>					
<i>Quality</i>					
Pharmacotherapy permits processed within designated timeframe	per cent	100	100	100	97
<i>Cost</i>					
Total output cost	\$ million	34.6	33.3	33.8	25.6
<i>The higher 2016-17 target primarily reflects price escalation including National Health Reform adjustment.</i>					

Major outputs/deliverables Performance measures	Unit of measure	2016-17 target	2015-16 expected outcome	2015-16 target	2014-15 actual
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Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation

Assists the community and individuals to control and reduce the harmful effects of illicit and licit drugs, including alcohol, in Victoria through the provision of community-based non-residential and residential treatment services, education and training, and support services.

<i>Quantity</i>					
Clients on the pharmacotherapy program	number	14 000	14 000	14 000	14 122
Commenced courses of treatment: community-based drug treatment services	number	7 494	6 755	6 755	14 480
<i>The higher 2016-17 target reflects youth growth funding.</i>					
Commenced courses of treatment: residential-based drug treatment services	number	6 302	6 062	6 062	5 994
<i>The higher 2016-17 target reflects residential withdrawal growth funding provided for the Tackling Ice and Other Drugs initiative that commenced late in 2015-16.</i>					
Number of Drug Treatment Activity Units (DTAUs)	number	75 885	67 394	67 394	34 795
<i>The higher 2016-17 target reflects new funding for therapeutic day rehabilitation programs and adult non-residential growth.</i>					
Number of new residential withdrawal clients	number	2 200	2 200	2 200	1 906
Residential bed days	number	107 310	107 310	107 310	127 686
<i>Quality</i>					
Percentage of new clients to existing clients	per cent	50	50	50	39
Percentage of residential rehabilitation courses of treatment greater than 65 days	per cent	50	50	50	43
Successful courses of treatment (episodes of care): community-based drug treatment services	number	6 508	5 868	5 868	11 957
<i>The higher 2016-17 target reflects the additional youth services provided by the Tackling Ice and Other Drugs funding rolled out in late 2015-16.</i>					
Successful courses of treatment (episodes of care): residential-based drug treatment services	number	5 859	5 636	5 636	5 359
<i>The higher 2016-17 target reflects residential growth.</i>					

Major outputs/deliverables <i>Performance measures</i>	<i>Unit of measure</i>	<i>2016-17 target</i>	<i>2015-16 expected outcome</i>	<i>2015-16 target</i>	<i>2014-15 actual</i>
Trained alcohol and drug workers	per cent	85	85	85	68
<i>Timeliness</i>					
Average working days between screening of client and commencement of community-based drug treatment	days	3	3	3	0.3
Average working days between screening of client and commencement of residential-based drug treatment	days	6	6	6	7
<i>Cost</i>					
Total output cost	\$ million	157.9	153.7	147.5	140.2
<i>The higher 2016-17 target primarily reflects funding provided for government policy commitments.</i>					

Source: Department of Health and Human Services

WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT – ICE ACTION PLAN – STAGE 2

Output initiatives

Table 1.8: Output initiatives – Ice Action Plan – Stage 2

	(\$ million)				
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Ice Action Plan – Expansion of the Drug Court of Victoria	..	3.7	8.8	9.1	9.3
Responding to ice in Aboriginal communities	..	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Responding to ice – supporting frontline workers	..	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4
Total output initiatives^(a)	..	6.1	11.2	11.4	11.7

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance

Note:

(a) Tables may not add due to rounding.

Ice Action Plan – Expansion of the Drug Court of Victoria

The Drug Court of Victoria will expand its operations to the Melbourne Magistrates' Court enabling an additional 170 participants to access targeted support, address their drug use and reduce the cycle of offending. This initiative is delivered by the Department of Justice and Regulation and Court Services Victoria.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Justice and Regulation's:

- Community Based Offender Supervision output;
- Policing Services and Crime Prevention output;
- Prisoner Supervision and Support output;
- Public Prosecutions and Legal Assistance output; and
- the Courts output.

Responding to ice in Aboriginal communities

Targeted measures will seek to address increased ice use in Aboriginal communities. Funding will support continuation and expansion of the Aboriginal Metropolitan Ice partnerships, involving Aboriginal organisations and mainstream drug treatment providers to improve access and supports for Aboriginal people who have ice or other substance concerns. The Aboriginal Ice Partnership Pilot will be expanded to support Aboriginal people with alcohol and drug issues.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation output.

Responding to ice – supporting frontline workers

Training will be provided for up to 9 700 health and human service workers who may have contact with people who are affected by ice. Training and support will be tailored to address the specific needs of vulnerable population groups, including Aboriginal people and LGBTI groups.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation output.

Asset initiatives

Table 1.9: Asset initiatives – Ice Action Plan – Stage 2

	(\$ million)					
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	TEI
Alcohol and drug residential rehabilitation service – stage 1	..	0.2	3.5	2.4	..	6.0
Ice Action Plan – Expansion of the Drug Court of Victoria	..	1.1	..	..	..	1.1
Mental health/alcohol and other drugs facilities renewal	..	10.0	..	..	..	10.0
Total asset initiatives ^(a)	..	11.3	3.5	2.4	..	17.1

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance

Note:

(a) Tables may not add due to rounding.

Alcohol and drug residential rehabilitation service – stage 1

Alcohol and drug residential rehabilitation services across the State will be expanded by developing an 18-20 bed residential alcohol and drug rehabilitation facility in the Grampians region servicing the Ballarat community.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Clinical Care output.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Residential Aged Care output.

Ice Action Plan – Expansion of the Drug Court of Victoria

Refer to the output initiative for a description of this initiative.

Mental health and alcohol and other drugs facilities renewal

The highest risk infrastructure and functional issues will be addressed in state-owned mental health and alcohol and other drugs facilities. Investment will be in selected facilities that support inpatient clinical services and community-based clinical services. This will achieve more therapeutic and safe environments for patients and enable better support for the delivery of current and emerging models of care.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Clinical Care output.

COURTS

New projects

(\$ thousand)

	Total estimated investment	Estimated expenditure to 30.06.16	Estimated expenditure 2016-17	Remaining expenditure	Estimated completion date
Court Safety and Security (statewide)	7 275	..	3 739	3 536	qtr 4 2017-18
Ice Action Plan – Expansion of the Drug Court of Victoria (Melbourne)	1 110	..	1 110	..	qtr 4 2016-17
Total new projects	8 385	..	4 849	3 536	

Source: Court Services Victoria

Existing projects

(\$ thousand)

	Total estimated investment	Estimated expenditure to 30.06.16	Estimated expenditure 2016-17	Remaining expenditure	Estimated completion date
Assessment and Referral Court (Melbourne) ^(a)	50	50	..	..	qtr 2 2016-17
Shepparton Law Courts (Shepparton) ^(b)	68 090	14 547	36 000	17 543	qtr 4 2017-18
Video Conferencing (statewide)	10 034	7 597	2 437	..	qtr 4 2016-17
Total existing projects	78 174	22 194	38 437	17 543	
Total Court Services Victoria projects	86 559	22 194	43 286	21 079	
Other capital expenditure ^(c)	na	na	5 772	na	various
Total 2016-17 Court Services Victoria capital expenditure			49 058		

Note:

- (a) Project has a revised estimated completion date.
- (b) The TEI of \$68.090 million has been revised from the 2015-16 Budget to reflect a transfer of \$0.250 million relating to the acquisition of the Shepparton land.
- (c) Other capital expenditure includes capital works across the court jurisdictions and finance lease costs for motor vehicles.

Completed projects

New Children's Court at Broadmeadows (Broadmeadows)

Source: Court Services Victoria

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

New projects

	(\$ thousand)				
	Total estimated investment	Estimated expenditure to 30.06.16	Estimated expenditure 2016-17	Remaining expenditure	Estimated completion date
Alcohol and Drug Residential Rehabilitation Services – Stage 1 (non-metro various)	6 000	..	150	5 850	qtr 2 2018-19
Ambulance Victoria Station Upgrades (statewide)	20 000	..	2 000	18 000	qtr 4 2019-20
Austin Hospital Critical Infrastructure Works (Heidelberg)	40 800	..	21 900	18 900	qtr 4 2017-18
Broadmeadows Surgery Centre (Jacana)	17 300	..	1 200	16 100	qtr 1 2019-20
Chinese aged care land bank (metro various)	2 500	..	2 500	..	qtr 4 2016-17
Clinical Services Technology Refresh Program (statewide)	10 000	..	10 000	..	qtr 4 2016-17
Engineering infrastructure replacement program (statewide)	25 000	..	25 000	..	qtr 4 2016-17
Family Violence – Residential out-of-home care – stock renewal or replacement (statewide)	9 000	..	9 000	..	qtr 4 2016-17
Getting Ready for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (statewide)	25 383	..	4 571	20 812	qtr 4 2019-20
Goulburn Valley Health redevelopment (Shepparton) ^(a)	168 525	..	5 000	163 525	qtr 4 2020-21
Increasing critical care capacity (statewide)	2 200	..	2 200	..	qtr 4 2016-17
Maroondah Breast Cancer Centre (East Ringwood)	10 000	..	1 000	9 000	qtr 4 2018-19
Medical equipment replacement program (statewide)	35 000	..	35 000	..	qtr 4 2016-17
Mental health and alcohol and other drugs facilities renewal (statewide)	10 000	..	10 000	..	qtr 1 2017-18
Modernisation of metropolitan Melbourne public sector residential aged care (Kew)	57 570	..	3 640	53 930	qtr 4 2018-19
Monash Medical Centre – Early In Life Mental Health (Clayton) ^(b)	13 680	..	11 057	2 623	qtr 4 2017-18
National Proton Beam Therapy Centre (metro various) ^(c)	50 000	..	..	50 000	tbc
Orygen Youth Mental Health (Parkville) ^(d)	59 000	..	7 000	52 000	qtr 4 2018-19

	<i>Total estimated investment</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure to 30.06.16</i>	<i>Estimated expenditure 2016-17</i>	<i>Remaining expenditure</i>	<i>Estimated completion date</i>
Parkville Biomedical Precinct – planning and development (Parkville)	3 000	..	500	2 500	qtr 4 2018-19
Regional Health Infrastructure Fund (non-metro various) ^(e)	200 000	..	50 000	150 000	qtr 4 2019-20
Response Time Rescue Fund (statewide)	7 300	400	6 900	...	qtr 4 2016-17
Statewide Child and Family Mental Health Intensive Treatment Centre (statewide)	7 300	..	2 000	5 300	qtr 4 2019-20
Strengthening Security and Safety Compliance in Secure Services (statewide)	3 250	..	3 250	..	qtr 4 2016-17
Victorian Heart Hospital (Clayton) ^(f)	135 000	..	..	135 000	tbc
Western Health urgent infrastructure works (Footscray and Sunshine)	61 335	..	11 467	49 868	qtr 4 2020-21
Women's Prevention and Recovery Care (PARC) Service (metro various)	8 400	..	2 000	6 400	qtr 4 2019-20
Total new projects	987 543	400	227 335	759 808	

Source: Department of Health and Human Services

Notes:

- (a) Additional funding of \$1.000 million was provided in 2015-16 for planning and development, bringing the Government's contribution to \$169.525 million.
- (b) This project has additional funds of \$0.870 million committed from the Monash Children's Hospital project, bringing the gross TEI to \$14.550 million.
- (c) Final project TEI and completion date to be determined following completion of business planning and development.
- (d) Additional funding of \$1.000 million was provided in 2015-16 for planning and development, bringing the Government's contribution to \$60.000 million.
- (e) This initiative includes \$2.100 million of funding for Moyne Clinical Upgrades, \$1.000 million funding for the West Gippsland Health Group redevelopment, and \$1.000 million contribution to fund the Wimmera Cancer Centre, which has a gross TEI of \$3.500 million with an additional \$2.500 million to be secured from the Commonwealth and other sources.
- (f) Additional funding of \$15.000 million was provided in 2015-16 for planning and development, bringing the Government's contribution to \$150.000 million. Final project TEI and completion date will be determined following completion of business planning and development, and confirmation of funding contributions from project partners.



MEDIA RELEASE

27st April 2016

Victorian budget includes unprecedented social support spending; focus now turns to affordable housing

The 2016/17 Victorian Budget includes welcome measures to support people facing disadvantage and hardship, while leaving scope for further initiatives in the fight against poverty and inequality.

The budget includes positive announcements around jobs and training, education, early childhood development and health, such as:

- \$185m for the construction of **new schools**.
- \$200m for a **Regional Health Infrastructure Fund** to improve health facilities, including community health.
- \$39.9m to **reinvigorate job prospects** and \$27m to **improve health outcomes** in the Latrobe region following the 2014 Hazelwood mine fire.
- \$35m to **support vulnerable children** and their families in the first two years.
- \$25.3m to facilitate the introduction of the **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)**.

“You have to go back a long way to find a budget so responsive to the needs of Victoria’s most vulnerable and disadvantaged,” said VCOSS CEO Emma King.

VCOSS is also pleased that recent commitments made as part of the Andrews Government’s \$572 million Family Violence Package are reflected in the budget papers.

The Government itself describes these measures as a “down payment” and VCOSS is keen to work with the Government on additional initiatives, including the development of a 10-year Victorian Family Violence Plan.

VCOSS

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The Family Violence Package includes many welcome measures around crisis accommodation, social housing and homelessness support services, however VCOSS considers the development of an overarching housing policy a key priority going forward.

“Affordable housing for all Victorians is the state’s next great social and economic challenge,” Ms King said.

“It’s hard to get a decent education, hold down a job or raise your kids if you don’t have a steady home. Ensuring a steady supply of suitable and affordable housing will also help address a raft of other social and economic problems facing Victoria.”

However, Ms King said she was encouraged by the Treasurer’s Budget Day remarks that housing and housing affordability is a “vital issue” and the Government is putting together a “comprehensive package” to be released later this year.

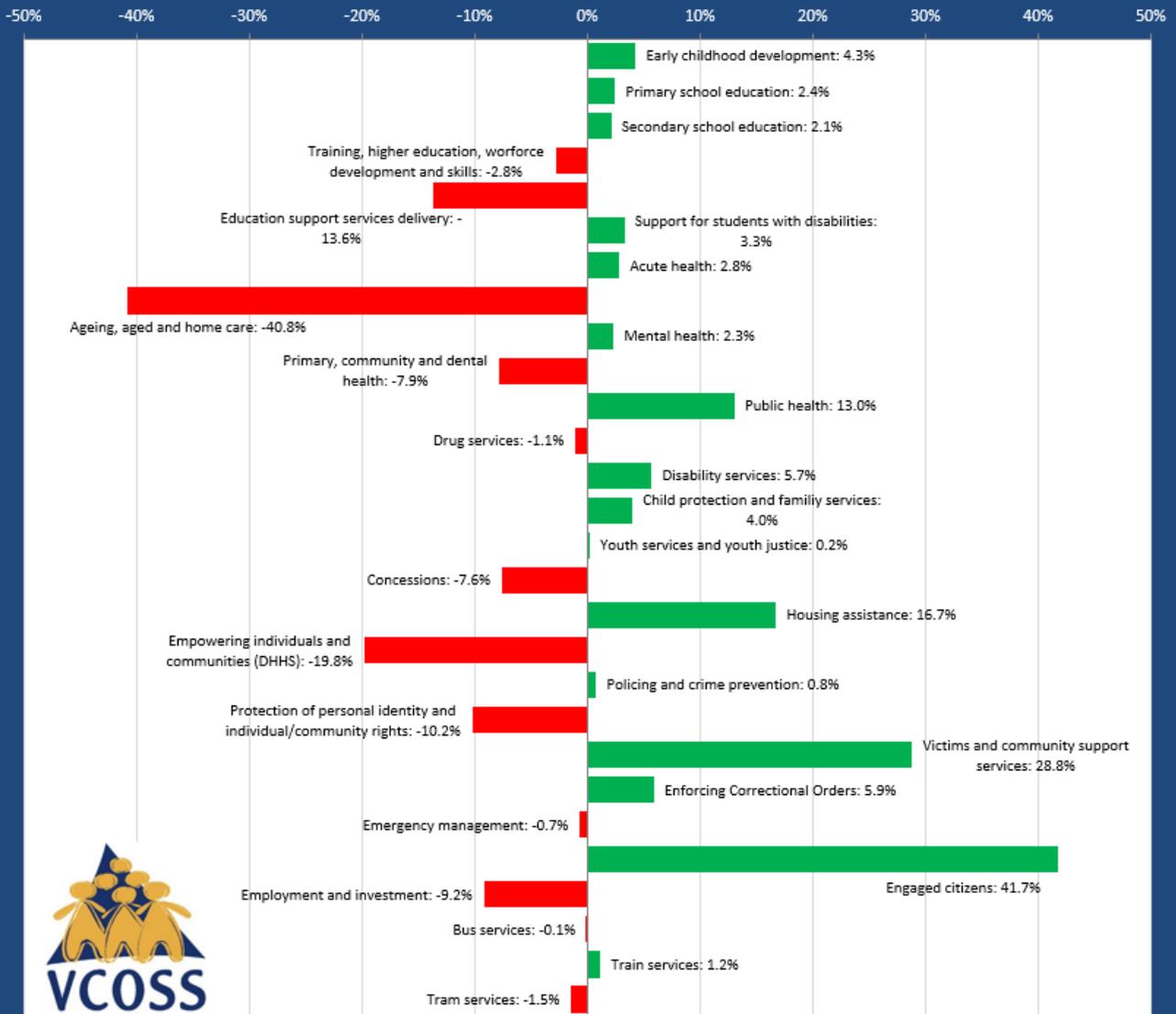
“Housing reform is an investment in the state’s future. Critical to this reform will be an increase in social housing and in the overall supply of affordable housing.”

“We look forward to working with the Andrews Government on this most vital policy front,” Ms King said.

**For more information, or to arrange an interview with Emma King,
contact Ryan Sheales on 0418 127 153**

2016 VICTORIAN BUDGET

Real effective change 2015/16 — 2016/17



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