

Media release

From the Minister for Community Services

Monday, 4 May, 2009

NEW FUNDING AGREEMENT FOR COMMUNITY SECTOR AGENCIES

Community Services Agencies will be able to deliver even better services under a new Brumby Government funding agreement.

Community Services Minister Lisa Neville today announced that the new Community Service Sector funding agreement delivered a 3.14 per cent price index for the next three years, and will ensure the on-going effective delivery of services to the Victorian community.

“The Brumby Government understand that when times get tougher Governments need to take action and do more,” Ms Neville said.

“In the face of the global financial crisis, the services being provided by community services agencies are critical to support vulnerable families and their communities.

“This agreement delivers fair indexation to those community service agencies that are facing legitimate cost pressures. Their workers do a tremendous job in reaching out and supporting the hundreds of thousands of Victorians who rely on them.”

In addition the Brumby Government will deliver a \$2 million boost each year for the next three years, in the form of grants to enhance service capacity to better meet the needs of Victorian families.

The agreement followed a consultation with key bodies in the community services sector including the Victorian Council of Social Service (VCOSS), National Disability Services Vic, Youth Affairs Council Vic, MacKillop Family Services, VICSERV, Jesuit Social Services, Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, Berry Street, Anglicare and Action on Disability in Ethnic Communities (ADEC).

Since 2003 the Brumby Government has provided Community Services organisations with a minimum guarantee of 3 year funding, which is indexed.

Ms Neville said the agreement gave community service organisations greater financial certainty.

“The community sector delivers services for some of the most disadvantaged people in Victoria this funding agreement will supports this vital work,” Ms Neville said.

The 3.14 per cent Price Index for Community Services Organisations is guaranteed for three years from 1 July this year.