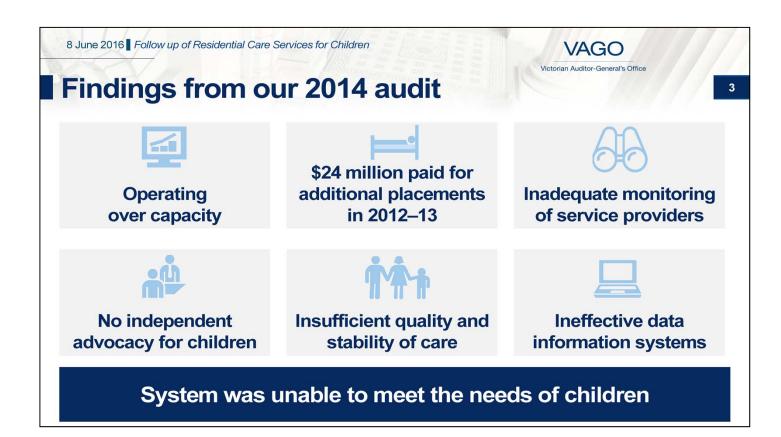# Follow up of Residential Care Services for Children

Tabled 8 June 2016

This presentation provides an overview of the follow-up audit on Residential Care Services for Children.

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About residential care services for children

Out-of-home care for children
when they face significant
risk of harm abuse or neglect
from their own families

442 | **Victorian children in residential care (January 2016)**

Overseen by Department of Health & Human Services

This report is one of three follow-up audits to be tabled in 2015–16. It provides Parliament and the community with information about improvements that the Department of Health & Human Services (the department) has made in line with recommendations made in our 2014 audit report *Residential Care Services for Children*.

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Findings from our 2014 audit

3

Operating over capacity	**$24 million paid for additional placements in 2012–13**	**Inadequate monitoring of service providers**
No independent advocacy for children	**Insufficient quality and stability of care**	**Ineffective data information systems**

System was unable to meet the needs of children

The 2014 audit found that the department had failed to oversee and ensure the safety and development of children in the residential care system. We identified significant shortcomings in the quality of oversight and staffing of residential care services, as well as in achieving outcomes for children.

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Progress on implementing recommendations

DHHS has initiated adequate action to address recommendations

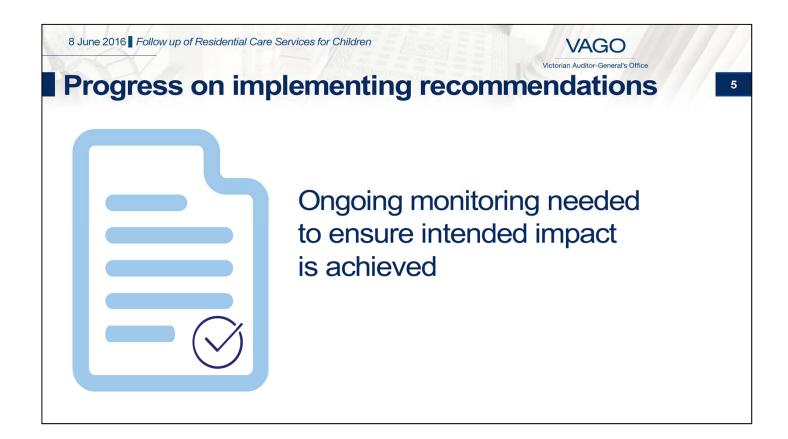Addressing systemic issues as part of broader reform program

Reducing use of residential care and increasing funding for home-based care

Improved monitoring of service provider performance

We commend the department for the actions it has taken to address the recommendations, as well as the smooth transition in acting on recommendations under the machinery-of-government changes. The efforts have demonstrated a continuing commitment to address some long-term systemic issues in the residential care system, and to including children and young people in designing solutions. Early indications of the impact of implemented actions are promising.

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Progress on implementing recommendations

Ongoing monitoring needed
to ensure intended impact
is achieved

However, the department will need to closely monitor all actions to ensure that they achieve their intended impact on improving outcomes for children and the quality of residential care.

For further information, please view the full report on our website: www.audit.vic.gov.au

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