



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Economic agenda will help Close the Gap**

'The Victorian Government's commitment today to work with Victoria's Aboriginal communities to implement the recommendations of *Moonda Wurrin Gree: Pathways to a Better Economic Future*, the report of the Aboriginal Economic Development Group, is a positive step to improve outcomes for Indigenous Victorians,' says Chief Executive of VCOSS Cath Smith.

'Implementing the recommendations from *Mooda Wurrin Gree* puts into action the Victorian Government's August 2007 signing of the Statement of Intent to Close the Gap in outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Victorians.'

'The commitment of \$33.7 million to support the implementation of the strategy will help ensure that the aims of improving the school retention rates of Indigenous young people and increasing Indigenous Victorians' employment participation are achieved.'

'VCOSS particularly welcomes the seven Koori Transition Coordinators and the increased focus on young Aboriginal Victorians by the Local Learning Employment Networks, the Aboriginal Employment Brokers, increasing the numbers of Aboriginal mentors, and the focus on partnerships across government, business and the community to support improved outcomes.'

'The Government's *Wannik Education Strategy for Koorie Students* presents a strong vision for improved education outcomes for Victorian Indigenous students. Further action is required to drive the implementation of this key strategy so as to help ensure Indigenous children and young people continue in school.'

'VCOSS commends the Victorian Government and the Chair of the Ministerial Taskforce on Indigenous Affairs, Rob Hulls, on making this commitment today.'

**For more information, or to arrange an interview with Cath Smith, CEO  
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