



## Supporting independence and community connections for Senior Victorians

Funding of \$60.6 million over four years will support the sustainability of community-based services to support senior Victorians in their communities within the context of a growing ageing population and increasing life expectancy.

### Growth in HACC services

The Victorian Government will provide \$49.8 million over four years to assist people to maintain independent living and regain function in their own homes. HACC services reduce the need for people to have extended hospital stays or be admitted to residential aged care.

Funding in 2009-10 includes the State's \$11.5 million contribution to matching HACC program funds, attracting an additional \$17.3 million from the Commonwealth Government. These funds will contribute to indexation and agency infrastructure, as well as services growth, providing for an estimated 158,000 additional hours of service in 2009-10, and over 300,000 hours in subsequent years.

Improvements in assessment in the HACC Program will help older Victorians gain timely access to the right services for their needs. The Government is continuing to promote innovative community care models that take a capacity building approach to service delivery, including restorative goals in individualised care. Other initiatives focus on improving access for people from Aboriginal, and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

### Personal Alert Victoria (PAV)

Funding for PAV of \$5.8 million over four years will provide an additional 4,000 personal alert units to eligible Victorians. PAV is a highly valued service which supports older people and people with disabilities to remain in their own homes with confidence.

### Aged Care Land Bank Stage 4

The Aged Care Land Bank initiative will be continued through the allocation of an additional \$3 million. This initiative provides access for not-for-profit aged care providers to surplus government land for development of high-care residential aged care services in inner and middle suburbs of Melbourne.

### Men's Sheds

In the 2009-10 Budget, the Victorian Government will commit a further \$2 million for infrastructure grants to construct additional Men's Sheds. Men's Sheds provide a space for men in local communities to take part in positive activities and get to know others in their community while they learn new, or improve existing skills, resulting in reduced isolation, keeping people active mentally and physically, and improving men's sense of belonging and connectedness.