



Victorian Budget 2020/21

Putting People First

Suburban

Budget Information Paper



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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 – Statement of Finances
(incorporating Quarterly Financial Report No. 1)

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Putting people first

This year is a year like no other. It has challenged us in ways we never could have imagined.

It's also reminded us of the importance of community – our connection to the place we call home and to each other.

As we rebuild from this global pandemic, we need to make sure our recovery reaches every suburb and every corner of our city.

With this Budget, the Andrews Labor Government will do exactly that.

We'll deliver more local schools for local families.

We'll invest in the care that every Victorian deserves.

We'll build new road and rail – reducing delays and creating thousands of new jobs.

We'll back the projects and priorities that make our communities strong – local parks, playgrounds and sporting ovals.

And we'll get more Victorians back into work, ensuring they have the stability and security of a job.

This Budget is underpinned by five key principles:

- Looking after families
- Taking care of those we love
- Building strong connected communities
- Creating secure, decent jobs
- Ensuring a strong recovery

Our ultimate success won't just be measured by the wealth of our economy – but also by the wellbeing of our people.

This is the Budget to repair, recover, and make us stronger than before.

This is a Budget that puts people first.



The *Victorian Budget 2020/21* puts people first. This includes:

- \$6 billion for Victoria's Big Housing Build including \$5.3 billion to build more than 12 000 new social and affordable homes, and make housing more accessible and affordable for Victorians
- \$2.8 billion to strengthen our hospitals as well as delivering more elective surgeries
- \$2.2 billion to make the Suburban Rail Loop a reality by kicking off work on Stage 1 of the project
- \$2 billion to create the Breakthrough Victoria Fund to build on our strengths in innovation, research and technology across key industries
- \$1.9 billion for upgrades at a record number of schools, including building and upgrading 118 suburban schools
- \$1.6 billion to support students with disability, to ensure every student is supported to be their best
- \$1.4 billion for the transformation of Melbourne's Arts Precinct, creating thousands of local jobs
- \$1.1 billion to build, upgrade and plan our metro hospitals, delivering care close to home for local families
- Support for businesses through a package of targeted initiatives including \$1.1 billion of cash grants to support businesses and specific support for the hospitality industry
- \$1 billion for TAFE and training, including provision of up to 80 000 extra Free TAFE and subsidised training places
- \$869 million investment to rebuild our mental health system and make sure more Victorians have the support they need
- \$619 million for Jobs for Victoria, helping to get more Victorians back to work
- \$191 million for Solar Homes, delivering an extra 42 000 rebates, more batteries, and for the first time, rebates for small businesses
- \$132 million to help Victorians cover the cost of their power bills, with a one-off \$250 payment















Suburban Investment



STATEWIDE

- \$6 billion for Victoria's Big Housing Build, including to build more than 12 000 new social and affordable homes, and make housing more accessible and affordable for Victorians, supporting thousands of jobs
- \$2.8 billion to maintain capacity in our health system as hospitals move to COVID Normal, allowing for more elective surgeries
- \$2 billion for the Breakthrough Victoria Fund to build on our strengths in research and development across key industries
- \$1.9 billion to upgrade 162 schools, build one new school and four additional stages at recently built schools
- \$1.7 billion cash flow boost for businesses through the deferral of 2020-21 payroll tax liabilities for payrolls up to \$10 million
- \$1.6 billion invested in cheaper, cleaner energy to power the economic recovery
- \$1.6 billion to transform how we support students with disability
- \$1.3 billion for child protection initiatives providing support for care leavers, early intervention for families and support for vulnerable children
- \$1.1 billion in grants to support small and medium-sized businesses
- \$1 billion invested in the training system, providing greater access to training through a number of initiatives
- \$869 million invested in mental health initiatives, including more acute mental health beds
- \$836 million in New jobs tax credits to re-hire staff, restore hours and create new jobs
- \$774 million invested in early childhood education, including free kindergarten programs in 2021 and the continued roll-out of funded 3-year-old kinder
- \$626 million for Digital Future Now package to support our transition to a digital economy
- \$619 million Jobs for Victoria initiative to help provide targeted and tailored support for Victorians most affected during this pandemic
- \$450 million for a statewide road maintenance blitz to improve safety for all road users and help maximise the productivity of the Victorian road network.
- \$388 million invested in the Keeping Victorians Moving initiative to reduce congestion and wait times for registration and licensing services across the State
- \$250 million to employ tutors in every government school and for every non-government school that needs them
- \$235 million to build our Recovery Workforce to create jobs across mental health, family violence, health and child protection
- \$200 million top up for the Metropolitan Health Infrastructure Fund
- \$191 million to provide solar panel system and battery storage rebates to more homes and small businesses

-  Arts
-  Digital Future
-  Education Initiatives
-  Emergency Services
-  Environment and Parkland
-  Health
-  Housing
-  Justice
-  Public Transport
-  Roads
-  Sport and Recreation
-  Strong Communities

Creating secure, decent jobs

As we rebuild from this pandemic, we need to make sure we're supporting every suburb.

That means supporting Victorians in our city and our suburbs to train, retrain and find new opportunities.

Helping those hardest hit by this pandemic find work – ensuring not only a job, but certainty and self-belief.

And creating strong, secure and decent jobs for the future – and for our future generations.

This Budget provides a comprehensive plan to make sure no community and no Victorian is left behind.

Jobs for Victoria

The Andrews Labor Government's new \$619 million Jobs for Victoria initiative will assist hundreds of thousands of Victorians looking for work.

These positions will be for Victorians hardest hit during the pandemic, including young people, retrenched workers and people who have been long-term unemployed.

At least \$150 million of subsidy support will go towards getting women back in work – including \$50 million for women over 45, recognising the additional barriers they face to employment, both before and after the pandemic.

These subsidised positions will be focused on creating new ongoing jobs, making sure we're providing long-term security for these workers and their families.

This investment will also deliver targeted and tailored support for unemployed Victorians – whether that's advice about training pathways, career counselling or more intensive support.

This investment also includes at least 10 000 new work placements for 6 months, giving Victorians the experience they need to get their foot in the door.

A further \$34 million will help deliver the Economic Recovery Support for Victoria's Multicultural Communities and Young People package, making sure Victorians of all backgrounds have the support they need to recover.

Supporting business and backing jobs

Supporting businesses and their workers, the Government has allocated \$2.6 billion in industry support through the Business Support Fund.

This includes grants to the industries hardest hit, cutting taxes and fees and additional support to help businesses through the pandemic. This support will continue to benefit businesses, including:

- ➔ More than \$2 billion in tax deferrals, including allowing businesses with payrolls of up to \$10 million to defer their 2020-21 payroll tax liabilities for up to 12 months. This represents a \$1.7 billion cash flow boost to businesses in 2020-21
- ➔ More than \$1.8 billion in relief from taxes and fees, including a full refund and waiver of 2019-20 payroll tax for small and medium businesses, providing cash back in their bank accounts when they needed it most
- ➔ Grants delivered in 2020-21 under the Business Support Fund to support the hardest-hit sectors including hospitality, tourism, accommodation, creative industries, and retail
- ➔ Land tax relief for eligible small and medium businesses that own their commercial premises. Owner-occupiers of commercial properties can obtain a 25 per cent waiver of the property's 2020 land tax, while payment of the remaining tax can be deferred to 31 March 2021
- ➔ A number of taxes and charges that have been either frozen or waived. Liquor licence fees have been waived for 2020 and 2021, while the 2020-21 Fire Services Property Levy was frozen at the 2019-20 revenue target. Increases to the landfill levy have also been deferred

As we begin our recovery, we'll continue our assistance for businesses and industry, supporting them to create jobs now and for the future.

Delivered as part of the *Jobs Plan*, the New jobs tax credit will encourage small and medium businesses to increase employment by rehiring staff, restoring staff hours and hiring new staff.

This incentive means the more these businesses re-hire staff and employ new workers, the less payroll tax they'll need to pay.

This tax relief measure will be available for two years, saving businesses a combined \$836 million and helping to support an estimated 9 400 Victorians back into work.

Additional support includes:

- ➔ \$44 million to equip businesses for COVID Normal, including \$20 million for small businesses to access off-the-shelf digital programs, training and workshops designed to help businesses adapt to online operation
- ➔ \$38 million to expand the Solar Homes panel rebate and loans scheme to eligible small businesses to help them manage their energy costs
- ➔ Grants of up to \$50 000 for local business groups and chambers of commerce, to assist members to adapt and recover

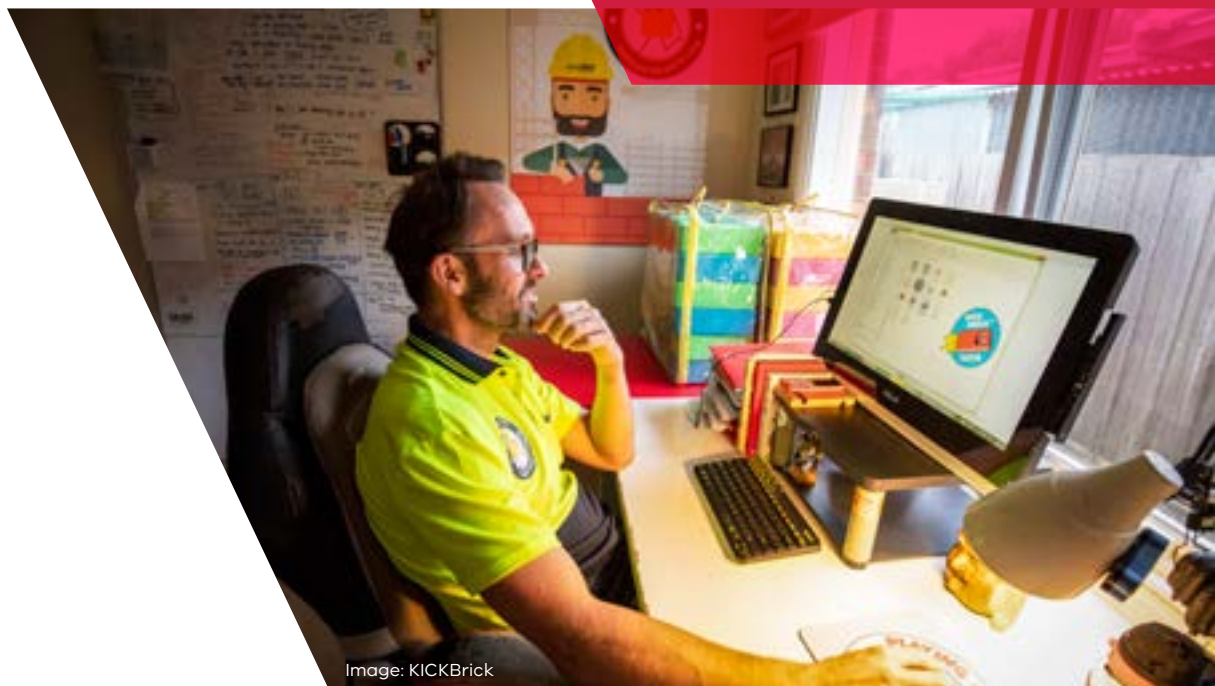


Image: KICKBrick

Supporting our hospitality industry

Every Melburnian has a favourite local.

That's why we are providing \$369 million to support the Victorian hospitality industry to recover. This funding includes:

- Establishment of a \$251 million Licensed Hospitality Venue Fund to support liquor licensees to continue operations, meet business expenses and perform business continuity planning, by providing grants of up to \$30 000
- Grants of \$5 000 for hospitality businesses to support adaptation to outdoor dining and reopening including the purchase of umbrellas, outdoor furniture, screens and other equipment, as well as grants to local councils across Victoria to deliver reduced or waived permit fees for outdoor dining applications
- Targeted support for larger restaurants and hotels to support modified operations during reopening, including funding to re-engage stood down hospitality staff

An additional \$100 million will deliver the Melbourne City Recovery Fund, a partnership between the Andrews Labor Government and the City of Melbourne. The Fund is designed to support Melbourne's CBD and its businesses, bringing the buzz back into our city over the summer.

Supporting jobs through tax relief

To restart our economy and create jobs, we're supporting businesses in our suburbs and local communities by:

- Providing \$836 million for the New jobs tax credit to encourage small and medium businesses to re-hire staff, restore staff hours and create new jobs as we recover. This means the more these businesses re-hire and expand employment, the less payroll tax they'll pay
- Increasing the threshold for paying payroll tax on an annual basis from \$40 000 to \$100 000, reducing administration costs and providing \$309 million of cash flow support to 7 000 businesses



The Story...

Nagaland is a region in far North Eastern India where the tradition of Feast of Mithi is born. In Naga Culture, when someone within the community acquires a position of wealth, they can choose to hold a feast of Mithi. The whole community, including in particular the poor and disadvantaged, is invited to join together to share the fruits of the person's wealth. The feast lasts until all of their assets - everything of value - are shared amongst all of the community. This can last weeks. At the end of the festivities, the person is gifted with a golden clock, the highest sign of recognition and respect. The person returns to their life with no wealth, but with the respect of the whole community. Like this, the community is thriving. Like the Nagas, we...

Breakthrough Victoria Fund

Our recovery will require big ideas and even bigger innovation.

It's why this Budget includes a \$2 billion Breakthrough Victoria Fund to position Victoria as an international leader in research and technology.

Not only will this help safeguard existing Victorian jobs – it'll help create new jobs driving investment in research, innovation and the next great breakthroughs over the next 10 years.

This investment will focus on priority industries, including medical research, health and life-sciences, agri-food, advanced manufacturing, clean energy and digital technologies.

The Fund will also help support research and development, adoption and commercialisation, supporting 15 700 jobs over the next 10 years.

A further \$210 million will be provided for medical research, helping to secure the next big breakthrough for Victorian patients.

Supporting Victorian Startups

Delivered as part of the *Jobs Plan*, the Government will support promising new startups, taking their product from the suburbs to the world.

This \$61 million Victorian Startup Capital Fund is designed to unlock private capital to support our State's high-growth startups, develop new technology and innovation – and importantly, create new opportunities for Victorians.

The Venture Growth Fund will co-invest in a venture debt facility with a private investor to inject more capital into the startup sector and support companies to grow that do not meet the requirements of traditional lenders.

Also, eligible small and medium-sized enterprises claiming the Commonwealth's Research and Development Tax Incentive will have access to a \$50 million fund that will provide low interest loans for up to 80 per cent of their forecast refundable tax offset.

The Budget also invests \$40 million into the LaunchVic Accelerate initiative.

This will help to re-establish growth in Victoria's startup ecosystem and promote entrepreneurship, further supporting innovation, ideas and new jobs.



Digital Future Now

The pandemic has required a rapid shift to online activity. This Budget will help us embrace new technology – and make it one of Victoria's strengths.

The Andrews Labor Government will deliver \$626 million in a landmark Digital Future Now package.

This includes \$250 million for the Gigabit State initiative which will fund business-grade broadband in suburbs and regional towns.

Gigabit State will address gaps in the availability of reliable high-speed fibre optic and wireless broadband services for businesses – helping them find new customers and new markets.

Up to \$12 million will establish a new Cremorne flagship digital hub to support emerging digital capabilities required by industry.

- Funding to attract and support people to reskill as teachers at Victorian TAFEs, including teacher scholarships and mentoring

We're also helping more Victorian workers earn while they learn, with \$58 million in additional support for our apprentices and trainees including:

- \$33 million to expand opportunities for apprentices and trainees through a flagship Big Build training pathway. This transformative new approach will see up to 1 500 apprentices and trainees employed across our Big Build each year
- \$19 million to introduce innovative new models for apprenticeships and traineeships, including enhanced support for apprentices including those most at-risk of dropping out, and new measures to encourage women to pursue non-traditional roles, including in the building and construction industry

Skills for our suburbs

We are investing \$1 billion in TAFE and training – driving economic recovery and ensuring Victorians have the skills they need to get back into the workforce.

This Budget will help support more Victorians to train, retrain and find new opportunities, including:

- Up to 80 000 new Free TAFE and subsidised training places. Almost 60 000 of these places will be in Free TAFE courses including health, and community and disability services. \$155 million will be dedicated to creating new opportunities for young people, women and those most affected by economic disruption to reskill and upskill
- \$57 million for the delivery of accredited skills sets and a workforce skill set pilot, helping unemployed Victorians reskill and find a job fast

Funding is also provided to expand the pilot of higher apprenticeships and traineeships in the social services sector. This will create opportunities for 400 existing workers to continue their employment, while also validating their on-the-job work experience by gaining a qualification.

We are also committing \$100 million to the Building Better TAFEs Fund for projects that will help set our students up for success, with:

- Chisholm Institute's Frankston Campus Redevelopment Stage 2, building a new modern, cutting edge, multi-level learning facility for students
- Melbourne Polytechnic's Collingwood Campus Redevelopment, delivering a rebuild of the campus to establish an education, industry and community precinct

This builds on \$55 million provided through the Building Works package in May 2020 to deliver a TAFE maintenance fund.

Transforming Melbourne's Arts Precinct

Giving families across our city a place to enjoy – and creating thousands of new jobs – this Budget delivers a \$1.4 billion investment to transform Melbourne's Arts Precinct.

As an investment, it will help drive our State's recovery, bringing visitors from interstate and overseas, creating thousands of Victorian jobs and benefiting Melburnians.

This investment includes:

- Developing a new stand-alone National Gallery of Victoria Contemporary with a focus on contemporary art and design
- Creating an 18 000 square metre immersive public garden – a space for families to enjoy, with outdoor performances, public art, cafes and restaurants
- Supporting critical upgrades for the Arts Centre Melbourne to improve visitor and audience experience
- Building shared infrastructure that will serve all the facilities in the precinct more efficiently

The project will support an estimated 5 000 jobs in construction and more than 200 new ongoing jobs in Victoria's creative sector when complete.

Backing our creatives

But it's not just about the facilities.

It's also about the thousands of Victorians working in the creative industry – the ones who have built Victoria's vibrant arts and music scene, and have been hard hit by this pandemic.

That's why we're providing \$220 million to support our creative industry including:

- \$21 million to support the screen and digital gaming industry to develop film, television and digital games content; attracting footloose film, television and visual effects projects to Victoria, as well as providing skills, talent and workforce development support for creative and crew roles
- \$17 million for a package of initiatives that will reactivate and kick-start Victoria's creative sector. This includes summer activation and safety improvements to enable several State-owned venues to transition to COVID Normal operations as well as support for creatives to deliver summer and autumn programs of live performances and music events
- \$9 million to deliver actions from the Creative State strategy and other key programs such as Contemporary Music and Regional Touring, the Sustaining Creative Workers initiative and the First Peoples' Action Plan for the Creative Industries

Whether it's a local band at the pub, the actors and comedians on stage or the people who work behind the scenes to bring these events to life, this investment will help support their recovery.

And make sure our suburbs and local communities can continue to enjoy and experience everything our creative State has to offer.



A place to call home: Victoria's Big Housing Build

Victoria's Big Housing Build will give thousands of Victorians the security and stability of a home – and support tens of thousands of Victorians into jobs.

We will invest \$6 billion to build more than 12 000 new social and affordable homes, and make housing more accessible and affordable for Victorians.

Record investment in social and affordable housing

This year has shown us just how much 'home' matters.

It's also thrown into sharp relief how far too many Victorians are still missing out on the safety and security that a home affords.

They're pensioners. Victorians with a disability. Those struggling with mental health. Family violence victims. And single parent families.

Fundamentally, they're Victorians – and they all deserve a place to call home.

It's why this Budget delivers our State's biggest ever investment in public, community and affordable housing.

Victoria's Big Housing Build will transform the social and affordable housing system with \$5.3 billion in funding to construct more than 12 000 new dwellings, including:

- 9 300 new social housing dwellings replacing 1100 old housing units
- 2 900 new mainly affordable and low-cost homes in locations that are close to jobs and transport

The package also includes funding to accelerate the public housing capital upgrade program, including enhanced gas heater servicing. These works will improve the comfort of home for public housing tenants and support jobs.

Victoria's Big Housing Build will be delivered through partnerships with the community housing sector, private sector construction, industry and other investors.

It is estimated that 10 000 jobs will be supported on average per year, over the next four years, as well as increasing economic activity across the State. A quarter of the total investment will be in regional areas.

This package builds on the \$498 million provided through the Building Works package for maintenance and upgrades across public and community housing.

Victoria's Big Housing Build will give thousands of Victorians the security and stability of a home

Making housing more affordable

Victoria's Big Housing Build also includes \$678 million to make housing more affordable and accessible for Victorians.

The Victorian Homebuyer Fund provides \$500 million to accelerate Victorians into home ownership. The fund will contribute to the purchase price in exchange for a proportionate equity interest in the property. This reduces the size of the deposit required and will help Victorians afford their homes sooner. The fund will support the purchase of both established and newly-built homes.

To increase the supply of housing and create more options for renters by establishing the build-to-rent sector in Victoria, from 1 January 2022 Victoria's Big Housing Build will provide a 50 per cent land tax discount for eligible new developments until 2040. These developments will also be exempt from the Absentee Owner Surcharge over the same period. Investment in the build-to-rent sector will stimulate construction activity, create jobs and support Victoria's economic recovery.

Tax relief on stamp duty for residential property transactions of up to \$1 million will also be provided. A waiver will apply of 50 per cent for new residential properties, and 25 per cent for existing residential properties of up to \$1 million for contracts entered into between the day after announcement and 30 June 2021.

To unlock construction activity, Victoria's Big Housing Build includes \$52 million to implement recommendations from the Commissioner for Better Regulation's planning reforms and to grow housing supply across the State through the Victorian Planning Authority programs Affordable by Supply and Streamlining for Growth.

In addition, \$59 million is provided for targeted planning system reforms. The reforms will have a critical role in unlocking private sector investment and supporting Government initiatives, including the delivery of infrastructure, jobs and housing.



Taking care of our loved ones

This year, we've been reminded of what matters most in life – the health and wellbeing of the people we love. As we begin our State's recovery, this will continue to be our focus.

That means building a mental health system that Victorians can actually rely on.

It means making sure our healthcare system is there for those who need it.

It means finding new ways to deliver care – particularly for our most vulnerable.

And it means looking after the Victorians who look after us.

It's a \$9 billion investment in this Budget giving every Victorian confidence that their loved ones will be taken care of.

Care from the comfort of your own home

As challenging as it's been, this year has given us new insight into how we can deliver care remotely – or in the comfort of a patient's home.

This Budget invests \$121 million for Better at Home, increasing the delivery of hospital services in patients' homes – ensuring Victorians can receive the care they need in the comfort of their own home.

This includes \$13 million to boost virtual care technology, making it easier for Victorians, including busy families, to access support.

This funding includes investing in new software to facilitate telehealth appointments, a trial of telehealth with Ambulance Victoria and the purchase of devices to make home-based care safer for patients and clinicians.

Building our suburban hospitals

Throughout the pandemic, our suburban hospitals and local healthcare services have kept our communities safe.

We want to help keep them strong, investing a further \$2.8 billion to support our State's health services. This includes supporting the delivery of elective surgery delayed during the pandemic.

In this Budget, the Government is providing:

- \$75 million to purchase land and undertake detailed planning and early works for a new Melton hospital
- \$66 million to continue planning the entire program of 10 community hospitals and to acquire land in Cranbourne, Pakenham, City of Whittlesea, Eltham, Point Cook and the inner south
- \$10 million for planning to upgrade the existing site and create an additional site for the Royal Melbourne Hospital and potentially the Royal Women's Hospital in the Arden Renewal Precinct in North Melbourne
- \$4.8 million to begin planning the future expansion of the Werribee Mercy Hospital, helping to meet the needs of this local community
- \$4.5 million to accelerate planning and design for the expansion of Angliss Hospital at Ferntree Gully
- Funding to deliver 24-hour operations at the Diamond Creek ambulance branch, giving local families confidence that care is always close by



Metropolitan Health Infrastructure Fund

Now more than ever, we need a strong hospital and healthcare system.

That is why the Andrews Labor Government is establishing a new \$200 million Metropolitan Health Infrastructure Fund.

The first of its kind, the fund will work with our city's hospitals and health services to upgrade infrastructure to support the delivery of new or enhanced services to patients.

From big projects to small, this investment will help give more families confidence that care is just around the corner.

Protecting our parents and grandparents

This pandemic has thrown the safety and wellbeing of our loved ones in some private aged care facilities into sharp relief.

That's why this Budget will see Victoria step in to help cover the cost of introducing minimum staff-to-resident ratios in private aged care, with a \$40 million investment to train more nurses and personal care workers.

As the primary regulator and funder of aged care, this investment also relies on the Commonwealth coming to the table.

With this additional investment, we want to make sure that same level of care and comfort extends to every Victorian living in aged care, regardless of who owns the facility that supports them.

We're also delivering upgrades in our State's public aged care with:

- Up to \$135 million for a new two-storey 150-bed aged care facility at the Monash Health Kingston Campus, Cheltenham
- \$28 million in immediate further funding for existing public aged care services, helping make sure residents are supported
- \$0.9 million to plan and design a new 90-bed public aged care facility in Coburg to meet increasing demand in the area

These investments build on the \$20 million provided through the Building Works package, which delivered new kitchens, dining rooms and gardens for residents in our public aged care.

This Budget also provides \$6.7 million to support our system's response to elder abuse, making sure we detect and respond to elder abuse even sooner.



Supporting mental health

This pandemic has had a profound impact on the mental health of Victorians – and revealed the very deep cracks in our mental health system.

This Budget invests \$869 million to ensure Victorians have the mental health support they need as we get on with fixing a broken system.

This includes \$605 million to start implementing the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System's interim report findings and recommendations, with an investment of \$492 million to deliver 120 mental health beds in Geelong, Epping, Sunshine and Melbourne.

An additional \$19 million will deliver 35 acute treatment beds for public mental health patients in private health services.

Additional funding to help more Victorians get the support they need includes:

- \$21 million to deliver the statewide expansion of the Hospital Outreach Post-Suicidal Engagement (HOPE) service, with individual, intensive and one-on-one support for Victorians as they rebuild their lives
- \$16 million to support Victorians with lived experience of mental illness use their personal expertise to improve our mental health system

- \$8.7 million to establish Victoria's first residential mental health service designed by people with lived experience and their families and carers
- \$7.7 million to address workforce shortages in the mental health sector and support future expansion of the workforce
- \$4.4 million to continue support for Aboriginal wellbeing programs and commence design to establish a new Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing Centre
- \$2.2 million to establish the Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health, which will bring together people with lived experience, researchers, and medical staff to improve our State's mental health support

This Budget also includes \$26 million to meet critical demand, funding extra inpatient beds and increased access to community mental health services and other services.

As the demand for mental health services grows, so too does the need for highly qualified professionals. To support Victorians who want to join the workforce, the Budget provides \$13 million to promote pathways into employment, including scholarships and mentoring.



Looking after families

This pandemic has been the hardest thing many of us will ever go through.

We've worried about our kids and their future. We've worried about our parents and their health.

Some have had to worry about keeping a roof over their head – or keeping the lights on.

We want to make sure that as we recover, we're giving Victorians less to worry about.

Helping our kids to catch up. Covering the cost of kinder.

Making sure more Victorians don't have to worry about paying their power bill. Making sure fewer Victorians have to worry about taking sick leave.

This Budget is about looking after Victorians – and looking after their families.



Driving down power bills

Spending more time at home has meant bigger power bills for many families across our city and our suburbs.

That's why this Budget will help hundreds of thousands of families cover that cost – and help drive down their energy use.

Our energy efficiency package of \$448 million will help more Victorians improve the energy efficiency of their home, while reducing the costs of their power bills. This includes:

- ➔ \$335 million to replace older wood, electric or gas-fired heaters with new more efficient heating and cooling for 250 000 low-income households
- ➔ \$112 million to deliver upgraded energy systems for 35 000 social housing homes – reducing bills for tenants and making winter and summer more comfortable

This Budget will also provide a one-off \$250 payment to help cover the cost of electricity bills for Victorian households that have an eligible concession card holder such as at least one JobSeeker, youth allowance recipient or pensioner.

To make sure more families in our suburbs can benefit, the Andrews Labor Government's Solar Homes program will also be expanded to provide an additional 42 000 solar rebates, cutting the cost of solar installations for families and reducing their power bills.

Additionally, the Solar Homes battery program will be expanded, removing the 'postcode eligibility' requirement. Instead, under the change, Victorians in every part of our city and State will also be able to apply for a battery, with 17 500 rebates available over the next three years.

This Budget also begins the rollout of a fast-charging network for electric vehicles across major highways and key tourist destinations in Victoria.

Extra support for families in our suburbs

Even with kids back at school, the daily balancing act that many families know all too well isn't any easier.

We want to give families one less thing to worry about – and help support more parents, particularly women, back into work.

This Budget will deliver free kinder for 2021 and support for more outside school hours care – saving parents thousands of dollars and giving them greater flexibility when it comes to work, study, training or re-entering the workforce. This investment includes:

- ➔ \$170 million to make kinder free next year, saving families around \$2 000 for every child enrolled in a participating funded kindergarten program
- ➔ \$82 million to increase the availability of before and after school care. Grants of up to \$75 000 will be made available to start new outside school hours care programs at up to 400 government schools
- ➔ \$68 million to provide grants to local government and other eligible providers to build, expand and upgrade kinder and early childhood facilities
- ➔ \$8.7 million for three-year-old children from refugee and asylum seeker families to access free or low-cost kindergarten, and for early intervention support to help parents and kids struggling as a result of the pandemic



Building our schools

This Budget provides a significant package of support for our suburban students, delivering the biggest ever investment to transform Victorian schools.

To help meet the needs of growing communities, \$171 million will build one new school, two extra stages at new schools and upgrade seven schools for growth, with an additional \$147 million to secure land for future schools.

Upgrading and building new schools is a win-win for our suburbs, delivering great classrooms for kids and new jobs in local economies.

This investment builds on the \$1.2 billion Building Works schools package announced in May 2020, combining to make a record \$3.1 billion investment in school capital announced this year.

Our suburban schools and students will also benefit from more than 4 100 tutors being deployed across Victorian schools in 2021.

With \$250 million funding provided, more than 200 000 students across the State will have extra support to catch up.

Support for students who need it

The Government will provide \$295 million to upgrade 29 specialist schools across our suburbs, making sure every child every has every opportunity to be their best.

Teachers and families have done an incredible job in supporting our students. We want to help make their school communities stronger than ever, delivering the biggest investment in inclusive education in our State's history.

A further \$1.6 billion investment will transform how we support students with disability and their families, doubling the number of students receiving extra support in the classroom to 55 000.

Every government school will benefit from the reform, which will be accessible to students who may have previously been ineligible for targeted support – such as those with autism, dyslexia or complex behaviours.

A world-leading pilot in more than 100 schools will now be rolled out across Victoria, putting the needs of students with disability at the heart of our response.

This reform will be supported by the creation of up to 1 730 jobs across the State by 2025, as well as our new support and resources for our incredible school staff delivering inclusive education for every student.



Metro Schools



METRO NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION, ADDITIONAL STAGES AND UPGRADES FOR GROWTH

- Ascot Vale West Primary School
- Box Hill North Primary School
- Clyde North Station Primary School – Stage 2b
- Dromana Primary School
- Footscray Primary School
- North Melbourne Hill Proposed School
- Preston High School – Stage 2b
- Reservoir Primary School
- Ruskin Park Primary School
- Templestowe Heights Primary School

METRO SCHOOL UPGRADES

- Alkira Secondary College
- Altona College
- Ashwood High School
- Auburn High School
- Auburn South Primary School
- Badger Creek Primary School
- Banyule Primary School
- Bayside P-12 College
- Bayswater Secondary College
- Bell Primary School
- Billanook Primary School
- Blackburn High School
- Boronia West Primary School
- Bundoora Primary School
- Burwood East Primary School
- Camberwell Primary School
- Carrum Downs Secondary College
- Carwatha College P-12
- Chatham Primary School
- Diggers Rest Primary School
- Emerald Secondary College
- Exford Primary School
- Fairhills High School
- Fawcner Primary School
- Fitzroy Primary School
- Flemington Primary School

- Footscray High School - Kinnear Street Campus
- Gladysdale Primary School
- Gleneagles Secondary College
- Glenroy Central Primary School
- Greenhills Primary School
- Hampton Park Secondary College
- Heathmont College
- Hoppers Crossing Secondary College
- Karingal Primary School
- Keilor Heights Primary School
- Kingswood Primary School
- Lalor Primary School
- Lalor Secondary College
- Lilydale Heights College
- Lilydale High School
- Lyndale Secondary College
- MacRobertson Girls High School
- Mentone Park Primary School
- Mickleham Primary School
- Mill Park Secondary College
- Monmia Primary School
- Mount Alexander 7-12 College
- Mount Waverley Secondary College
- Newlands Primary School
- Norwood Secondary College
- Oakleigh Primary School
- Oakleigh South Primary School
- Pakenham Consolidated School
- Parktone Primary School
- Pascoe Vale Primary School
- Peter Lalor Secondary College
- Reservoir High School
- Ringwood Secondary College
- Rosebud Secondary College
- Rosehill Secondary College
- South Oakleigh Secondary College
- Strathaird Primary School
- Sunbury West Primary School
- Sunshine Primary School
- Sydney Road Community School
- Syndal South Primary School
- Taylors Lakes Primary School
- Taylors Lakes Secondary College
- Thornbury High School
- Upper Yarra Secondary College

- Vermont Secondary College
- Watsonia Heights Primary School
- Watsonia Primary School
- Wattle Park Primary School
- Westall Primary School
- Western Port Secondary College
- Woodville Primary School
- Woori Yallock Primary School

METRO SPECIALIST SCHOOL UPGRADES

- Ascot Vale Special School
- Bayside Special Developmental School
- Belmore School
- Bulleen Heights School
- Coburg Special Developmental School
- Concord School
- Croxton Special School
- Diamond Valley Special Developmental School
- Emerson School
- Frankston Special Developmental School
- Furlong Park School For Deaf Children
- Glenallen School
- Heatherwood School
- Jacana School for Autism
- Jackson School
- Marnebek School Cranbourne
- Melton Specialist School
- Merriang Special Developmental School
- Monash Special Developmental School
- Nepean Special School
- Port Phillip Specialist School
- Rosamond Special School
- Southern Autistic School
- Sunshine Special Developmental School
- Vermont South Special School
- Victorian College For The Deaf
- Warringa Park School
- Yarra Ranges Special Developmental School
- Yarraville Special Developmental School

Building strong, connected communities

This Budget will build strong, connected communities.

Because we understand – investing in our suburbs means investing in the people who call them home.

A faster commute means more time spent with loved ones. A new school means more certainty for local families.

Every one of these investments is an investment in what matters most: people.

Suburban Rail Loop

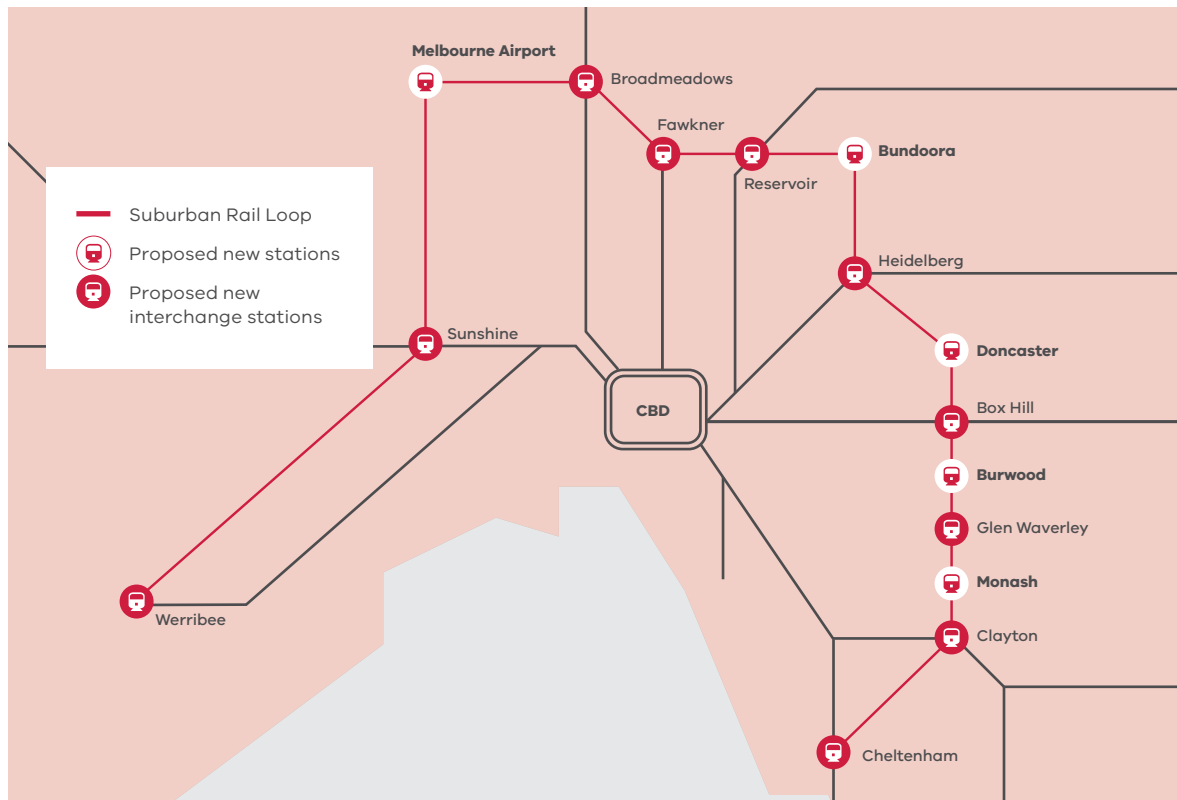
We're making the Suburban Rail Loop a reality.

A generation in the making, the Suburban Rail Loop will link every major railway line from the Frankston line to the Werribee line via the airport.

And with three transport super hubs at Clayton, Broadmeadows and Sunshine – regional passengers will also benefit, no longer having to travel through the CBD to get to work, our world class hospitals or universities in the suburbs.

This is a project that will fundamentally change the way we travel, connecting Victorians to jobs, education, healthcare – and most importantly, to each other.

This Budget invests \$2.2 billion to get started on the Suburban Rail Loop – laying the groundwork for tunnelling, including preparation of our tunnel boring machine launch sites, power works and geotechnical investigation.



It will also deliver initial and early works on Stage One of the project to run between Cheltenham and Box Hill.

Not only will this investment kick-start work on this city and State-shaping project, it'll support an extra 800 jobs – getting more Victorians into work and supporting our State's recovery.

Our investment in the Suburban Rail Loop will take thousands of commuters off existing train lines and will result in 200 000 fewer cars on our major roads, while supporting 20 000 jobs during construction.

Upgrading suburban roads

Our road network is vital to connecting Victorians to work, to school and to each other.

That's why in the past five years the Andrews Labor Government has invested \$28 billion in growing and improving roads across Melbourne and its suburbs.

This Budget continues that work, investing in the local roads local drivers use every day.

That includes tackling congestion with technology.

Our \$388 million Keeping Victorians Moving initiative will help reduce congestion and improve travel times on the metropolitan road network, as well as provide funding to reduce the wait time for registration and licensing services.

A further \$150 million Budget boost will deliver a road maintenance blitz across metropolitan Melbourne.

This investment will include road maintenance, road surface replacement, bridge strengthening and investing in intelligent transport systems such as traffic signals and electronic speed signs.

This Budget also funds a \$117 million package of road and intersection upgrades that will improve road safety and travel times across metropolitan Melbourne.

Additional investments delivered in the Budget will help Victoria Police reduce speeding and improve safety on our roads.

Next Generation Trams

Victorians love their trams with over 200 million trips completed annually on the network.

This Budget invests \$1.5 billion to purchase 100 Next Generation Trams to connect our suburbs, and commence the establishment of a new tram maintenance facility in Melbourne's north west, keeping our trams up to scratch.

These trams will improve reliability, capacity and accessibility for Victorians in our suburban communities – with low floors making it easier for more passengers to get on and off.

Importantly, these new trams will be manufactured in Victoria, and will support more than 1800 jobs at the peak of production.

A faster commute
means more
time spent with
loved ones

A strong recovery

2020 has shown us what matters most: the safety and security of our families, our kids, our parents. Having confidence in what tomorrow might look like.

And those most basic things – our connection to each other, looking after one another.

It's why this Budget is dedicated to doing exactly that: looking after people.

As we rebuild, we know we need to bring every suburb – every Victorian – with us.

This Budget is about repair, recovery, and making us stronger than before.

Local voices to shape local futures

No two suburbs are alike. And nobody knows the needs and priorities of their community better than the people who call it home.

That's why we established six Metropolitan Partnerships to bring locals, businesses and councils together to give communities a voice at the heart of government.

In this Budget, we've again listened to the community and are funding a range of investments to make our suburbs even stronger. These include:

- ➔ \$75 million in the Growing Suburbs Fund will deliver hundreds of local infrastructure projects in Melbourne's diverse and rapidly growing suburbs
- ➔ \$63 million statewide to support the School and Community Safety program, which will include new and enhanced pedestrian crossings, temporary walking and cycling infrastructure, funding to increase road safety around schools and at school crossings, and development funding for a walking and cycling path as part of Hurstbridge line works
- ➔ \$20 million to support new revitalisation projects in, Boronia, Lilydale, Noble Park, Reservoir, Tarneit and Melton. It will also continue the work of the Broadmeadows and Frankston revitalisation projects. These initiatives will deliver better public spaces for local communities, while also driving local jobs. Funding will also enable the

construction of a missing section of seawall at Altona Beach to protect the foreshore against rising sea levels and storm damage

And reflecting the importance of our libraries this year, an extra \$13 million will expand our public library services, improving access and making sure more families can rely on a great local library.

Backing our community sports and open spaces

This year we've come to appreciate our local parks, playgrounds, footy ovals and sporting fields more than ever.

This Budget invests \$110 million for the Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus Program to build and upgrade community sports facilities across the State, partnering with local communities and councils.

An additional \$27 million will deliver new and upgraded community sport and recreation facilities, including community club lighting and scoreboards, seniors' community sports infrastructure, community football and netball facilities and female friendly changerooms.

Funding will also be provided to upgrade community facilities and programs at a number of AFL clubs, including the Danny Frawley Centre for Health and Wellbeing at Moorabbin Reserve and The Huddle at Arden Street.

An additional \$22 million is provided for the State Basketball Centre at Knox to create one of Australia's premier basketball facilities.

This Budget also delivers the Get Active Kids Voucher Program, supporting kids to get moving and help families with the costs of community sport. This \$21 million investment will help children get involved in organised activities by providing \$200 vouchers for sports equipment, uniforms or memberships.

Funding of \$52 million will see upgrades at parks and locations including Albert Park, Braeside Park, Brimbank Park, Dandenong Ranges, Mornington Peninsula, Organ Pipes, Plenty Gorge, Point Cook, and other locations around Victoria – investing in community facilities for local families to enjoy.



Empowering Victorians with disability

As our State recovers stronger and fairer, we need to make sure every Victorian has the support – and independence – they deserve.

In addition to our record investment to ensure an inclusive education for students with disability, this Budget includes \$12 million to support the new State Disability Plan.

This life-changing work includes the delivery of the dedicated Victorian Autism Plan, including 3 150 extra autism assessments.

This Budget also delivers \$209 million to support Victorians who are not eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

Funding of \$5 million will extend the Intensive Support Team, which has already helped more than 1300 Victorians with complex needs who have found difficulty in navigating the NDIS or receiving an appropriate plan.

Younger Victorians with disability who are ineligible for the NDIS will also be supported to maintain their independence, with another \$42 million through our Home and Community Care Program for Younger People.

We are also committing \$6.7 million for the Disability Worker Regulation Scheme improve quality of care and service standards across the disability workforce.

The Andrews Labor Government will also continue to work with the sector, community organisations and Victorians with disability to deliver Victoria's new Disability Plan.

Support for women and children

Keeping women and children safe has been this Government's priority from the very beginning.

This Budget invests \$1.3 billion for child protection initiatives providing support for care leavers, early intervention for families and support for vulnerable children.

This Budget also provides a commitment of \$238 million to support victim survivors and their families, including:

- ➔ \$87 million for therapeutic and flexible support for 5 700 family violence support packages for victim survivors of family violence each year
- ➔ \$11 million to continue to build a system of accountability for perpetrators of family violence
- ➔ Continuing adolescent family violence services for young people and their families

In line with the Royal Commission into Family Violence's recommendations, an extra \$2.7 million will deliver improvements including better multi-agency information sharing – leaving perpetrators nowhere to hide.

This Budget will also deliver \$75 million to make the landmark Home Stretch program universal – ensuring every young person in out-of-home care can receive support up to the age of 21, helping to make sure they have the stable foundation to begin their lives.

Building safer communities

Victoria Police has been at the forefront of our response to the pandemic. This Budget invests \$400 million in its work, including \$39 million to support ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) enforcement and operations.

Further funding will go towards critical technology improvements, tackling speeding and turning at-risk young people away from crime.

The Budget also provides funding to improve audio-visual technology and provide greater flexibility in justice processes. This means matters before our busiest courts can be heard in a timely manner – building capacity in our justice system and helping reduce delays caused by the pandemic.

The Government is also investing in building the justice system to make it more accessible and efficient for those who need it, including:

- \$272 million for the new Wyndham Law Court to deliver a new western metropolitan headquarters court, with hearing rooms, mediation suites, and a specialist family violence court to meet the expanding need in this growth corridor. The new Wyndham Law Court is part of plans to develop the future Werribee Justice Precinct, which includes the new Wyndham police station
- \$25 million to expand the Sunshine Law Courts, including the provision of two extra court rooms to provide additional service capacity





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Victorian Budget 2020/21
Suburban

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