Output performance

Supporting local government

This output ensures that the system of local government is based on quality services to communities, collaborative partnerships, effective infrastructure and good governance through the principles of efficiency, effectiveness and accountability.

The development of collaborative partnerships with local government results in better relationships and communication between levels of government and directly links to the key government outcomes of:

• building cohesive communities and reducing inequalities

• government that listens and leads.

Local Government Sector Development

This output aims to provide support for enhancing the performance of local government by building and sustaining effective partnerships, and developing initiatives aimed at ensuring best value and continuous improvement in service delivery, sustainability of infrastructure support, community accountability and compliance with National Competition Policy requirements, administer the grants for specialist programs delivering public library services, interpreting and translation services.

Major outputs/deliverables	Unit of measure	2004-05 Target	2004-05 Actual
Quantity			
Best Value principles implementation – councils meet established requirements	per cent	100	100
Councils with properly structured and functioning audit committees	per cent	100	100
Funding administered for library construction or refurbishment: projects funding completed	number	14	14
Funding and service agreements for public library services reviewed and updated	number	44	44
Review councils' compliance with National Competition Policy	number	79	79
Quality			
Councils complying with National Competition Policy requirements	per cent	100	100
Councils meet Performance Measurement and Management Reporting System requirements	per cent	100	100
Legislative framework for the *Local Government Act 1989* to agreed standards	per cent	100	100
Meetings held by Best Value Commission with councils	number	4	4
Stakeholder satisfaction with grants administration	per cent	85	85
Timeliness			
Council annual reports lodged within statutory timeframes	per cent	100	96
Projects delivered in accordance with agreed scope and timelines	per cent	100	100
Cost			
Total output cost	$ million	36.6	35.4

4

Performance in action – Living Libraries program breathes new life into regional communities

The Department for Victorian Communities is supporting local governments and their communities by providing funding for a number of library construction and refurbishment projects through the Living Libraries program. In 2004-05, a total of 14 libraries received funding for redevelopment projects.

The Living Libraries program supports local communities by providing modern and functional public spaces where communities can come together to learn, gain access to resources and meet.

Two of the libraries redeveloped this year were the John Drysdale Branch Library at Corio (in Geelong) and the Alexandra Free Library.

The John Drysdale Branch Library was opened on 23 February 2005. The new design is exciting and contemporary, with more functional and attractive spaces for library users.

The entrance to the building has been redesigned and the interior of the building given a major facelift. Air-conditioning and lighting has been significantly improved, making the library a more comfortable and inviting community meeting space.

The new Alexandra Free Library was opened on 2 March 2005. It boasts a stunning new 21st century design while retaining the historical features of its 1883 architecture, including original colour schemes.

The complex includes a reading room and children's story area, a magazine and casual reading area featuring an original fireplace, and a separate genealogy and biography section. It also takes advantage of its Ultima Thule Creek location, giving visitors to the reading room a refreshing and peaceful outlook.

2005-06 Future directions for Local Government Sector Development

The Department is working with local government and peak bodies to:

- improve good governance policies and practices through development of a manual on how to develop a good governance code of practice
- improve councils' knowledge and skills in engaging their communities
- distribute local area planning grants
- develop and launch a web-based guide for residents to navigate local government
- support public libraries in providing services to their communities through recurrent funding and capital grants under the Living Libraries program
- commence the allocation of the additional funds provided for Neighbourhood Houses under *A Fairer Victoria*
- work with the sector to further develop the strong role that Neighbourhood Houses have in community strengthening at the local level.

4

People, Community Building and Information Services

The outputs within the People, Community Building and Information Services group provide policies, services and information to the community that emphasise an integrated approach to government service provision. They provide specialist research, advice and information on employment opportunities and whole-of-government approaches to ensure effective economic, social, environmental and cultural outcomes for all Victorian communities.

These outputs also seek to build on the existing strengths of community volunteer efforts by providing Victoria with a comprehensive approach to enhancing volunteering, building corporate social responsibility and encouraging more entrepreneurial community initiatives.

Individual outputs directly link to the key government outcomes of:

- building cohesive communities and reducing inequalities
- promoting rights and respecting diversity
- government that listens and leads.

Employment Programs

This output works in partnership with the community and industry to assist individuals in designated groups to secure and retain employment, increase the skills of the Victorian workforce in line with industry requirements, increase regional skills development and strengthen communities.

State employment programs aim to identify skill needs and opportunities in Victoria's labour market and deliver initiatives to meet these needs. State employment programs seek to target job seekers who suffer multiple disadvantages in gaining employment, including the long-term unemployed, young people not in education and training, people with low skills, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, mature-age people and Indigenous people.

Performance in action – women from refugee backgrounds gain meaningful employment in their communities

In 2004-05, the Department for Victorian Communities provided Community Jobs Program funding to the Victorian Cooperative on Children's Services for Ethnic Groups to create jobs and training opportunities for women from refugee backgrounds. The women mainly come from the Horn of Africa, Iraq, South Sudan and Afghanistan. The cooperative developed two projects – one in childcare and the other in aged care.

In the child care project, 20 women participated in an 18-week course leading to ongoing employment in child care. This has helped the women to gain employment as well as providing refugee families and the local community with carers who understand their children's cultural backgrounds.

In the aged care project, 20 women participated in an 18-week course leading to ongoing employment in aged care facilities and in-home care for the elderly and disabled. This has provided stable employment opportunities for women of refugee backgrounds.

Both projects have been extremely successful, primarily because:

- they offered realistic goals for participants
- they offered bilingual support and mentoring at all stages of the project
- the projects had wide ethnic community support.

2005-06 Future directions for Employment Programs

- To enhance Victoria's Skilled Migration Strategy to continue to increase migration to Victoria through targeted communications and a place-based approach to migrant attraction and retention.
- Refocus employment programs to provide increased opportunities for job seekers facing significant barriers to workforce participation in industries and occupations with skills shortages.

Major outputs/deliverables	Unit of measure	2004-05 Target	2004-05 Actual
Quantity			
Community Jobs Program – commencements	number	875	1066[a]
CRISP – number of projects that address skill shortages and gaps in labour supply	number	30	30
Government Youth Employment Scheme – apprenticeships and traineeships commenced	number	650	662[b]
Jobs for Young People – apprenticeships and traineeships commenced	number	275	466[c]
Overseas Qualifications Unit – client services provided (by phone, in person or in writing)	number	4 200	4 257
Skilled Migration Unit – services provided to migrants and employers	number	6 800	7 425
Youth Employment Link (YEL) – number of website hits and telephone enquiries	number	250 000	426 604[d]
Quality			
Community Jobs Program – participants who are in employment, education or training three months after leaving program	per cent	60	60
Government Youth Employment Scheme – participants who complete and are in employment, education or training three months after completion	per cent	80	80
Overseas Qualifications Unit – client satisfaction with services provided	per cent	90	87
Private Sector Skills Development Program and Go for IT – participants who complete and are in employment, education or training three months after completion	per cent	80	84
Skilled Migration Unit – client satisfaction with services provided	per cent	80	91
Stakeholder satisfaction on policy and labour market advice	per cent	>90	na[e]
Timeliness			
Labour market information requests responded to within specified timeframes	per cent	>90	na[e]
Cost			
Total output cost	**$ million**	**41.4**	**36.6[f]**

Notes:
(a) Achievement above target due to inclusion of Community Jobs Program commencements through the Regional Jobs Package initiative. Actual reflects reported commencements as at 30 June 2005.
(b) As at 30 June 2005 there were 662 reported commencements.
(c) Achievement above target due to inclusion of Jobs for Young People commencements through the Regional Jobs Package initiative and commencements carried over from 2003-04. Actual reflects reported commencements as at 30 June 2005.
(d) Actual figure comprises YEL statistics from 1 July 2004 to 8 November 2004 (when YEL site was decommissioned), and youthcentral statistics from 9 November 2004 to 30 June 2005.
(e) Measure is no longer applicable, as Department of Treasury and Finance now provides labour market analysis on a whole-of-government basis.
(f) The variance in the total output cost is due to lower than estimated carryover funding from 2003-04 to 2004-05 and a separate carryover of 2004-05 funding into 2005-06.

Indigenous Community and Cultural Development

This output works in partnership with Victorian Aboriginal communities and their organisations to

4

increase participation in partnerships with government and build capacity to deliver programs and services which meet the needs of Indigenous Victorians. Whole-of-government policies are developed that promote community-led partnerships of Aboriginal communities and Government agencies. The output aims to increase understanding and respect for Aboriginal culture within the broader community and promote Aboriginal community control of the protection and management of Aboriginal heritage and cultural property.

Major outputs/deliverables	Unit of measure	2004-05 Target	2004-05 Actual
Quantity			
Aboriginal community organisations receiving grant funding for community building [a]	number	28	29
Annual Aboriginal Affairs report tabled in Parliament	number	1	1
Community managed organisations funded to provide cultural heritage services	number	6	5[b]
Formal consultations with Aboriginal communities concerning community building and cultural heritage management activities and government issues	number	80	165[c]
Heritage projects jointly developed and carried out with Aboriginal communities	number	5	10
Heritage training activities addressing community identified priority issues	number	10	10
Meetings of the Premier's Aboriginal Advisory Council supported	number	3	4
Verified records added to heritage database	number	600	1 058[d]
Whole-of-government related policies developed	number	2	2
Timeliness			
High-priority cyclical building maintenance works completed within stipulated time frames	per cent	100	100
Proportion of community infrastructure feasibility studies completed within agreed time	per cent	75	100
Cost			
Total output cost	$ million	15.7	17.4[e]

Notes:

(a) Includes Community Building and Bringing Them Home (Stolen Generation) initiatives.

(b) One program has been managed internally by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.

(c) Target exceeded due to consultation program for establishing new representative arrangements and ministerial community consultations.

(d) Number of verified records reflects increased land development in costal Victoria and outer urban Melbourne and new sites identified as a consequence of the Alpine bushfires of 2003.

(e) The variance in the total output cost is due to the carryover funding from 2003-04 to 2004-05.

Performance in action – Indigenous Community Capacity Building Program

The Indigenous Community Capacity Building Program (ICCBP) aims to assist Aboriginal communities to determine their own future by:

- strengthening the management and administrative capacity of Indigenous organisations
- creating sustainable professional development and leadership networks across Indigenous organisations
- helping Indigenous organisations to support their community's social and cultural needs
- encouraging strong links between Aboriginal organisations and the Victorian Government.

Aboriginal community organisations received grant funding for community building initiatives as part of the program. Seven community-based initiatives under the Victorian Indigenous Leadership Strategy were jointly funded from the ICCBP, the Community Support Fund and VicHealth.

Examples of initiatives resulting from this funding include:

- The Chief Executive Officers Network provided heads of Victorian Indigenous community organisations with an opportunity to share information, identify best practice models and strengthen knowledge. It currently has membership of 32 CEOs from around Victoria.
- The Council of Australian Governments trial Shepparton, one of eight national projects, offered Aboriginal people in Shepparton an opportunity to take a lead on policy and program development.
- A Grampians Resource Model to address management, administrative and resource needs of Indigenous community organisations in the Grampians Region was developed. The project is a partnership between Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, Budja Budja Aboriginal Co-op, Ballarat Aboriginal Co-op and Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Co-op.

- Seven community-based initiatives to support young Indigenous people develop leadership skills and fulfil their potential were funded under Victorian Indigenous Community Leadership Strategy.
- The Aboriginal Artists Development Trust was established to act as a governing body for the Indigenous art industry in Victoria. The Trust is addressing exploitation, providing training and career opportunities, and ensuring that economic benefits flow on to Indigenous artists.

2005-06 Future directions for Indigenous Community and Cultural Development

- Implement a range of new initiatives including:
  - establishing an Aboriginal land and economic development program
  - providing support for the Stolen Generation
  - promoting community renewal at Lake Tyers
  - investing in better Indigenous community facilities
  - changing ways of working with Indigenous communities.
- Work in partnership with Aboriginal communities to develop and deliver policy, programs and services to strengthen Aboriginal community-based management and protection of Victoria's significant cultural heritage.
- Support the Indigenous community through the Indigenous Community Capacity Building program to develop more sustainable organisations, strategic planning and delivery of high-quality community services.

4

Youth Affairs

This output develops and coordinates information and advice on issues of youth policy across all levels of government by building and managing targeted programs and services for young people aged between 12 and 25 years of age.

Major outputs/deliverables	Unit of measure	2004-05 Target	2004-05 Actual
Quantity			
FReeZA: event attendance	number	130 000	168 876[a]
FReeZA: funded agencies metropolitan	number	32	32
FReeZA: funded agencies rural and regional	number	37	37
Number of young people attending FReeZA Central intensive workshops	number	500	500
Regional youth committees	number	15	15
Schools participating in the Advance Youth Development Program (previously known as Victorian Youth Development Program)	number	260	243[b]
Young people participating in the Advance Youth Development Program (previously known as Victorian Youth Development Program)	number	7,088	6,984[b]
Youth Services Program grants allocated	per cent	100	100
Youth websites total page impressions	number	230 000	276 968[c]
Quality			
Executive satisfaction that services received meet relevant quality standards	per cent	90	90
Use of Youth Services Program grants monitored	per cent	100	100
Young people completing the Advance Youth Development Program (previously known as Victorian Youth Development Program)	per cent	75	75[b]
Timeliness			
Youth Services Program grants allocated by target date	per cent	100	100
Cost			
Total output cost	$ million	12.8	13.6

Notes:

(a) Actual is attributed to more events being held at community festivals, which has increased the attendance and profile of FReeZA amongst young people.

(b) Actual refers to 2004 calendar year.

(c) Variance reflects greater use of youth websites than anticipated.

Performance in action – FReeZACentral – young people gain insight into the music industry

FReeZACentral is a program that provides training and support to young people who already have skills in running events or who have a strong interest in working in the music industry.

FReeZACentral builds on the successful FReeZA Program which currently provides fully supervised drug and alcohol-free live music, dance parties and cultural events for young people across Victoria.

FReeZACentral strengthened the impact of FReeZA with its three program components including:

- 500 young people participated in intensive workshops to develop skills in organising and participating in music entertainment events
- master classes that provided practical, high-level music industry experience and mentoring, as well as training in music industry management
- a FReeZACentral tour across regional and metropolitan Victoria featuring high–profile Australian bands as well as local performers.

2005-06 Future directions for Youth Affairs

- Continue to use creative and empowering forms of consultation and engagement so that the diverse voices of young people are heard and have an impact within government.
- Through grants provided under the Youth Participation and Access Program, provide young people who face barriers to participation in community life with opportunities and skills, and recognition for contributing to a full range of social, learning and cultural activities.
- Provide skills development and mentoring opportunities for groups of young people with particular needs in rural and urban growth areas of Victoria through the Mentoring and Capacity Building for Young Victorians Initiative.
- Boost access to jobs, training information and resources for young people through *youthcentral*.
- Continue to deliver the FreeZA program to engage young people through all stages of developing local music and cultural events.

Record studio engineer, Adam Shirley, shows trainees how to drive a mixing desk

4

Multicultural Affairs

Through the Victorian Office of Multicultural Affairs, coordinate the provision of policy advice and the whole-of-government approach to Multicultural Affairs and coordinate the monitoring of government departments' responsiveness to Victorians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Through the Victorian Multicultural Commission, provide independent advice to government on multicultural affairs and strategic grants to community organisations.

Major outputs/deliverables	Unit of measure	2004-05 Target	2004-05 Actual
Quantity			
Consultations and forums with community groups	number	55	79[a]
Number of briefs	number	600	715[b]
Number of language services projects implemented	number	10	13
Victorian Multicultural Commission grant funds allocated	per cent	100	100
Quality			
Client satisfaction with briefs provided	per cent	100	100
Commitments for community engagement processes, grants and project funds fully met	per cent	100	100
Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria funds allocated according to agreed priorities	per cent	100	100
Use of grants monitored	per cent	100	100
Timeliness			
Cabinet submissions and briefing requests met by due date	per cent	100	99.5
Grants allocated by target date	per cent	100	100
Cost			
Total output cost	$ million	7.7	8.2

Notes:

(a) Greater number of consultations than anticipated due to an increase in consultation for the *Multicultural Victoria Act* and the CALD women's project.

(b) Greater number of briefs than anticipated, due to an increase in the number of projects and initiatives.

Performance in action – Language Services Strategy – improving interpreting and translating services

The Language Services Strategy aims to improve interpreting and translating services for Victorians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

In 2004-05, the Department implemented 13 projects, exceeding the anticipated result by three. These projects included:

- interpreter scholarships to increase the supply of interpreters in emerging languages
- TAFE courses which train bilingual workers
- interpreter awareness training to make workers in community health centres and the mental health system more aware of the need to use interpreters
- a web-based directory of justice-related translated information
- an interpreter symbol and interpreter card which indicates where people accessing government services can request interpreters
- multimedia training tools to be released in 2005-06
- standards for collating data on interpreting and translating needs
- an online language identification tool that produces customised 'I speak ...' posters and cards in over 60 languages
- Monash University research into key issues affecting the interpreting and translating industry
- Victoria University research into the numbers of people who speak emerging African languages.

2005-06 Future directions for Multicultural Affairs

- Release of an updated whole-of-government multicultural affairs policy statement.
- Implementation of the Refugee Support Package early intervention refugee service brokers.
- Report to government on the CALD Women's Project.
- Establishment and operation of the multicultural register for government boards and committees.
- Working with SBS and regional local government to investigate the possibility of extending SBS radio transmission to regional Victoria.
- Implementation of Language Services Strategy projects, including quality standards for language services contracts, development of a whole-of-government network of translated information, and increasing the supply and quality of interpreters for emerging languages.

Horn of Africa refugees, Saida Sharif and Isterlin Abdulle, receive aged care training through the Community Jobs Program.

4

Women's Policy

This output provides strategic policy across all levels of government on key issues of concern to women working across government to inform policies, programs and services available to women.

Major outputs/deliverables	Unit of measure	2004-05 Target	2004-05 Actual
Quantity			
Number of briefs and responses to correspondence	number	300	764[a]
Women attending consultation forums/summit	number	600	875[b]
Quality			
Client satisfaction with advice provided	per cent	100	90
Participant satisfaction with consultation forums	per cent	85	86.3
Timeliness			
Action Agenda for Work and Family Balance Report Card (jointly with Industrial Relations Victoria)	date	3rd qtr	3rd qtr
Cabinet submissions and briefing requests met by due date	per cent	100	100
Women's Safety Strategy delivered against performance targets	per cent	80	80
Cost			
Total output cost	**$ million**	**2.6**	**2.8**

Notes:

(a)   Greater numbers of briefs due to a significant increase in cross-departmental initiatives.

(b)   Greater response to consultation forums/summits than anticipated.

4

Performance in action – Women's Safety Strategy – a comprehensive strategy addressing violence against women

The Women's Safety Strategy launched in 2002 aims to reduce the level, and fear of, violence against women in Victoria. The five-year plan commits the Government to work collaboratively across government departments as well as with non-government organisations and the broader community to achieve its goal.

Three steering committees comprising government and non-government members develop initiatives to improve responses to women's safety.

The Statewide Steering Committee to Reduce Family Violence has informed and provided critical feedback to a number of relevant programs and policies across government including the Police Code of Practice, the Family Violence Division of the Magistrates' Court and the Home Detention Program. The committee developed an integrated response to family violence which will inform the whole-of-government Family Violence Reform Strategy.

In 2004-05, the Statewide Steering Committee to Reduce Sexual Assault has developed a training strategy, 'Respectful Relationships' licensed to the AFL. The committee also developed a professional education package for legal prosecutors to improve the experiences of victim/survivors in the criminal justice system.

In 2004-05, the Statewide Steering Committee on Violence Against Women in the Workplace conducted a research project to identify the incidence and prevalence of all forms of workplace violence against women as part of the committee's work to provide recommendations to the Government on this issue.

2005-06 Future directions for Women's Policy

- Consult with Victorian women to ensure that the Government's policies and programs are consistent with the needs of women via issue-based forums, the annual Premier's Women's Summits and on-line consultations.

- Create improved capacity for women to participate in formal and informal leadership positions and opportunities.

- Build on the successful Women's Register to increase the number of suitably qualified people from under-represented communities who are registered for consideration for appointments to government boards and committees.

- Support the whole-of-government reform of Family Violence Strategy.

Sharing ideas at the Premier's Women's Summit

4

Information Services

This output aims to improve the range, quality and availability of information from government to Victorians. This is demonstrated through fostering active dialogue between the Government and communities and by facilitation of information sharing between communities.

The Information Services output is delivered through three business units:

- Government and Community Information Service/Information Victoria (IV)
- Public Record Office of Victoria (PROV)
- Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (BDM)

Major outputs/deliverables	Unit of measure	2004-05 Target	2004-05 Actual
Quantity			
Delivery of departmental consultations on Victorian Electronic Records Strategy (VERS) related queries (PROV)	number	85	102[a]
Develop information resource products, standards and guidelines in response to identified government requirements (IV)	per cent	90	90
Discretionary revenue (BDM)	$'000	3 000	4 243[b]
Information Victoria public contact, per contact officer, per day (IV)	number	34	49[c]
Records stored/preserved (PROV)	shelf metres	83 300	84 200
VERS primary capability deployed in all departments (PROV)	number	6	2[d]
Visitors/users (PROV)	number	375 000	509 846[e]
Quality			
Client/stakeholder satisfaction (PROV)	per cent	90	92
Registration transaction error rate (BDM)	per cent	0.9	0.7
Timeliness			
Information requests serviced within published timeframes (PROV)	per cent	95	98
Timely provision of certificates (BDM)	per cent	>85	59[f]
Timely provision of public information (IV)	per cent	95	95
Cost			
Total output cost	**$ million**	**34.6**	**35.0**

Notes:

(a) VERS consultations are based on need, with a higher number of consultations than anticipated.

(b) Discretionary revenue collections above target due to Victorian Heritage products performing better than expected and an increase in both marriage fee and registry marriages performed.

(c) Continued high level of bureau use resulted in greater productivity figures than anticipated.

(d) The timetable for the roll-out of VERS primary capability has been altered due to an Office of the Chief Information Officer project involving the standardisation of communication, information and technology systems across the whole of the Victorian Government. The ultimate deployment of VERS primary capability by the target of 2007-08 is not affected.

(e) Greater number of visitors than anticipated due to the progressive enhancement of PROV's website useability and the unanticipated attendance of 17,000 visitors at Federation Square exhibitions.

(f) Introduction of increased proof-of-identity requirements has resulted in increased time to process applications. This will be addressed in 2005-06.

Performance in action – Sustaining Victorian Electronic Records Strategy

The Sustaining Victorian Electronic Records Strategy (VERS) supports the implementation of effective and integrated (digital and physical) records management – from capture to disposal or transfer to the Public Record Office Victoria. All Victorian government departments have established programs to ensure VERS compliance with support from the Public Record Office.

Experts from the Public Record Office support the departments with strategic reviews, business case development, funding bids, procurement processes, analysis, design and process implementation. They provide knowledge, skills and experience in digital record keeping as an alternative to seeking external assistance from commercial organisations.

2005-06 Future directions for Information Services

- Provide Victorian Government information to communities through the Digital Archive, the Online Records Program and Archival Practice Initiatives.

- Continue to fulfil the obligations of the Public Record Office Victoria under the *Public Records Act 1973* through sustaining VERS and the office's Records Management Framework.

- Develop and implement a fraud management plan that will include governance and information security programs and be an active contributor to the National Identity Security Strategy.

- Provide new genealogical research kiosk facilities, and an enhanced customer service centre at the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

- Provide module-based skills training to all Registry staff in relation to identity fraud, document authentication, e-crime and investigation techniques.

Community Building

This output implements whole-of-government strategies which strengthen the capacity of communities and generate shared educational, social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits. The output includes the management of the Community Support Fund and Office of Community Building and the provision of advice to the Government.

Major outputs/deliverables	Unit of measure	2004-05 Target	2004-05 Actual
Quantity			
Number of applications received	number	200	282[a]
Proportion of applications approved	per cent	35	40
Quality			
Projects monitored and evaluated against performance agreements	per cent	100	100
Timeliness			
Grant reimbursement requests processed within seven working days	per cent	100	85[b]
Satisfactory acquittals obtained for all projects	per cent	100	100
Cost			
Total output cost	**$ million**	**20.5**	**23.6[c]**

Notes:

(a) The *Community Support Grants: Guidelines and Application* have been in operation for over 12 months and have resulted in a wider community awareness of the availability of funding for projects.

(b) Transitory issues associated with the introduction of a new Electronic Grants Management System affected results in early 2004-05. These issues were addressed and performance improved over the remainder of the year.

(c) The variance reflects increased activity in Community Building within the Department for Victorian Communities.

4

Performance in action – Victorian Community Support Grants

Through the Victorian Community Support Grants, DVC provided 120 grants to support community initiatives across Victoria in 2004-05. These grants recognise and encourage the enormous energy generated by local communities, and focus on building government and community partnerships.

For example, the Reach Foundation received funds which enabled it to expand its program by running leadership and development workshops for young people. Reach aims to train 30 young people to become leaders within their peer group by holding workshops in Collingwood, Dandenong, Frankston, Broadmeadows, Burwood and Footscray over the next three years.

2005-06 Future directions for Community Building

- Promote understanding of successful community strengthening models.
- Continue to develop a partnership approach to community strengthening with business, community, government and non-government organisations, particularly through the local teams.
- Actively support the contribution of volunteering to the Victorian community and the promotion of community enterprise and community/business partnerships.
- Continue to implement and promote the Victorian Community Support Grants program and contribute to the ongoing simplification of the application processes.
- Implement the new Community Building Initiative and the Volunteering and Community Enterprise Strategy in line with the Government's commitment within *A Fairer Victoria*.

Positive Ageing

Community-based information and activities to promote health and well-being for older Victorians.

Major outputs/deliverables	Unit of measure	2004-05 Target	2004-05 Actual
Quantity			
Participation in Victorian Seniors Festival	number	400 000	410 000
Quality			
Eligible seniors in the Seniors Card program	per cent	95	95
Funded projects for which satisfactory reports have been received	per cent	100	100
Cost			
Total output cost	$ million	4.9	5.3

Performance in action - Victorian Seniors Festival entering into the spirit of healthy and active living

The Victorian Seniors Festival, held between 15 and 20 March 2005, continued to promote ongoing exercise to improve quality of life to seniors.

Healthy and active living was directly promoted to seniors through the Active Living Grants to all local councils and through the festival's promotion of the 'Go for your life' campaign.

The festival provided a wide range of free or low-cost events, forums and activities along with free public transport for Seniors Card holders. Support for the festival grew at the local level. Over 1,100 events were held centrally and across regional Victoria with an estimated 410,000 attendances. For the first time, the promotion of the festival's message of positive ageing was widened to the general public with an engaging and challenging poster campaign across metropolitan train stations.

2005-06 Future directions for Seniors and Veterans

- Strengthen current initiatives to honour and support the Victorian veteran community with a particular focus on education and commemoration.
- Develop and support the passage of the Veterans Bill including the establishment of the new Veterans' Council.
- Support opportunities for Senior Victorians to participate in all aspects of economic, social, recreational and community life.
- Develop innovative ways of building more age-friendly communities and promoting positive attitudes to ageing.
- Contribute to whole-of-government policy development on population ageing.
- Conduct the 2006 Victorian Seniors Festival with a stronger focus on activities delivered in regional Victoria.

McLeod YMCA Line Dancers 'get active' in the Victorian Seniors Festival

4

Sport, Recreation and the Commonwealth Games

This output group seeks to enhance community participation and engagement in sport and recreation activities through both the provision of opportunities for physical activity, and the maximisation of benefits arising from hosting the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

These outputs aim to provide support for the provision of volunteering opportunities in the sport and recreation sector, support the development of elite sport participation in Victoria, and secure positive, lasting economic, social and environmental legacies by capitalising on major sporting events.

Sport and Recreation Sector Development

This output provides strategic leadership for the sport and recreation sector. It provides funding, coordination and facilitation services that generate investment in developing, improving and extending sport and recreation opportunities throughout Victoria, at all levels.

Major outputs/deliverables	Unit of measure	2004-05 Target	2004-05 Actual
Quantity			
Aquatic facility projects funded	number	10-15	8
Athletes on Victorian Institute of Sport scholarships	number	>450	464
Combat sports licences and permits issued	number	250	324
Community Sport and Recreation organisations undertaking projects/activities	number	80	83
International teams/sports – sports visitations facilitated	number	300	321
Key industry organisations providing strategic advice to government	number	5	5
Major events facilitated	number	8-10	15
Percentage of Victorian Institute of Sport scholarship holders on national teams/squads	per cent	≥55	61
Regional facility planning and development projects funded	number	60-80	74
State level facilities – under design or construction	number	10	10
State level facilities – under investigation	number	4	4
Suburban facilities planning and development projects funded	number	70-90	83
Quality			
Completion of ongoing operational and budget reports for each event	per cent	100	100
Delivery of an approved business plan for each event incorporating appropriate operational, marketing plan and financial information	per cent	100	100
Government branding and promotion requirements undertaken at each event	per cent	100	100
Outdoor Recreation Camps contract management key performance indicators met	per cent	>75	95
Timeliness			
Awards conducted	date	Oct 2004	Nov 2004
Completion of appropriate post-event reports and formal economic impact assessment (where required) at the completion of each event	per cent	100	100
Kardinia Park – Skilled Stadium: progress payments made	per cent	100	100
Melbourne and Olympic Park: training velodrome track approval for use for State/national events	date	3rd qtr	3rd qtr
National Ice Sports Centre: preferred developer appointed/final design completed	date	4th qtr	4th qtr [a]
State Volleyball Centre: development agreements signed	date	2nd qtr	2nd qtr
Cost			
Total output cost	**$ million**	**95.5**	**92.4**

Note: (a)   Discussions occurring with preferred proponent.

Performance in action – Kardinia Park kicking goals for the local economy

The Victorian Government provided funding for the redevelopment of Kardinia Park, also known as Skilled Stadium and home to the Geelong Football Club.

The upgrade will benefit the Geelong region as the club's home games contribute more than $10 million annually to the local economy. The new gymnasium and administration area will also help talented local sports people to develop and excel.

The project was completed on time and under budget. Improvements include a new:

* eastern stand with an extra 6,000 seats
* 35-place office complex for sports administration and development
* five-star gymnasium
* function room for use by community groups
* western entry to the ground
* public address system.

2005-06 Future directions for Sport and Recreation Sector Development

* Complete the 2006 Commonwealth Games major construction projects including Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre pool and Traralgon basketball stadium.
* Complete the design and commence construction of the new Olympic Park rectangular stadium.
* Successfully host major events including 2006 Volvo Ocean Race Stopover, Rescue 2006 (World Life Saving Championships) and 2005 FIG World Gymnastics Championships.
* Develop and roll out the Country Football and Netball Program.
* Complete three reviews of community sport and recreation programs – Community Facilities Funding, Regional Sports Assemblies, Access for All Abilities programs.
* Roll out the Community Walking grants and Physical Activity grants programs, components of the Healthy and Active Victoria initiative.

Geelong tackles the Western Bulldogs at the refurbished Kardinia Park.

4

Commonwealth Games

This output provides planning, development, coordination and management services by the Office of Commonwealth Games Coordination and the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Corporation. It aims to ensure the successful preparation and staging of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Major outputs/deliverables	Unit of measure	2004-05 Target	2004-05 Actual
Quantity			
Commonwealth Games Federation General Assembly reports presented	number	2	2
Public Domain – operational plans developed	number	6	6
Venue operational plans phase 1 completed	number	17	17
Whole-of-Games Progress Reports submitted	number	6	6
Whole-of-Games Special Purpose Financial Report published	number	1	1
Timeliness			
Athlete entry forms released	date	4th qtr	4th qtr
Commonwealth Games Schools Education Program launched	date	2nd qtr	2nd qtr
Community Involvement Kit and grants process launched	date	1st qtr	1st qtr
Construction projects progress reviewed as satisfactory	date	quarterly	quarterly
Games technical delegates visits commenced	date	3rd qtr	3rd qtr
Games ticket planning completed	date	3rd qtr	3rd qtr
Games Venues Access Audit and access plans completed	date	4th qtr	4th qtr
Memoranda of understanding agreed with relevant agencies	date	4th qtr	4th qtr
Queen's Baton Relay course announced (Australian leg)	date	4th qtr	4th qtr
Queen's Baton Relay international leg commenced	date	3rd qtr	3rd qtr
VicPol Security Master Operation Orders completed	date	3rd qtr	2nd qtr
Volunteer recruitment commenced	date	4th qtr	3rd qtr
Cost			
Total output cost	**$ million**	**173.8**	**95.3**[a]

Note: (a) The total output cost for 2004-05 is lower than target primarily due to the early receipt of Commonwealth Government funding and the reallocation of funding between operating and capital for certain infrastructure projects in line with required accounting treatment.

Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Education Strategy a winner in schools

In October 2004, the Department for Victorian Communities launched the Commonwealth Games Education Strategy. The strategy aims to provide Victorian school students with new opportunities for learning and getting involved in the Games through a number of initiatives.

Initiatives focus on community participation, relationship-building, developing knowledge and skills in areas such as art and sport, and learning about the history, geography and culture of the Commonwealth nations. Initiatives include:

- School2School Program – a program that helps school students in Australia build international friendships with students in other Commonwealth nations

- Art4Athletes – which encourages students to provide a memento through artworks to over 6,000 Commonwealth Games athletes and team officials

- Curriculum resources – Starting Blocks – a comprehensive learning resource about the Games for teachers and students and post - compulsory resources focusing on activities for Year 11 and 12 students in VCE, VET in Schools and VCAL.

Approximately 2,500 Victorian Government, Catholic and independent primary and secondary schools have received the education resource kit so that they can implement these initiatives.

2005-06 Future directions for Commonwealth Games

- Finalise operational readiness planning for the Games.
- Deliver the Games Legacy programs.
- Deliver the pre-Games and Games Cultural Festival.
- Host the XVIIIth Commonwealth Games from 15 March to 26 March 2006.
- Deliver public domain Games traffic and transport, live site and Games security services.
- Commence post-Games evaluation and reporting.