

FACT SHEET

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUNDS IN MELBOURNE AND AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT FUNDING

HISTORY

Between 1962 and 1974, the Housing Commission of Victoria constructed over forty high-rise apartment blocks in about 20 locations across Melbourne, with the aim of reclaiming slums and providing affordable, modern and functional public housing for low-income families.

The largest sites were in Richmond, Fitzroy, Flemington, North Melbourne and Prahran. The attached map shows the locations of the high-rise apartment blocks.

The majority of residents were economically and socially disadvantaged through ill-health, disability or unemployment, with almost half of all residents from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

From the late 1960s the high-rise developments attracted a number of criticisms, a major one being the lack of safe outdoor playing areas for children.

A number of 'backyard playgrounds' were established on donated or council-owned land from 1974 to cater to the needs of families living in some of the largest high-rise public housing estates and other inner urban areas with a concentration of medium to high density dwellings.

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Budget Estimates 2011-2012

Department: *F&HCSIA*

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AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT FUNDING

The Commonwealth Government began funding services for young people aged four to twelve in five Melbourne playgrounds in 1978.

Services provided at the playgrounds have changed focus over the years to reflect the changing demographics of the high-rise estates. Funding has been administered through varying agencies depending on the services being provided and agencies' portfolio responsibilities.

FAHCSIA FUNDING

Many residential families on the estates in 2011 are refugee or humanitarian entrants from the Horn of Africa, and services provided in the playgrounds focus heavily on child safety, parenting, community participation and the social inclusion of vulnerable Australians.

Funding responsibility was transferred to FaHCSIA in 2009-10 due to the focus of services now provided.

