

Strategic Change Indicator	2013 Target	Current Indigenous Data
3.1 Increase the successful transition of Indigenous young people aged 18-24 years to employment and/or further education	The gap in transition to employment and/or further education between Indigenous and non Indigenous young people will be reduced by at least 20%	No new data will be available until 2011 Census

MEASURE OF CURRENT PERFORMANCE

In 2009 there were 5825 Indigenous students in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector, an increase of 1.5 % on the previous year.

Study outcomes for the Indigenous students were:

- module load pass rate of 63% compared to 79% for non Indigenous students
- failure rate of 22% compared to 16% for non Indigenous students
- module load completion rate of 64% compared to 79% for non Indigenous students.

In 2009, 41% of Indigenous student enrolments were in Certificate I and II level programs, 31% were in Certificate III and IV while 5% were in Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas. In 2009 there were 1664 young Indigenous people (14-19 years old) participating in TAFE or Vocational Education and Training. Ten per cent of these students were undertaking Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) or Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL).

WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN?

Through the Council of Australian Governments' National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions, the Victorian Government is introducing seven Koorie Transition Coordinators across the State to work with young Indigenous people and their families to ensure successful transitions from school into further education, training and employment. Initiatives funded through the National Partnership on Youth Attainment and Transitions will strengthen reforms in education for Indigenous students. Initiatives include:

- The Workplace Learning Coordinators Program where one of the expected outcomes is to increase the number of Indigenous students undertaking workplace learning placements
- An increased focus on the transition of young Indigenous people by Local Learning and Employment Networks
- Targeting the re engagement of young Indigenous people back into education and training through the Youth Connections program
- Career development initiatives including careers mentoring.



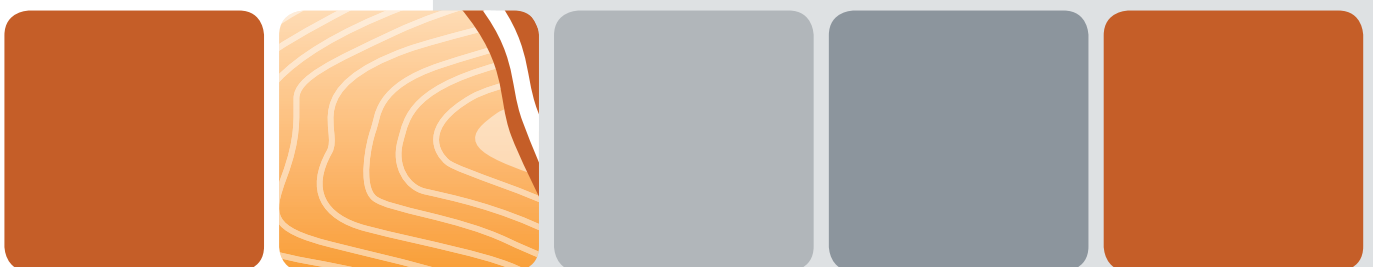
Other initiatives include the employment of 23 Indigenous Liaison Officers in TAFE campuses across Victoria and work to promote links at the regional level between secondary schools, Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups, Local Learning and Employment Networks, TAFEs and higher education institutions.

Individual Learning Plans

From 2010, all Indigenous students in TAFE aged 24 or younger are provided with an *Individual Learning Plan*. The Plan sets out students' learning objectives as well as transition pathways from training to employment, taking into account prior learning and work experience. *Individual Learning Plans* enable TAFE staff to provide targeted support to Indigenous students and assist them achieve their educational and employment aspirations.

Want to know more?

Go to: www.skills.vic.gov.au



Strategic Change Indicator	2013 Target	Current Indigenous Data
3.2 Increase Indigenous labour force participation	140 sustainable employment outcomes in State funded employment programs	54 sustainable employment outcomes (2009-10 data)

MEASURE OF CURRENT PERFORMANCE

Under the Indigenous Youth Employment Program a total of 222 Indigenous people had registered for state-funded employment support programs by 30 June 2010. Of these:

- 104 received pre-employment training
- 102 had been placed in employment
- 38 had been employed for 16 weeks or longer.

In addition, a minimum of a further 16 Indigenous persons had obtained a sustainable employment outcome under other state-funded employment programs.

In 2010 – 2011 funding was provided for initiatives across these six areas, including funding over four years for a more comprehensive program for Indigenous job seekers to replace the *Indigenous Youth Employment* program.

Five employment projects are currently funded and service Indigenous communities in Shepparton and Echuca, Warrnambool/Portland/Heywood, Swan Hill and Robinvale, Metropolitan Melbourne and Gippsland. The projects aim to establish a productive and genuine relationship with communities and with community leaders and provide brokerage between industry and Indigenous communities, linking with other support services as necessary. In addition other funded employment programs include Indigenous Victorians as a priority.

Figure 23: Indigenous participants in state-funded employment programs

Number of Indigenous participants	
2009-10	222
2008-09	163
2007-08	212

WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN?

The Commonwealth and Victorian Governments have a shared responsibility to deliver on the Council of Australian Governments' commitment to halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non Indigenous Victorians over a decade. The National Partnership on Indigenous Economic Participation sets out what the Commonwealth and Victoria will do to improve outcomes through government procurement, workforce strategies and employment.

In May 2010 the Victorian Aboriginal Economic Development Group's report *Moonda Wurrin Gree – Pathways to a better economic future* was released. The report identified six priority areas for improving the economic circumstances of Indigenous Victorians and delivering on the Council of Australian Governments commitments. These were:

- The transition of young people from education and training to further education and employment
- Increasing employment
- Business development and growth
- Opportunities from increased access to land and natural resources
- Indigenous tourism
- Leadership and mentoring.

Want to know more?

Go to: <http://www.business.vic.gov.au/>

Strategic Change Indicator	2013 Target	Current Indigenous Data
<p>3.3 Increase workforce participation by Indigenous people in the public sector in ways which can drive improvements in the Strategic Areas for Action</p>	<p>Employment of Indigenous people in the Victorian public sector will increase to 1% of total employees by 2015</p>	<p>Approximately 0.6% of Victorian public sector employees (approx 1200 people) identified as Indigenous (2009 data)</p>

MEASURE OF CURRENT PERFORMANCE

In 2006, 17,806 Victorians self-identified as being Indigenous and of working age (aged 15–64). This represents 0.54% of the Victorian working age population. In 2006, 50.1% of all Indigenous Victorians of working age were employed, compared to 72.9% of all Victorians.³⁹

In 2009, 0.54% or 1200 Victorian public sector employees identified as being Indigenous.

WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN?

The Council of Australian Governments' National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Economic Participation sets national targets for Indigenous public sector employment. A commitment has been made by Victoria under this agreement to increase the workforce participation of Indigenous people across the Victorian public sector to 1%. The Commonwealth has agreed to match this target in its Victorian agencies.

Victorian intends to reach this target by fostering cadetship opportunities in the public sector, strengthening government procurement and temporary employment services and developing a toolkit to assist public sector employers to attract, support and retain Indigenous

Want to know more?

Go to: <http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/indigenous> and follow the link to *Aboriginal Affairs Taskforce*



³⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2007, *2006 Census of Population and Housing*, ABS, Canberra.

Strategic Change Indicator	2013 Target	Current Indigenous Data
3.4 Increase the proportion of Indigenous people with access to their traditional lands	Five new native title settlements and Native Title resolved over 50% of Crown land	Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUA) increased from 33 to 36. Area of land covered by ILUA stands at 31.4% (2009-10 data)

MEASURE OF CURRENT PERFORMANCE

Total number of Victorian Registered Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) in Victoria increased between 2008-09 and 2009-10 from 33 to 36.

The total land area covered by registered ILUAs in Victoria: 71,400sq km, 31.4% of land covered.

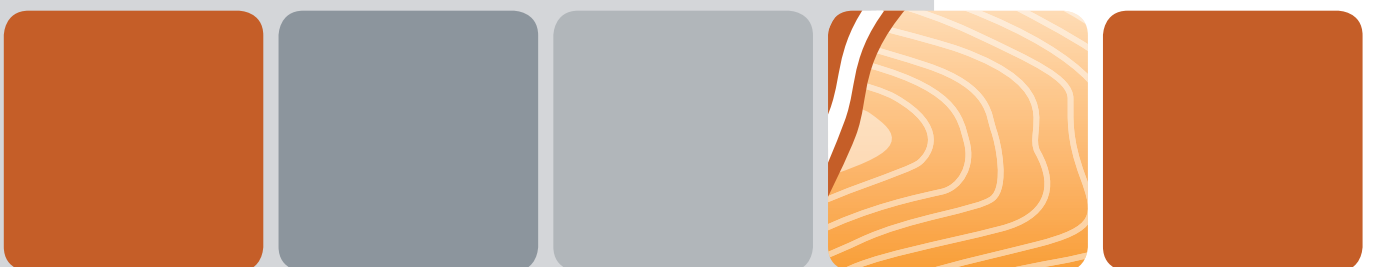
The total area over which native title has been determined has not changed.

WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN?

Traditional Owners have a cultural, economic, social and spiritual relationship with their traditional lands.

The resolution of Traditional Owners' native title claims increases access by Indigenous people to their traditional lands.

Access to land also provides opportunities for the establishment of Traditional Owner-led land-based business enterprises to contribute to Indigenous economic development.



Working towards Native Title Settlement

Work on resolving native title claims continued in 2009-10, including an intense period of mediation of the Gunai/Kurnai native title application in Gippsland, which led to the positive determination of native title by the Federal Court in October 2010. At the same time, the Government and the Gunai/Kurnai people also reached the first Recognition and Settlement Agreement under the *Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010* passed in September 2010.

The Act allows resolution of native title by allowing the State to make agreements directly with Traditional Owners, usually in return for withdrawal of outstanding native title claims and a commitment not to lodge future claims. The settlements possible under the Act can deliver certainty and finality to the State and other Crown land users, build stronger partnerships between Government and Traditional Owner groups and facilitate better Crown land management.

Want to know more?

Go to: www.justice.vic.gov.au and follow links to *Your Rights / Indigenous Victorians / Native Title*

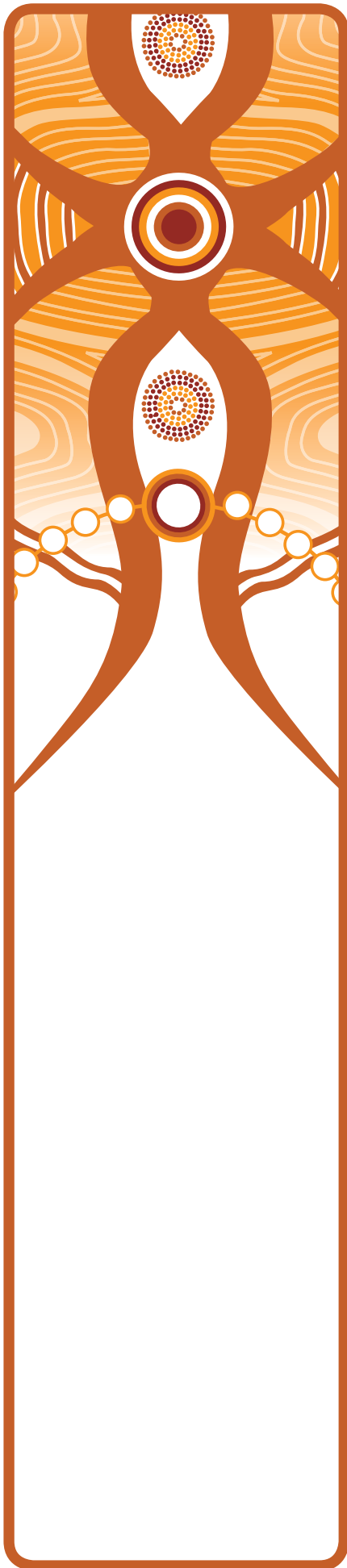
Indigenous Natural Resource Management (NRM) Enterprises

The Report of the Victorian Aboriginal Economic Development Group, *Moonda Wurrin Gree: Pathways to a Better Economic Future* identified economic opportunities from increasing Indigenous people's access to land and natural resources. This includes business and employment opportunities in and operation of natural resource, environment or primary industry enterprises.

In response to *Moonda Wurrin Gree*, funds were committed to the establishment of two commercially viable and self-sustaining Caring for Country – Land and Cultural Heritage Management businesses owned and operated by Traditional Owners using an incubator approach. Each business will be provided with an extensive range of training and opportunities to enable their staff to acquire qualifications in land and cultural heritage management, administration and business skills, workforce readiness and work experience needed to deliver commercial viability.

Want to know more?

Go to: www.dpced.vic.gov.au/indigenous and follow the link to *Aboriginal Affairs Taskforce*



Strategic Area for Action 4

Improve health and wellbeing

Good health and quality of life is influenced by all factors present from the first years of a person's life, including education, work and income, safe and affordable housing, the support of family and friends and broader social participation.

The relative socio-economic disadvantage experienced by Indigenous people in Victoria compared to non Indigenous people places them at greater risk of exposure to economic, social and environmental health risk factors. Research has demonstrated associations between an individual's social and economic status and their health.⁴⁰ For example:

- Limited education and literacy are linked to poor health status
- Lower income reduces the accessibility of health care services and medicines
- Unhealthy infant diet is associated with chronic diseases later in life, and
- Smoking and high-risk behaviour is associated with lower socio-economic status.

These contribute to lower life expectancy and a diminished quality of life.

In Victoria, there are now Regional 'Closing the Health Gap' Advisory Committees in place which will develop place-based implementation plans outlining initiatives to address Indigenous disadvantage.

Programs are focused on ensuring that Indigenous Victorians have access to comprehensive and coordinated health care, provided by a culturally competent health workforce within the broader health system. This includes supporting Indigenous community-controlled health services to provide quality health care services for their clients.

In 2009-10, specific action was undertaken through the former *Victorian Aboriginal Health Plan*, the *Tobacco Control Strategy* and *Koori Alcohol Action Plan* to reduce the factors that contribute to chronic disease, including effective anti-smoking campaigns and integrated alcohol, drug and mental health services. A new *Victorian Aboriginal Health Plan* has been released in 2011.

⁴⁰ Workshop Paper: "Social determinants and the health of Indigenous peoples in Australia – a human rights based approach", Presented by Darren Dick on behalf of Mr Tom Calma, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner, April 2007.

Strategic Change Indicator	2013 Target	Current Indigenous Data
4.1 ⁴¹ Reduce smoking rates of Indigenous people	The proportion of Indigenous adults who are current smokers will reduce to 26%	32.8% (2008 data)

MEASURE OF CURRENT PERFORMANCE

In 2008, 32.8% of Indigenous Victorians are current smokers, compared to 19% of the non Indigenous population.

Figure 24: Smoking rates⁴²

Indigenous	%	Estimated range ⁴³	
Current smoker	32.8	26.5	39.8
Ex-smoker	22.4	16.9	29.1
Non-smoker	44.8	38.3	51.4
Non Indigenous			
Current smoker	19.0	18.3	19.7
Ex-smoker	23.8	23.1	24.4
Non-smoker	57.0	56.1	57.8

Estimates that are (statistically) significantly different to the corresponding estimate for non Indigenous are identified by colour as follows: *higher than non Indigenous* / *lower than non Indigenous*.

WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN?

Among Indigenous Australians, tobacco use is the leading risk factor contributing to disease and death.⁴⁴ Effective programs which result in reductions in smoking rates and healthier lifestyle choices will, in turn, reduce the incidence of chronic disease and obesity.

National Partnership on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes - tackling smoking

One of the priority areas for action under the National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes is tackling smoking.

Victorian Government departments are working closely with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing and Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health through the Victorian Advisory Council on Koori Health. Victoria, in partnership with the Indigenous community, has developed a statewide implementation plan which outlines how Victoria will respond to the five priority reform areas under the National Partnership, including tackling Indigenous smoking. In addition, Department of Health Regional Aboriginal Health National Partnership Committees have developed focussed implementation plans.

A number of initiatives commenced in 2009-10 including:

- joint funding from Commonwealth and Victorian Government to Quit Victoria for three Indigenous Quitline Workers
- funding to Quit Victoria to provide support for SmokeFree messages to be rolled out through sporting groups
- funding to Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation to enhance its capacity on tobacco control. This funding will enable the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation to employ a Tobacco Coordinator who will provide leadership in smoking control for Victorian Indigenous people
- the establishment of an Aboriginal Smoking Control Advisory Group with representation from key Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, tobacco control groups, the Victorian State Office of the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and the Victorian Department of Health (including all regional offices and head office).

Want to know more?

Go to: www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/ and select *Services and support*, then follow the link to *Aboriginal Health*

⁴¹ This is a new indicator under the Victorian Indigenous Affairs Framework 2010 – 2013.

⁴² Source: 2008 Victorian Population Health Survey. The data is standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

⁴³ Estimated range = 95% confidence interval.

⁴⁴ Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage 2009, Page 7.33

Strategic Change Indicator	2013 Target	Current Indigenous Data
<p>4.2⁴⁵ Improve the levels of physical activity, healthy weight and healthy eating of Indigenous people</p>	<p>The proportion of Indigenous adults who are overweight or obese will reduce to 52%</p> <p>The proportion of Indigenous adults who do not meet healthy levels of vegetable intake will reduce to 87%</p> <p>The proportion of Indigenous adults who do not meet healthy levels of fruit intake will reduce to 58%</p> <p>The proportion of Indigenous adults who have healthy levels of physical activity will increase to 55%</p>	<p>Indigenous adults overweight or obese: 49.6%</p> <p>Indigenous adults who do not meet healthy levels of vegetable intake: 89.6%</p> <p>Indigenous adults who do not meet healthy levels of fruit intake: 60.7%</p> <p>Indigenous adults who meet healthy levels of physical activity: 59.8% (2008 data)</p>

MEASURE OF CURRENT PERFORMANCE

In 2008:

- 49.6% of Indigenous Victorians were overweight or obese, compared to 48.5% of the non Indigenous population
- 89.6% of Indigenous Victorians did not meet healthy levels of vegetable intake, compared to 92.1% of the non Indigenous population
- 60.7% of Indigenous Victorians did not meet healthy levels of fruit intake, compared to 51.9% of the non Indigenous population
- 59.8% of Indigenous Victorians had healthy levels of physical activity, compared to 62.8% of the non Indigenous population

Figure 25⁴⁶: Fruit and vegetable intake, by Indigenous status⁴⁷

Indigenous	%	Estimated range ⁴⁸	
Met both guidelines	7.2⁴⁹	4.2	12.2
Did not meet either guidelines	55.8⁵⁰	49.1	62.2
Met fruit guidelines	39.3⁵¹	32.9	46.1
Met vegetable guidelines	10.4	6.9	15.3
Non Indigenous			
Met both guidelines	5.7	5.3	6.0
Did not meet either guidelines	48.1	47.2	49.0
Met fruit guidelines	48.1	47.3	49.0
Met vegetable guidelines	7.9	7.5	8.3

Table presents data relating to percentage of survey respondents who reported consuming sufficient or insufficient amounts of fruit and vegetables per day. Guidelines are current Australian recommended healthy amounts of fruit and vegetable intake.

⁴⁵ This is a new indicator under the Victorian Indigenous Affairs Framework 2010 – 2013.

⁴⁶ Source: Victorian Population Health Survey 2008.

⁴⁷ Based on current Australian guidelines for fruit and vegetable consumption. The data is standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

⁴⁸ Estimated range = 95% confidence interval.

⁴⁹ Relative standard error is between 25 and 50 per cent and the data should be treated with caution.

⁵⁰ This result is statistically significant, demonstrating that the Indigenous rate is higher than the non Indigenous rate.

⁵¹ This result is statistically significant, demonstrating that the Indigenous rate is lower than the non Indigenous rate.

Figure 26⁵²: Overweight and obese, by Indigenous status⁵³

BODY MASS INDEX STATUS			
Indigenous	%	Estimated range ⁵⁴	
Underweight	2.4⁵⁵	0.9	5.7
Normal	39.4	32.3	47.0
Overweight	28.6	22.7	35.4
Obese	21.0	15.8	27.3
Didn't Know/Refused	8.6	5.4	13.3
Non Indigenous			
Underweight	2.2	2.0	2.5
Normal	43.5	42.7	44.4
Overweight	31.9	31.1	32.7
Obese	16.6	16.1	17.2
Didn't Know/Refused	5.7	5.2	6.1

Figure 27⁵⁶: Physical activity levels, by Indigenous status⁵⁷

Indigenous	%	Estimated range ⁵⁸	
Sedentary (no activity)	8.6	5.6	13.1
Insufficient time & sessions	27.9	22.0	34.7
Sufficient time & sessions	59.8	52.9	66.3
Didn't Know/Refused/ Not Applicable	3.7⁵⁹	1.9	7.1
Non Indigenous			
Sedentary (no activity)	5.3	4.9	5.6
Insufficient time & sessions	27.9	27.1	28.7
Sufficient time & sessions	62.8	61.9	63.6
Didn't Know/Refused/ Not Applicable	4.0	3.7	4.4

Table presents data relating to percentage of survey respondents who reported undertaking none, insufficient, sufficient or unknown amounts of physical activity. Categories are current Australian recommended healthy levels of physical activity.

⁵² Source: Victorian Population Health Survey 2008.

⁵³ Based on World Health Organisation categories. The data is standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

⁵⁴ Estimated range = 95% confidence interval.

⁵⁵ Relative standard error is between 25 and 50 per cent and the data should be treated with caution.

⁵⁶ Source: Victorian Population Health Survey 2008.

⁵⁷ Based on current Australian guidelines for physical activity. The data is standardised to the 2006 Victorian population.

⁵⁸ Estimated range = 95% confidence interval.

⁵⁹ Relative standard error is between 25 and 50 per cent and the data should be treated with caution.



WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN?

Physical health outcomes can be related to various factors, including a healthy living environment, access to health services and lifestyle choices. Obesity is a risk factor for diseases and conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, osteoarthritis and some cancers. Healthy eating can contribute to better health outcomes.⁶⁰

National Partnership on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes

In Victoria, improving the levels of physical activity, healthy weight and healthy eating by Indigenous people is being addressed through both broad and targeted initiatives. Under the Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes National Partnership, Indigenous gathering places, walking groups, Elders' luncheons and youth and men's health groups will be established across a number of regions alongside increased health screenings and improved communications strategies.

Victorian Aboriginal Nutritional and Physical Activity Strategy

The Victorian Aboriginal Nutritional and Physical Activity Strategy set policy directions to close the nutrition and physical activity gap in Victoria. This strategy, developed by the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, is the Victorian Government's framework for action over 2009 - 2014 to promote healthy eating and physical activity among Indigenous Victorians. Actions under the strategy include nutrition and physical activity tip sheets targeted to the Indigenous community (further details below), increasing and providing professional development opportunities for the Indigenous nutrition and physical activity workforce, and supporting positive nutrition and physical activity messages in early childhood settings.

Nutrition and physical activity tip sheets

The Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and government agencies have been engaged to improve nutrition and physical activity by developing culturally specific tip sheets to promote healthy exercise and food choices, and undertake an implementation project to deliver key policy actions related to diabetes prevention, nutrition and physical activity.

Want to know more?

Go to: www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/ and select Services and support, then follow the link to Aboriginal Health

Go to: http://www.vaccho.org.au/programs/programs_health_nutrition.asp

⁶⁰ Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage 2009, Pages 7.1 and 7.3.

Strategic Change Indicator	2013 Target	Current Indigenous Data
4.3 ⁶¹ Reduce the rates of chronic conditions among Indigenous people	The separation rate for selected chronic conditions will be reduced to 43 per 1000 people	45.2 per 1000 people (2007-08)

MEASURE OF CURRENT PERFORMANCE

The 2007-08 separation rate for selected chronic conditions per 1000 people for Indigenous Victorians was 45.2, compared to 18.2 for non Indigenous Victorians.⁶²

WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN?

There are significant gaps in health between Indigenous and non Indigenous Victorians, from increased medical risks at birth, through to the greater probability of experiencing chronic diseases and preventable health conditions – such as diabetes, heart disease and asthma at younger ages.

Aboriginal Health Promotion and Chronic Care Program

The *Aboriginal Health Promotion and Chronic Care* program is in 11 sites across Victoria. It supports Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and community health services to work in partnership to improve health outcomes for Indigenous Victorians with or at risk of chronic disease. The program aims to increase access to primary health services, improve clinical service delivery, coordinate approaches to health promotion, ensure accredited training and support for workers as well as support community health services to provide culturally sensitive services to Indigenous Victorians.

Culturally appropriate chronic care for Indigenous Victorians

VicHealth has been commissioned to develop a framework and evidence-based health promotion resource to support the development of effective health promotion action within Victorian Indigenous communities. The resource will include a review of the evidence across 10 key determinants of health and relevant contributing risk factors.

Strengthening Primary Health Care for Aboriginal People project

A new project in 2009-10 led by the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, this project is focusing on strengthening evidence-based primary care systems and services and effective service pathways with mainstream providers. Local Steering Committees have been established to oversee the implementation of the project in Mildura and Northern Metropolitan Melbourne.

Want to know more?

Go to: www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/ and select Services and support, then follow the link to Aboriginal Health

Go to: http://www.vaccho.org.au/programs/programs_health_nutrition.asp

Go to: http://www.health.vic.gov.au/koori/icap/events/conferences2/opt_strengthening_primary_health_care.pdf

⁶¹ This is a new indicator under the Victorian Indigenous Affairs Framework 2010 – 2013.

⁶² Admitted patient activity for 2007-08 is measured by the number of people who are separated (leave the hospital) within this time period. The separation rate per thousand population is the total number of separations for a time period divided by the population (measured in thousands) for that period.



Strategic Change Indicator	2013 Target	Current Indigenous Data
4.4 ⁶³ Reduce rate of self harm among Indigenous people	The rate of presentations for self harm will be reduced to 4.05 per 1000 people	4.08 (2009-10)

MEASURE OF CURRENT PERFORMANCE

In 2009-10, the rate of presentations of Indigenous people to hospital for self harm was 4.08 per 1000 people, compared to 1.3 per 1000 people for non Indigenous people.⁶⁴

Figure 28⁶⁵: Self harm related emergency department presentations - rate per 1000 population, by Indigenous status⁶⁶

Year	Indigenous	Non Indigenous
2004-05	3.45	1.38
2005-06	3.35	1.43
2006-07	4.21	1.36
2007-08	4.74	1.26
2008-09	5.57	1.36
2009-10	4.08	1.35

WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN?

Self harm causes great grief in both Indigenous and non Indigenous communities. In the Indigenous community, suicide and self harm can be influenced by a complex set of factors relating to history of dispossession and intergenerational trauma, removal from family, discrimination, resilience, social capital and socio-economic status.⁶⁷

The Victorian Aboriginal Suicide Prevention and Response Action Plan 2010 – 2015

The *Victorian Aboriginal Suicide Prevention and Response Action Plan* identifies action for reducing the incidence and impact of suicide and self-harm and nominates further action in four priority areas:

1. Prevention through building resilience
2. Improving access to care and support for those at risk
3. Improving the response to crisis and to the community post-suicide
4. Improving the evidence base, data collection and analysis.

Strategies have been developed for each of the priority areas.

Want to know more?

Go to: <http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/> and run a search for “Self harm”

⁶³ This is a new indicator under the Victorian Indigenous Affairs Framework 2010 – 2013.

⁶⁴ This data should be treated with caution due to the limitations in using self harm emergency department presentations as an indicator of self harm rates.

⁶⁵ Source: Victorian Emergency Department Minimum Dataset (VEMD). There may be subsequent changes in the 2009-10 data due to late submission of data from some hospitals.

⁶⁶ These data do not include those cases in which Indigenous status was not known or not reported. ABS Data from 2006 Census used as population estimate for number of Indigenous people living in Victoria. This may result in an underestimation of the true rates prior to 2006 and an overestimation of the true rates after 2006.

⁶⁷ Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage 2009, Page 7.65

Strategic Change Indicator	2013 Target	Current Indigenous Data
4.5 ⁶⁸ Reduce risky alcohol consumption among Indigenous people	The rate of presentations due to alcohol consumption will be reduced to 12.6 per 1000 people	16.19 (2009-10)

MEASURE OF CURRENT PERFORMANCE

In 2009-10, the rate of presentations of Indigenous people to hospital due to alcohol consumption was 16.19 per 1000 people, compared to 2.47 per 1000 people for non Indigenous people.

Figure 29⁶⁹: Alcohol related emergency department presentations - rate per 1000 population, by Indigenous status⁷⁰

Year	Indigenous	Non Indigenous
2005-06	11.18	2.04
2006-07	11.61	2.30
2007-08	13.01	2.45
2008-09	16.99	2.60
2009-10	16.19	2.47

WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN?

Risky alcohol consumption has health and social consequences through intoxication, alcohol dependence and other long-term health effects. In addition, alcohol misuse, over time, can lead to chronic diseases. It also contributes to disability and death indirectly through associated accidents and violence.⁷¹

Koori Alcohol Action Plan 2010 – 2020

The *Koori Alcohol Action Plan 2010 – 2020* recognises that alcohol use in Victoria's Indigenous population occurs in different social, historical and cultural contexts to that of the non Indigenous population.

The *Koori Alcohol Action Plan 2010 – 2020* was developed in partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation and Victoria's Indigenous communities.

The objectives of the plan are to achieve long-term change by working in partnership and supporting Victorian Indigenous communities to reduce alcohol misuse and the negative consequences of harmful alcohol use.

During the community consultations, four key themes emerged, which now form the basis of the *Koori Alcohol Action Plan 2010 – 2020*. Actions under each theme describe how improved outcomes will be achieved. The themes are:

- strengthening communities
- responsible access to alcohol
- improved information and understanding
- improving responses and services.

Want to know more?

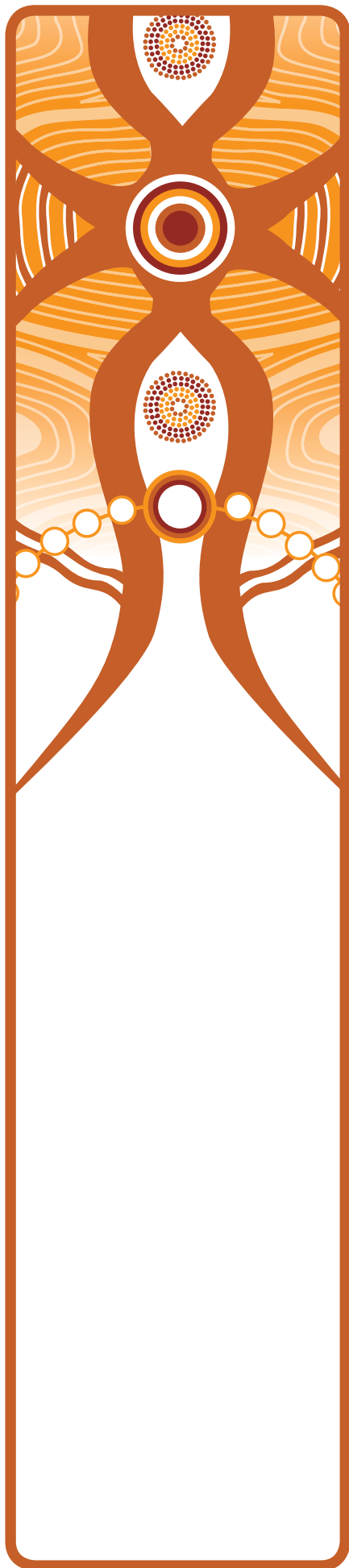
Go to: http://www.health.vic.gov.au/drugservices/pubs/action_plan.htm

⁶⁸ This is a new indicator under the Victorian Indigenous Affairs Framework 2010 – 2013.

⁶⁹ Source: Victorian Emergency Department Minimum Dataset (VEMD). There may be subsequent changes in the 2009-10 data due to late submission of data from some hospitals.

⁷⁰ These data do not include those cases in which Indigenous status was not known or not reported. ABS Data from 2006 Census used as population estimate for number of Indigenous people living in Victoria. This may result in an underestimation of the true rates prior to 2006 and an overestimation of the true rates after 2006.

⁷¹ Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage 2009, Page 10.14



Strategic Area for Action 5

Build Indigenous Capacity

Strength and resilience within Indigenous communities are the springboard for future action to improve life outcomes. Building on these strengths will help overcome the gaps in human, social and organisational capital that have limited the effectiveness of government programs and the ability of Indigenous individuals, families and communities to overcome intergenerational disadvantage.

Emerging and existing Indigenous leaders need the opportunity to develop their individual capabilities and expand their spheres of influence. Increased civic and community participation are evident from concerted effort by government and Indigenous Victorians to build social capital in local Indigenous communities. The establishment of 38 *Local Indigenous Networks* across Victoria has seen more than 1,300 Indigenous people participate in local civic activities, including community priority-setting and planning.

Strategic Change Indicator	2013 Target	Current Indigenous Data
5.1 ⁷² Increase participation of Indigenous people in local representative arrangements	The number of registered Local Indigenous Network participants will increase to 1800	1307 participants (2009-10 data)

MEASURE OF CURRENT PERFORMANCE

On 30 June 2009 there were 959 registered LIN participants across the state. By 30 June 2010 this number had grown to 1,307, an increase of 34%.

WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN?

Community participation provides Indigenous Victorians with an opportunity to develop their individual capabilities and expand their spheres of influence. Building on existing strengths will help overcome the gaps in human, social and institutional capital and address intergenerational disadvantage.

A staged process to establish *Local Indigenous Networks* (LINs) in 38 Victorian Indigenous communities commenced in 2006-07 and was completed in 2008-09. Victoria's LINs are supported by 13 Indigenous Community Engagement Brokers who are based in Regional Teams across all state regions. During 2009-10, the Brokers assisted Victoria's LINs to design and implement a range of activities to increase community engagement and build community participation in local Indigenous representative arrangements.

These activities included:

- regular LIN meetings (usually monthly) to plan activity, share information and build local participation
- community projects aimed at improving outcomes for Indigenous community members in areas such as education, health, employment, cultural strengthening, youth support and civic participation
- partnerships with local organisations and Commonwealth, state and local governments to implement specific community projects and support community planning
- 30 LINs starting on their Community Plans which identify community aspirations and priorities and strategies to achieve them
- in partnership with Swinburne University, conducting six Community Planning Workshops at Geelong, Bendigo, Kilsyth, Mildura, Lakes Entrance and Melbourne. These workshops were attended by 90 participants from 21 LINs, and gave participants an overview of community planning to get them started on their own plans.



Want to know more?

Go to:

<http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/indigenous/> and follow the link to *Indigenous representative arrangements*

⁷² This is a new indicator under the Victorian Indigenous Affairs Framework 2010 – 2013.

Strategic Change Indicator	2013 Target	Current Indigenous Data
5.2 ⁷³ Increase the representation of Indigenous people on Government Boards and Committees	The representation of Indigenous people on Government Boards and Committees will increase to 1%	0.90% of total positions on Government Boards and Committees are held by Indigenous people (as at 30 June 2010)

MEASURE OF CURRENT PERFORMANCE

0.90% of current members of Government Boards and Committees at 30 June 2010 were Indigenous.

WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN?

Greater Indigenous participation on Victorian Government boards and committees ensures Indigenous communities are represented in decision making roles. High level participation enables influence over how decisions are to be carried out and how Indigenous members of the community can be included in the making, implementation and communication of those decisions.

Work is being undertaken to increase the number of Indigenous Victorians serving on public and private boards and committees.

Working towards the 2013 target of 1% of people sitting on Government boards and committees identifying as Indigenous, an *Aboriginal Boards and Committees Program* is being developed as part of the Victorian Aboriginal Economic Development Agenda's 'Role Models and Mentors' initiative. Future work will include:

- a register of Indigenous people trained and available to serve on boards and committees
- access to appropriate training to enable Indigenous people to effectively participate in high level boards and committees
- better communication of opportunities for Indigenous people to participate in public and private boards and committees.

Want to know more?

Go to <http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/indigenous/>



⁷³ This is a new indicator under the Victorian Indigenous Affairs Framework 2010 – 2013.

Strategic Change Indicator	2013 Target	Current Indigenous Data
5.3 Increase the proportion of board members of large Indigenous organisations having undertaken rigorous governance training	The proportion of board members of large Indigenous organisations having undertaken rigorous governance training will increase to 70%	54% of board members of large Indigenous organisations have undertaken training (2010 data)

MEASURE OF CURRENT PERFORMANCE

A survey of Victoria's 25 largest Indigenous community organisations showed that as at October 2010, 90 of the 168 board members from these organisations, or 54%, have undertaken rigorous governance training since 2006.⁷⁴

Figure 30: Governance Training Program Participation – 2009-10

Training Course	Number of participants
3 day workshop (4 courses)	98
Certificate IV (3 courses)	35
<i>Total participants</i>	<i>133</i>

WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN?

During 2009-10, four three-day introductory governance workshops and three Certificate IVs in Business (Governance) programs were successfully conducted. A total of 133 individuals received training in good governance and management practices. Of those, 59% were from large Indigenous organisations.

In the 12 months of the Governance Training Program to July 2010, participation from Local Indigenous Networks and Registered Aboriginal Parties representatives has doubled. In Victoria, 94% of Indigenous organisations are compliant with their statutory obligations. Consumer Affairs Victoria reports that this is a higher rate of compliance than mainstream organisations overall.

The Governance Training Program gained industry recognition during 2009, receiving two awards: a Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated 'Wurreker Award' and the 'Business and Higher Education Round Table Award for Best Vocational Education and Training Collaboration'.

To maintain wide community access to the program, in 2009-10 introductory workshops were delivered at various

locations in Victoria including Melbourne, Metung, Creswick and Shepparton. Two residential Certificate IV courses in Business (Governance) were delivered in Kilsyth and one at Metung in Gippsland.

Student retention rates for Governance Training Program-accredited training courses are consistently more than 80%. In addition, 31% of participants from the introductory workshops continued on to the accredited training component of the program.

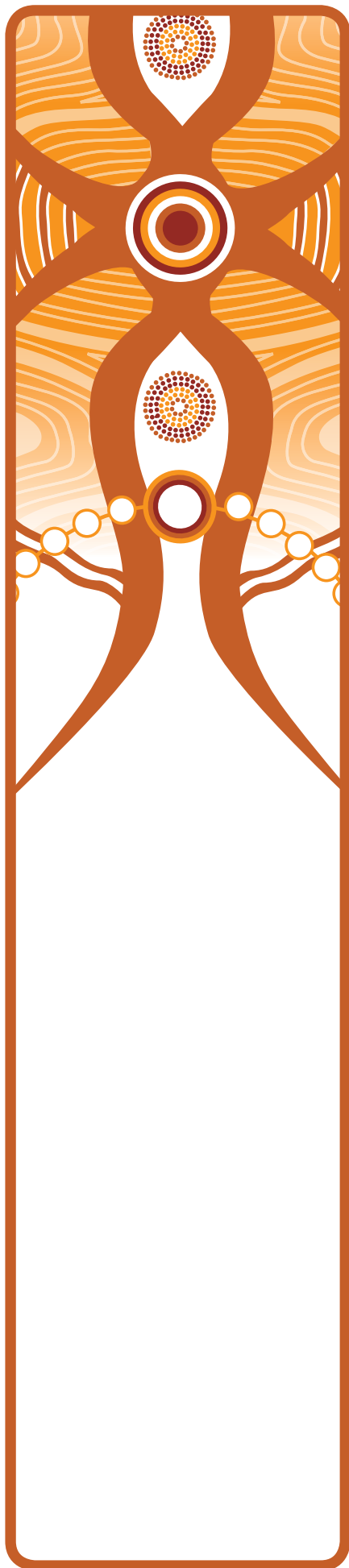
Since the Governance Training Program started in March 2006, around Victoria 21 Introductory (three-day) workshops, 10 Certificate IV courses and two Diploma courses have been delivered, training a total of 501 participants from 162 organisations.

Want to know more?

Go to:

<http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/indigenous/> and follow the link to Governance and Training

⁷⁴ Data source: Aboriginal Affairs Victoria. Survey results include only training courses undertaken through Aboriginal Affairs Victoria's Governance Training Program.



Strategic Area for Action 6

Prevent family violence and improve justice outcomes

Violence is a significant threat to the health and wellbeing of many Indigenous families, particularly women and children. Family violence undermines aspirations for children, parents, and communities to learn and develop and to be healthy and fulfill their potential. Extensive research confirms the devastating impact family violence can have on children's lives and their physical and emotional development.

Socio-economic disadvantage and the marginalisation of Indigenous Victorians places them at greater risk of contact with the justice system. While Victoria's Indigenous incarceration rates are among the lowest in Australia, Indigenous people continue to be over-represented in the criminal justice system. In Victoria, Indigenous people are more likely to be arrested, remanded or incarcerated than their non Indigenous counterparts; and less likely to be cautioned or diverted from further contact with the criminal justice system.

Strong Culture, Strong Peoples, Strong Families, the Victorian Government's Indigenous Family Violence 10 Year Plan, is focused on creating a safer future for Indigenous families and communities. The Plan is the result of considerable collaborative effort by the Indigenous Family Violence Partnership Forum, established in 2005. Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Groups have been established across Victoria and undertake a valuable role in developing and guiding community led approaches to preventing, reducing and responding to family violence in Indigenous communities.

The Aboriginal Justice Agreement (AJA) is an agreement with the Victorian Indigenous communities aimed at reducing the over-representation of Indigenous Victorians in the criminal justice system. The second phase of the Agreement, AJA2 released in 2006, seeks to intervene at every point along the criminal justice experience to increase opportunities for diversion and reduce re-offending by Indigenous Victorians. It also focuses on changing the justice system to be more responsive to and inclusive of Indigenous people.

Strategic Change Indicator	2013 Target	Current Indigenous Data
6.1 Increase the police response to and action taken on any Indigenous family violence incident reported to them	There will be no difference in the police response and action taken to Indigenous family violence incidents	The total number of Family Incidents Reports by Indigenous aggrieved family members was 1,209 (2009-10 data) Charges were laid in 27.0% of these cases
6.2 Reduce repeat police call outs for Indigenous family violence incidents	There will be no difference in repeat police call outs for Indigenous family violence incidents	Of the Family Incidents Reports made by Indigenous aggrieved family members, 899 incidents required repeat attendance from Victoria Police (2009-10 data) Charges were laid in 28.7% of cases

MEASURE OF CURRENT PERFORMANCE

In 2009-10, the total number of Family Incidents Reports by Indigenous aggrieved family members was 1,209. Charges were laid in 27.0% of these cases. Of the Family Incidents Reports made by Indigenous aggrieved family members in 2009-10, 899 incidents required repeat attendance from Victoria Police and charges were laid in 28.7% of cases. An increase in repeat attendances has occurred over the previous four years.

Figure 31⁷⁵: No. of Family Incidents Reports (FIRs), by Indigenous Status of Aggrieved Family Member, by Financial Year and Where Charges Laid

Indigenous Status	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
	No. FIRs recorded	% FIRs where Charges Laid	No. FIRs recorded	% FIRs where Charges Laid	No. FIRs recorded	% FIRs where Charges Laid	No. FIRs recorded	% FIRs where Charges Laid
Indigenous	791	28.6	862	24.5	1,068	29.4	1,209	27.0
Non Indigenous	16,429	27.2	17,975	25.5	20,908	26.8	22,024	26.6

Figure 32⁷⁶: No. of Family Incidents Reports, by Indigenous Status of Aggrieved Family Member, by Financial Year and Where Repeat Attendance⁷⁷

Indigenous Status	2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
	No. FIRs recorded	% FIRs where Charges Laid	No. FIRs recorded	% FIRs where Charges Laid	No. FIRs recorded	% FIRs where Charges Laid	No. FIRs recorded	% FIRs where Charges Laid
Indigenous	582	30.9	636	26.7	771	31.3	899	28.7
Non Indigenous	8,338	31.2	9,183	29.4	10,853	31.0	11,103	31.5

⁷⁵ Data provided by Corporate Statistics, Victoria Police. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 July 2010 and is subject to variation. Incidents with unknown Indigenous status have not been included in any of these calculations.

⁷⁶ Data provided by Corporate Statistics, Victoria Police. Data extracted from LEAP on 18 July 2010 and is subject to variation. Incidents with unknown Indigenous status have not been included in any of these calculations.

⁷⁷ Repeat Attendance = The Aggrieved Family Member has made previous Family Incident Reports to Police.

WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN?

The Indigenous Family Violence Strategy aims to reduce the incidences of family violence involving Indigenous people by both preventing its occurrence in the first instance and by improving the effectiveness of interventions supporting victims and perpetrators.

Effort since 2005 has had a measurable impact on the understanding and awareness of family violence across all Victorian communities. Reforms have included a new Police Code of Practice and new family violence legislation. These reforms have resulted in a significant increase in reporting of family violence and levels of police action in response.

The Indigenous Family Violence Partnership Forum, a community led partnership with government, is the key governance mechanism which drives the Strategy. The Forum consists of Indigenous community representatives from across the state, Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group Chairpersons, Indigenous organisations and senior representatives from government departments.

The forum developed and now oversees the implementation of *Strong Culture, Strong Peoples, Strong Families - towards a safer future for Indigenous families and communities - 10 year plan*. Reporting on the implementation plan occurs every six months and aligns to Indigenous Family Violence Partnership Forum meetings.

Three working groups are guiding the development of an Indigenous Family Violence Primary Prevention Framework, Cultural Competency Guidelines for Family Violence Services and an Evaluation Framework. A number of key initiatives under the plan include:

- Indigenous Healing and Time Out services
- Indigenous family violence prevention framework and prevention projects
- Koori Family Violence Police Protocols
- Indigenous men's group programs, intensive case management for Indigenous men and Indigenous men's resource advisory service
- Victoria Police Community awareness campaigns
- Case management for Indigenous men and women
- An annual meeting of statewide Indigenous and mainstream family violence representatives to strengthen working relationships across the family violence system

- Training and development including a Certificate IV in Aboriginal family violence work
- An online collaboration tool, the Indigenous Family Violence Strategy Hub, launched in December 2009. This is a secure site for members of the Partnership Forum and supports the online implementation of the Strategy and Ten Year Plan and allows practical information sharing through a calendar, members' contact details, and all relevant information relating to the work of the Partnership Forum.
- Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Groups, established across Victoria, which develop and guide community led approaches to preventing, reducing and responding to family violence in Indigenous communities.

Want to know more?

Go to: <http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/indigenous> and follow the link to *Indigenous Family Violence*

Strategic Change Indicator	2013 Target	Current Indigenous Data
6.3 Reduce the number of times Indigenous young people (aged 10-17) are processed by police	The number of times Indigenous young people will be more likely to be processed by police compared to non Indigenous young people will decrease to 3.5	2.9 (2009-10 data)
6.4 Increase the proportion of Indigenous young people (aged 10-17) cautioned when processed by police	The proportion of Indigenous young people cautioned when processed by police will increase to 35%	33.8% (2009-10 data)

MEASURE OF CURRENT PERFORMANCE

In 2009-10, Indigenous young people (aged 10-17 years) were 2.9 times more likely to be processed by Victorian Police than non Indigenous young people.

Figure 33⁷⁸: Number of times Indigenous young people are more likely to be processed by police than non Indigenous young people⁷⁹

2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
3.9	3.6	2.9	3.1	3.2 ⁸⁰	2.9

In 2009-10, 33.8% of Indigenous young people were cautioned when processed by police, compared to 51.8% of non Indigenous young people.

Figure 34⁸¹: Proportion of distinct (alleged) young (10-17 years) offenders cautioned by police, by Indigenous status⁸²

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Indigenous	33.6%	27.9%	36.7%	36.5%	34.2% ⁸³	33.8%
Non Indigenous	47.6%	51.4%	57.7%	57.4%	54.7%	51.8%

⁷⁸ Data Source: Victoria Police, Department of Justice population projections based on 2001 and 2006 ABS Census figures.

⁷⁹ These figures represent the ratio of distinct, young (10 – 17 years), alleged, Indigenous offenders processed per thousand to distinct, young, alleged, non Indigenous offenders processed per thousand. Population estimates are calculated by the Department of Justice based on the 2001 and 2006 ABS Census figures.

⁸⁰ Police records continue to be updated over time therefore the 2008-09 data has been updated to reflect current data and has changed slightly from the 3.1 figure published in the 2008-09 Report.

⁸¹ Data Source: Victoria Police

⁸² Percentages are based on the number of distinct, young Indigenous alleged offenders cautioned when first processed by police. Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage: Key Indicators 2009 published by the Productivity Commission reported that the proportion of Indigenous young people cautioned by police increased from 11.7% to 15.0% between 2004-05 and 2007-08. However, this figure is based on the total number of alleged offences committed by Indigenous young people rather than the number of distinct individuals processed.

⁸³ Police records continue to be updated over time therefore the 2008-09 data has been updated to reflect current data and the Indigenous figure for 2008-09 has changed slightly from the 34.3% figure published in the 2008-09 Report.



WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN?

Strategic Change Indicators 6.3 to 6.7 relate to a range of strategies and initiatives being pursued under the Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement.

Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement

The Aboriginal Justice Agreement is a formal partnership with the Indigenous community which aims to improve justice outcomes through:

- minimising Indigenous over-representation in the criminal justice system, and
- improving access to mechanisms designed to uphold the human, civil and legal rights of Indigenous Victorians.

The second phase of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement (AJA2) was launched in 2006 and is built on a strategic framework of prevention, early intervention, increased diversion and reduced re-offending. It involves coordinated action by agencies across the justice continuum including Police, Courts, Corrections and Youth Justice (DHS) in partnership with Indigenous communities and organisations.

A key strategic challenge is a rapidly growing Indigenous population with a disproportionately large youth cohort. More than half of Victoria's Indigenous population is under 25 years of age. Indigenous young people are also one of the most socially and economically disadvantaged groups in Victoria.

In response to this challenge, a range of initiatives have been developed which focus on preventing and reducing the progression of Indigenous young people into the criminal justice system, and reducing re-offending of Indigenous people already in contact with the system. These initiatives appear to have contributed to a reduction in the rate at which Indigenous young people are processed by police. In 2004-05 Indigenous young people were 3.9 times more likely than non Indigenous young people to be processed by police by way of a caution, arrest, summons, or warrant. By 2009-10 this rate had decreased by about 25% to 2.9.

Preventing initial contact with the criminal justice system is fundamental to reducing Indigenous over-representation in this system. 'Cautioning' aims to minimise the likelihood of Indigenous young people proceeding further into the criminal justice system⁸⁴ and decrease the likelihood of young people becoming entrenched in a cycle of re-offending.

Koori Early School Leavers and Youth Employment Program

The *Koori Early School Leavers and Youth Employment Program* operates in Mildura and North Western Metropolitan Melbourne. It targets Indigenous young people aged 10-20 years who are disconnected or poorly connected to education, training/employment and are at risk of adverse contact with the justice system. The program explores avenues to re-engage these young people with school or alternative educational, vocational or employment pathways.

Frontline Youth Initiatives Program

The *Frontline Youth Initiatives Program* engages Indigenous children and young people at risk of contact with the justice system in socially and physically healthy alternatives to offending. Frontline projects are locally developed and implemented, and include sporting, cultural, music, arts, performance and leadership activities.

Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer Program

The *Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer* program aims to improve the relationship between Victoria Police and the Victorian Indigenous community. A diverse range of local projects and initiatives have been implemented and supported as a result of the *Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer* program. Many of these projects, such as the Indigenous Surfer's Leadership Camps and Victoria Police High Challenge Camp aim to build self-esteem, leadership skills and improve relationships between Victoria Police and Indigenous young people.

Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers have also played a critical role in supporting the development and implementation of the local Police-Indigenous community protocols in the areas of cautioning (*Cautioning and Youth Diversion* program) and family violence (Koori Family Violence Police Protocols).

An evaluation of the *Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer* program in 2009 found that it meets its objectives, plays an important role in building mutual trust and respect between Police and local Indigenous communities, and recommended that the program be expanded.

Police Cautioning and Koori Youth Diversion Program

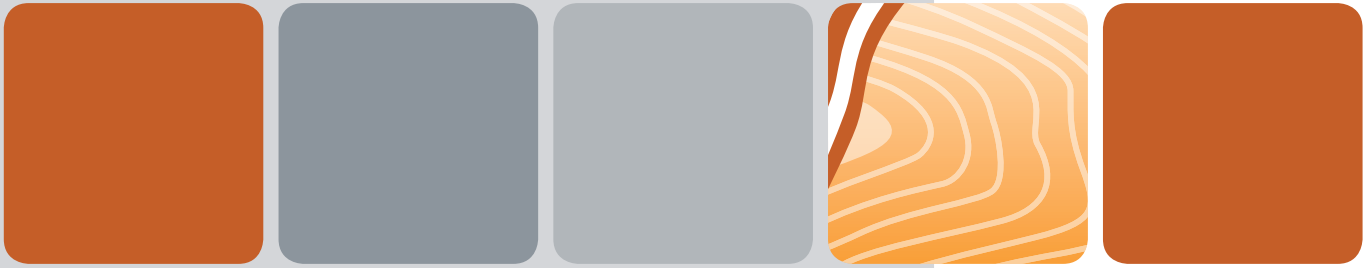
Under the Aboriginal Justice Agreement, the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service in conjunction with Victoria Police runs a *Cautioning and Youth Diversion* program. The program aims to increase cautioning by Police, address underlying causal factors leading to offending behaviour, and provide ongoing support to young people who are cautioned. The program also aims to increase police awareness of local community based services available to support Indigenous young people, and assist to address the underlying causes of their offending.

The *Cautioning and Youth Diversion* program was initially piloted in the Latrobe Valley and Mildura. Based on its success, it was expanded to Swan Hill and Shepparton in 2008 and Warrnambool and Bairnsdale in 2009-10.

Want to know more?

Go to: www.justice.vic.gov.au and follow links to *Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement*

⁸⁴ Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage 2009, Page 10.33



Strategic Change Indicator	2013 Target	Current Indigenous Data
6.5 Reduce the proportion of Indigenous people remanded in custody	The proportion of Indigenous people remanded in custody will decrease to 20%	21.0% (2009-10 data)
6.6 Reduce the proportion of Indigenous adults sentenced to prison rather than other alternatives	The proportion of Indigenous adults sentenced to prison rather than other alternatives will decrease to 28%	30.6% (2009-10 data)

MEASURE OF CURRENT PERFORMANCE

The proportion of Indigenous offenders on remand (un-sentenced) in 2009-10 was 21%.

Figure 35⁸⁵: Proportion of daily average number of offenders on remand⁸⁶

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Indigenous	20.8%	22.0%	23.0%	22.5%	19.7%	21.0%
Non Indigenous	17.5%	17.2%	18.4%	19.4%	19.4%	18.8%

The proportion of Indigenous offenders sentenced to prison rather than other orders in 2009-10 was 30.6%.

Figure 36⁸⁷: Proportion of offenders sentenced to prison rather than other orders⁸⁸

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Indigenous	28.3%	31.7%	35.9%	34.1%	34.5%	30.6%
Non Indigenous	28.4%	28.8%	32.9%	31.7%	32.5%	29.1%

⁸⁵ Data Source: Corrections Victoria Data Warehouse

⁸⁶ Prisoners with unknown Indigenous status have not been included in any of the calculations.

⁸⁷ Data Source: Corrections Victoria Data Warehouse

⁸⁸ Prisoners with unknown Indigenous status have not been included in any of the calculations.

WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN?

Indigenous people are over-represented in all aspects of the criminal justice system in Victoria and are more likely to be incarcerated than non Indigenous people.

Under the Aboriginal Justice Agreement, a number of mainstream and Indigenous-specific diversionary programs are in place to reduce the number of Indigenous people detained prior to sentencing, and the number and proportion of Indigenous people sentenced to prison.

Court Integrated Services Program

The *Court Integrated Services Program* provides coordinated case management support and links defendants to support services, such as drug and alcohol treatment, crisis accommodation, disability and mental health programs, to address underlying causes of their offending.

As part of the *Court Integrated Services Program*, Aboriginal Liaison Officers are located at the Melbourne Magistrates' Court and the La Trobe Valley Law Courts. A *Court Integrated Services Program* referral program at each remand prison ensures that Indigenous defendants have access to treatment and support, as well as assistance in completing a referral. A recent evaluation of the *Court Integrated Services Program* found a 20% reduction in the likelihood of re-offending. For those who did re-offend, both the frequency and severity of their offending decreased. In addition, wellbeing outcomes in relation to drug abuse, mental health and housing also improved.

Koori Courts

Koori Courts seek to address Indigenous over-representation in the justice system by providing a culturally sensitive court environment. *Magistrates' Koori Courts* have been established in Broadmeadows, Shepparton, Warrnambool, Mildura, Moe / La Trobe Valley, Bairnsdale and Swan Hill. In addition, two *Children's Koori Courts* operate in Mildura and Melbourne. In November 2008, a *County Koori Court* opened in Morwell as part of a four-year pilot project. It is the first of its kind in Australia.

Indigenous Community Corrections Officer Program

The *Indigenous Community Corrections Officer* program provides culturally sensitive supervision of Indigenous offenders on community-based orders. Under this program, Indigenous Community Corrections Officers develop and maintain relationships between Community Correctional Services and the Indigenous community with the aim of preventing more serious contact with the correctional system.

Koori Offender Support and Mentoring Program

Similarly, the *Koori Offender Support and Mentoring* program is designed to reduce the number of Indigenous offenders breaching Community Based Orders. The program engages local Elders and Respected Persons to provide support and mentoring to Indigenous offenders and assist them to meet the requirements of their orders.

Wulgunggo Ngalu Learning Place

Wulgunggo Ngalu Learning Place (WNLP), located in Gippsland, is a residential facility for Indigenous men on community-based orders. At WNLP, participants receive support to complete their community based order, while learning life skills that will reduce the likelihood of re-offending. Participants reside at WNLP for three to six months, and each participant has an individual case management plan that addresses their particular needs.

Koori Intensive Bail Support Program

The *Koori Intensive Bail Support* program operates in five DHS regions across Victoria and is designed to reduce the likelihood of young Indigenous people breaching their bail conditions and being placed on custodial remand order. The program provides intensive outreach services to support young people to comply with their bail conditions. The program also facilitates referrals to community-based and culturally specific support services, and access to accommodation.

Want to know more?

Go to: www.justice.vic.gov.au and follow links to *Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement*

Strategic Change Indicator	2013 Target	Current Indigenous Data
6.7 Reduce the proportion of Indigenous people who are convicted within two years of their previous conviction	<p>The proportion of Indigenous people who are convicted within two years of their previous conviction will decrease to 50%</p> <p>The number of times Indigenous prisoners will be more likely than non Indigenous prisoners to return to prison within two years of discharge will decrease to 17.0</p>	<p>45.0% (2009-10 data)</p> <p>The number of times Indigenous prisoners will be more likely to return to prison than non Indigenous prisoners within two years of discharge decreased to 14.0 in 2009-10</p>



MEASURE OF CURRENT PERFORMANCE

In 2009-10, the proportion of Indigenous prisoners who returned to prison under sentence within two years of discharge was 45.0%, a notable decrease from previous years.

In 2009-10, the number of times Indigenous prisoners were more likely than non Indigenous prisoners to return to prison under sentence within two years of their release decreased to 14.0.

Figure 37⁸⁹: Proportion of prisoners released who returned to prison under sentence within two years⁹⁰

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Indigenous	52.2%	56.5%	48.6%	50.0%	49.1%	45.0%
Non Indigenous	37.7%	35.3%	35.6%	35.2%	33.1%	32.6%

Figure 38⁹¹: Number of times Indigenous prisoners are more likely than non Indigenous prisoners to return to prison under sentence within two years of release⁹²

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
	17.9	19.3	16.8	17.5	15.7	14.0

Between 2004-05 and 2009-10, the proportion of Indigenous prisoners returning to prison under sentence within two years of release decreased from 52.2% to 45.0%. While this improvement is promising, the current figures are still considered unacceptably high. Addressing re-offending and recidivism continue to be high but challenging priorities.

⁸⁹ Data Source: Corrections Victoria Data Warehouse

⁹⁰ Column headings refer to the final return period. Prisoners with unknown Indigenous status have not been included in any of the calculations.

⁹¹ Data Source: Corrections Victoria Data Warehouse. Calculation by Department of Justice based on population projections derived from 2001 and 2006 ABS Censuses.

⁹² Column headings refer to the final return period. Prisoners with unknown Indigenous status have not been included in any of the calculations.

WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN?

The rate at which released prisoners return to the criminal justice system is one measure of recidivism. Reducing recidivism decreases the number of Indigenous people in the criminal justice system and assists to reduce Indigenous over-representation in the system.

A prisoner in Victoria is considered to be a re-offender if they return to prison under sentence within two years of discharge. As such, a prisoner discharged in 2007-08 would have had to return to prison under sentence by 2009-10 to be considered a re-offender.

A number of initiatives have been implemented under the second phase of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement to reduce re-offending. These initiatives focus on supporting the rehabilitation of Indigenous prisoners, addressing factors that put Indigenous offenders at high risk of re-offending, and ensuring that Indigenous people in custody are able to effectively re-integrate with their communities upon release.

Koori Youth Justice Program

The *Koori Youth Justice* program operates in 15 locations and provides a culturally appropriate rehabilitation service for young Indigenous people on statutory youth justice orders and those at risk of entering/re-entering the justice system.

Aboriginal Cultural Immersion Program

While incarcerated, Indigenous prisoners may access initiatives which address the underlying causes of their offending behaviour.

The *Aboriginal Cultural Immersion* program is an intensive week-long program which encourages Indigenous prisoners to connect/re-connect with their culture, and re-examine their responsibilities to self, others and the community. The Aboriginal Cultural Immersion program has a very high attendance and completion rate, suggesting that the program is highly relevant to its participants.

Koori Cognitive Skills Program

The *Koori Cognitive Skills* program is a problem-solving program that is based on cognitive behavioural therapy. The program is delivered via a dual facilitation model, utilising an Indigenous facilitator and a Corrections Victoria psychologist. It was piloted in 2005 and is currently running in various prisons and community corrections locations across the state.

Koori Intensive Pre and Post Release Program

For Indigenous people who are exiting custodial facilities, programs exist to provide support and assist in reintegration to their communities on release.

The Koori Intensive Pre and Post Release program provides intensive outreach services to young Indigenous people exiting Victoria's youth justice custodial centres and facilitates referrals to accommodation and community based and culturally specific services. This program operates in five Department of Human Services regions across Victoria: North Western and Southern Metropolitan Melbourne, Hume, Gippsland and Barwon South West.

Konnect

For adults, Corrections Victoria's *Konnect* program is an intensive transitional support program that provides a responsive Case Management Framework for Indigenous women and men exiting prison. The program commences at eight to ten weeks prior to release and support can continue for up to 12 months after release.

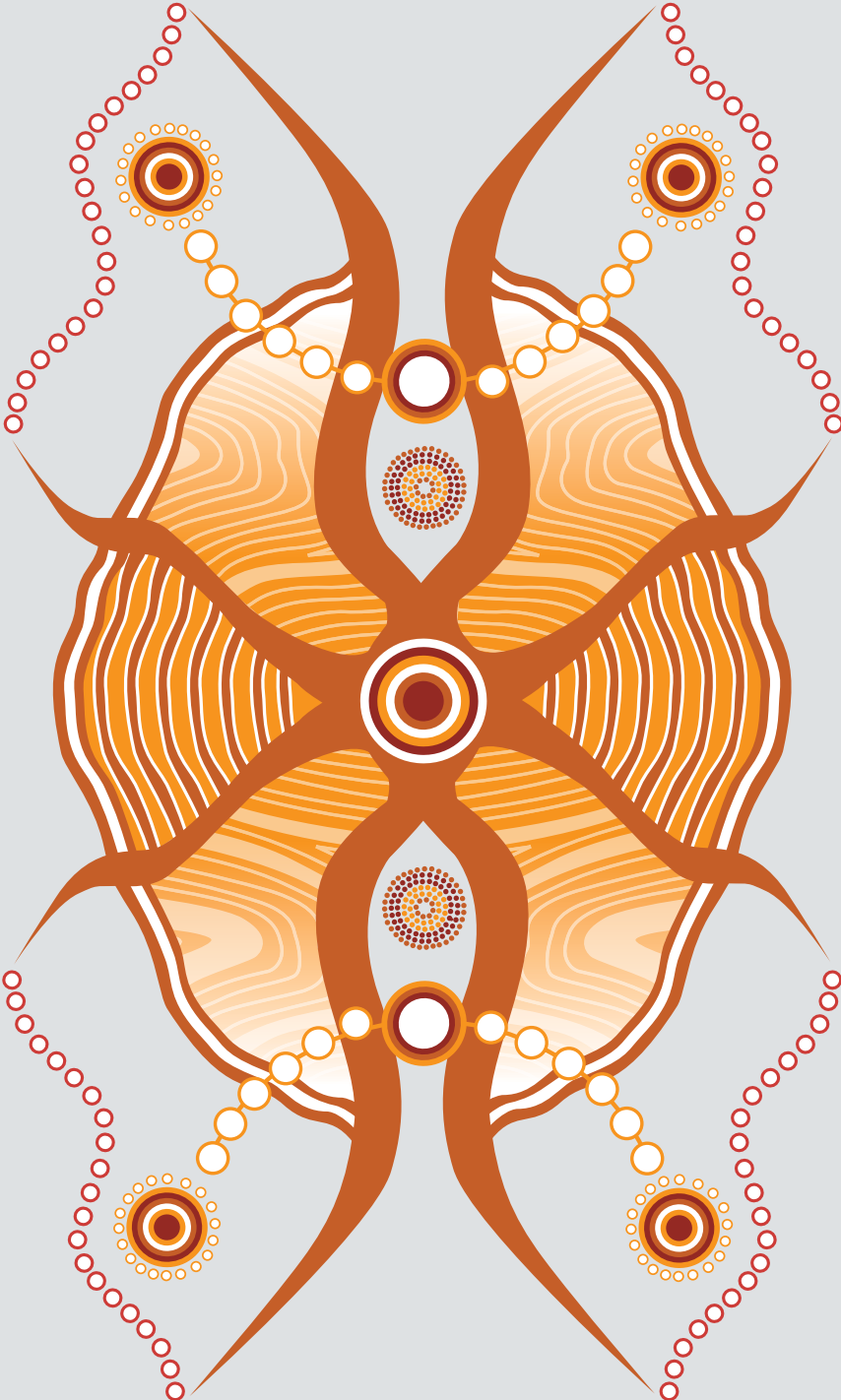
Better Pathways Strategy

Corrections Victoria has established two properties under its *Better Pathways Strategy*, to be used solely for Indigenous women and their families. The properties are located in Shepparton and Mildura. Indigenous women with a history of homelessness who are defendants seeking bail, undertaking a community based order or entering parole may be eligible to access the properties.

Want to know more?

Go to: www.justice.vic.gov.au and follow links to

PART 3



Appendix A

Victoria's performance on selected headline indicators for Indigenous outcomes

Headline Indicator	Indigenous Victorians	Non Indigenous Victorians	Source
Life Expectancy 2009⁹³			
Male	67.0	79.0	Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage (OID) Key Indicators Report 2009 ⁹⁴
Female	73.0	83.0	
Birth weight 2008			
Babies with birth weight below 2500 grams	15.0%	6.4%	Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity, Department of Health, State Government of Victoria
Apparent School Retention 2009			
Retention to Year 10	80.4%	100.2%	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, State Government of Victoria
Retention from Year 10 to Year 12	49.1%	81.4%	Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, State Government of Victoria
Labour Force Status 2006			
Unemployment rate	15.7%	5.3%	ABS 2006 Census
Household Income 2006			
Median gross weekly equivalised - \$ per week	\$498	\$726	ABS 2006 Census
Home Ownership 2006			
Percentage	37.3%	74.6%	ABS 2006 Census
Hospitalisations for Intentional Self-Harm 2009-10			
Self harm related emergency department presentations - rate per 1000 population, by Indigenous status ⁹⁵	4.08	1.35 ⁹⁶	Victorian Emergency Department Minimum Dataset, Department of Health, State Government of Victoria
Child Protection 2009-10			
Substantiations per 1000 children aged 0-17 years	46.9	4.7 ⁹⁷	Department of Human Services, State Government of Victoria
Imprisonment 2009			
Per 1000 adults	9.68	1.01	Australian Bureau of Statistics 2009, Category number 4517.0

⁹³ National figures only.

⁹⁴ Despite effort of the ABS to improve the accuracy of Indigenous life expectancy estimates, the underlying population and death registrations data have limitations. Therefore, life expectancy estimates are experimental. Due to the small number of Indigenous deaths in Victoria, it is not possible to produce life expectancy estimates for Indigenous people in Victoria.

⁹⁵ There may be subsequent changes in the 2009-10 data due to late submission of data from some hospitals. These data do not include those cases in which Indigenous status was not known or not reported. ABS Data from 2006 Census used as population estimate for number of Indigenous people living in Victoria. This may result in an overestimation of the true rates after 2006.

⁹⁶ Includes hospitalisations where Indigenous status was recorded as non Indigenous or not stated.

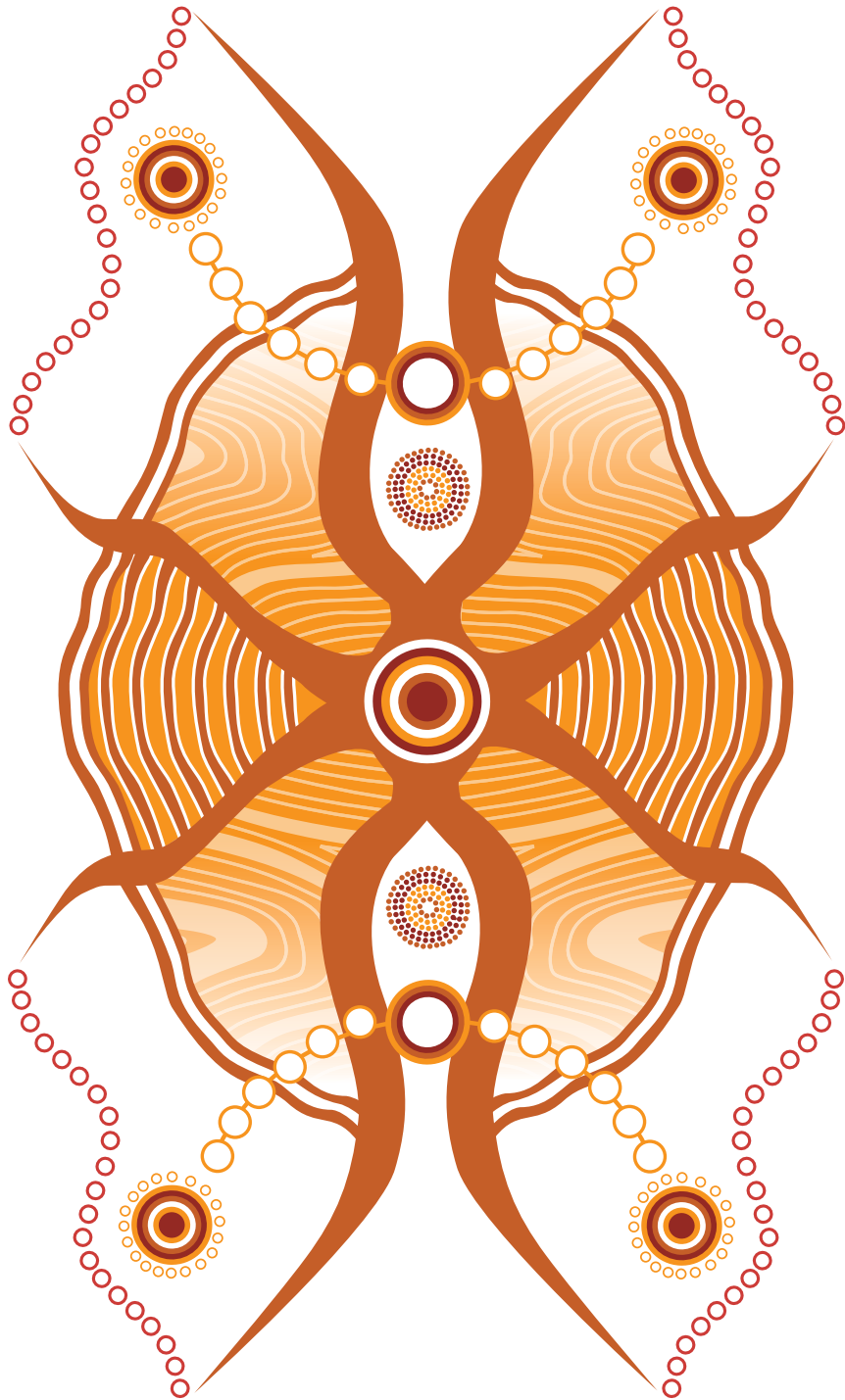
⁹⁷ Child protection substantiations for all children.

Appendix B

Victorian Indigenous Affairs Framework Strategic Areas for Action Performance Targets

Area for Action	Strategic Change Indicator
1. Improve maternal and early childhood health and development	1.1 Reduce reported smoking and alcohol use in pregnancy by Indigenous mothers ⁹⁸
	1.2 Reduce the Indigenous perinatal mortality rate
	1.3 Decrease the percentage of Indigenous babies with birth weight below 2500 grams.
	1.4 Increase Indigenous 3 year old and 4 year old kindergarten participation
	1.5 Reduce the rate of Indigenous child protection substantiations
	1.6 Increase the proportion of Indigenous children attending Maternal and Child Health Services at key age milestones
2. Improve education outcomes	2.1 Improve school attendance rates for Indigenous students
	2.2 Improve literacy and numeracy in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 for Indigenous students
	2.3 Improve transition to Year 10 for Indigenous students
	2.4 Increase completion of Year 12 or equivalent qualifications for Indigenous students
3. Improve economic development, settle native title claims and address land access issues	3.1 Increase the successful transition of Indigenous young people aged 18-24 years to employment and/or further education
	3.2 Increase Indigenous labour force participation
	3.3 Increase workforce participation by Indigenous people in the public sector in ways which can drive improvements in the Strategic Areas for Action
	3.4 Increase the proportion of Indigenous people with access to their traditional lands
4. Improve health and wellbeing	4.1 Reduce smoking rates of Indigenous people
	4.2 Improve the levels of physical activity, healthy weight and healthy eating of Indigenous people
	4.3 Reduce the rates of chronic conditions among Indigenous people
	4.4 Reduce rate of self harm among Indigenous people
	4.5 Reduce risky alcohol consumption among Indigenous people
5. Build Indigenous capacity	5.1 Increase participation of Indigenous people in local representative arrangements
	5.2 Increase the representation of Indigenous people on Government Boards and Committees
	5.3 Increase the proportion of board members of large Indigenous organisation having undertaken rigorous governance training
6. Prevent family violence and improve justice outcomes	6.1 Increase the police response to and action taken on any Indigenous family violence incident reported to them
	6.2 Reduce repeat police call outs for Indigenous family violence incidents
	6.3 Reduce the number of times Indigenous young people (aged 10-17) are processed by police
	6.4 Increase the proportion of Indigenous young people (aged 10-17) cautioned when processed by police
	6.5 Reduce the proportion of Indigenous people remanded in custody
	6.6 Reduce the proportion of Indigenous adults sentenced to prison rather than other alternatives
	6.7 Reduce the proportion of Indigenous people who are convicted within two years of their previous conviction

⁹⁸ There is currently no reliable data available for reported alcohol use in pregnancy by Indigenous mothers. Targets to reduce alcohol use in pregnancy will be developed when reliable data becomes available.



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