

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Budget Estimates Hearings Ageing Portfolio 2012 - 13

Minister for Health and Ageing, Hon. David Davis MP

Agenda

- Budget Summary
- Key Initiatives:
 - Victorian Seniors participation in the community
 - Vision 2020
 - Palliative Care
 - Home and Community Care
 - CALD service and information improvements
 - Cost of Living concessions

Portfolio budget summary

- 2012-13 budget for the Ageing portfolio is \$1.37 billion
- Spread across outputs:
 - Ageing, Aged and Home Care
 - Small Rural Services (Aged Care and Home and Community Care)

Commonwealth changes announced

- Some positive elements
- Some concerns
 - User charges

Senior Victorians

- Victorian Seniors Festival is celebrating 30 years in 2012
 - Victorian Senior of the Year Award
 - Free travel on metropolitan and selected regional bus and V/line services
 - Local councils supported with grants for activities
 - More than 136,000 participants in 2011
- New functionality for Seniors Online to be launched in 2012
- Seniors Card Program has approximately 900,000 cardholders and 4,000 participating businesses
- U3A Growth Strategy funding of \$0.3m

Vision 2020

- \$850,000 in 2012-13 (\$2.6m over three years)
- Integration of eye-health awareness into mainstream health prevention strategies
- Targeting older Victorians to prevent premature access to acute services and aged care facilities
- Health education programs
- Collaboration between Victorian eye health and vision care sector stakeholders

Palliative Care

- Continuing funding for growth in demand for Palliative Care
- Palliative care funding will specifically target the growing demand for that service, enabling people to be cared for at home, meet the needs of particular population groups and provide bereavement support
- Guardianship Report: Advanced Care Planning

Home and Community Care

- Total budget is \$695.5 million including additional matched Commonwealth and State funding for indexation and growth in services:
 - \$25.9m Commonwealth
 - \$17.3m State
- Growth funding expected to be distributed from January 2013:
 - Additional 330,000 hours of service



Other funding

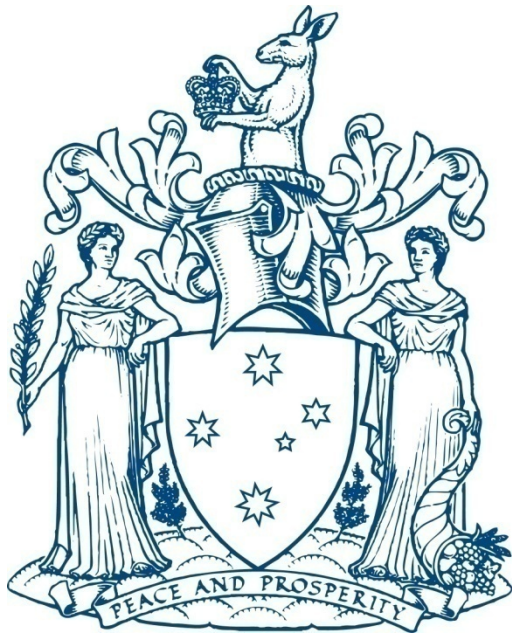
- \$4m over 4 years to assist CALD seniors access language services in health and home care services
- \$1.6m over 4 years for Participation for CALD Seniors
 - grants program
 - Health Translations Online directory
- \$11.2 million for continuing service to assist people with dementia and their carers.

Cost of living concessions

- Increasing number of Victorian's are choosing to live independently in their own home
- Assistance that is available to Victorian seniors includes:
 - energy concessions available on electricity and gas bills – from March 2011 a year-round concession
 - increased water and sewerage concession (from July 2011- up 10.3%)
 - new Whitegoods Rebate and Winter Warmer Discount (commenced July 2011)
 - land transfer duty exemption for properties valued up to \$330,000, with a concession for properties valued up to \$750,000
 - concession fares on travel during the week to travel on trams, trains and buses all day across Zone 1 and 2 for \$3.60

Cost of living concessions

- free *myki* card which will automatically provide free weekend (Saturday and Sunday) travel entitlement. The extension of free travel to the whole weekend began on 1 January 2011
- two off-peak travel vouchers each year which can be used anywhere in Victoria and can be exchanged for V-Line tickets. Seniors card holders residing in regional Victoria receive two additional off-peak vouchers
- Active Ageing Programs



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