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Sex abuse cases set to soar

MORE than 50,000 reports of sex abuse are expected to swamp Victoria's crumbling child protection system in the next year.

The strained system is also forecasting a massive jump in the number of proven sex abuse cases that slip through the net.

The Brumby Government has announced it will throw \$72 million at the system after a series of damning reports on understaffed and overworked child protection

services. One incident saw a sex offender left in charge of a child.

But Budget papers show the state is bracing for more problems with a big increase in the number of cases closed for a lack of evidence, that were reopened within 12 months.

The target for the number of re-substantiated cases is 17.5 per cent, up from an expected 15 per cent this year, and 13.2 per cent in 2008-09.

Australian Childhood Foundation chief executive Joe Tucci said an

overhaul of the system was needed. "I think it's a lack of resources but I think it's also a policy direction that has to change," Mr Tucci said.

Community Services Minister Lisa Neville said increasing birth rates and therefore more children meant more abuse.

The Government's budget promises include \$23.3 million to expand the number and quality of out-of-home care placements for children in the care system.