

Media release
4 May 2010

Budget surplus fails our families

Today the state government announced an \$876 million surplus and at the same time shut the door on 1000 families needing services right now.

Dr Lynette Buoy, Chief Executive of the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare said, "The government's injection of \$24.2 million over four years is welcomed but I am disturbed the Treasurer could not find \$1.15 million from his surplus to meet the needs of these families, let alone the other 2000 families which funding has never existed for."

Dr Buoy, said, "These families are dealing with the complexity of modern life including abuse, domestic violence, mental illness, disability and drug and alcohol problems. They will now be left without the critical services they need."

Dr Buoy said by not providing agreed funding upfront, Treasurer Lenders is allowing harm to accumulate that will cost our children, and the government, more in the long run.

"Today's announcement simply demonstrates that the Treasurer favours a massive surplus over the wellbeing of vulnerable Victorians."

In her media release, the Minister noted that since 1999, Labor had increased funding for child protection, family services and out of home care by over 160 per cent.

"We acknowledge that increase in funding but argue that not all of it has been invested wisely or in the best interests of children because we know two out of every three families still cannot get the services they need," Dr Buoy said.

Today, the Minister remarked in her budget release on the demonstrably better outcomes for children in therapeutic care pilots. Dr Buoy said, "On behalf of all young people in care, we will now be asking the Government and Opposition to commit, prior to the upcoming election, to the immediate and full funding of these therapeutic care services for all young people in care."

"We will also be expecting far more substantial investment in supporting and strengthening Victoria's vulnerable families to parent their children well."

For media enquiries:

Dr Lynette Buoy, Chief Executive Officer
Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare
Phone 0407 702 975