



## Strengthening Communities using place-based approaches

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*Department for Victorian Communities*

## Context

**A Fairer Victoria 2007 - \$1.4 billion**



- Improved access to universal services
- Targeted assistance to places and people in need
- Reducing barriers to opportunity
- Making it easier to work with government



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## Universal services - AFV commitments to children



- Free kindergarten for children of parents with Health Care Cards
- \$10 million for kindergartens in long-day care centres, more flexible programs and extended hours
- \$20 million to build 40 new Children's Centres
- \$12 million for improved access for Indigenous children to kindergartens
- Extra resources for Maternal Child Health Services and services for children with developmental delays or disabilities



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## Targeted investment – Place-based approaches



*"And one of the things I think we should have learned by now is that you can't solve these things by centralised bureaucratic direction... I think my own view now is that the lesson we've learned is that you need locally based action, local resourcing, local control to really make changes."*

Fred Chaney, retiring from the National Native Title Tribunal, commenting on why governments had failed to make an impact on Aboriginal deprivation (ABC's 7.30 Report, 19 April 2007).






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## Why used a place-based approach?

Traditional program responses have not worked to alleviate disadvantage where concentrated in place because:

- they are inflexible
- single-issue
- bureaucratic
- centralised rather than based on local expertise.

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## Place-based initiatives:



- engage residents in the development of local solutions to local problems
- establish ongoing mechanisms for local people to make decisions and influence government funding for their community
- create deliberative processes for interaction and reflective decision making between people
- take a whole-of-community approach to the causes of disadvantage
- join-up government and other funding in place, making it more flexible, innovative and responsive.



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## Place-based initiatives



- Neighbourhood Renewal is located in 19 neighbourhoods across Victoria with concentrations of public housing.
- The Community Building Initiative has 19 projects, involving 102 small towns in rural and regional Victoria
- And Community Renewal is working with a number of struggling urban communities without high concentrations of public housing.



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