



MEDIA RELEASE

4 May 2009

A welcome boost for community services

VCOSS welcomes the State Government's additional investment in the community sector with today's announcement of annual indexation for funded community services of a total equivalent to 3.14% each year for three years, plus continuation of \$2m per year capacity building payments allocated across the sector.

'Adequate indexation of funding is essential to ensure the value of funding keeps pace with costs' Cath Smith, CEO of the Victorian Council of Social Services (VCOSS) said today. 'We are pleased to have negotiated this settlement for three years as it provides some certainty for organisations in these uncertain economic times.'

'These funds will go some way towards alleviating the immediate financial pressures facing community organisations. However, we know that almost 7 in 10 organisations are turning away clients due to a lack of funding. VCOSS seeks a commitment from the Victorian Government to ensure the community sector can grow in real terms, to ensure that low income and disadvantaged Victorians receive the assistance and support they urgently need'.

'It's a shame that the price index only applies to agencies funded by the Department of Human Services and Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Many organisations will miss out simply because they are funded by other government departments. VCOSS will continue to advocate for the standardisation of indexation across the whole of government'.

"VCOSS members have campaigned hard for adequate indexation of funding and today's announcement will provide some relief to community services at a very difficult time" concluded Ms Smith.

VCOSS will release its top-line analysis of the State Budget 2009-10 after the Treasurer's speech, on Tuesday 6 May

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