



Victorian Budget  
**2026/27**

**26**  
**27**

# **Easier. Safer. More Affordable.**

Overview



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance acknowledges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of Australia, and the oldest continuing culture in human history. We proudly acknowledge Victoria's Aboriginal communities and recognise the value and ongoing contribution of Aboriginal people and communities to Victorian life. We pay our respect to Elders past and present and emerging.

As we work to ensure Victorian Aboriginal communities continue to thrive, the Government acknowledges the invaluable contributions of generations that have come before us, who have fought tirelessly for the rights of their people and communities towards self-determination. We reflect on the continuing impact of government policies and practices and recognise our responsibility to work together with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples towards improved cultural, social and economic outcomes.



*'lim-ba nindee thana warn-ga-ilee'*  
(Preserve our Dreaming Lore) – Gunnai Language  
Bitja (Dixon Patten Jnr) Yorta Yorta, Gunnai,  
Gunditjmara and Dhudhuroa of Bayila Creative

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Budget Paper No. 1 – Treasurer's Speech  
Budget Paper No. 2 – Strategy and Outlook  
Budget Paper No. 3 – Service Delivery  
Budget Paper No. 4 – State Capital Program  
Budget Paper No. 5 – Statement of Finances  
(incorporating Quarterly Financial Report No. 3)

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## Treasurer's message

### **This Allan Labor Government Budget is all about making life easier, safer and more affordable.**

Donald Trump's war in the Middle East is resulting in higher prices at the fuel pump, putting Victorians under more pressure. This comes as the Reserve Bank is increasing interest rates due to re-emerging national inflationary pressures.

This Budget acknowledges the real challenges Victorians are facing.

### **That's why we're easing cost of living pressures where we can with real help, right now.**

We've already delivered instant relief with two months of free public transport and three months of fuel excise reduction.

### **Now we're slashing the cost of catching a train and driving your car.**

This Budget is cutting the cost of vehicle registration in 2025-26 by 20 per cent - giving Victorians money back in their pockets, with a rebate of up to \$186 per car.

We're making public transport half price until the end of the year. We're continuing to help families meet rising costs with free public transport for under 18s, free dental check-ups in schools and an expanded Glasses for Kids program.

And we're giving busy Victorians time back in their day with more public transport and better roads.

### **Victorians that are doing it tough need affordable healthcare, great education for their kids and safe communities to live and work in.**

### **That's why this Budget is:**

- ▷ **Making healthcare easier to get** by opening a new community hospital and supporting services at three others, and providing young families with better paediatric and maternity services
- ▷ **Investing in our kids' future** by continuing to fund kinder and building schools for a great education closer to home
- ▷ **Keeping communities safe** with increased resources for Victoria Police and more PSOs, delivering serious consequences for violent crime, and boosting the Violence Reduction Unit to stop crime before it starts.

As Treasurer, I know families are watching every dollar they spend right now and expect the Government to do the same.

### **We have a fiscal plan and it's working.**

This Budget confirms a budget surplus of more than \$700 million for 2025-26 and maintains operating surpluses over the forward estimates.

And from 2026-27, net debt as a share of the economy is projected to fall.

### **Our Budget backs a growing and dynamic economy**

In the last six years, business investment is up 44 per cent, with 123 000 new businesses opening in Victoria and more than 646 000 jobs created.

And amid global economic challenges and unrest, the Victorian economy will continue to grow.

That growth will be supported by the rapid rise of cutting-edge technologies creating new solutions to old ways of working.

That's why we're future-proofing Victoria by investing in the industries of tomorrow and skilling up workers for the right jobs.

We're growing the economy, while making life easier, safer and more affordable for Victorians.



Jaclyn Symes MP

**Treasurer  
Minister for Industrial Relations  
Minister for Development Victoria  
and Precincts**

## Making life easier, safer and more affordable

Donald Trump's war in the Middle East is driving up fuel prices and putting more pressure on household budgets, following two interest rate rises in early 2026 and rising inflation across the nation. These new cost of living challenges mean life is difficult for busy families.

In today's world, even when you work hard and do the right thing, time and money can feel tight.

That's why this Budget is focused on making life easier, safer and more affordable.

We're easing pressures where we can with real help, right now with **\$2.5 billion** in cost of living supports and housing initiatives to make life more affordable:

- ▷ **Instant real cost of living help**, with a 20 per cent rebate on car registration fees, free public transport in April and May, and half-price public transport until 1 January 2027
- ▷ **More help to keep costs down for families** by continuing free public transport for under 18s, School Breakfast Clubs, the Affordable School Uniforms program, and an expanded Glasses for Kids program
- ▷ **Additional assistance for those most in need** with more food relief and food banks, financial counselling and crisis funding.

We're continuing to make life easier by giving busy Victorians time back in their day with better roads and more reliable public transport.

Our Budget plans for the future and continues to invest in health, education and community safety.

It's why we're delivering **more accessible healthcare** by opening a new community hospital, supporting services at three others in local communities, and providing young families with better paediatric and maternity services.

It's why we're **investing in our kids' future** – building four new schools and campuses, upgrading 31 existing schools and continuing to deliver kinder.

And it's why we're **keeping communities safe** by recruiting 50 extra PSOs and up to 200 police reservists, freeing up existing police to do more frontline work. We're also ensuring our justice system works efficiently and providing a \$33 million boost to the Violence Reduction Unit to keep communities safe.

We've taken action to reduce duplication and inefficiencies, so we can prioritise helping Victorians with the cost of living when it's needed.







We have a fiscal plan and it is working. The Budget is projected to be in surplus in 2025-26 and over the forward estimates.

Net debt as a share of the economy will fall in 2027-28 and every year of the forward estimates. This Budget builds on funding announced in previous years and continues to invest in the future of our state.

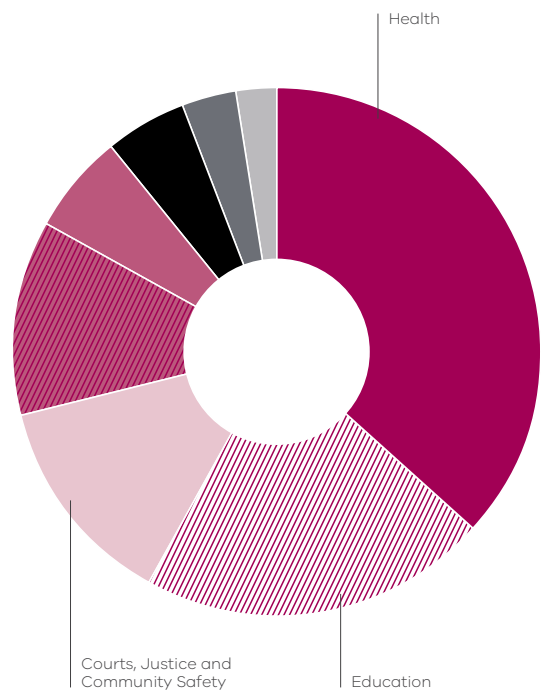


**2026-27 KEY SERVICES OUTPUT FUNDING**

**Key**

	Health	\$32 333.8M
	Education	\$18 646.6M
	Courts, Justice and Community Safety	\$11 432.5M
	Transport and Planning	\$10 500.9M
	Families, Fairness and Housing	\$5 326.7M
	Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions	\$4 466.1M
	Energy, Environment and Climate Action	\$2 751.4M
	Other*	\$2 185.0M

\* See Tables 10, 22, 28 and 31 in Departmental Performance Statement



## Victoria's economy is resilient

Global economic uncertainty and the rising cost of inflation are creating pressures across the Victorian and Australian economy – particularly for everyday workers and businesses.

But Victoria is in a strong position to weather these headwinds. Over the last decade, the Victorian economy has grown faster than any other state, and we expect our economy to grow over the forward estimates.

Economic growth has been supported by a record number of businesses currently choosing to invest in Victoria.

Business investment has grown by 44 per cent since September 2020, faster than the rest of Australia, proving that businesses have confidence in the Victorian economy. There are now 123 000 more businesses in net terms than in June 2020, with 4 300 new businesses in the start-up and scale-up space alone.

### GROWTH IN BUSINESS INVESTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT SINCE SEPTEMBER 2020, VICTORIA AND THE REST OF AUSTRALIA <sup>(a)</sup>



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Note:

(a) Growth in employment is from September 2020 to March 2026; growth in business investment is from the September quarter 2020 to the December quarter 2025 (the latest data available)

Victoria's strong economy is underpinning a strong labour force. Just in the last year, 26 100 Victorians have found work, providing stable jobs for workers as global economic pressures mount. Since the peak impacts of the pandemic in September 2020, more than 646 000 Victorians have found jobs – the strongest growth in the nation.

And our economy is fairer too. Since last Budget, our participation rate has averaged at a historically high 67.7 per cent, meaning more Victorians have been employed during this time than ever before.

This has been driven by the high number of women who are participating in the workforce – women who are backed by our Free Kinder program and our commitment to enshrine a right to work from home.

Commercial construction has also increased over the past year, headlined by investments in data centres to power the AI revolution, and the green energy transition continues to support engineering construction.

These numbers reflect the work of this Labor Government to make it faster, easier and more attractive to work and do business in Victoria.

We know that affordable and reliable energy is a cornerstone of a strong economy – that's why we're continuing to power the energy transition by accelerating investment in renewables and maintaining reliable energy for Victorians.

And due to the Labor Government's strong investments in energy, Victoria now consistently has the lowest wholesale power prices in the country.

It is clear – more people are choosing Victoria to be their home, more businesses are setting up in this state, and more workers are finding good, fair jobs in our labour market.

## Sustaining Victoria's economic growth

The sustained economic growth that Victoria has had over the last decade – and the new jobs, businesses and investments that it represents – is a testament to the state's economic resiliency.

But the current Middle East conflict is having an impact on the global and Australian economies, and while the situation remains uncertain, the effects are likely to be felt for some time.

Right now, rising fuel prices are the main risk to Victoria's economy.

Victorian households are feeling the pressure at the pump and higher fuel prices add to the cost of doing business, increasing the risk of flow-on impacts to the price of other goods.

The broader economic impact of Donald Trump's war in the Middle East will depend on the duration and extent of the conflict. It has created new uncertainty for Victorians, and for economies around the world.

But despite these global pressures, Victoria is prepared. Victoria's economy is expected to remain robust and record solid economic growth, supported by growing household spending and ongoing strength in business investment.

Combined with a healthy labour market and an unemployment rate near historic lows, Victoria is well-placed to face the current global challenges – and to continue creating jobs and economic opportunities that benefit all Victorians.



Despite global pressures, Victoria is prepared. Victoria's economy is expected to remain robust and record solid economic growth, supported by growing household spending and ongoing strength in business investment.

**General government fiscal aggregates**

	Unit of measure	2024-25 actual	2025-26 revised	2026-27 budget	2027-28 estimate	2028-29 estimate	2029-30 estimate
Net result from transactions	\$ billion	(2.6)	0.7	1.0	1.9	1.9	2.0
Net cash flows from operating activities	\$ billion	3.2	6.9	6.5	6.3	6.5	6.5
Government infrastructure investment <sup>(a)(b)</sup>	\$ billion	23.5	21.4	19.4	15.9	15.5	15.3
Net debt	\$ billion	150.9	165.3	175.6	183.2	191.1	199.3
Net debt to GSP <sup>(c)</sup>	per cent	23.7	24.7	24.9	24.8	24.6	24.4

Sources: Department of Treasury and Finance

Notes:

(a) Includes general government net infrastructure investment and the estimated cash flows for public private partnership projects.

(b) Includes the estimated private sector construction-related expenditure associated with the North East Link held in the public non-financial corporations (PNFC) sector.

(c) The ratios to GSP may vary between publications due to revisions by the Australian Bureau of Statistics to GSP data.

**Victorian economic forecasts<sup>(a)</sup>**

	2024-25 actual	2025-26 forecast	2026-27 forecast	2027-28 forecast	2028-29 projection	2029-30 projection
Real gross state product	1.1	1.75	1.50	2.00	2.50	2.50
Employment	2.5	1.50	1.25	1.50	1.75	1.75
Unemployment rate <sup>(b)</sup>	4.4	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.75
Consumer price index <sup>(c)</sup>	2.4	3.50	3.50	2.75	2.50	2.50
Wage price index <sup>(d)</sup>	3.3	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.00	3.00
Population <sup>(e)</sup>	1.8	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70

Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics; Department of Treasury and Finance

Notes:

(a) Percentage change in year average terms compared with the previous year, except for the unemployment rate (see note (b)) and population (see note (e)). Forecasts are rounded to the nearest 0.25 percentage points, except for population (see note (e)).

The key assumptions underlying the economic forecasts include interest rates that broadly follow market economists' expectations and an Australian dollar trade weighted index of 64.8. Oil prices (West Texas Intermediate) are assumed to average US\$100/barrel in the June quarter 2026. Prices then gradually decline to around US\$70/barrel by December 2026, and to around US\$65/barrel by June 2027, broadly in line with the path suggested by oil futures.

(b) Year average.

(c) Melbourne consumer price index.

(d) Wage price index, Victoria (based on total hourly rates of pay, excluding bonuses).

(e) Percentage change over the year to 30 June. Forecasts are rounded to the nearest 0.1 percentage point.

### VICTORIA'S FISCAL STRATEGY

- ✓ Step 1: Creating jobs, reducing unemployment and restoring economic growth
- ✓ Step 2: Returning to an operating cash surplus
- ✓ Step 3: Returning to operating surpluses
- Step 4: Stabilising net debt levels as a proportion of GSP
- Step 5: Reducing net debt as a proportion of GSP

## Delivering our fiscal strategy

The Allan Labor Government's responsible approach to budget management means we're firmly on track to deliver on our five-step fiscal strategy. In the *2020/21 Budget* we set out a four-step strategy to manage the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and we've added a fifth step since.

We remain on track to deliver an operating surplus of over \$700 million in 2025-26, \$1 billion in 2026-27, increasing to \$2 billion in 2029-30.

This means we continue our commitment to deliver Step 3 of the strategy this year.

We're on the way to achieving Steps 4 and 5 of the strategy too, with net debt falling as a share of the economy from 2026-27 onwards.

## Government infrastructure investment

Victoria's major projects are helping to make life easier, safer and more affordable for Victorians.

We have delivered new hospitals and ambulance stations, while upgrading or expanding many more.

The new Footscray Hospital and the redeveloped Frankston Hospital are open, making it easier for families to get high-quality public healthcare, close to home.

This Labor Government has delivered 121 new schools since 2017 with two more on track to open next year, making sure families in every corner of our state have a great local school.

The Metro Tunnel is open, with five new stations making it easier to get around and delivering more train services for growing communities on the Sunbury and Cranbourne/Pakenham lines, enabling more frequent and reliable services across the network.

The West Gate Tunnel is saving drivers time on trips between the western suburbs and the city, while taking trucks off local roads and making streets safer.



This Labor Government has removed 88 level crossings, with a further eight set to be removed in 2026 – allowing more trains, more often, meaning less time stuck at the boom gates for drivers.

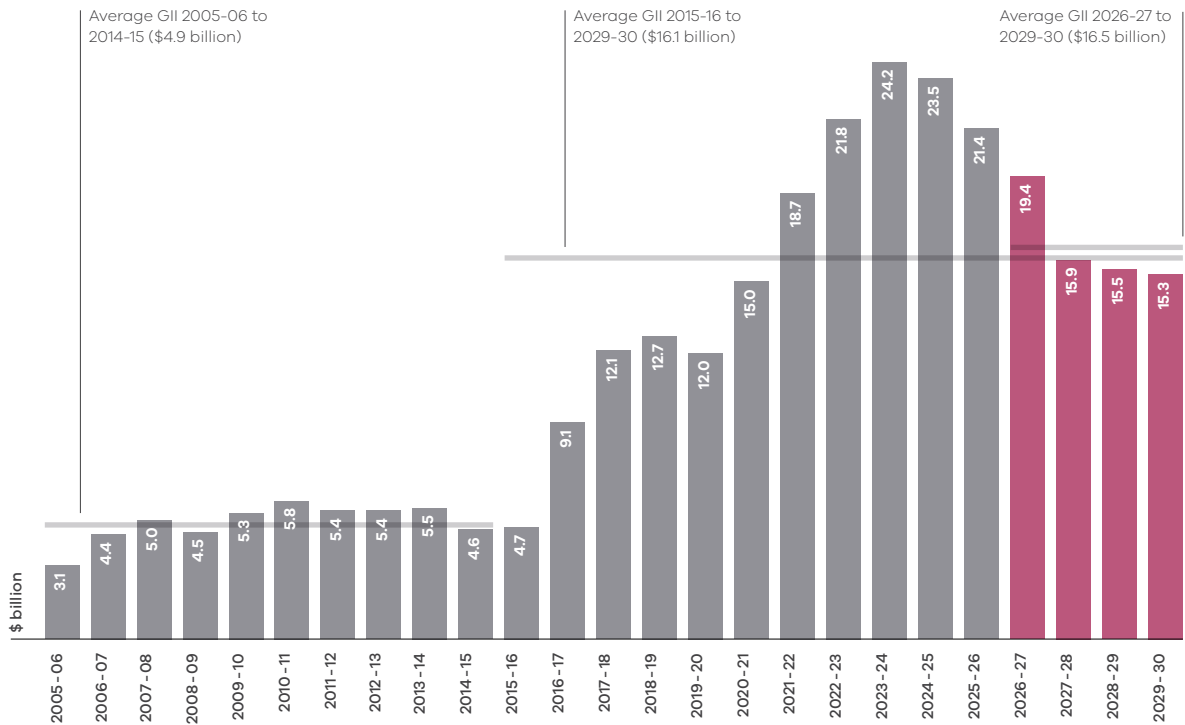
We’ve added thousands of extra public transport services, while building our own trains, trams and buses right here in Victoria. This Budget delivers \$674 million for 25 additional trains, built by local workers in Ballarat.

This productivity-enhancing infrastructure has supported thousands of jobs, and is now making it easier and faster to get around. It’s saving Victorians time and money – which means less time commuting and more time with family and friends. Victorians will continue to benefit from this generational infrastructure investment for decades to come.

This Budget continues to build for the future, with \$4.4 billion total estimated investment (TEI) added to the Government’s infrastructure program.

Government infrastructure investment (GII) is projected to be \$21.4 billion in 2025-26 before averaging \$16.5 billion over the budget and forward estimates. By 2029-30, GII is projected to moderate to \$15.3 billion. This reflects the Allan Labor Government’s commitment to deliver infrastructure at a steady and sustainable rate, freeing up market capacity for private sector investment in sectors like housing.

**GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT (a)(b)(c)**



Notes:

- (a) Includes general government net infrastructure investment and the estimated cash flows for public private partnership projects.
- (b) Includes the estimated private sector construction-related expenditure associated with the North East Link held in the PNFC sector.
- (c) Excludes the impact of the medium-term lease over the operations of the Port of Melbourne and the divestment of Victoria’s share of Snowy Hydro Limited.

# Helping with the cost of living

## AT A GLANCE

**\$1.2 billion**

to ease transport costs for Victorians

**\$120 million**

in continued support for families with children

**\$99 million**

for food relief, and financial and homelessness support for Victorians who need it most

Victorians are doing it tough and facing new challenges in the face of global economic uncertainty.

That’s why the Allan Labor Government is easing cost of living pressures where we can, with real help, right now.

We provided instant relief with \$155 million to make public transport free for everyone in April and May, taking the pressure off fuel demand and prices at the pump.

Together with the Commonwealth and other states and territories, we’re delivering a three-month 61 per cent reduction in the fuel excise – down 32 cents per litre.

And we’re making sure Victorians can find the cheapest fuel by introducing a daily cap on maximum fuel prices and setting up mandatory reporting on fuel prices to Servo Saver.

These steps provide help right away. And we’re not stopping there.

With this Budget we’re providing further cost of living help with \$120 million to support families with kids.

## Help with cost of living – cheaper transport for Victorians

To combat pressure at the pump for Victorian motorists, we’re providing rebates on rego payments for light vehicles at a cost of \$759 million. That’s a 20 per cent rebate of up to \$186 for people with one car and \$372 for people with two. All Victorians that have registered and paid their light vehicle registration between July 2025 and June 2026 will be eligible for the rebate for up to two vehicles.

This Budget also invests \$278 million to halve the price of public transport until 1 January 2027. This includes trams, trains and bus services across the state.

This is on top of free public transport for people aged under 18 on all Victorian public transport services, which kicked in on 1 January 2026.

Glenroy

1



**MAKING IT EASIER TO FIND THE CHEAPEST FUEL**

Fuel prices are rising and it's putting families under pressure.

More than 380 000 Victorians have used Servo Saver on the Service Victoria app since it launched in October, helping them find the cheapest price on fuel. And it's estimated that Victorians using it are saving up to \$333 a year at the pump.

The daily fuel price cap is now a legal requirement. Our anti-price gouging laws mean that fuel retailers must set a daily cap on fuel prices and publish it in advance, so you can find the best deal tonight and know the price won't jump tomorrow.

\$5 million is provided for the Fair Fuel Plan, monitoring fuel prices, and for maintaining and improving the Servo Saver feature on the Service Victoria app. This free app lets consumers compare fuel prices from more than 1 500 registered fuel retailers – and save money at the pump.

**Helping families with kids**

Every parent wants the best for their kids, but the rising cost of living is putting pressure on household budgets.

That's why we've invested in Free Kinder for three and four-year-olds, free public transport for all under 18s and help for families with school costs. We've made Victorian government school uniforms cheaper by banning unnecessary logos and removed the need for parents to provide digital devices for kids at primary school. This Budget will continue to support families with the cost of raising kids, including:

- ▷ \$28 million for the Affordable School Uniforms Program, saving families \$93 on average on uniform costs per application
- ▷ \$24 million for outside-of-school-hours care for young Victorians with disability
- ▷ \$16 million to continue and expand the Glasses for Kids program to more classrooms, delivering free vision screening and glasses for kids who need them. Since it was introduced, Glasses for Kids has delivered more than 68 000 vision screenings and 13 700 pairs of glasses – saving families money and time on appointments
- ▷ \$15 million for free admission for under 16s to Melbourne Zoo, Healesville Sanctuary, Kyabram Fauna Park and Werribee Open Range Zoo on weekends, public holidays and during school holidays
- ▷ \$14 million for School Breakfast Clubs to provide a free, healthy breakfast for those in need
- ▷ \$11 million for approximately 55 000 more Get Active Kids Vouchers to help eligible families cover the cost of sports enrolment and any included equipment, enabling more kids to play the sport they love
- ▷ \$7.4 million for Kinder Kits, which contain free books and educational toys, to help three-year-olds starting kinder to learn at home through play and reading.

## Helping Victorians who need it most

While cost of living pressures affect everyone, some Victorians are doing it really tough.

This Government delivers targeted support for those who need the most help in tough times – including seniors, Victorians living with disability, and households on the lowest incomes.

We're continuing to deliver concessions for energy, rates, water and sewerage bills, with around \$566 million in concessions to be provided in 2026-27, saving eligible households an average of around \$629. This can include a 17.5 per cent reduction on electricity and gas bills, a 50 per cent discount on council rates (up to a yearly maximum of \$266) and a 50 per cent discount on water and sewerage charges (up to a yearly maximum of \$372).

Rising costs as a result of the war in the Middle East are putting additional pressure on household budgets. That's why we're investing:

- ▷ \$2.7 million to expand financial counselling services, helping families navigate periods of financial stress
- ▷ \$1.1 million towards the Energy Assistance Program, which has already helped more than 15 000 households save almost \$3 million on their energy bills through access to bill relief, applying missing concessions and helping consumers get the best deal for their electricity.

This Budget provides \$45 million for communities in Victoria who need it most, including:

- ▷ \$15 million to boost allowances for kinship, foster and permanent carers, to keep pace with the cost of living
- ▷ \$11 million to strengthen food security across Victoria, with grants for community organisations to deliver food relief and make sure they can get it to those who need it most
- ▷ \$5 million to ensure more Victorians with disability can continue to access aids and equipment they need
- ▷ \$150 000 to strengthen the Country Women's Association of Victoria's capacity to deliver aid and financial relief for women, children and families in need.

This Budget also continues to invest in breaking the cycle of homelessness, with:

- ▷ \$26 million for additional emergency accommodation and nine new outreach teams to expand support for rough sleepers and help connect them to the help they need
- ▷ \$15 million to provide stable, long-term housing with flexible wraparound supports for people experiencing homelessness, across five supportive housing sites in Victoria
- ▷ \$6.1 million to support vulnerable renters to maintain tenancies – helping stop them from becoming homeless.

# Making life more affordable

## AT A GLANCE

**\$860 million**

into the Social Housing Growth Fund

**\$207 million**

to support better and more affordable housing

**\$90 million**

for the transition to renewable energy

With cost of living pressures rising, the Allan Labor Government has provided instant cost of living relief – doing what we can to ease pressure on household budgets.

We’re also helping to make life easier and more affordable.

We’re protecting renters’ rights and making it easier to buy your first home.

By delivering more homes near jobs and transport, we’re also increasing housing supply to make housing more affordable.

And we’re helping households save money on energy bills by switching to cheaper offers.

## A fairer property market

In Victoria and around the world, young people are being locked out of housing.

The housing crisis shows the status quo just isn’t working.

But Victoria has more first-homebuyers than any other state.

With this Budget we’re helping more Victorians get into homes they can afford, in places they want to live.

The Government continues to provide \$10 000 First Home Owner Grants and stamp duty exemptions and reductions for eligible first home buyers.

This Budget also extends concessions for buying off-the-plan, which saves home buyers money and supports housing supply.

But too many Victorians feel like the odds are stacked against them when they’re trying to make the biggest purchase of their life.

That’s why the Allan Labor Government has also delivered reforms to make the property market fairer.

We’ve cracked down on underquoting by making real estate agents publish the seller’s reserve price before an auction, so prospective buyers don’t waste time on properties they can’t afford.

Later this year, we’ll also introduce legislation requiring agents to publish the sale price of homes.

We’re introducing changes to save buyers money on pre-building inspections.

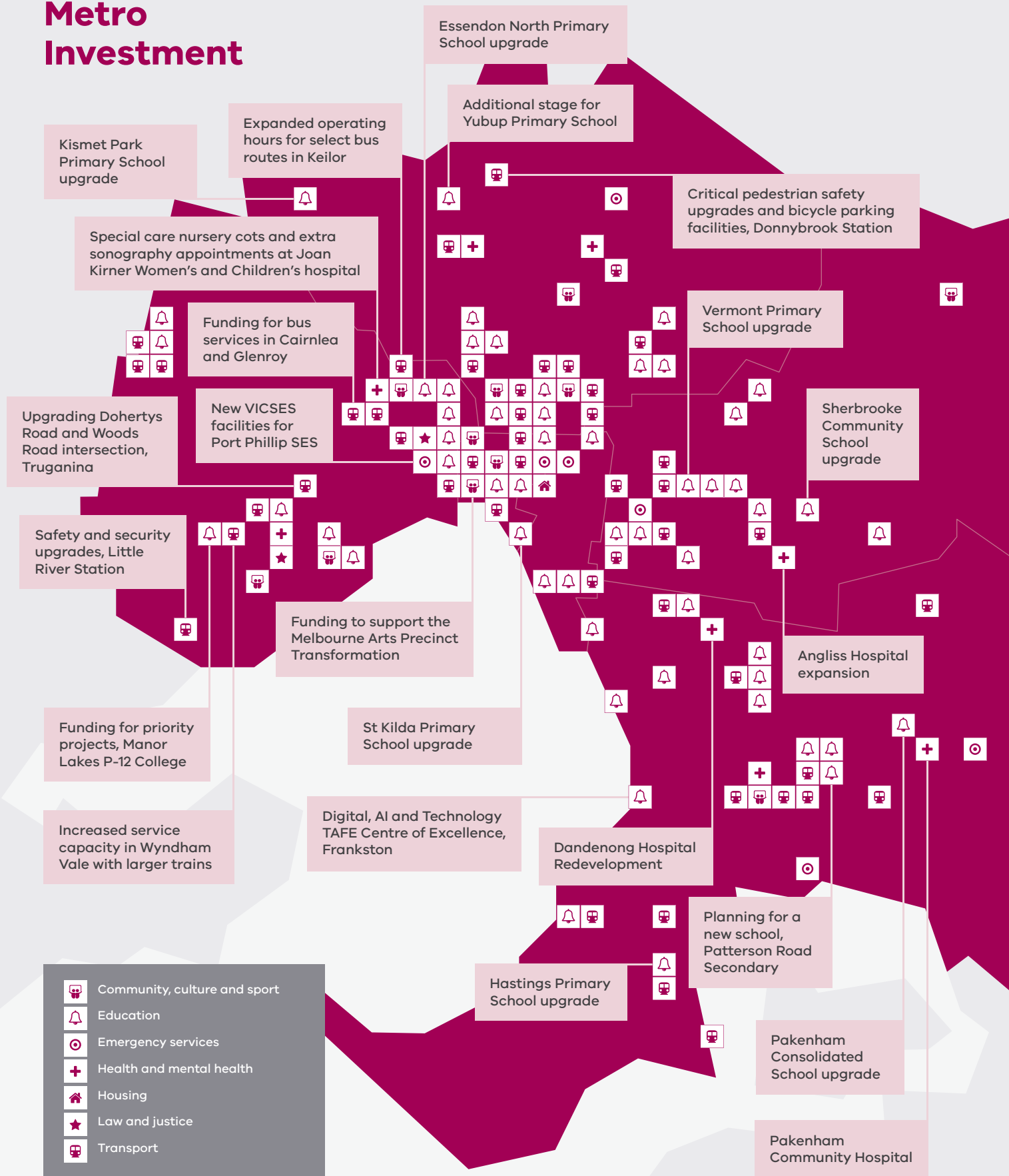
This will make sellers pay for building and pest inspections, saving potential buyers the cost of multiple inspections.

This Budget also invests \$97 million to continue delivering housing reform and improving confidence in the building industry.

This includes \$16 million to protect consumers and raise standards in the building industry through implementation of registration and licensing requirements.



# Metro Investment



-  Community, culture and sport
-  Education
-  Emergency services
-  Health and mental health
-  Housing
-  Law and justice
-  Transport

## Unlocking land and access to affordable housing

When young people are priced out of the areas they grew up in, they may be forced to move far away, costing them more time in the car or on public transport each day.

That's why the Allan Labor Government is delivering more homes in train and tram zones, close to transport, work and services.

Tunnelling on the Suburban Rail Loop – Australia's biggest housing project – will start in 2026. The first stage will help deliver around 70 000 new homes over the next 30 years.

This Budget continues our work to unlock land for more housing, and support the community housing sector to deliver more and better homes across Victoria.

We've made major investments that will deliver more than 16 000 social and affordable homes across Victoria – with construction on more than 12 000 homes underway or complete.

Building on this success, this Budget invests a further \$860 million over five years into the Social Housing Growth Fund to go towards the delivery of more than 7 000 additional social housing homes over the next decade.

We've also made changes to improve the planning system, so better decisions are made faster and more homes are built, more quickly.

\$37 million is being put towards unlocking better uses of Victorian land in this Budget, including:

- ▷ \$16 million to continue delivering on our 10-year plan for Melbourne's greenfields and unlock new family homes with backyards
- ▷ \$11 million to update Victoria's planning legislation and systems to make sure decisions are made faster
- ▷ \$9.8 million for the Development Facilitation Program to continue its work to fast-track significant housing projects.



This Budget continues our work to unlock land for more housing, and support the community housing sector to deliver more and better homes across Victoria.



## More affordable energy

The Allan Labor Government is helping families save money on their energy bills by switching to cheaper solar power and installing more energy-efficient appliances.

We've helped to put more than 342 000 solar systems on roofs.

We've helped to install almost 84 000 energy-efficient hot water systems.

This Budget invests \$28 million to help up to 27 000 eligible households install an energy efficient hot water system, with rebates of up to \$1 400 for locally-made products, and \$1 000 for others.

And through Australia's largest energy upgrades program, we've helped more than 2.4 million households and 180 000 businesses become more energy efficient, saving on their bills.

Together, these investments mean Victorians can save more than \$1 300 a year on their energy bills.

### VICTORIAN MIDDAY POWER SAVER

We're seeing Victoria's investment in renewable power pay off. Solar power means our state produces extra electricity during the day, meaning we can deliver the Midday Power Saver.

About 2.6 million households will be eligible for three hours of free power in the middle of the day, every day. Families could save up to \$300 per year off their energy bills, and up to \$1 070 if they have solar panels and batteries.

This Budget accelerates investment in renewable energy generation and storage under the Renewable Energy Transformation Agreement with the Commonwealth, delivering more reliable energy for Victorians and pushing electricity prices down. We're also investing:

- ▷ \$10 million to support action on energy efficiency by the community housing sector, including direct funding for energy efficiency upgrades
- ▷ \$2 million to assist community organisations to promote awareness and educate Victorians on climate action
- ▷ \$1.3 million to support faster environmental approvals for renewable energy projects, delivering more affordable power for Victorians.

We're also working with the Commonwealth to support the energy transition by jointly funding the Victorian Renewable Energy TAFE Centre of Excellence at Gippsland TAFE in Morwell, with connecting hubs in Ballarat and Warrnambool, training up the next generation of renewable energy workers.

We're investing \$10 million to train plumbers and gas fitters in renewables, delivering Victoria's contribution to the Commonwealth co-funded National Training Centre in New Energy Skills. Building on this investment, we're providing an additional \$5 million for Solar Victoria to upskill plumbers and other tradespeople by extending its electrification training program.

## Making life easier

### AT A GLANCE

**\$1.6 billion**

on making public transport safer and more reliable

**\$560 million**

additional funding for road maintenance, bringing total 2026-27 spend to a record \$1 billion

**\$103 million**

to upgrade roads and intersections across metro Melbourne and regional Victoria

When the cost of living is high, families don't just feel financial strain. They're also short on time.

That's why the Allan Labor Government is always looking for new solutions to make life easier for busy Victorians.

As well as building more homes closer to transport and work, we're also protecting the right to work from home – meaning less time lost commuting and less congestion for those who can't work from home.

It's why this Labor Government has invested in a world-class public transport system, delivering more than 3 400 additional weekly train services, 290 new weekly tram services and 24 000 new bus services to get Victorians where they need to be quicker.

And it's why we're removing 110 level crossings, allowing more services at peak times and saving drivers time spent at boom gates.

In this Budget, we're continuing to make life easier and give Victorians back precious time with record investment to improve Victorian roads.

And we're making our public transport safer and more reliable.

### Making life easier with better public transport

This Budget continues to invest in a world-class transport network for our city and state.

We're investing \$1.3 billion in trains and services, including:

- ▷ \$674 million for 25 additional six-car X'Trapolis 2.0 trains for the metropolitan train network
- ▷ \$318 million for maintenance and safety upgrades that will help the regional passenger rail network run more reliably
- ▷ \$92 million to improve train services, including to run up to nine daily services on the Shepparton Line, increase capacity on the Wyndham Vale Line with larger trains, and uplift services along the six lines that run through Clifton Hill and Burnley
- ▷ \$76 million to take the next steps towards electrification of the Melton Line
- ▷ \$7.5 million to make the public transport network, cycling facilities and walking paths safer and more accessible.

As our suburbs grow, Victoria's bus network of more than 400 bus routes keeps communities connected.

This Budget invests \$105 million to deliver more buses and ferry services where they're needed most – in growing suburbs and regional centres.

And we're putting \$76 million to improve the world's largest tram network, including new, accessible stops.



### **Better roads to get you home faster**

In 2026-27 alone, we will spend over \$1 billion on fixing potholes and resurfacing roads, the highest amount in Victoria's history.

This record spend includes an additional \$560 million approved in this Budget. This helps you get from A to B safely and quickly, with less wear and tear on your car.

On top of fixing potholes and resurfacing roads, we're investing \$73 million for planning and delivery of regional road upgrades across our state, as well as \$29 million for planning and delivery of new and upgraded roads across metropolitan Melbourne. And we're investing \$127 million in maintaining freight rail infrastructure, helping to keep trucks off the road and decreasing wear and tear.

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In this Budget, we're continuing to make life easier and give Victorians back precious time with record investment to improve Victorian roads.

# Making it easier to get free healthcare

## AT A GLANCE

**\$2.1 billion**

to support our hospitals and strengthen our health workforce

**\$567 million**

for upgrading and improving health infrastructure

**\$299 million**

to support mothers, babies and young families

**\$133 million**

to deliver hospital-level care in patients' homes

In 2026-27 alone, we are providing a record \$32 billion to our health system. Through this Budget, we're providing \$3.9 billion in new investment.

This Labor Government always invests in our health system. It's all about making it easier and cheaper to get the quality healthcare you need.

Since 2014, we have delivered new and upgraded hospitals. We've also hired more than 40 000 extra doctors, nurses, midwives and healthcare professionals to deliver the best possible healthcare, and strengthened nurse to patient ratios, so patients get the dedicated care they need.

And we've invested in women's healthcare. We opened 15 women's health clinics to ensure women get the healthcare they need for free with five more on the way.

The Allan Labor Government has made sure it remains easy for Victorians to access convenient care through the Virtual ED and Chemist Care Now, which lets patients receive care for common conditions without a visit to the GP. And continuing our state-funded Urgent Care Clinics will keep saving patients a trip to the ED.

And now we're investing in a fast track for kids' care so they can get the surgery or the specialist care they need faster.

## Fast-tracking healthcare for kids

Waiting to see a specialist for a sick child causes huge anxiety for any parent.

And life is often put on hold while waiting for planned surgery.

That's why this Budget invests \$109 million to deliver 45 000 more specialist paediatric appointments and 4 000 additional planned surgeries for children.

It will mean children and young people get specialist care and treatment faster in a world-class public health system that families can rely on.

This Budget also commits \$2.3 million to support the Secondary School Immunisation program, saving families time and money on a trip to the doctor.

We're making this investment to keep Victorian children safe and save families money.



## Opening and operating local hospitals

Every Victorian has a right to high-quality healthcare. That's why we are providing \$1.6 billion in funding to better support existing services, and for more doctors, more nurses, and more services across our hospitals to keep up with increasing demand. This funding supports the essential resources required to continue providing world-class care to Victorians.

This Budget also invests \$284 million to open and operate hospitals – making it easier to get free public healthcare in your community – as well as supporting and expanding emergency departments. This includes:

- ▷ \$95 million for Werribee Mercy Hospital emergency department expansion
- ▷ \$45 million to open expanded acute care capacity at Angliss Hospital
- ▷ \$35 million to uplift Cranbourne Community Hospital
- ▷ \$34 million to uplift Craigieburn Community Hospital
- ▷ \$20 million to uplift University Hospital Geelong paediatric emergency department
- ▷ \$19 million to open Pakenham Community Hospital
- ▷ \$7.1 million to operate the new PET scanner at Goulburn Valley Health
- ▷ \$2.8 million for services at Mernda Community Hospital, building on the recent \$25 million investment to open it
- ▷ \$2 million to support early transition work at the New Melton Hospital.

This Budget also provides \$10 million to continue a pilot to improve ambulance transfer times in emergency departments during peak periods.

## URGENT CARE CLINICS

When critical illness or injury strikes, the emergency department is exactly where you need to be.

But some conditions don't need to be treated in hospital.

Urgent Care Clinics deliver healthcare that's urgent, but not life-threatening.

They're open late and on weekends, when it can be hard to get an appointment with a GP.

And they're completely free.

Victoria was the first to introduce this model that has now been adopted by the Commonwealth and rolled out Australia-wide.

Victoria's nine state-funded Urgent Care Clinics have treated around 261 000 patients to date.

There are 38 clinics across our state – 29 of which are now operated by the Commonwealth Government.

This Budget invests \$10 million to keep Victoria's state-funded Urgent Care Clinics running, helping around 112 000 patients every year.

Together with Chemist Care Now, NURSE-ON-CALL and the Virtual ED, we're making it cheaper and easier to get the healthcare you need.

## Modernising our hospitals

Victoria has some of the best hospitals in the world.

To make sure they can continue to provide excellent care, we are investing \$145 million for upgrades, including:

- ▷ \$75 million for the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund, for projects ranging from operating theatre refurbishments to equipment upgrades
- ▷ \$35 million for new and upgraded medical equipment in operating theatres, emergency departments, surgical wards, intensive care units and neonatal and maternity services across our public hospitals
- ▷ \$20 million to continue upgrading and replacing engineering infrastructure at hospitals across Victoria
- ▷ \$15 million to upgrade equipment and renew, reconfigure and refurbish metropolitan health services' infrastructure.

We're investing to deliver better healthcare, including \$192 million for critical services:

- ▷ \$35 million to boost critical blood, organ and tissue services
- ▷ \$31 million for the Wathaurong Dreaming Project, for a purpose-built facility for Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative in North Geelong to deliver health and wellness services
- ▷ \$27 million to provide greater access to endoscopies, leading to faster diagnoses and better outcomes for patients
- ▷ \$21 million to provide care for more than 4 500 people living with chronic illnesses, helping clients navigate the health system through community health services
- ▷ \$11 million for additional dialysis beds at Cranbourne Community Hospital.

## STRENGTHENING OUR HEALTH WORKFORCE

Our nurses, doctors and healthcare professionals are the heartbeat of our hospitals and healthcare system.

We've strengthened nurse to patient ratios so Victorians get dedicated care when they're sick.

This Government has grown the workforce of our hospitals by more than 50 per cent, hiring 17 000 extra nurses. Our investments since 2014 have added more than 7 000 extra doctors and thousands more healthcare workers in our public hospitals.

We're continuing to invest in the vital skills that save lives across the community. This Budget provides \$76 million to strengthen our health workforce including:

- ▷ \$26 million to support 250 nurse graduate positions
- ▷ \$25 million for a dedicated Psychiatry Training pathway
- ▷ \$11 million for a Psychology Registrar program
- ▷ \$8.7 million for a Junior Medical Officer Mental Health Rotations program
- ▷ \$4.4 million for the Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy Student program
- ▷ \$860 000 for cadetships and scholarships for Aboriginal students.

## Making healthcare easier to access

We know supporting families with healthcare costs is one of the best ways to help with the cost of living – that’s why we’re making healthcare cheaper and easier for people to access.

Chemist Care Now means Victorians can get care for common conditions, without a visit to the GP.

Chemist Care Now is providing easy care for:

- ▷ Resupply of the pill and other hormonal contraception
- ▷ Shingles
- ▷ Urinary tract infections
- ▷ Psoriasis
- ▷ Impetigo
- ▷ Travel vaccinations.

850 chemists across the state are taking part, providing free appointments for healthcare advice.

We are progressively expanding the program to provide an even greater range of treatments. By the end of 2026-27, the program will cover treatment for 22 health conditions, including asthma, nausea, ear infections, wound management, and cardiovascular conditions such as hypertension.

And from July, women and girls will be able to save money, time and get access to the pill at one of the participating chemists without needing a script, saving money on appointment costs.

We’ve also created the Virtual Emergency Department, the first of its kind in Australia, allowing families to access emergency department nurses and doctors from their own homes.

And we’ve established a network of Urgent Care Clinics, making sure Victorians get the urgent care they need while taking pressure off busy emergency departments.

## Making it easier to get ADHD diagnosis and prescriptions

Until now, getting a diagnosis for ADHD has often meant lengthy wait times and spending potentially thousands of dollars.

But the Allan Labor Government has made it easier to get a diagnosis for ADHD through your GP.

This change reduces financial barriers to help Victorians get the answers and care they need.

We’ve also made it easier to renew ADHD prescriptions.

Suddenly stopping ADHD medication presents real health risks.

But from September, Victorians who have lost their prescriptions or run out of their ADHD medication can get an urgent resupply through the Virtual Emergency Department.

This free service makes it easier for Victorians with ADHD – or their parents – to get the medication they need, when they need it.



## Easier and more affordable women's healthcare

For too long, women's health has been overlooked and under diagnosed.

The Allan Labor Government is delivering a network of dedicated women's health clinics and sexual and reproductive health hubs around the state.

These clinics deliver free, specialised care for everything from pelvic pain to managing the symptoms of menopause.

Currently 15 women's health clinics are operational across Victoria, with five new clinics scheduled to open in the second half of 2026, including:

- ▷ Ararat, led by East Grampians Health Service
- ▷ Bacchus Marsh, led by Western Health
- ▷ Heidelberg, led by Austin Health and Mercy Health
- ▷ Prahran, led by Bayside Health and based at The Alfred
- ▷ Parkville (a dedicated kids and teens clinic), led by The Royal Children's Hospital.

In November 2025, we released the findings of our landmark Inquiry into Women's Pain.

More than 13 000 women and girls shared their experiences, to demand women's pain is taken seriously.

In response, we have already funded the roll out of the green whistle – a pain-relieving inhaler – for procedures to insert intrauterine devices (IUDs) at reproductive and sexual health hubs.

This also included introducing a *Women's Pain Standard* across the public health system, empowering women to understand the level of care they should expect when managing their pain.

This Budget invests a further \$10 million in preventative sexual health support for Victorian women, providing funding for peer-led health and wellbeing services and women's health organisations.

## SUPPORTING NEW FAMILIES

From public fertility services to quality maternity care, through to comprehensive postnatal care and early parenting centres, we're helping new Victorian families every step of the way.

### Maternity services

The Allan Labor Government is appointing a Chief Midwife, to make sure that maternity care in Victoria is world leading.

This Budget is delivering \$299 million to support families, including \$249 million for maternity services in Melbourne's booming western suburbs, where there are more births than anywhere else in Victoria. These include:

- ▷ 32 new postnatal beds to support pregnancy and postnatal care for up to 3 300 more women each year
- ▷ nine new cots in the special care nursery, providing care for more than 300 babies each year who need extra monitoring and observation
- ▷ 1 500 extra sonography appointments each year at Joan Kirner Women's and Children's hospital, saving women money on private scans
- ▷ Increasing capacity for births through collaborative arrangements across eight health services, supporting continuity of care for new and expecting mothers.

Public fertility services in Victoria have helped bring 350 babies into the world, removing costs of up to \$10 000 per round of IVF as a barrier to families needing IVF and other reproductive services. This Budget provides \$43 million to ensure Victorian families have continued access to public fertility services care at the Royal Women's Hospital and 10 satellite sites across our state.

### Early parenting

Early Parenting Centres provide practical, hands-on help and mental health support to new parents, from birth up to age four. From sleep to feeding, they deliver day programs and overnight help to families needing support – all for free. This Budget invests \$6.8 million to deliver this important help for families at the Hastings Early Parenting Centre, one of 10 new Centres across our state.

## Getting the care you need at home

When you're recovering from illness or injury, there's no place like home.

That's why this Budget invests \$133 million to deliver hospital-level care in patients' homes through home visits and virtual care.

We are investing \$10 million to deliver dialysis services at home, making it easier for patients to get the care they need.

We are also investing \$51 million to help paramedics and Triple Zero Victoria triage patients, connecting them to the right care as quickly as possible.

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Our investments in public aged care mean older Victorians can receive dignified and affordable quality care without leaving their communities.

## Looking out for older Victorians

The Allan Labor Government is the largest provider of aged care in the state, with 159 public aged care services.

The majority of these are in rural and regional Victoria.

Our investments in public aged care mean older Victorians can receive dignified and affordable quality care without leaving their communities.

Every year, we invest more than \$720 million in aged and home care services.

This Budget commits an additional \$80 million to continue support for residential aged care facilities and services, ensuring patients with complex needs get the care they need where they live. This includes:

- ▷ \$36 million to sustain public sector residential aged care services
- ▷ \$17 million to deliver hospital care at residential aged care facilities, allowing older Victorians to be cared for in their own home and reducing annual hospital presentations by almost 30 000
- ▷ \$15 million to support changes requiring nurses to administer medication in non government aged care, delivering higher-quality care
- ▷ \$7.5 million to upgrade Victoria's public sector residential aged care facilities
- ▷ \$5.1 million to continue reducing delays in hospital discharge for older patients without decision-making capacity.

In collaboration with the Commonwealth, this Budget also invests in a Home and Community Care TAFE Centre of Excellence, making sure Victoria has the critical care workers we need as our population ages, as well as delivering \$30 million to strengthen palliative care.

## REDUCING ALCOHOL AND DRUG HARM

Last year, we released the *Victorian Alcohol and Other Drugs Strategy 2025-35*, which sets a 10-year plan to reduce alcohol and drug-related harm across the state.

To support this, we are investing \$104 million to reduce alcohol and drug harm, including:

- ▷ \$52 million to continue a health-led response to the decriminalisation of public intoxication and deliver improved outcomes to vulnerable Victorians
- ▷ \$32 million on a range of initiatives to continue to mitigate the harms of alcohol and other drugs across Victoria
- ▷ \$10 million to upgrade Victoria's mental health, alcohol and other drugs facilities
- ▷ \$9.6 million to continue the Victorian Pill Testing Service through both a strengthened fixed-site service and at festivals.

This investment includes \$39 million for specific First Nations-led outreach, monitoring and evaluation and places of safety to support a health-led response to public intoxication, and a self-determined pharmacotherapy model.

## Making sure everyone can afford and access mental health care

Nearly one in two Victorians will experience a mental health condition in their lifetime – and more than one in five are affected each year.

Through our Mental Health Locals, we're delivering free mental health and wellbeing care without the need for a trip to the GP.

There are 22 Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals operating across our state right now. These facilities were a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System.

Since 2018, this Labor Government has invested over \$6 billion to grow and rebuild the mental health system from the ground up.

We continue to build on this investment, supporting Victorians in the ways they need it most. Initiatives include:

- ▷ \$30 million for new and existing mental health Hospital in the Home beds to enable more people to access home-based acute inpatient mental health care
- ▷ \$6.5 million for prevention of suicide initiatives
- ▷ \$5.4 million to continue the Youth Outreach and Recovery Service, Victoria's dedicated statewide outreach service for young people with complex mental health challenges
- ▷ \$4.9 million to support Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals and Hubs so they can keep delivering free care for anyone who needs it.

This Budget also invests in workforce training and development for mental health care professionals to support mental health workforce sustainability.

## SUPPORTS FOR VICTORIANS WITH DISABILITIES

This Budget delivers \$2.5 billion for Victorians with disability.

Consistent with commitments under the National Agreement on Foundational Supports, Victoria has agreed to jointly fund Foundational Supports, with \$2.4 billion over five years. This includes funding for Thriving Kids, which will give children the best start in life through quality supports early in their developmental journey. It will support children aged eight and under with developmental delay and/or autism with low to moderate support needs, their families and carers.

Other Foundational Supports are being developed in partnership with the Commonwealth and other state governments.

This Budget also invests:

- ▷ \$42 million for advocacy, support and liaison services for Victorians with disability
- ▷ \$20 million to support people in home and aged care with disability outside of the NDIS
- ▷ \$19 million to make sure our specialist disability accommodation is safe, compliant and fit for purpose
- ▷ \$17 million to make sure wheelchair users can get a taxi when they need one.

This, along with disability supports investments in the schools sector, brings this Budget's total investment to \$4.7 billion for people with disability.

## Realising the potential of our kids

### AT A GLANCE

**\$2.2 billion**

for disability support in schools

**\$1.6 billion**

to invest in school infrastructure

**\$541 million**

to support early childhood education

**\$379 million**

to invest in our teachers and students

In 2026–27 alone, we are providing \$19 billion to our education system. Through this Budget, we're providing \$5.5 billion in new investment.

From Free Kinder to Free TAFE – and everything in between – the Allan Labor Government invests in education.

This Labor Government has opened 121 new schools since 2017 with a record 19 opened in 2026, and two more opening in 2027.

Since we've been in government, we have increased the number of registered teachers by more than 40 000.

And the investment is working – Victoria has some of the best schools in Australia. Victoria has recorded its best-ever NAPLAN results and continues to lead the nation.

### Shaping the lives of young Victorians

The Victorian Government is transforming early childhood education through reforms to deliver more hours of quality education and care. Ninety per cent of a child's brain develops before they turn five, and play-based learning boosts social skills and literacy and lays the foundation for school.

Investing in early childhood education also supports parents – especially mothers – to return to work, increasing economic participation.

Victoria has one of the highest rates of kinder enrolment in Australia, and Free Kinder is saving families up to \$2 700 a year per child on fees.

Last year, we invested an additional \$846 million on Free Kinder for the next three years, bringing our total spend to over \$2.5 billion.

Now, we're continuing to roll out government-run Early Learning Victoria centres in areas where families need them most.

And we're transforming Four-Year-Old Kinder with more hours, gradually increasing from 15 hours a week up to 30 hours a week by 2036.

We're also ensuring early childhood services are safe places for children to play and learn, investing an additional \$26 million into the new Victorian Early Childhood Regulatory Authority, delivering on the Rapid Child Safety review.

## Building kindergartens and childcare centres

We're also investing in new and expanded kindergartens and government-run Early Learning Victoria centres.

New kindergartens are built on or near public schools wherever possible, helping families avoid the stress of the double drop-off between school and kinder. This Budget invests \$201 million to deliver up to 22 new kindergartens on or near public school sites.

We're investing nearly half a billion dollars to build and expand kindergartens and Early Learning Victoria centres, including:

- ▷ \$180 million in grants to deliver 27 new and expanded kindergartens and childcare centres
- ▷ \$71 million for five government-owned Early Learning Victoria centres in communities where demand for childcare outstrips the places available. This means we have funded 40 out of 50 government-run Early Learning Victoria centres, giving families the choice to return to work
- ▷ \$9.8 million for grants to improve and upgrade early childhood infrastructure, enhancing the quality and amenity of learning environments.

## Investing in schools

We're investing in new and better schools, helping students engage and participate in the classroom, and supporting the educators who make it all possible.

This Budget brings our total investment in building new schools, and maintaining and upgrading existing schools, to \$20 billion over the past 12 years.

We're investing \$420 million to build four brand new schools and campuses, and construct additional stages at Homestead Senior Secondary College in Wyndham, Wulerrp Secondary College in Casey and Yubup Primary School in Hume.

We're also starting planning and early works for three more new schools and campuses.

As well as building new schools, we're investing in education infrastructure across Victoria, including:

- ▷ \$552 million for school building maintenance and compliance, delivering high-quality spaces for learning, including to make school buildings more accessible for students and staff with disabilities
- ▷ \$295 million to upgrade 31 schools across Victoria, including upgrades to visual and performing arts spaces, sports facilities and learning spaces
- ▷ \$217 million for modular classrooms to provide flexible spaces for learning at schools where they're needed including at Broadford Secondary College
- ▷ \$104 million to acquire land for new schools and new campuses, including in Cardinia, Greater Geelong, Melbourne, Hume, Mitchell and Wyndham
- ▷ \$25 million for minor works such as upgrading bathrooms and fixing roofs
- ▷ \$22 million to begin planning for future new schools.

**SCHOOLS OUR KIDS DESERVE****Metro new school construction**

- ▷ Rockbank Toolern Road Primary School (Interim Name) in Melton
- ▷ South Melbourne Primary School in Port Phillip
- ▷ Thompsons East Primary School (Interim Name) in Casey
- ▷ Wollahra Secondary School (Interim Name) in Wyndham

**Metro additional stages of new schools**

- ▷ Homestead Senior Secondary College in Wyndham
- ▷ Wulerrp Secondary College in Casey
- ▷ Yubup Primary School in Hume

**Metro new schools planning and early works**

- ▷ Arden Secondary School (Interim Name) in Melbourne
- ▷ Pattersons Road Secondary School (Interim Name) in Casey
- ▷ Preston High School in Darebin

**Metro land acquisition for new schools**

- ▷ Cardinia
- ▷ Hume
- ▷ Melbourne
- ▷ Wyndham

**Metro school upgrades**

- ▷ Boroondara Park Primary School
- ▷ Brighton Beach Primary School in Bayside
- ▷ Cheltenham East Primary School in Kingston
- ▷ Edithvale Primary School in Kingston
- ▷ Essendon North Primary School in Moonee Valley
- ▷ Hastings Primary School in Mornington Peninsula
- ▷ Keilor Heights Primary School in Moonee Valley
- ▷ Keysborough Gardens Primary School in Greater Dandenong
- ▷ Kismet Park Primary School in Hume
- ▷ Maribyrnong College
- ▷ Melton Primary School
- ▷ Merri-bek Primary School
- ▷ Moomba Park Primary School in Merri-bek
- ▷ Mornington Park Primary School
- ▷ Mount Waverley North Primary School in Monash
- ▷ Pakenham Consolidated School in Cardinia
- ▷ Sherbrooke Community School in Yarra Ranges
- ▷ Spensley Street Primary School in Yarra
- ▷ St Kilda Primary School in Port Phillip
- ▷ Vermont Primary School in Whitehorse
- ▷ Wales Street Primary School in Darebin
- ▷ Warranwood Primary School in Maroondah

**Metro planning for school upgrades**

- ▷ Eltham East Primary School in Nillumbik
- ▷ Glenroy College in Merri-bek
- ▷ Marlborough Primary School in Maroondah

### Regional land acquisition for new schools

- ▷ Greater Geelong
- ▷ Mitchell

### Regional school upgrades

- ▷ Ararat Primary School
- ▷ Bacchus Marsh College in Moorabool
- ▷ Daylesford Primary School in Hepburn
- ▷ Eaglehawk Primary School in Greater Bendigo
- ▷ Maryborough Education Centre in Central Goldfields
- ▷ Stawell Primary School in Northern Grampians
- ▷ Surfside Primary School in Greater Geelong
- ▷ Warragul North Primary School in Baw Baw
- ▷ Yarrawonga College P-12 in Moira

### Regional planning for school upgrades

- ▷ Bendigo Senior Secondary College

## Investing in quality teaching and learning excellence

High-quality learning comes from high-quality teaching. That's why we're boosting teachers' professional development in and outside the classroom to improve student outcomes, tailoring school to community needs and continuing assistance for students requiring additional support.

This year, the Victorian Government is investing \$158 million in initiatives that support our teacher workforce to deliver the best outcomes for students including:

- ▷ \$62 million to provide interpreting and translating services and continue support to the English as an Additional Language program
- ▷ \$49 million to boost teacher leadership skills through the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership, with a range of training programs
- ▷ \$24 million to support best practice teaching and learning in schools, including \$1.8 million to support teachers with implementation of the Year 1 Phonics Check
- ▷ \$21 million to deliver critical school workforce reforms to support teachers.



### REFORMING THE VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

The Victorian Government is acting to restore confidence in the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) following a root and branch review.

This Budget invests \$222 million into the VCAA, including funding to deliver on the review's recommendations.

Every year, the VCAA develops and delivers over 100 VCE exams, for more than 70 000 students across Victoria.

The initiatives in this Budget will improve governance and invest in stronger IT systems and digital infrastructure.

These changes will help deliver a more robust and accountable VCAA in 2026 and beyond, so students and families have confidence in our assessment authority.

### SUPPORTS FOR VICTORIANS WITH DISABILITIES

The Allan Labor Government is making sure children with disabilities are supported to learn, investing \$2.2 billion to support students with disability in schools.

This includes:

- ▷ \$2.1 billion to provide individualised disability support in schools for students with complex needs
- ▷ \$39 million for the students with disabilities transport program
- ▷ \$29 million for more accessible school buildings
- ▷ \$24 million for High Intensity Outside School Hours Care.

This, along with other disability supports, brings this Budget's total investment to \$4.7 billion for people with disability.

### Investing in vocational learning

Vocational learning provides hands-on experience so that young people are ready to start their career in a trade as soon as they finish school.

It's an important way to make sure our state has skilled workers for in-demand industries, and it allows young people to build their skills and experience without leaving school.

This Labor Government has introduced generational reforms to skills training with the VCE Vocational Major (VM) – a two-year program within the VCE that equips students with the skills they need to start work.

More than 30 000 school students enrolled in the VCE VM in 2025 – an increase of more than 36 per cent since the program began in 2023.

We have also expanded access to VET, delivering industry-specific training at schools and TAFE, and invested in apprentices to help develop the next generation of tradies.

Through these reforms, we're making it easier for young people with an interest in a trade to get a good job as soon as they finish school.

This Budget invests \$137 million in vocational learning and skills, including:

- ▷ \$69 million to support delivery of VET and applied learning in secondary schools
- ▷ \$46 million to continue the Head Start program, supporting students in Years 10 to 12 to participate in a school-based apprenticeship and traineeship program
- ▷ \$13 million to continue connecting early school leavers with further education, training or employment pathways
- ▷ \$2.1 million to continue the Work-Based Learning Application, making it easier for parents and families to enrol young people in work experience programs
- ▷ \$2.1 million to continue the Vocational Taster Experiences pilot, giving young people the chance to try different careers to find the right fit.

## Keeping communities safe

### AT A GLANCE

**\$512 million**

for community safety measures to back our reformed justice system and address youth crime

**\$392 million**

to protect our children and help families stay strong

**\$222 million**

to support our police force and keep communities safe

**\$100 million**

to respond to family violence

This Labor Government invests in community safety. We continue to back our police with increased powers and resources to do their jobs.

We've responded to an increase in violent offending by introducing Australia's toughest bail laws and bringing in tougher sentences, so there are serious consequences for violent crimes.

As a result of our reforms, bail refusals and revocations are now at record highs, and remand decisions (sending someone to jail not bail) have increased by nearly 70 per cent.

Adult Time for Violent Crime laws mean children charged with serious violent offences will face adult courts, where the chance of jail is stronger, and sentences are longer.

We've banned machetes, removing thousands of dangerous weapons from the streets so far.

While serious consequences for violent crimes are critical, the best approach is to stop crime before it starts. That's why the Allan Labor Government set up the Violence Reduction Unit, to intervene early with kids at risk of committing crime.

This Budget backs in those policies, building on the \$1.6 billion invested in 2025-26.

### Backing policing

The Government is making sure our frontline police have the resources they need to keep communities safe.

This Budget invests:

- ▷ \$62 million to recruit up to 200 police reservists for police station counter duties, freeing up additional frontline police
- ▷ \$55 million to support Victoria Police operations including replacing critical policing equipment such as cellular telecommunication devices and geolocation technology
- ▷ \$51 million to deliver 50 new PSOs to support Victoria Police with intelligence-led deployment, and to continue Operation Pulse in shopping centres until the end of 2026
- ▷ \$35 million for 3 000 mobile devices for specialist police, and upgraded equipment to record evidence
- ▷ \$9.9 million for critical upgrades to maintain police custody cells and an additional custodial doctor
- ▷ \$4.4 million to continue protecting Victoria from violent extremism
- ▷ \$3.2 million to stamp out antisemitism and hate
- ▷ \$1.6 million to provide support to police experiencing trauma-related mental health injuries by improving access to member-focused services.





## Delivering serious consequences for crime

This Budget continues the progress we've made with tougher bail laws with a \$397 million investment to keep the community safe, including:

- ▷ \$229 million to increase capacity in the corrections system, including youth justice, ensuring we have the facilities to hold offenders accountable and keep the community safe
- ▷ \$125 million for 40 new forensic mental health beds at Thomas Embling Hospital
- ▷ \$43 million to deliver programs within prisons to reduce reoffending.

## Ensuring courts move quickly

We're strengthening our courts system to be more efficient, so cases can be heard and dealt with more quickly.

This Budget invests \$155 million including:

- ▷ \$117 million for a specialised, fast-tracked youth court list in the County Court, meaning alleged youth crime matters will be heard faster
- ▷ \$11 million for maintenance, repair and renewal works of courts across the state
- ▷ \$7.3 million to continue fast-tracking homicide cases straight to the Supreme Court
- ▷ \$7.2 million to continue supporting prosecutions at Wyndham Law Courts
- ▷ \$6.8 million to provide more legal assistance for vulnerable Victorians, through programs and services run by Victoria Legal Aid
- ▷ \$3.9 million to facilitate the early resolution of trial cases at the County Court.

## Early intervention

Violent youth crime is hurting families and kids. We're ensuring there are serious consequences for serious crimes. Tougher laws came into effect earlier this year under Labor's Adult Time for Violent Crime, which will reinforce boundaries for young offenders.

But we know it's better to stop crime before it starts.

Early intervention with kids at risk of offending can mean that they never turn to crime. Helping young people stay engaged and connected with their communities can stop them from offending and keeps them out of the justice system.

This Budget invests \$81 million to respond to and prevent youth crime. This includes:

- ▷ \$23 million to provide educational support and guidance for young people who are at risk of or already in contact with the justice system, and assist schools to re-engage students transitioning between custodial youth justice and education settings
- ▷ \$9.5 million for Blue Light Victoria to mentor children and young people at risk of offending, fostering stronger connections between the community and Victoria Police to prevent crime
- ▷ \$9.1 million to support students' engagement with the education systems, to help keep kids in school and on the right track, reducing potential contact with the justice system
- ▷ \$8.6 million on programs that help reduce reoffending among young people, such as lived experience mentoring
- ▷ \$8.1 million to continue funding for local prevention programs and to enable access to support services for young people
- ▷ \$5.5 million to begin implementation of key recommendations of the South Sudanese Australian Youth Justice Expert Working Group, including planning for the establishment of a South Sudanese Community Hub.

## VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT

Victoria has established a Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), modelled on successful units in Scotland and London, to stop crime before it starts.

The VRU connects at-risk kids with lived-experience mentors who can help turn their lives around. This gives more young people the chance to work with positive and relatable role models.

Early Intervention Officers have already been selected to help 23 schools across Victoria support our teachers, principals and wellbeing teams to keep kids engaged in positive activities and prevent them from heading down the wrong path.

Now we're investing \$33 million for the VRU to support initiatives including:

- ▷ \$3.7 million to adapt a successful community-based gang violence intervention program that delivered 'the safest year in Brooklyn's history' in New York City
- ▷ \$600 000 to support the Community Connections Project to connect officers with communities.

### TOBACCO LICENSING SCHEME

The Alban Labor Government is cracking down on illegal tobacco and the gang activity it fuels.

New laws mean businesses caught selling illicit tobacco will be ordered to close, and their landlords will have new powers to evict them.

Inspectors will also have the power to seize and destroy illicit tobacco.

We're funding \$13 million in this Budget to enforce these laws and almost triple the number of inspectors – helping to keep Victorians safe.

### Ensuring justice for victims of crime

Victims of crime must be supported through the justice system and feel their voices are heard.

This Budget invests:

- ▷ \$10 million provided for the Office of Public Prosecutions and Victorian Legal Aid
- ▷ \$8.7 million to continue providing financial assistance for victims of crime
- ▷ \$6.3 million to continue the Victims' Legal Service, a dedicated statewide specialist legal service for victims of crime
- ▷ \$2.5 million for the Victims of Crime Commissioner to improve victims' experiences in the justice system.



Victoria is leading the nation in safety reforms in early childhood education and care.

## Addressing family and sexual violence

Every woman and child deserves to be safe – that’s why we established the Royal Commission into Family Violence and have implemented all 227 recommendations.

This year’s Budget will continue to support victim survivors of family and sexual violence with \$100 million for prevention and response activities, with:

- ▷ \$74 million for family violence prevention and response activities including:
  - family violence core and cluster refuges, providing up to 229 families a safe place to live each year
  - 12 093 emergency crisis support packages and specialist case management for 4 766 victim survivors per year
  - specialised, trauma-informed counselling recovery programs for 915 children and young people each year.
- ▷ \$23 million to continue the Central Information Point, which provides information about perpetrators so family violence practitioners can assess risk and keep women and children safe
- ▷ \$2.2 million for Sexual Assault Services Victoria to make sure the system responds appropriately to victim survivors.

## Protecting children and families

This Budget invests in services that protect Victoria’s most vulnerable children, including:

- ▷ \$165 million for social and community services workers to help families with children who are at risk of abuse or neglect
- ▷ \$126 million to modernise digital systems that support services for at risk-children, young people and families
- ▷ \$71 million to make sure child protection services and carers are ready to support children in need.

This Budget also invests \$208 million in compensation for Victorians who experienced abuse in institutional care as children prior to 1990.

Victoria is leading the nation in safety reforms in early childhood education and care. To respond to the Rapid Child Safety Review last year, we provided \$138 million to strengthen child safety.

We introduced legislation to Parliament to deliver a comprehensive overhaul of the Child Safe systems, and we made changes to the Social Services Regulator to bring the Working with Children Check, Reportable Conduct Scheme and Child Safe Standards into one agency.

In this Budget, \$8.4 million will support the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority to continue delivering regulatory functions and ensure Child Safe Standards are met.

A further \$5.1 million will strengthen the Social Services Regulator’s collection and management of data under the Reportable Conduct Scheme, to enable better intelligence and stop child safety information falling through the cracks.

We’re also making sure the Worker Screening Unit is well-resourced by providing \$17 million so that Working with Children and NDIS checks can be processed effectively.

## Backing emergency services to keep us safe

Victoria is one of the most bushfire-prone regions in the world.

Natural disasters such as fire, floods and storms are becoming more frequent and more severe.

The Allan Labor Government is making sure our emergency services have the resources they need to keep communities safe.

The Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) reinvests every dollar into supporting our emergency and disaster recovery services, allowing us to double annual investment in emergency services since 2015-16. This means improved equipment, more resilient systems and better-supported responders on the front line.

We're also backing communities through the long journey to recovery.

This Budget invests \$422 million in response to the January 2026 bushfires and floods, helping communities and businesses recover.

## MORE INVESTMENT IN FIRE SERVICES

Victoria has the best-funded fire services in the nation, with more career firefighters than any other state.

This Budget provides more funding for both the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV).

We're investing \$26 million to build new CFA stations at Charlton and Woodvale, in Central Victoria, Mirboo North, in South Gippsland, and Kingston, in the Central Highlands.

We're also upgrading the Yarrambat station and investing to plan and design new stations at Barongarook West in the Shire of Colac Otway and Lakes Entrance in East Gippsland.

And we're acquiring land for new stations at Dereel in western Victoria, Nar Nar Goon in the Shire of Cardinia, and Beveridge, north of Melbourne.

We are also delivering:

- ▷ \$147 million for specialised aerial firefighting fleet
- ▷ \$100 million for new and improved trucks and pumpers for the CFA. This funding provides CFA with longer-term certainty to plan and manage the rolling fleet replacement program
- ▷ \$45 million to upgrade Forest Fire Management Victoria emergency vehicles
- ▷ \$22 million to back our CFA volunteers and improve safety
- ▷ \$10 million to FRV for new ultra-large and heavy pumper appliances and a fireboat to boost firefighting capability.

## WATER SAFETY

Victoria is home to some of the best coastlines and waterways on the planet. Our beaches are the home of summer for many Victorians, while also attracting visitors from all over the world. That's why the Allan Labor Government is investing in the people who keep our beaches and waterways safe.

This Budget invests \$7 million for lifeguards, rescue helicopters and drones, and to complete new surf lifesaving facilities on the Surf Coast at Bancoora and Point Lonsdale.

We're also investing \$4.3 million to improve the fleet of both Marine Search and Rescue and State Emergency Service (SES) flood rescue vessels. Another \$2.4 million will go towards the SES, increasing its capacity to respond to floods and storms.

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY

While it's essential to have well-equipped frontline emergency responders, alerting communities to emerging crises and effectively deploying emergency services is just as critical.

We are investing \$102 million in Victoria's Triple Zero to ensure a timely and reliable call-taking system that keeps Victorians safe.

We're also investing \$9.3 million as part of Victoria's contribution to operate and maintain the national Emergency Alert system. This will ensure Victorians receive timely, reliable emergency warnings to help keep communities safe.

And we're delivering \$17 million towards two new VICSES facilities for the Port Phillip and Corio units, and acquisition of land for the Whitehorse unit to support emergency response and recovery.

## Keeping our data safe

Governments around the world are increasingly targeted by cyber attacks. Strengthening data and information technology keeps sensitive information secure, and helps government run more efficiently.

This Budget invests \$154 million to strengthen cyber security and data protection, including:

- ▷ \$41 million to refresh Victoria Police's information technology infrastructure and cyber security, so that police spend less time on paperwork and more time in the community
- ▷ \$38 million to upgrade Victoria Police's information system to integrate with the National Firearms Register, providing timely access to accurate firearms information, enhancing community safety
- ▷ \$37 million to upgrade health technology infrastructure and deliver cyber security protections, including threat detection, security operations centre and disaster recovery services. This will help safeguard patient data, reduce system failures and minimise disruptions to safe clinical care
- ▷ \$30 million to aid schools in migrating sensitive data to secure technology platforms to reduce cyber security risks
- ▷ \$7.1 million for cybercrime and digital forensics storage and technologies.

# Backing businesses and workers

## AT A GLANCE

**\$459 million**

towards delivering Free TAFE and the training system

**\$217 million**

for our sporting and culture capital

**\$48 million**

to back businesses, create jobs and invest in Victorian industry

Our strong economic position reflects this Government's priority to make it faster, easier and more attractive to work and do business in Victoria.

We're cutting red tape, training workers in the right skills, connecting business owners with global opportunities and showcasing Victoria's strengths.

We're also looking to the future, by building on our strengths and looking to emerging opportunities – future proofing Victoria by investing in cutting-edge and world-leading industries.

We're continuing to invest in mRNA manufacturing facilities, generating innovation and helping keep Australians safe nationwide.

And we're seizing the new economic opportunity of hosting data centres, as we retrain and upskill workers for the AI jobs of tomorrow.

We are also investing in and developing our critical minerals industry, which is crucial for a more self-reliant Victoria and Australia.

All this is possible thanks to the strong foundations built over the past decade.

And we're making sure Victorians can get the skills they need for the job they want – and that in-demand industries have job-ready workers for the future. Giving businesses the opportunity to thrive.

That's why in this Budget we're continuing to deliver on priority actions as outlined in our *Economic Growth Statement*, including \$19 million in new initiatives aimed at cutting red tape, supporting business capability and transition and levelling the playing field, including for small businesses so they can grow and thrive. Funding includes:

- ▷ \$12 million to ensure Victorian workers and businesses are given more opportunities to benefit from government procurement
- ▷ \$3.3 million for the Skills Solutions Partnerships program to design and pilot new training approaches in priority areas, including AI, leadership and technology adoption
- ▷ \$1.6 million to back our local beverage sector and continue the Drink Victorian program
- ▷ \$1.2 million for the Small Business Activation Fund to deliver locally led initiatives to create business opportunities. This includes targeted \$5 000–\$100 000 grants to local business organisations, chambers, industry associations and councils to help small business to grow and thrive
- ▷ \$400 000 to make running small businesses easier by improving the availability of dispute resolution services for small businesses.



Vinci Si  
SURGICAL SYSTEM



ARKit

IRWIN

40V  
MAX  
LITHIUM-ION  
POWER TOOL BATTERY

## Driving investment in emerging industries

Victoria is already a world leader in health technology and medical research. Now we're harnessing artificial intelligence and its potential to drive innovation, jobs and economic growth.

Victoria is the only place in the world where both mRNA global leaders – Moderna and BioNTech – have chosen to establish research and development and manufacturing operations.

We're continuing to advance Victoria's mRNA industry by providing \$3 million so that mRNA Victoria can continue to deliver critical development initiatives.

Our *Critical Minerals Roadmap* sets out the path to take advantage of a generational opportunity for Victoria. This Budget invests \$2.1 million to continue unlocking Victoria's critical mineral resources, strengthen domestic manufacturing and support the global energy transition.

This Budget also invests \$2.4 million to strengthen Victoria's international relationships and attract trade and investment opportunities.

### AI MISSION STATEMENT

The Government's *AI mission statement* positions Victoria as a national leader in seeking safe, trusted AI development and adoption, with the workforce and infrastructure needed to support it.

We're delivering a \$14 million AI Investment Package, including \$8.2 million to fund the Digital Jobs – AI Career Conversion Support, to protect jobs in industries impacted by AI and help workers transition into AI roles.

## Delivering Free TAFE and the training system

Free TAFE changes lives – and the Allan Labor Government is guaranteeing it.

More than 60 800 people are currently enrolled in a Free TAFE course – a record number.

Since its introduction, Free TAFE has saved more than 245 000 students more than \$816 million in tuition fees – saving them more than \$3 300 each on average.

The Free TAFE Guarantee is now law, so Victorians know they can get the skills they need for the job they want.

This Budget makes a \$459 million investment in skills and training.

It includes:

- ▷ \$244 million to deliver government-subsidised training, including Free TAFE in up to 80 priority courses, supporting around 59 000 additional places of which around 15 000 are Free TAFE places
- ▷ \$87 million for the TAFE Services Fund, improving student completion rates, training access and upgrading TAFE facilities
- ▷ \$10 million to make TAFE more accessible to people with disabilities and additional needs and for equipment to deliver hydrogen and battery electric vehicle training at Wodonga TAFE
- ▷ \$6.4 million to turbocharge the VET workforce, improving the skills and capacity of the VET workforce in clean energy, manufacturing and the construction sectors, through embedding industry expertise and digitally enabled teaching
- ▷ \$5.8 million to improve safety and support for apprentices and trainees
- ▷ \$5.4 million to deliver, in partnership with the Commonwealth Government, a VET Educator Academy. Supporting Victoria's TAFE Network to build effective partnerships nationally will deliver a modern, high-quality VET workforce.

### **TAFE CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE**

We're working with the Commonwealth to jointly fund and establish three new TAFE Centres of Excellence. These hubs will make sure Victorians can seize the job opportunities of the future and develop a highly skilled workforce in strategically important industries.

#### **Delivering a Digital, AI and Technology TAFE Centre of Excellence**

\$30 million is provided to deliver a Digital, AI and Technology TAFE Centre of Excellence at Chisholm Institute's campus in Frankston to train more students in the digital and AI jobs of the future.

#### **Delivering a Home and Community Care TAFE Centre of Excellence**

\$21 million is provided to deliver a Home and Community Care TAFE Centre of Excellence at Holmesglen Institute. This will include the establishment of a smart house fitted with adaptive technology, designed to provide students with hands-on experience and make sure more Victorians can live independently at home as they age.

#### **Delivering a Victorian Renewable Energy TAFE Centre of Excellence**

\$50 million is provided to deliver a Victorian Renewable Energy TAFE Centre of Excellence at TAFE Gippsland in Morwell, with connecting hubs in Ballarat and Warrnambool. Victoria is already a leader in renewable energy, and this investment will build a highly skilled renewable-energy workforce for the future.

## The sporting and culture capital

Melbourne is the only city in the world that's home to a Grand Slam and a Grand Prix. On top of that, Victoria hosts the Boxing Day Test, the AFL Grand Final and our first ever regular-season NFL game in September.

Our major events and creative industries are a big drawcard for our visitor economy.

This Budget invests \$217 million to back in the institutions that make Victoria great, including:

- ▷ \$29 million to continue the delivery of the Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation project, including Arts Centre Melbourne and the National Gallery of Victoria
- ▷ \$27 million to attract new international productions, digital games and visual effects through the new Victorian Screen Incentive stream of the Victorian Investment Fund
- ▷ \$23 million to continue to attract business events to Melbourne and regional Victoria, including attracting events to the new Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention and Event Centre
- ▷ \$12 million for Hamer Hall upgrades to support our outstanding music events
- ▷ \$4.5 million to deliver a contemporary music strategy under *Creative State 2028* by funding existing programs to provide research, development, training and resources to businesses, support songwriting in schools and support local music scene enterprises to undertake new projects and develop audiences
- ▷ \$4.3 million to maintain state-owned cultural facilities across the state.

## INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE SPORTS STARS

The world's greatest athletes all had to start somewhere. We're helping to make playing sport more affordable for kids, with Get Active Kids vouchers worth up to \$200 that can be used on registration and membership fees, and any included uniform and equipment.

And we're supporting sporting facilities all over our state, including:

- ▷ \$92 million to the State Sport Centres Trust and the Kardinia Park Stadium Trust to continue community access to sporting facilities, including the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre
- ▷ \$25 million to help more Victorians of all interests and abilities to get involved in community sport.



Melbourne is the only city in the world that's home to a Grand Slam and a Grand Prix.

# Regional Victoria, the place to be

## AT A GLANCE

**\$481 million**

for regional  
transport services

**\$277 million**

for regional education  
and healthcare

**\$95 million**

for stronger regions

**\$84 million**

to back Victoria's farmers  
and agricultural workers

No matter where you live, every Victorian deserves access to the same quality public services.

That means good schools, healthcare close to home and a transport network that gets you home faster.

Over the past 12 years, this Labor Government has invested more than \$50 billion in regional Victoria.

With this Budget, the Allan Labor Government is making life easier, safer and more affordable for families in our regions.



Over the past 12 years, this Labor Government has invested more than \$50 billion in regional Victoria.

## Regional education

The Allan Labor Government is strengthening education in regional Victoria so every Victorian can access quality learning opportunities, no matter where they live.

Our reforms to early childhood education have rolled out in regional Victoria first, including Three-Year-Old Kinder and progressively delivering more hours of Four-Year-Old Kinder. We're also delivering government-owned Early Learning Victoria centres and Free Kinder for regional families.

The Allan Labor Government has invested in regional TAFE, making sure young people can learn the skills they need close to home, without having to move to the city.

This Budget invests a further \$112 million in regional education so that every Victorian across the state can receive a quality education.

We're providing \$95 million to upgrade nine schools across Regional Victoria, including:

- ▷ Ararat Primary School
- ▷ Bacchus Marsh College
- ▷ Daylesford Primary College
- ▷ Eaglehawk Primary School
- ▷ Maryborough Education Centre
- ▷ Stawell Primary School
- ▷ Surfside Primary School
- ▷ Warragul North Primary School
- ▷ Yarrawonga College P-12.



This Budget also provides:

- ▷ \$6.3 million to continue the VET transport fund to help rural and regional school students get to their vocational training classes
- ▷ \$5 million to deliver hydrogen and battery electric vehicle training at Wodonga TAFE
- ▷ \$2.7 million to pilot a blended learning model for VCE students in Morwell to enhance the delivery of virtual subjects
- ▷ \$1.2 million to provide targeted youth education support officers to regional areas with higher prevalence of crime
- ▷ \$1.2 million for the Shepparton Education Plan to provide student and family engagement, wellbeing services and post-secondary pathways to students at the Greater Shepparton Secondary College
- ▷ \$792 000 to continue the Skilling the Bay program, which supports people to navigate education and employment in Geelong
- ▷ \$355 000 for the Education Benalla program, led by the Tomorrow Today foundation, to engage and support children and families on their education journey.

## Regional healthcare

Regional hospitals deliver much-needed, top-quality care to communities across our state.

That's why we're investing in our regional hospitals by redeveloping the Ballarat Base Hospital, Barwon Women's and Children's Hospital at University Hospital Geelong and Warrnambool Base Hospital.

With this Budget, we're investing:

- ▷ \$75 million for the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund to renew and upgrade infrastructure across rural and regional health services
- ▷ \$10 million to meet growing demand for Hospital in the Home beds operated by Barwon Health
- ▷ \$7.1 million to operate the new PET scanner at Goulburn Valley Health
- ▷ \$4.2 million to continue group-based parenting supports for parents whose children are being treated for mental illness across eight regional Infant, Child and Youth Area Mental Health and Wellbeing Services
- ▷ \$1.1 million to prevent chronic disease through the Health Loddon Campaspe program, with a focus on healthy eating and keeping people active
- ▷ \$985 000 to continue mental health services and supports in regional and rural communities, including the Q\*Space and Be Well in the Ranges programs.

## Regional transport

A strong transport network is vital to regional Victoria, connecting communities and making sure our world-class food and fibre producers can get their goods to market.

Since last year, the number of train services in regional Victoria has increased with 32 new services on the Traralgon, Seymour and Echuca lines. And with the completion of the Gippsland Line Upgrade, passengers now have access to 55 new weekday and 32 new weekend services.

We're investing a further \$481 million in regional transport services to continue improving these connections. This includes:

- ▷ \$318 million for upgrades that will reduce delays and improve reliability on the regional rail passenger rail network
- ▷ \$127 million to improve regional freight rail infrastructure across Victoria to support the efficient movement of goods and fewer trucks on regional roads
- ▷ \$30 million for even more train services on the Shepparton line
- ▷ \$3.9 million to continue passenger services on the Portarlington Ferry
- ▷ \$2 million for V/Line to improve safety at Ballarat, Little River Station and Beaufort stations through CCTV improvements.

In addition to continuing to deliver on last year's Road Blitz with the Commonwealth, we're investing \$73 million more into regional road upgrades across Victoria. These upgrades include:

- ▷ Barwon Heads Road pedestrian crossing, Connewarre
- ▷ Calder Highway and Maiden Gully Road intersection upgrade, Maiden Gully
- ▷ Howard Street and Midland Highway intersection upgrade, Epsom
- ▷ Leongatha Alternative Truck Route planning and design, Gippsland South
- ▷ Midland Highway and Geelong Road pedestrian safety improvements, Buninyong
- ▷ Murtoa-Glenorchy Road and Horsham-Lubeck Road planning and design, Lubeck
- ▷ Princes Highway East, Davey Drive and Waterloo Road traffic signals, Trafalgar
- ▷ Strzelecki Highway – Mirboo North to Leongatha planning and design, Gippsland South
- ▷ Tooleybuc Bridge planning and design, Tooleybuc
- ▷ Western Highway and Jackmans Road intersection upgrade, Dadswells Bridge
- ▷ Wiltshire Lane pedestrian crossing, Delacombe.

# Investing in every corner of our state



## Across our state

- ▷ \$1.6 billion to support hospitals, and also deliver more doctors, nurses and services
- ▷ \$860 million additional capacity for the Social Housing Growth Fund, to support more than 7 000 new homes
- ▷ \$759 million to provide 20 per cent rebates on Victorian light vehicle registrations for up to two cars per person
- ▷ \$674 million for 25 additional six-car X'Trapolis 2.0 trains on the metropolitan train network
- ▷ \$560 million in additional funding for road maintenance, bringing this year's total to a record \$1 billion
- ▷ \$552 million for school building maintenance, delivering high-quality spaces for learning across the state
- ▷ \$433 million for half-price public transport from June to 1 January 2027 and free public transport in April and May
- ▷ \$284 million to open and operate local hospitals
- ▷ \$244 million for training, including funding for Free TAFE in priority courses and government-subsidised training
- ▷ \$229 million to hold offenders accountable and keep the community safe, and increase custodial capacity in the adult and youth correction system
- ▷ \$165 million for social and community services workers to help families where children are at risk of abuse or neglect
- ▷ \$120 million for cost of living support for families with children
- ▷ \$118 million to fast-track kids care so they get surgery, vaccines and specialist treatment faster
- ▷ \$105 million to deliver more buses and ferry services
- ▷ \$103 million to upgrade roads and intersections across metro Melbourne and regional Victoria
- ▷ \$102 million in Victoria's Triple Zero to ensure a timely and reliable call-taking system that keeps Victorians safe
- ▷ \$100 million for new and improved firefighting fleet for the CFA
- ▷ \$84 million to support our farmers and agricultural communities
- ▷ \$69 million to support delivery of VET and applied learning in secondary schools
- ▷ \$51 million for police and protective services officers at shopping centres

Equipment to deliver hydrogen and battery electric vehicle training at Wodonga TAFE

Funding for nine weekday return services for the Shepparton Line

Planning and design of a new Country Fire Authority station, Lakes Entrance

Delivering a Victorian Renewable Energy TAFE Centre of Excellence, Gippsland TAFE Morwell

 Community, culture and sport	 Health and mental health
 Education	 Industry and economy
 Emergency services	 Law and justice
 Environment and water	 Transport

## Backing regional development

About 23 per cent of our population lives in regional Victoria.

And its economic contribution is immense.

Regional jobs and businesses are critical to helping our economic prosperity.

Employment has grown by 23.1 per cent in regional communities since we came to government.

The Allan Labor Government is making it easier to do business in regional Victoria.

Regional Victoria has the lowest payroll tax rate in the nation, helping to support further economic growth in regional centres.

This Budget supports a strong, regional economy by investing in businesses, infrastructure and local jobs, including:

- ▷ \$23 million for the Future Regions initiative to boost productivity, liveability and investment in regional Victoria
- ▷ \$909 000 for the Office of the Cross Border Commissioner to streamline regulatory and licencing requirements, promote economic growth and reduce barriers to accessing services in Victoria's border communities
- ▷ \$800 000 to support tourism in the High Country
- ▷ \$450 000 to support the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council's Community Education Programs to develop skills and reconnect those who are unemployed or experiencing long-term unemployment with education and training
- ▷ \$279 000 to continue the Rural Women's Network's Leadership and Mentoring Program.

## Investing in stronger regions

Every year, more than 27 million tourists are drawn to visit regional Victoria for a holiday, directly generating about \$18 billion in economic activity for our state.

From the natural beauty of the great outdoors to our incredible regional galleries, we're investing in the things that make regional Victoria great.

And we're supporting more Victorians to make regional Victoria home. In 2023, this government committed \$1 billion to deliver more than 1 300 social and affordable homes in regional Victoria by 30 June 2028. And that's on top of the \$1.25 billion committed for the regions from the Big Housing Build.

This Budget includes:

- ▷ \$13 million to operationalise the Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention and Event Centre and for the Victorian Convention and Exhibition Trust to attract local, national and international events and conferences to the new facility. This project has delivered more than 1 400 jobs through construction and more than 240 ongoing roles. More than 50 events are already locked in ahead of its opening in July
- ▷ \$4.3 million to maintain and activate state-owned cultural facilities across Victoria
- ▷ \$4 million for the Rochester Aquatic Facility
- ▷ \$2 million to continue the QHub program to support young people and their families in western Victoria's LGBTIQ+ communities, with place-based mental health and wellbeing support services and QHubs in Geelong and Ballarat
- ▷ \$1.5 million for the Regional Business Events Program to incentivise event organisers to host their events in regional Victoria



- ▷ \$1.2 million to support regional audiences to access and experience more regional creative venues
- ▷ \$600 000 to fund further upgrades at the Regional Community Vet Clinic in Castlemaine
- ▷ \$480 000 to support five Basketball High Performance Hubs in Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Shepparton and Traralgon
- ▷ \$150 000 to strengthen the Country Women's Association of Victoria's capacity to deliver critical support services to regional communities.

We're also encouraging Victorians and visitors to enjoy the great outdoors.

From hiking and camping to fishing and boating, some of the most affordable and enjoyable experiences can be found regionally.

This Budget invests:

- ▷ \$43 million to renew infrastructure in the River Murray catchment area
- ▷ \$7.9 million to restore the historic Cape Otway Lightstation, renew parts of the Twelve Apostles Precinct, and provide other upgrades within the Great Ocean Road coast and parks
- ▷ \$5 million to continue to stock fish in Victoria's waterways each year and to operate the expanded Arcadia and Snobs Creek hatcheries
- ▷ \$1.5 million to complete new facilities at Bancoora and Point Lonsdale Surf Life Saving Clubs, making sure Victorians can enjoy our beautiful beaches safely.

We're also investing \$10 million to continue the Future Forests program, to assist in the management of over 1.8 million hectares of state forest. This includes critical forest management and bushfire-preparedness activities.



## Support for our farmers

Victoria is Australia's largest food and fibre exporter. Our farmers are central to the strength of our regional communities and food security.

This Budget invests \$84 million in support for Victoria's farmers and agricultural industries. That includes \$62 million provided in response to the January 2026 bushfires for our primary producers and agricultural sectors, including through primary producer grants, concessional loans and emergency fodder support.

We're also providing \$5.9 million for programs that support the health, safety and wellbeing of our farmers and agricultural communities. This includes funding for the National Centre for Farmer Health and to the Rural Financial Counselling Service, which provides free financial counselling to Victorian farmers, fishers, foresters and related small businesses.

We're also investing \$5 million to support farmers to improve energy efficiency on their farms and \$2.2 million to extend the Fox Bounty program to manage the impact of livestock predation.

We're also investing \$7.6 million in biosecurity, protecting the future of our agriculture industries.

We know drought and tough weather conditions put real pressure on our farmers and communities. The Allan Labor Government has backed Victorian farmers with more than \$146.5 million as part of our Drought Support Package. This investment is supporting our farmers and communities to stay resilient and overcome drought conditions.



Victorian Budget

**2026/27**

Overview

[budget.vic.gov.au](https://budget.vic.gov.au)