



WACOSS Emerging Issues Forum

Early Intervention and Prevention

Acknowledgement of Country

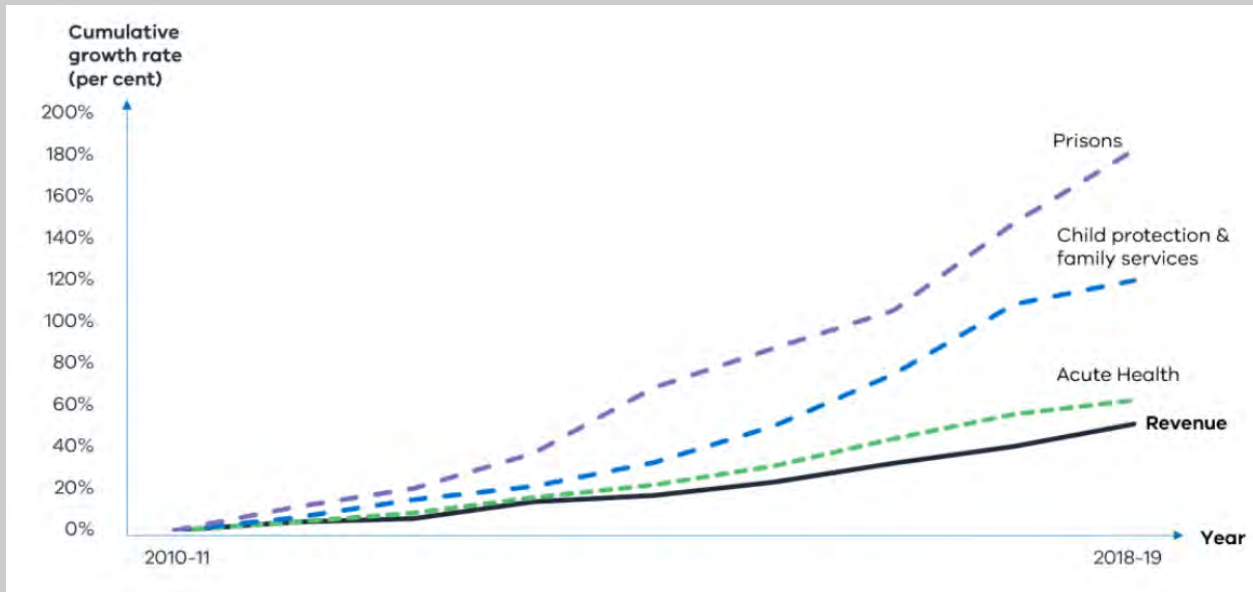




Social disadvantage is not inevitable. We have the tools and knowledge to prevent inequitable outcomes.

The problem

Costs of acute services are growing as a share of revenue, so...



Source: Victorian Government (2022) Early Intervention Investment Framework: A considered and collaborative approach

... there is less in the budget for spending on early intervention – **the very investment that is needed** to prevent and reduce acute service usage in the long-run.



May 2021: The Victorian Government introduces the EIF in the 2021-22 budget

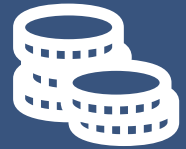


\$324m

10 initiatives



2022-23 Budget

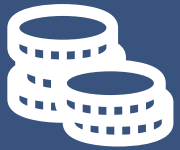


\$504m
15 initiatives



**JOURNEY TO
SOCIAL
INCLUSION
(J2SI)**

2023-24 Budget



\$625m

Bringing the total investment to over **\$1.5b**

2024-25 Budget



- Budget repair
- Debt recovery
- Fiscal restraint



Shifting mindsets

- Early intervention and prevention is everybody's business.
- Social spending is an investment with long-term mutual benefits for community and the government.



Building capacity and evidence

- Commitment to monitoring and evaluating outcomes.
- Investment in sector capacity for outcomes measurement and evaluation.
- Enabling a better understanding of what works, why and for whom.





Partnerships, not just funding agreements

“You can't underestimate the importance of deep partnerships in early intervention. It doesn't work unless everyone plays their role.”
– sector expert

Shared understanding of *early* intervention

Early



Not early



Collaboration across silos



Addressing root causes

“Collaboration is really about having a common agreement and deep assessment of what the problem or the issue is together at the very outset.”
- sector expert

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*“It comes back to what are the systemic issues that drive inequality or disadvantage. One of the systemic issues is that **we're not making policies with the people that the policies affect.**” – sector expert*

Focusing on wellbeing means working to ensure all Victorians, now and in the future, have access to the support and resources they need to thrive.



Thanks for listening

Let's keep the conversation going...



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