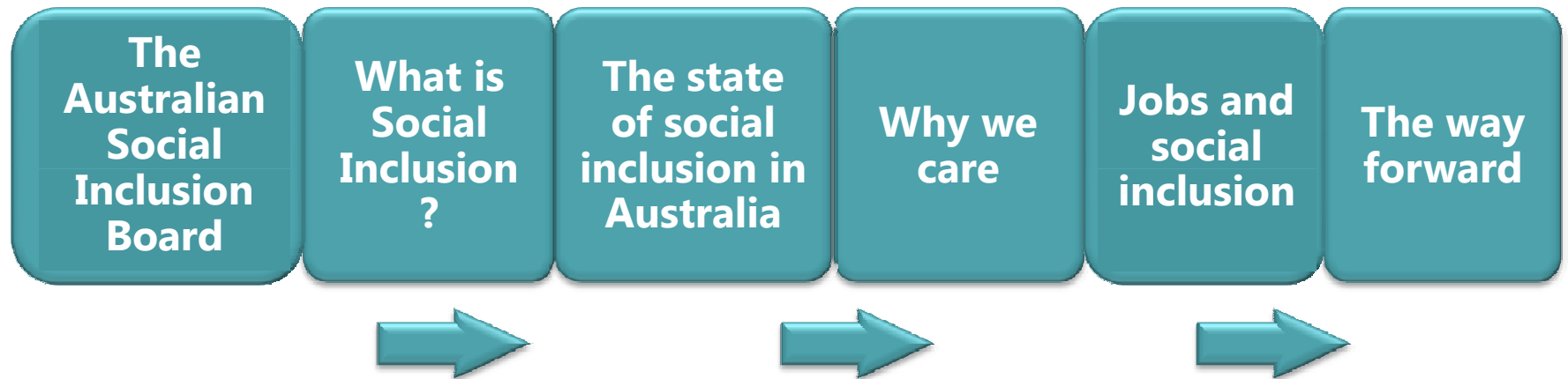**Australian Government**

National
Local Government
Workforce Development Forum

Linda White
Australian Social Inclusion Board
24 March, 2010

part of the social inclusion agenda

Presentation outline

| The Australian Social Inclusion Board | What is Social Inclusion ? | The state of social inclusion in Australia | Why we care | Jobs and social inclusion | The way forward |

The Australian Social Inclusion Board

Social inclusion

What is social inclusion?

...a socially inclusive society is one where all individuals have the **opportunity** and the **capability** to participate in key activities in their community

A small but significant proportion of Australians are highly disadvantaged

Adopting a structured agenda will help to shape responsive policy ...

An effective social inclusion agenda uses a range of initiatives to:

- **develop people's underlying resources**
- **address resourcing gaps**
- **increase participation**
- **invest in support systems & reform**
- **measure and evaluate progress**

Disadvantage has many causes

Risk factors include:

gaps in resources, opportunities or capabilities

triggered by life events or lifecycle transitions

influenced by place, issue or group

reinforced by societal attitudes and behaviours

Social inclusion requires the right _resources_ and _opportunities_ to be available − at the right times in people's lives − so they can build the _capabilities_ that they need to participate in their community

Protective factors include:

Strong, supportive families

Positive cultural identity

Access to education and support services

Community and work participation

Social inclusion
Locational approaches

Keys to success in disadvantaged communities

Gain early involvement and cooperation of local residents, business and government
Work in partnership with the welfare sector and the community to join up existing services and make services more responsive to the needs of the most disadvantaged
Create structures that invest and strengthen community capacity
Ensure investments are sustainable and long-term
Develop standards for social infrastructure

Social inclusion
Building inclusive and resilient communities

- Understand community strengths, composition, opportunities, vulnerabilities and attitudes

- Embrace diversity as a protective factor

- Promote community leadership

- Build a strong and diverse local economy

- Build strong networks

- Promote learning and innovation

- Recognise the role of the physical environment and infrastructure

Australian Government

Building inclusive and resilient communities

AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL INCLUSION BOARD
JUNE 2009

The state of Social Inclusion in Australia

Data provided is drawn from the Board's reports: *Social Inclusion in Australia: How Australia is Faring*, 2010 and *A Compendium of Social Inclusion Indicators*, 2009

The state of social inclusion in Australia
Measuring and reporting on social inclusion

The Board reports on progress on social inclusion each year:

A Compendium of Social Inclusion Indicators (June, 2009)

Social Inclusion in Australia: How Australia is faring (January, 2010)

The Government SI reporting framework

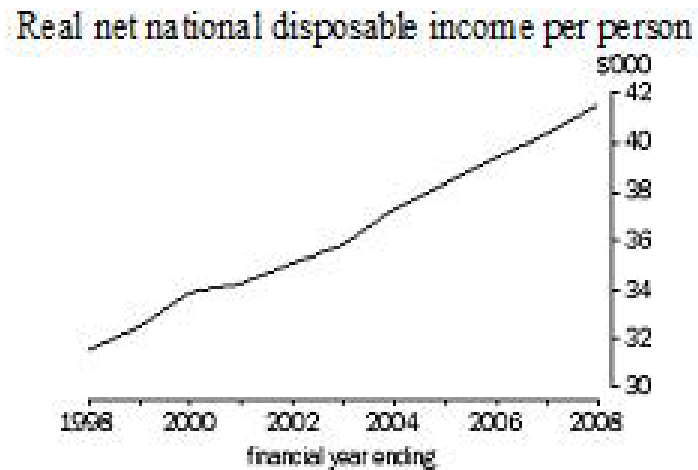| Participation	Resources	Multiple & entrenched disadvantage
• Work • Learn • Engage (social participation) • Have a voice (political, civic & community participation)	• Material/economic resources • Health & disability • Education & skills • Social resources • Community & institutional resources • Housing • Personal safety	• Multiple and entrenched disadvantage

The state of social inclusion in Australia
Significant real income growth 97-07

Australia experienced significant real income growth during the
past decade. From 1997 to 2007, real net national disposable income per person
grew by 2.8% a year on average, appreciably faster than during the preceding
decade 1987-1997 when real net national disposable income
per person grew by 1.8% a year on average:

Real net national disposable income per person

Source: Australian System of National Accounts, 2007-08 (cat. no. 5204.0).

but some people are still struggling...

Australia's level of income inequality is slightly higher than the OECD and EU averages;

One in eight people lived in households with high financial stress;

40% of one-parent families with children lived in high financial stress; and

One in five low income households, and almost half of low income private renters, were classified as being in housing stress.

People living in low income households–

- **have poorer health**, 35% of people in the lowest income quintile reported fair or poor health compared to 7% in the highest quintile

- are more likely to **have difficulty accessing transport**, 10% of people in the lowest income quintile compared to 1% in the highest quintile

- are **less likely to have access to the internet** at home, 33% of people in the lowest income quintile compared to 85% in the highest quintile

- are **less likely to attend community events**, 52% of people in the lowest income quintile compared to 75% in the highest quintile

Data provided is drawn from the Board's reports: *Social Inclusion in Australia: How Australia is Faring*, 2010 and *A Compendium of Social Inclusion Indicators*, 2009

The state of social inclusion in Australia

Australians have high levels of employment

In 2007 the overall **labour force participation rate** for persons aged 15 to 64 years in Australia (76%) was **higher than the EU25 average rate** (71%)

Only four EU states equalled or exceeded the Australian result (Denmark 80%; Netherlands 79%; Sweden 79%; and Germany, with the same result as Australia, at 76%).

This pattern has remained similar since 1998.

... but we also have high levels of joblessness

In June 2009, **15% of all children aged under 15 years lived in jobless families**. Most (67%) of these children lived in one parent households

The proportion of **children living in jobless households is higher in Australia** than in all but four of 27 EU member states and higher than the EU27 average of 9.7%

Data shows that those living with disability or mental illness are less likely to be employed

... and joblessness can persist

Over one-third of households that were jobless in 2001 remained jobless in 2006

The state of social inclusion in Australia
Disadvantage concentrates in particular locations

Areas with lower socio-economic status have higher proportions of developmentally vulnerable children on 2 or more domains of the Australian Early Development Index

In 2006, **only 49% of people living in the most disadvantaged regions were employed**, compared with 74% of those in the least disadvantaged regions

In 2006, **only 60% of those living in the most disadvantaged regions participated** in at least one community group (social, community support, political and civic groups), whereas 81% of those in the least disadvantaged regions participated in a group

The state of social inclusion in Australia

Disadvantage in one respect appears to lead to disadvantage in others

Around 5% of Australians aged 18 to 64 years experience 3 or more types of disadvantage. These multiple disadvantages are considered across three domains:

Economic *[low income and no access to funds in an emergency, jobless households]*

Personal *[poor self-assessed health, education below Year 10]*

Social *[feeling unsafe at home alone after dark, unable to get support in times of crisis]*

Why we care

Why we care
Addressing disadvantage helps

to **create a fair society** which not only values fair treatment and opportunity, *but actually works hard to achieve it*

to **reduce the threats to security and harmony** that arise from excluding groups

to **increase overall productivity**

People with disability aged 15-64 years have an employment rate of 49% compared with 77% for those without disability.

People with a severe mental disorder aged 15-64 years have an employment rate of 55%.

Indigenous Australians aged 15 years+ have an employment rate of 54% compared with 73% for the non-Indigenous population.

Those without a Year 12 qualification have an employment rate of 58% compared with 74% overall.

Jobs and social inclusion
Workforce participation

- Many industries with looming or actual labour shortages

- Local Government and non government SACS among them

- Both vital industries for local economies and at the forefront of community building, job creation and workforce capability building

- Harnessing the potential of all in the community is important for the individuals and our communities

Social inclusion
Jobless families are a priority

"Having at least one parent with a job helps to give children a positive start in life – it is a valuable source of economic security, family stability and positive role modelling."

A Stronger, Fairer Australia (2010)

"Joblessness appears to be associated with a wide range of negative outcomes for parents and children, including higher rates of income poverty, poorer health status and lower educational attainment.
The association is complex, however, and causation can run both ways—that is,

joblessness causes disadvantage and disadvantages can also cause joblessness."

Peter Whiteford, *Family Joblessness in Australia* (2009)

Social inclusion
Government initiatives

- Statement on social inclusion:
  A Stronger, Fairer Australia

- Jobs Fund: Board advice identifying pockets of disadvantage within the Government's 20 priority employment locations

- 36 Jobs Fund proposals from 31 Local Government bodies approved, resulting in:

  – $27.7 million in funding
  – 977 jobs to be created/retained
  – 173 Traineeships to be created/retained
  – 315 Work Experience Positions to be created/retained

Summary of Round 1 Projects and Funding for Local Government bodies by State

State	Number of Approved Jobs Fund Projects	Funding Announced
NSW	18	$12,590,315
NT	1	$390,909
QLD	4	$2,856,918
SA	3	$3,666,932
TAS	4	$3,311,590
VIC	6	$4,979,376
Total	**36**	**$27,796,040**

The way forward

The way forward
Breaking the cycle of disadvantage

Locational approaches
The Board will be looking to better understand why different kinds of disadvantage tend to coincide for individuals, families and in a relatively small number of particular places, and why these concentrations of disadvantage tend to persist over time.

Jobless families
The Board will be working to identify key barriers to employment. The Board will investigate policy options for improving outcomes for families who have multiple disadvantages.

Children at greatest risk of disadvantage
The Board will develop advice on the best approaches to supporting vulnerable 0-3 year olds.

Overview

Australia is a rich country...
but *some Australians are missing out*

- Some people face a number of barriers, so they start a step behind

- One form of disadvantage will often lead to further disadvantages

- Disadvantage tends to concentrate in particular neighbourhoods

- Barriers to participation have implications for individuals and families over the long term and can often be bequeathed to the next generation

The Board will continue to

- measure and report on progress across a range of social inclusion indicators

- and draw attention to disadvantage through new work on breaking the cycle of disadvantage

Contact
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More information at www.socialinclusion.gov.au

Jobs Fund Case Study
A Tasmanian Local Council

- A project in Tasmania will receive $1,865,987 to undertake the restoration and return to service a Tasmanian Tall Ship for the purpose of creating a tourism business. The project will also develop a Maritime Tourist Trail that will link some Tasmanian ports, bringing much needed tourism economy to these areas.

- The project also involves the construction of a foreshore building to house a Maritime Discovery Centre where the Tasmanian Tall Ship will be the main attraction and will also provide a retail outlet, information and services to tourists, training rooms, a take away cafe, booking facility and Port viewing platform.

- Jobs Fund funding will assist to support the set up costs, specialist trade work, vessel restoration work, materials, foreshore facility and operating equipment.

- The project will create 22 jobs, 120 Work Experience positions and 5 Traineeships. To date the project has created 13 jobs and repairs to the Tall Ship have begun. The proponent has achieved its first milestone payment.

Jobs Fund Case Study
Victorian Local Council - 1a

- The Jobs Fund is supporting two projects run by a Victorian local council focussed on supporting the recovery process from the 2009 Bushfires

- The first of these projects will receive $1.1 under the Get Communities Working stream to build a multifaceted community complex in one of the towns devastated by the Bushfires

- The project will create 48 jobs, 3 traineeships and 4 work experience positions

- The community complex was opened in December 2009 and houses retail, hospitality and tourism businesses, enabling the creation of new business and employment opportunities that were lost in the Bushfires. It has a grocery store so residents are now able to do their shopping in town for the first time since the local shops were burnt down

- The project has created 40 jobs, 1 traineeship and 2 work experience positions to date and has achieved its first milestone payment

Jobs Fund Case Study
Victorian Local Council - 1b

- The second project will receive $1 million under the Local Jobs stream to develop a recreational park. The park will have an adventure playground and provide a diverse range of activities and settings for play and recreation for local community

- The project will create 12 jobs, 2 traineeships and 10 work experience positions and will recruit local people to participate in the project

- Once completed in February 2011, the park will enhance the town's natural assets as well as tell a bush story, educate people about native habitat, indigenous culture and provide a healthy environment through interactive and imaginative play

- To date the project has achieved the first milestone payment and preparations to ready the site for construction are underway