Community Profiles
The Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System (VCAMS)

Overview
• Measuring outcomes for children in Victoria
• The Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System
• Community profiles – a local example
• Completing the loop with evidence based strategies

Why measure outcomes – Victorian Policy and Legislation
• In 2004 the Premier’s Children’s Advisory Committee recommended that Government ‘define outcomes for Victoria’s children and the best ways to measure these, including overall performance measures for the outcomes achieved for Victoria’s children’
• Putting Children First … the next steps, committed to ‘identifying appropriate outcome measures and designing systems to collect, analyse and distribute this data’.
• Child Wellbeing and Safety Act, 2005
– Established Children’s Services Coordination Board
– Secretaries of Victorian Government Departments

Selecting the outcomes that matter
• The outcomes framework as a statement of vision and aspirations for all children and young people
• Relied on the best available research evidence to choose things which genuinely make a difference to children and young people, and to their safety, health, development, learning and wellbeing
• Consultation across Victorian Government
• Four key principles…
  1. Outcomes are of known importance to children
  2. Outcomes are relevant to all or most children
  3. Outcomes are likely to respond to programs of intervention
  4. Outcomes are appropriate for government intervention or support

The Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System:
✓ VCAMS enables us to report on how children 0 to 18 are faring in the domains of health, safety, learning, development and wellbeing against the Outcomes Framework.
✓ VCAMS includes 150 indicators that have been agreed across Victorian government.
✓ VCAMS is uniquely placed within government providing a direct link to policy.
**Building VCAMS – the key components**

1. **Evidence based indicators – 150 indicators endorsed by CSCB in October 2007**
   - Rigorous selection process
   - Consultation
   - Documented evidence base behind each indicator

2. **Maximising the utility of administrative data**
   - Using what government already knows
   - Opportunities to expand/enhance existing data collections
   - Approx 70 VCAMS indicators sourced from admin data
   - Prevents duplication of effort
   - Opportunities to work with providers to improve data quality

**Building VCAMS – the key components**

3. **Rolling program of data collections – VCAMS population surveys**
   **All children and families:**
   - The Victorian Child Health and Wellbeing Survey (VCHWS)
     - First carried out in 2006, repeated during 2009. 5000 telephone interviews will be carried out with parents or carers of Victorian children aged from birth to 12 years.
   - Local Level Child Health and Wellbeing Survey
     - A local component of the Victorian Child Health and Wellbeing Survey was carried out in 25 Local Government Areas in Victoria in 2007.
   - The Victorian Adolescent Health and Wellbeing Survey
     - This online survey will be completed by a representative sample of over 10,000 secondary school students across the state. Fieldwork will finish Term 3, 2009.
   - **Priority populations:**
     - The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
       - Collaboration with the ABS to oversample Victorian Aboriginal children and families as part of their national household survey.
     - The Child and Family Services Outcomes Survey
       - This survey of outcomes for children and young people who are in contact with child protection and family services or in out of home care is planned for 2009/10.
     - Survey of children and families affected by disability
       - Development of a survey instrument planned for 2009/10

**Building VCAMS – the key components**

4. **Data linkage**
   - Early stages within VCAMS
   - A long term resource

5. **Analysis and Reporting**
   - Statewide Annual Reports
   - Local Community Profiles
   - Thematic bulletins

6. **Making data accessible**
   - Web based access to VCAMS data
   - Best practice metadata management
   - Making VCAMS survey data available to researchers for more detailed analysis

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**The Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System**

**Inputs**
- Administrative Data
- DHS, DEECD, DoJ, DPCD, VicPolice
- New VCAMS Surveys
  - VCHWS, Local Level Survey, Aboriginal Child Survey, Adolescent Survey
- Other Collections
  - AEDI, SEHQ, Victorian Population Health Survey

**Products**
- Annual Reports
- Community Profiles
- Thematic bulletins, journal articles, etc
- Regular reporting
- Web based data access

**Audiences**
- Government
  - State
  - Local
  - National
- Communities
  - Schools
  - Child and family services
  - Health providers
  - etc
- Researchers
  - Universities
  - Community experts
- Others
  - NGOs
  - Other advisory groups

**The Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System – analysis and reporting (annual reports)**

**The Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System – analysis and reporting (community profiles)**
Evidence to support local action – Community profiles

**Part A:**
- Population profile
- Population distribution
- Measuring disadvantage
- Family type
- Family income
- Family employment
- Educational level of families
- Aboriginal children and families
- Family Tenure
- Cultural and linguistic diversity - language other than English spoken at home
- Cultural and linguistic diversity - English speaking proficiency
- Need for assistance with core activities

**Evidence to support local action – Aboriginal community profiles**

**Evidence to support local action – Community profiles**

**Part B:**
- Breast feeding rates
- Maternal and child health participation
- Children fully immunised
- Kindergarten participation
- Average absences of children in government schools
- Reading assessment of children in government schools
- Child protection renotifications
- Hospital admissions for asthma
- Hospital admissions for gastroenteritis
- Public housing retention rates

**Evidence to support local action – Aboriginal community profiles**

**Part C:**
- Local level survey results for Greater Shepparton (C)
  - Introduction
  - Survey respondents
  - Survey children characteristics
  - Children and young people with ‘good health’
  - Children and young people with special health care needs
  - Children and young people with current asthma
  - Children and young people with a written asthma plan
  - Healthy teeth and gums
  - Adequate exercise and physical activity
  - Minimum recommended serves of fruit and vegetables
  - Infants breastfed
  - Emotional or behaviour difficulties
  - Children who are bullied
  - Infants exposed to tobacco and alcohol while in utero
  - Exposure to tobacco smoke
  - Children who are read to by a family member
  - Sun protection
  - Ability to pay for family essentials
  - Positive family functioning
  - Children with parents who have someone to turn to for advice
  - Families who are able to raise $2,000 in an emergency

For release in 2010...

- Updated Early Childhood Community Profiles
- Adolescent Community Profiles
Completing the loop – using evidence based interventions

Websites and contacts

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