



Public Accounts and Estimates Committee 2011-12 Budget Estimates Hearings

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

The Hon Jeanette Powell MP
18 May 2011



Presentation Overview

- Aboriginal Affairs portfolio
- Indigenous Victoria
- Government agenda for Aboriginal Affairs
- Election commitments
- Key achievements 2010-11
- Budget 2011-12



Indigenous Victoria

- Estimated to be over 36,000 Indigenous Victorians.
- The median age is around 22 for Indigenous Victorians, compared with around 36 for the rest of the population.
- Approximately half the Indigenous population lives in regional Victoria.
- Many Indigenous Victorians are amongst the most disadvantaged people in our State.
- Major gaps exist between Indigenous Victorians and the rest of the community in health, education, economic participation, housing and justice.



Victorian Government Agenda for Aboriginal Affairs

Commitment to Closing the Gap

- The Premier, Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and I, signed the Closing the Gap Statement of Intent at Parliament House on 24 March 2011.
- Reflecting continued bipartisan approach and recommitted the Government to the Closing the Gap agenda.

Guiding Principles for Aboriginal Affairs

1. Aspirations - supporting Aboriginal people to meet their full potential.
2. Accountability – the responsibility of Government for good policy and programs.
3. Engagement and inclusiveness - listening to a range of Aboriginal voices.
4. Partnership-building and a whole-of-community approach – harnessing government, business, private sector, and philanthropic organisations.



Victorian Government Agenda for Aboriginal Affairs

Key Areas Identified for Improvement in Victoria

- Over-representation in the child protection system
- School retention rates
- Smoking rates

Next Steps

- Review the Victorian Indigenous Affairs Framework to improve outcomes.
- Release of the Indigenous Affairs Report 2009-10 to focus on the challenges of closing the gap in Victorian urban and regional areas.
- Continued implementation of the Aboriginal Economic Development Agenda.
- Development of Departmental Aboriginal Action Plans to improve inclusion and services.



Election Commitments

Establish the Indigenous Honour Roll

- To recognise Indigenous Victorians who have contributed at the local, state, or national level.
- Community consultation on implementation now underway.

Restore funding to Reconciliation Victoria

- Funding to resume operations to promote reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Victorians has been provided in the 2011-12 Budget.

Parliamentary Inquiry into the establishment and effectiveness of Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs)

- Will focus on the establishment and effectiveness of RAPs and the process for their appointment.
- Terms of Reference tabled in February.



Key Achievements 2010-11

Protection of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* balances the protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage and land use and development.
- 161 cultural heritage management plans approved (up to the end of third quarter).
- Review of the Act has commenced.
- Cultural heritage management training provided to Aboriginal communities.
- Continued support to Registered Aboriginal Parties, including funding, training, and in-kind support.



Key Achievements 2010-11

Local Indigenous Networks (LINs)

- 38 LINs across Victoria with over 1,400 Indigenous Victorians participating (over 8% of adult Victorian Indigenous population).
- Over \$400,000 in funding brokered through partnerships with government, community and philanthropic organisations in the last 12 months.
- Community plans progressing – priorities are education and training, cultural and community strengthening, participation and inclusion, youth, and employment.



9. Budget Outcomes & Priorities for 2011-12

Initiative	\$ in 2011-12 Budget
Facilitating Planning Approvals: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Issues	\$500,000.
Indigenous Governance Training Program.	\$500,000 (\$2.18m over four years).
Support for Reconciliation Victoria	\$200,000 (\$800,000 over four years).



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