



VATMI Views



The 2010/11 Victorian Budget—How has it affected the Disability Sector?

In hard financial times, the State Budget maintained its investment in disability with a 6.4% increase for disability funding in Victoria.

The Government will be investing \$22m over 4 years for shared supported accommodation. This investment recognizes the substantial work done by service providers and others in advocating additional funding.

However, the budget did not address the existing under funding of day services. It makes no commitment to look into further analysis of respite funding for disability services nor increasing the unit price for therapy to match the rate for Home and Community Care. NDS will be rallying on the industries behalf to push for additional funding in these areas.

Budget Summary for Disability:-

- Non-Government Shared Support Accommodation: \$22m over four years.
- Shared supported Accommodation: Capital investment of \$6.3m and \$7.9 operational funding over 4 years (average \$7.9m per p.a.) to provide an extra 20 supported accommodation place for people with high and complex needs
- Respite: \$4.8m capital investment and \$5.5m operational funding over 4 years (\$1.375m p.a) to provide an additional 15 places in facility based respite for people with high and complex needs.
- Individual Support Packages :\$7.9m over 4 years (\$1.975m p.a.) to provide 460 new packages
- Aids & Equipment: \$8.3m over 4 years (\$2.075m p.a.) to improve access to aids and equipment
- Early Childhood Intervention: \$38.4m over four years (\$9.5m p.a.) for intervention and support provided by Early Childhood Intervention Services
- Education:- \$4.4m for inclusion support under the Autism State Plan over 4 years
 - \$18m for new facilities at the northern and eastern schools for Autism
 - \$9.2m to establish a new Victorian Deaf Education Institute to build workforce capacity

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Leading up to the Federal election this year, NDS will be running a strong campaign focusing on under funding, unmet needs and active support for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

I encourage you all to get behind this campaign to improve the outcomes from the recent budget.

Greg Wasmund

Chief Executive

Key Dates

9 May 2010 — Mothers Day

'All hail our mothers!' Show your Mum just how much you appreciate and love her on this special day. The City of Melbourne has a vast array of events planned in and around the city on the 9th of May. See: <http://thatsmelbourne.com.au/Whatson/MothersDay/Pages/Mothersday.aspx> for things to do.

1 May —8 May 2010: Melbourne International Jazz Festival

During the first week of May, Jazz lovers around Melbourne will be spoiled for choice with a diverse range of exciting concert experiences. For information, tickets and a timetable please go to www.melbournejazz.com for further information.

The National Companion Card

The National Companion Card has been developed by the Government to offer some financial relief to those who have a permanent disability that may require a lifelong attendant carer.

The National Companion Card can be used to attend events and activities offered by organisations that recognise the Companion card without having to buy a second ticket for your companion.

The cardholder presents their card at participating affiliate organisations to purchase a ticket and you

receive a ticket for your companion at no extra charge.

Some sporting organisations involved with this program are:

- Basketball Australia
- Tennis Australia
- AFL
- Australian Rugby Union
- V8 Supercars
- Fitness First Australia
- YMCA
- Cinemas
- The Australian Ballet
- Musical Viva
- Australian Chamber Orchestra

And this is just to name a few...

To see participating affiliate organisations go to: http://www.companioncard.gov.au/cardholders_where.htm

For more information on the Companion Card, including eligibility requirements, please visit

www.companioncard.gov.au.



Review of the National Standards for Disability Services

In January 2009, all Australian Government Disability Ministers signed up for a new National Disability Agreement.

One key area of focus in the new Agreement is Quality Assurance. All Disability Services Ministers have agreed to develop a National Quality Framework (NOF) for Disability Services in Australia.

To support the implementation of the new NOF, a review of the National Standards for Disability Services has been announced.

As a result of this review, it is expected that gaps in the current National Standards will be highlighted. Investigation will be undertaken to identify opportunities where common quality requirements may lie Australia wide.

Beginning from March 2010, to July 2010, consultations will be held in each state around Australia to enable key stakeholders the opportunity to provide input into the National Standards. Participation is encouraged from people with a disability, family

members, carers as well as disability service providers funded under the current NDA.

Details regarding the NOF and links to information regarding upcoming consultation sessions are available by going to the Victorian Government Department of Human Services website:

http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/disability/improving_supports/national-quality-framework

Q Art Studio Exhibition

On Friday the 16th of April Q Art Studio successfully hosted its 'A World of Colour' exhibition.

Over 300 people attended the official opening and viewed over 100 pieces of art.

Artwork sales were high and we welcomed many new patrons. The catering was provided by VATMI subsidiary, Tayst who did an outstanding job.

The exhibition featured pieces of art from 11 of our studio artists. Editions of

Eddie Mudford's signature animal paintings were a feature of the exhibition.

We were honoured to have internationally renowned, Melbourne based artist, David Milne to officially open the exhibition.

David was joined by our guest of honour, Mr Charles Billich who has exhibited at some of the worlds best venues including Monte Carlo for the Eco Art Exhibition commissioned by HRH Prince Albert II of Monaco.

A big thank you goes out to

Edmund, Owen and their teams for their outstanding contribution in getting our Kew site looking wonderful for the exhibition.

Carolyn, our Q Art Curator, did a brilliant job in being a mentor to our artists and worked tirelessly in putting this exhibition together. Thank you Carolyn and also to your studio assistants Janie and Marina for their assistance.

The exhibition was a huge success. If you would like to go on our mailing list for future art exhibitions, please contact Nicole Scott on nscott@vatmi.com.au.



Pictured: Internationally renowned artist Mr. David Milne



Pictured: Q Art Studio Artist, Reeve King with his work "Square Circles Triptych"



Pictured: Curator and Manager of the Studio, Carolyn van Wamel with exhibiting artists Reeve King, Robyn Pierson, Miranda Millane, Tiffany McBroom, Ralph Dawson, Steven Wears



Pictured: Guest of Honor, Mr. Charles Billich



Our People...

Our Production Assistants at VicWest in Stawell have been working tirelessly in processing every bit of product that has come in. As you can see from the picture, the product pit is empty.

The Product pit has a holding capacity of approx 50 tonne, so this is a huge effort. Well done!! At this time of year, Vic West have over 250 tonne delivered each month! A huge effort! Thank you!

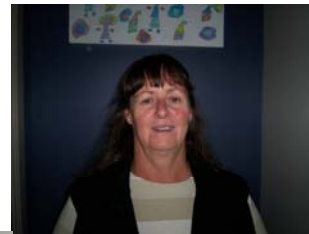
Last month Vic West diverted over 280 tonne from land-fill!



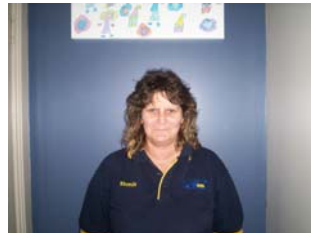
Farewell....

Farewell to Kerry Pahl who was an administrator at Vic West. Kerry has made a lifestyle change and has moved on. We thank Kerry very much for all of her efforts and hard work in her time with us. We wish you all the very best Kerry! Keep in touch.

We welcome Rhonda Howard into the administration team at VicWest! Rhonda will be working on a part time basis, sharing with Kerry West. Welcome Rhonda!



Pictured: Kerry West



Pictured: Rhonda Howard

Congratulations!

A big congratulations to Kathryn Arndt, her husband Greg Fee and daughter Lily on the safe arrival of **April Kathryn Fee** who was born on the 28 April. Weighing in at 4.31 kgs (or 9 pounds 8 ounces), April is considered a good size for her 37.2 weeks gestation. Congratulations Kathryn and Greg! We hope all is well and Lily is enjoying her younger sister.



Pictured: Kathryn, husband Greg and April

Welcome!

Henry Huang has commenced in the role of Warehouse Supervisor at VaTPaK Kew. He brings two decades of experience in production environments for multinationals in Australia and overseas. His expertise in warehousing will help take VaTPaK to a new level with his knowledge of software in warehousing systems and a background in 3rd party logistics.



Pictured: Henry Huang

VaTPaK continues to evolve and grow

Our VaTPaK team is a first choice food packer and processor.

Over the years, we have grown to be a competitive player in the food packing and processing markets. This has not been without daily challenges, however, with the continued development of the Production team and the invaluable support from the Quality team, VaTPaK have gained many necessary food accreditations.

VaTPaK continue to form strong effective partnerships with reputable, quality companies.

VaTPaK have formed a new relationship with Austral Alliance. Austral Alliance is a leading snack retailer in Australia. This relationship will see the VaTPaK team manage and oversee the food processing and packing components of a range of their snack products which will be distributed both Australia wide and internationally.



Australian Work Force Partnership

VaTPaK and Australian Work Force have been working together to meet the growing amount of customer work. Getting the job done on-time and within all customer expectations is what the successful partnership between VaTPaK and Australian Work Force is all about.

The style of work required at the VaTPaK facilities is varied. This is where the partnership has its greatest strength. VaTPaK now have the flexibility to call on the talented and experienced staff from AWF for all three sites including Bendigo, Kew and Keon Park.

VaTPaK, as a premium client of Australian Work Force has the luxury of calling for staff at anytime with AWF's dedicated 24/7 customer service. This very successful partnership ensuring that the scope of business services that VaTPaK offers is extensive and that anything is possible. It is an example of how a great collaboration provides a win for all stakeholders and bodes well for a promising future.

Go to www.australianworkforce.com.au for further information.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Richard Vance and Jaber Al-Jelali the newest graduates of the trainee Quality Assurance Assistants program.

Both employees are shining examples of the program's success and have worked tirelessly to ensure their work is of the standard required for the position.

Richard and Jaber have proven themselves invaluable on the production floor at Keon Park and are both valuable acquisitions to the Q.A assistant team.

Their hard work is to be commended and proof to all other trainee's and production assistants that hard work pay's off. Well done!!



Pictured L-R : Jaber Al-Jelali, Richard Vance

Quality/Certification Update

AOIS (Australian Quarantine Inspection Services)

VaTPaK Kew has had a site inspection for AOIS Registration of Premises for Export (Kew). Great news with the AOIS inspector recommending the site for registration. Documentation has been forwarded to Canberra, and is awaiting finalization and approval.



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service



HACCP (Food Safety Certification)

VaTPaK Keon Park is scheduled for their annual HACCP certification audit on May 5th.

SQF2000

SQF2000 is an internationally recognised standard, for the production of safe, and quality food.

Certification to this standard is required, for any suppliers of "Coles Home-brand" products.

As this certification is rather extensive in both facilities and procedural requirements, we are in the process of reviewing what VaTPaK would need to implement to meet the SQF2000 standard.



Food Safety Training – VaTPaK Bendigo

Refresher training sessions were conducted with all employees on the Hygiene Policy and Dress Requirements Policy during April. It was great to see that the employees demonstrating a good understanding of these food safety requirements during the training.

Healthy Mind, Healthy Body

The team at VATMI will be participating in a "VATMI Biggest Achiever" competition which starts on Tuesday the 1st of June and will run for 2 months closing on the 30th of July.

The aim of the competition is to see who through sensible diet and exercise, can be the biggest achiever and lose the largest percentage of their body weight over the 2 months.

The prizes at the end of the competition are:

- 1 A room in a nice hotel in the city with dinner and tickets to a show/musical or concert
- 2 2 tickets to a show/musical or concert
- 3 \$100 voucher of your choice

In addition to the above mentioned prizes, there will be a further reward for the staff member who maintains their closing weight for two months following the event.

We wish all our participants all the very best in their weight loss journey!

Check out www.goforyourlife.vic.gov.au for some great recipes, health tips and articles on healthy wellbeing prior to the competition starting!



Useful Websites

National Disability Services

National Disability Services is the peak body for non-Government disability services. This website contains lots of useful information on events, committees, news articles related to the disability sector and is your one stop shop for information. Go to:

<http://www.nds.org.au/> for further information

International Day of People with a Disability

3rd December every year is the International Day of People with a Disability. It recognises and celebrates the achievements and contributions of people with a disability. Go to:

<http://www.idpwd.com.au/index.asp> for further information



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***"Victoria's largest employer of
 people with disabilities"***

