



Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development

2012-13 PAEC Presentation

The Hon. Wendy Lovell MLC
Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development



The Government's vision for early childhood

Victorian Budget
2012-13

BIP 2: Victorian Families

The Government's **vision** is for an early childhood education and care system:

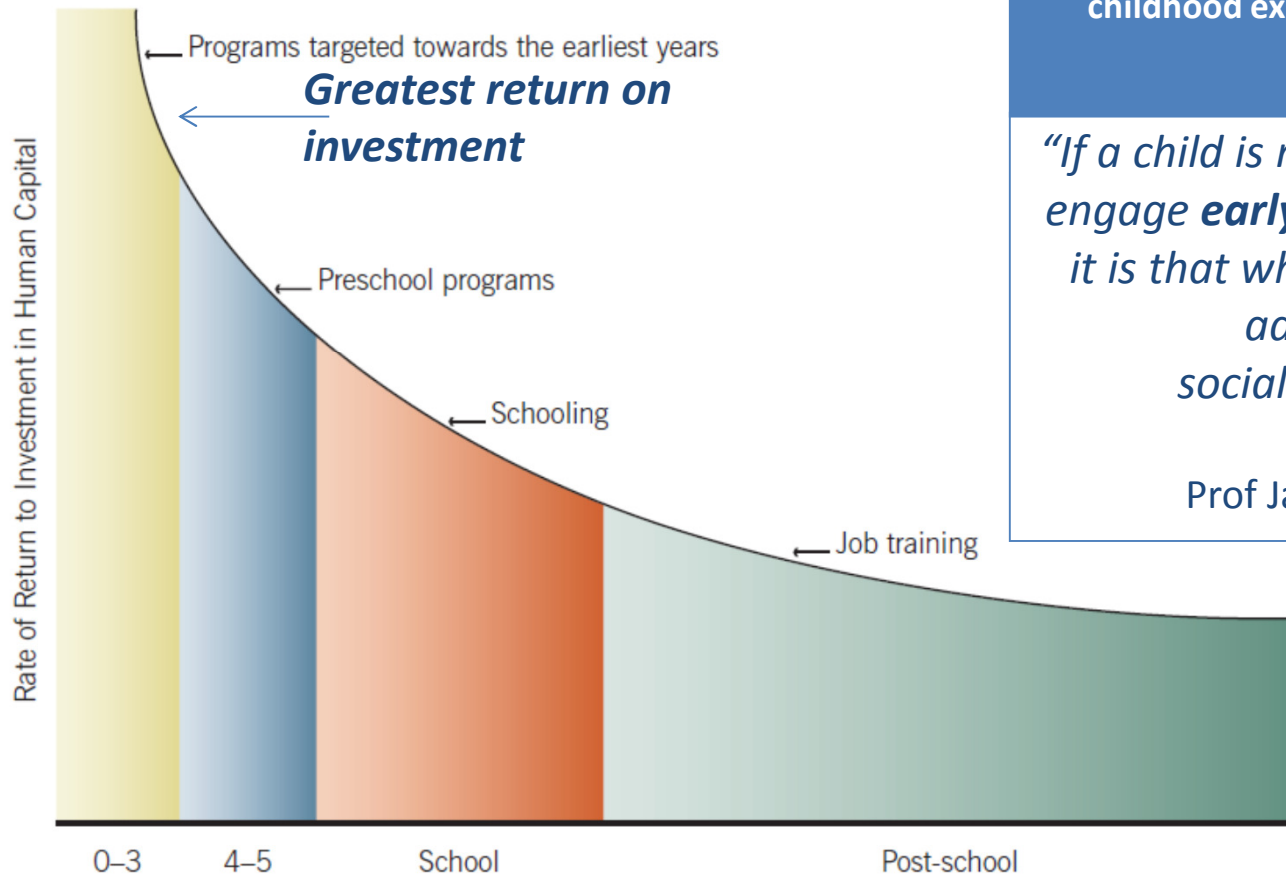
- That supports families to realise their aspirations for their children
- That sets children on a path of lifelong learning.

The Government will:

- Improve support for all **vulnerable children** and their families.
- Improve access to **kindergarten** for Victorian families.
- Provide funding for Victoria's important **maternal and child health** services.



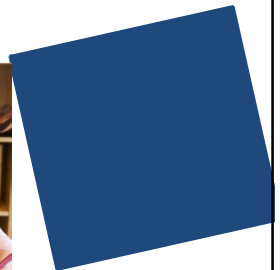
International evidence



International research shows that quality early childhood experiences are critical for future success...

*“If a child is not motivated to learn and engage **early on in life**, the more likely it is that when the child becomes an adult, it will fail in social and economic life”*

Prof James Heckman, 2008



Highlights in 2011-12 – achievements to date

Kindergarten

- Kindergarten rural grants
- Kindergarten fee relief

National Quality Framework

- Commenced implementation 1 January 2012

MCH

- Expanded MCH line
- New *My Health and Development Record*
- Scholarships for nurses

Infrastructure

- \$26 million 2011-12 Children's Facilities Capital Program grant round
- \$3.4 million for Kindergarten IT

Workforce

- 392 scholarships and 61 incentives awarded for early childhood educators

Early Childhood Intervention

- Expanded KIS
- Piloted and evaluated an ECIS quality framework
- Workforce scholarships and incentives



Challenges for 2012-13 and beyond

Supporting vulnerable children and families

Implementing key reform commitments

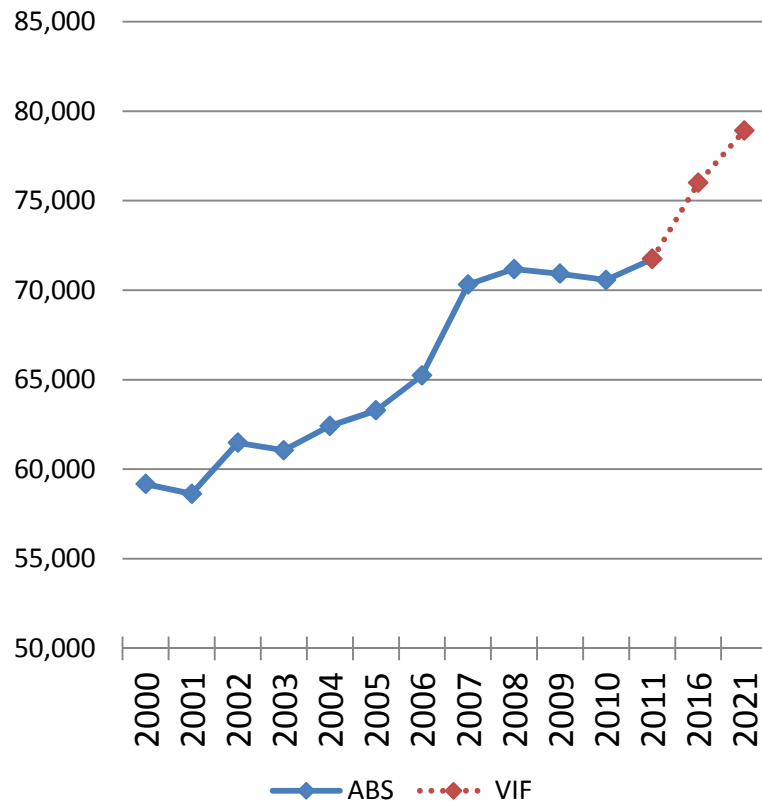
Continuing to lead in early childhood development

Population growth and demand

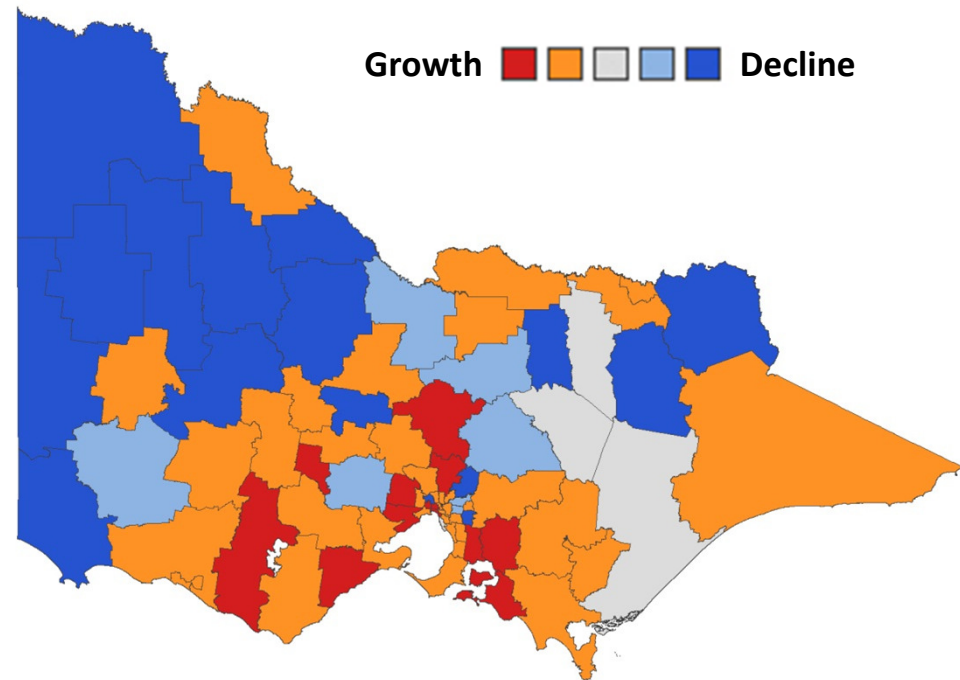


Victorian population growth

Victoria births 2000-21
(projected)



% change in birth notifications 2000-11



Continued reform in the early years

Implementing the National Quality Framework

- Continue to implement the NQF including the introduction of the assessment and ratings process

Universal access

- Differential funding rate for services offering 15 hours in 2013
- Additional funding for infrastructure
- Continued support to develop workforce supply

Early Childhood Intervention

- Continue ECIS reform
- Participate in the implementation of the NDIS



Focus for early childhood in 2012-13

The Government is committed to providing these quality early childhood services for all young Victorians – particularly those who are most vulnerable.

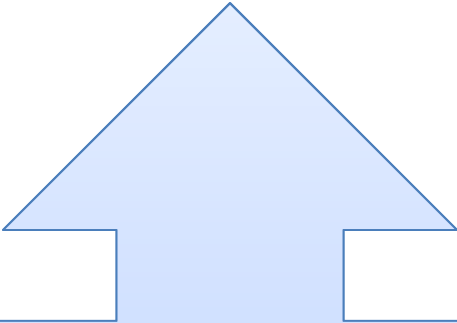
2012-13 Budget
key focus areas:

Maternal and Child Health services

Service provision for vulnerable
children and families



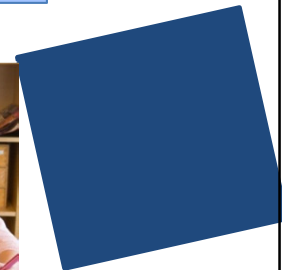
Delivering in the vital early years



\$104 million over the forward estimates in new funding for early childhood development.

- 17.6% increase in funding from 2011-12 to 2012-13.

Builds on **\$101 million** in 2011-12 Budget.



Record investment in MCH services - \$79 million

\$62.7 million for Universal Maternal and Child Health

- Access for over **73,000 mothers and newborns** annually
- Services critical to a child's early health, learning and development, and maternal well-being
- Continued professional development for MCH nurses
- **Meeting demand** from population growth

\$16.3 million for Enhanced Maternal and Child Health

- Builds on Universal MCH by providing an enhanced service to the 10% most **vulnerable families** of children aged 0 – 1 year



Protecting Victoria's vulnerable children

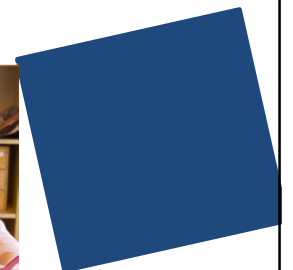
In addition to maternal and child health, funding of the following key initiatives directly supports the recommendations of the *Protecting Victoria's Vulnerable Children* Inquiry:

\$16.5m

- Engaging Vulnerable Families in Early Learning
 - Supported playgroups
 - *Smalltalk* early home learning program
 - E4kids longitudinal study

\$8.3m

- ECEC for Vulnerable Three Year Olds



Our commitment to Victoria's children

\$205 million invested in children and early childhood development in our first two Budgets.



- Ensuring access to quality **Maternal and Child Health Services**



- Critical supports to **vulnerable children**



- Improving **kindergarten** services to prepare for universal access

