



ECIA(VC) Bulletin

May 9, 2005

ECIA(VC) is pleased to report recent State Government Announcements regarding budget and service initiatives. A commitment of \$119.5 million for *Disability Services* over the next four years has been announced. *See media release (April 28): *Delivering Better Disability Services*.

On April 28, the document: *A Fairer Victoria: Creating opportunity and addressing disadvantage*, was launched. This document outlines the Victorian Governments social policy, and contains initiatives to address structural and systemic causes of disadvantage in a co-ordinated fashion. These initiatives include an offer from the Premier to involve the non-government sector to find new and better ways of working together.

The framework includes the following elements:

- Ensuring that universal services provide equal opportunity for all
- Reducing barriers to opportunity
- Strengthening assistance to disadvantaged groups
- Providing targeted support to the highest risk areas
- Involving communities in decisions affecting their lives and making it easier to work with Government.

The commitment to *Early Childhood Intervention* is found on page 19:

“Increase support for children with a disability and their families:

- Provide \$8.6 million over four years to better support children with a disability and their families. This will include more early intervention services for an additional 460 children throughout Victoria including additional services for children with autism.
- Deliver extra packages of support for families of children with a disability or with autism at a cost of \$7.9 million over four years. These packages continue the Government’s commitment to building support around the differing needs of individual families. Packages will be tailored to meet the particular needs of children and families and may include specialist services provided to the child, as well as support services geared toward helping families to better care for their children with a disability and easing some of the additional pressures these families sometimes feel.”

*To view the report and media release, follow the links at *The Department of Premier and Cabinet*: www.dpc.vic.gov.au.

For hard copies of this report, send a request to: fairervictoria@dpc.vic.gov.au.

Further details will be known once more budget information is made available. Budget information is gradually coming online at: www.budget.vic.gov.au.

ECIA(VC) will continue to inform members of any developments.