



SUMMARY OF GOVERNMENT YOUTH AND JUSTICE POLICIES AND COMMITMENTS (VICTORIAN ELECTION 2006)

Community Safety

1. Introduce 24 hour bans for individuals from licensed premises in designated areas and exclusion for repeat offenders to combat alcohol-related violence and disorder. This will give police the power to ban people they deemed to be trouble-makers from entertainment areas.
2. Crack down on graffiti with tough new anti-graffiti offences and by investigating a further \$4.5 million to clean up graffiti.

An exposure draft of new graffiti legislation is currently undergoing community consultation

3. Help young drivers get 120 hours of practice through a new community volunteer driver experience program starting in 2007 via 5 local councils (\$9 million)
4. Take a zero tolerance approach to weapons offences. Legislate to:
 - Double the penalties for possession of controlled weapons to 12 months imprisonment and prohibited weapons (2 years imprisonment).
 - Carrying a weapon on or around licensed premises will be treated as an aggravating circumstance, even with higher penalties.
 - Ensure that ordinary everyday objects (like kitchen knives) cannot be carried for self defence in any circumstance.
5. \$215 million for police:
 - Recruit 350 more police.
 - \$10 million would be set aside for police weapons, including Taser stun guns and semi-automatic hand guns.

Access to Justice

1. Expansion of Youth Referral and Independent Persons Program (YRIPP) from 14 to 101 police stations throughout the state.
2. Increase community legal services across the state. \$8.8 million package of new community legal services, including:
 - 5 rural and regional community lawyers
 - Expand CLC presence in Rosebud
 - Fund 7.5 dedicated family violence community lawyers
 - Allocation for new computers and salary increases.
3. Improve access to justice for homeless people by allocating \$0.8 million to establish a Homeless Persons Liaison Officer at Melbourne Magistrates Court and increase funding to Homeless Persons Legal Clinic.
4. Increase compensation to victims of crime by 30 per cent
5. Take further action towards phasing out suspended sentences.
6. Implement next stage of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement:

- Establish programs to keep Indigenous young people in education and employment
- Establish mentoring programs to guide offenders away from re-offending

Education and employment

1. Allocate \$216m over 5 years to the Program for Students with Disabilities.
2. \$10 million over four years for the Youth Transition Support initiative to support early school leavers with further education and career pathways. Appoint 24 Youth Transition Workers to support young people aged 15 to 19 who have left school early to make the connections they need to re-engage with education, training or employment. The initiative will operate in 12 Local Learning and Employment areas from 2007.

Health

1. Provide \$1 million to raise awareness of the serious mental health dangers of marijuana use and the risks of "ice".
2. Delivery of 3 Youth Early Psychosis Service (YEPS) for young people aged 16-25 years with first onset psychosis in the Grampians region (Ballarat health Service) Glenelg (Warrnambool Health Service) and Central East (Eastern Health Service at Box Hill Hospital).

Homelessness

1. Implement Youth Homelessness Action Plan: stage 2 for which is allocated \$25.8 million over next 4 years. Plan includes an additional 55 housing workers, case managers and other employees from the start of 2007. There will be youth transition hubs, new semi independent living units and assistance to broker accommodation in the private rental market.

Transport

1. Abolish public transport fare zone 3 and expand zone 2.
2. Reduce cost of V/Line train and bus tickets by an average of 20% in *Fare Go* package.
3. Integrate the Night Rider service into the Met card ticketing system and trial a new Nightrider loop service to provide all night public transport for people in Narre Warren and Cranbourne.

December 2006