



Victorian Budget 2021/22

# Creating Jobs, Caring for Victorians

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OVERVIEW

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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



Last year, Victorians achieved what no one else has. Now, we are on the road to recovery.

But truly bouncing back won't just happen by chance.

We need a long-term plan that helps Victorians recover.

That means not only supporting people in the short-term, but actually investing in their future too.

It's why this Budget invests in the support people need – and the Victorians we need to deliver it.

That includes building a new mental health system from the ground up.

We all know someone who's struggled with their mental health. And yet this issue hasn't really been taken seriously.

It's why with this Budget, we're delivering transformational investment that will fundamentally change the way mental health support is offered in Victoria.

That means early intervention, dedicated help for our kids, and care that's available in your community.

This Budget invests in more of the services and support Victorians need.

As we deliver these investments, we'll be creating tens of thousands of new jobs.

And with it, a bright future for tens of thousands of Victorian families.

It's a simple idea that's at the heart of this Budget.

Ensuring every dollar of investment is delivering a double benefit.

Making our state stronger and fairer, and getting more Victorians back to work to make it happen.

That's been our record for the past six years – and that approach will be what drives our recovery.

With this Budget, we're creating jobs and caring for Victorians.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Pallas'.

**Tim Pallas**

Treasurer of Victoria

# STRONG FOUNDATIONS FOR GROWTH

Before the global pandemic, Victoria had created 523 000 new jobs since the Andrews Labor Government was elected – more than any other state or territory.

In 2018-19, the last full financial year before the pandemic, Victoria's economy was growing strongly at 3.1 per cent.

Like so many economies around the world, however, COVID-19 had a serious economic impact.

Throughout the pandemic we acted decisively, putting in place vital public health measures that kept Victorians safe – and secured a stable foundation for recovery.

As a result of these measures, and the sacrifices of Victorians, we are now in the enviable position of easing restrictions and rebuilding our economy.

In fact, Victoria's economy is already rapidly recovering, with strong economic growth of 6.5 per cent forecast for next year.

Employment in Victoria has also rebounded, and workforce participation is at an all-time high.

More than 200 000 jobs have been created in Victoria, well ahead of the interim employment target in the Government's *Jobs Plan*, announced as part of the *2020/21 Budget*.

That's more than 200 000 Victorians who now have the security and certainty of a job.

Women, who bore much of the economic brunt of the pandemic, have been employed in the majority of these new jobs, and employed particularly in professional services, retail trade and hospitality.

Young people were also among the hardest hit by the pandemic, with employment for those under 30 falling by 15 per cent between March and September 2020.

In good news, we are now seeing the proportion of young people in work returning to pre-pandemic levels.

Regional employment is also strong. More than 74 000 jobs have been created in regional Victoria since November 2014 – the fastest growth rate of all the states. We aim to continue this success.

At the same time, we understand that our investments must continue to be strategic and smart.

It's why this Budget focuses on the fundamentals by building infrastructure and investing in services – but also building and investing in opportunity as well.

Not only supporting Victorians in the short term, but actually investing in their future too.

That means investing in our state's future – and with it, driving the creation of a smart and modern economy.

That includes establishing Victoria's capability to manufacture mRNA vaccines, new support dedicated to the professional development of our teachers and transforming the General Motors Holden site at Fishermans Bend into a global innovation hub.

These are investments that will not only support Victorians in the short term, but actually invest in their future too.



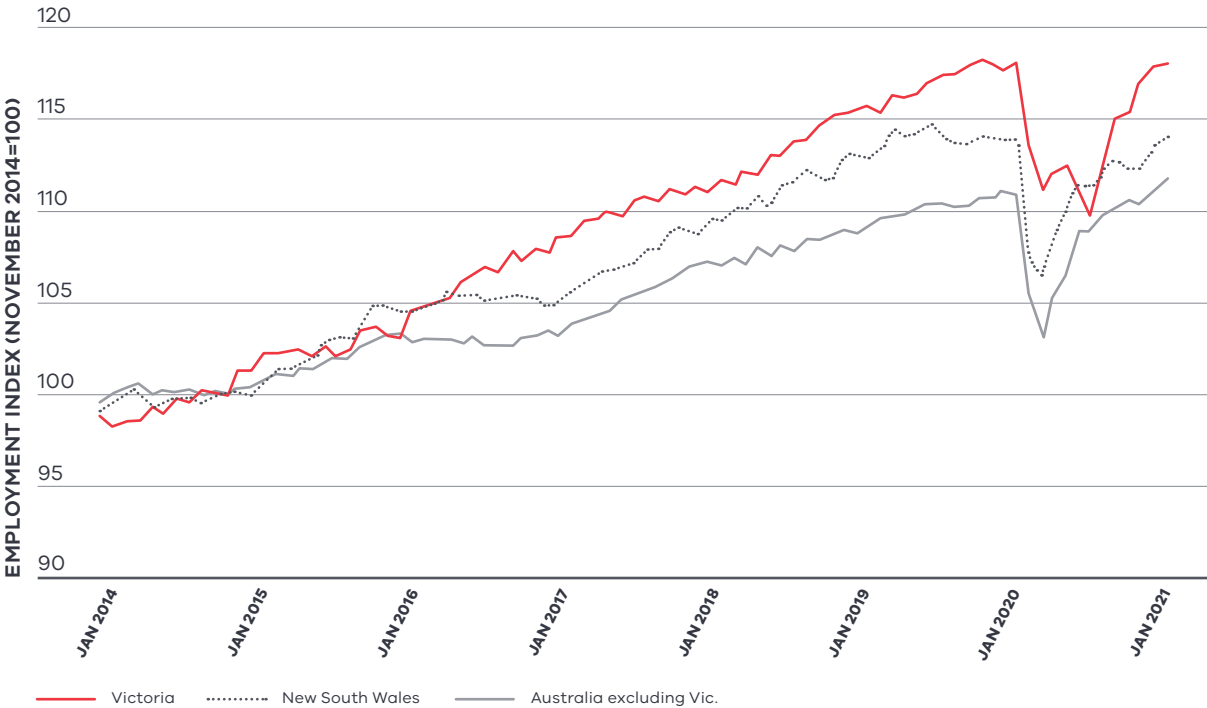


VICTORIAN ECONOMIC FORECASTS (PER CENT)

	2019/20 actual	2020/21 forecast	2021/22 forecast	2022/23 forecast	2023/24 projection	2024/25 projection
Real gross state product	-0.5	-2.00	6.50	3.25	2.75	2.75
Employment	1.2	-1.00	2.50	1.25	1.75	1.75
Unemployment rate	5.4	6.50	5.75	5.50	5.25	5.25
Consumer price index	1.7	1.50	1.50	1.75	2.00	2.25
Wage price index	2.4	1.25	1.75	2.00	2.25	2.50
Population	1.5	0.00	0.30	1.20	1.70	1.70

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

VICTORIAN EMPLOYMENT IS RAPIDLY REBOUNING



## Our recovery

As a result of the Andrews Labor Government's strong fiscal and economic management, Victoria was in a sound financial position before the pandemic.

This allowed us to support Victorians when it mattered most.

The 2020/21 Budget invested \$29.2 billion in output initiatives and \$19.8 billion in capital investments, creating the largest capital program in our state's history. Through this investment, we helped to keep Victorians in jobs and provided support to families and businesses struggling during the pandemic.

We are already seeing this investment pay off, with our economy rapidly recovering and Victoria emerging from the pandemic even better than we could have hoped.

This Budget continues to make the targeted investments Victoria – and Victorians – need.

These investments will drive our state's recovery by focusing on the fundamentals – rebuilding our mental health system, supporting families and children, investing in our schools and hospitals, and continuing our build of road and rail.

At the same time, we're making sure every dollar of investment delivers a double benefit – making Victoria stronger, and putting Victorians to work to make it happen.

In 2020, like all states and territories, the pandemic severely impacted Victoria's financial position and outlook.

But we are well on the path to recovery.

As we set out in last year's Budget, our medium-term fiscal strategy is:

- » 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 debt levels

We have made good progress on Step 1, and with this Budget, we're ensuring we don't take our foot off the pedal.

Our forward estimates also show we're on the way to achieving Step 2 – with an operating cash surplus of \$1.1 billion now forecast in 2022–23.

We're working towards balancing the Budget by investing carefully, and by strengthening the state's revenue to ensure we can keep investing for the future.

With strong, balanced and responsible financial management, we're securing our state's recovery. Even more importantly, we're securing our people's recovery too.

This Budget and this Government are investing in the plan and projects Victoria needs – and the Victorians we need to deliver them.

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL AGGREGATES

	Unit of measure	2019/20 actual	2020/21 revised	2021/22 budget	2022/23 estimate	2023/24 estimate	2024/25 estimate
Net result from transactions	\$ billion	(6.5)	(17.4)	(11.6)	(3.8)	(2.1)	(2.1)
Net cash flows from operating activities	\$ billion	(2.9)	(17.4)	(2.0)	1.1	2.4	3.0
Government infrastructure investment	\$ billion	12.0	14.5	24.2	21.7	22.7	21.6
Net debt	\$ billion	44.3	77.5	102.1	120.0	138.3	156.3
Net debt to GSP	per cent	9.5	16.7	20.3	22.7	24.9	26.8

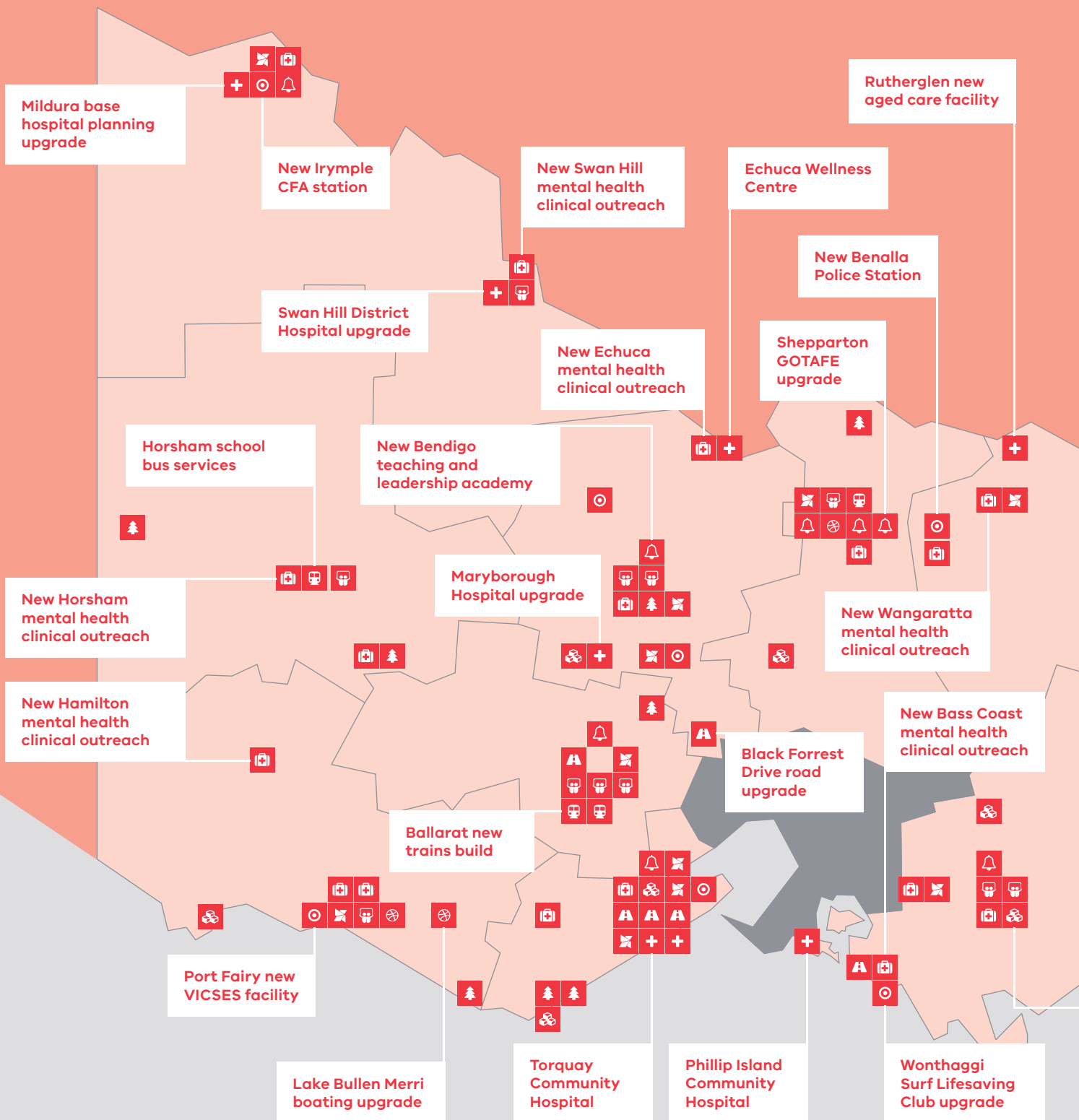
Source: Department of Treasury and Finance

- » Building our mental health system
- » Creating jobs, and caring for Victorians
- » Ensuring opportunity for Victorian workers
- » A bright future for our kids
- » Helping our hospitals and health system to recover
- » Delivering the roads and rail our state needs
- » Investing in strong, connected communities





# INVESTING IN EVERY CORNER OF THE STATE



## STATEWIDE

- » \$3.8 billion to transform our mental health system, building the system from the ground up
- » \$3.7 billion to meet demand for hospital services, including more emergency department staff, extra highly specialised therapies, and support for new wards as they open
- » \$3.2 billion for public transport services and infrastructure, including \$986 million to build 25 new X'Trapolis 2.0 trains and supporting infrastructure for our metropolitan network, and \$613 million to support the reliability of V/Line train services and maintain the regional rail network
- » \$1.6 billion for school infrastructure, including upgrades at 52 schools, building 13 new schools and additional stages at three further schools, and expanding six more across the state
- » \$1.3 billion to continue our state's public health response to the pandemic
- » \$1.2 billion to support children and families, including an expansion of the child protection workforce and out-of-home care placements and help for vulnerable Victorian families
- » \$788 million to reduce the impact of bushfires on Victorian communities, the economy and the environment
- » \$759 million in funding for more paramedics, more triage care and support staff for Ambulance Victoria, as well as targeted funding to improve flow in our busy emergency departments and open new beds across the state as part of our \$3.7 billion support for increased hospital demand
- » \$716 million for school programs and support for our teaching workforce, including \$148 million to establish the Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership, dedicated to the professional learning and development of Victorian teachers
- » \$556 million to build and expand 10 community hospitals
- » \$386 million for a new Road Safety Strategy to develop new safety technologies, deliver infrastructure upgrades, and other improvements helping to keep Victorians safe
- » \$354 million to support victim survivors and address family violence
- » \$288 million to boost our creative sector - supporting jobs, developing homegrown talent and promoting our people and content to the world
- » \$265 million to plan, upgrade and maintain suburban, rural and regional roads, ensuring a safe and reliable journey for local communities
- » \$252 million to provide housing support, including targeted initiatives to address homelessness
- » \$250 million to protect and preserve our natural environment, including support for volunteers and local community organisations to help conserve our native species and their habitats
- » \$167 million to continue the roll out of universal three-year-old kindergarten, covering the whole state in 2022
- » \$160 million to support Victoria's tourism sector to drive visitation and employment
- » \$107 million to help drive economic activity and revitalise Melbourne's central business district
- » \$86 million to establish the Victorian Skills Authority to champion and strengthen the vocational education and training sector
- » \$70 million to establish public in-vitro fertilisation services to help people who want to become parents achieve their dreams
- » \$50 million to support establishing Victoria's capability to manufacture mRNA vaccines












**New Bairnsdale teaching and leadership academy**

**Lakes Entrance sustainable port infrastructure**

**New Bairnsdale mental health clinical outreach**

**New Central Gippsland mental health clinical outreach**

**Morwell food manufacturing precinct**

-  Arts
-  Education
-  Emergency services
-  Environment and parkland
-  Health
-  Mental health
-  Public transport
-  Regional investment
-  Roads
-  Sport and recreation
-  Strong communities

## BUILDING OUR MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Mental health impacts all of us. Approximately half of all Victorians will experience poor mental health in their lifetime. Around one in five of us are struggling with it right now.

And if we haven't experienced it directly, it's the experience of someone we love – a parent, a partner, a child or a mate.

Yet, for far too long, that suffering just wasn't being taken seriously enough. People were either 'not sick enough' for help, or 'too sick' to treat outside a hospital.

And when you reach out and ask for support – there simply aren't enough professionals to help.

It's why we established the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System, and it's why we are delivering the biggest social reform in a generation: building our mental health system – from the ground up.

Last Budget began that work with \$869 million, then the single biggest investment in mental health Victoria had ever seen.

Now we're delivering a record \$3.8 billion investment to truly transform the way mental health and wellbeing support is offered in our state.

Implementing the Royal Commission's recommendations will take a decade or more of reform. But this year's Budget delivers a massive investment – and a massive next step – in delivering on the recommendations of the Commission.

Key investments delivered in this Budget include:

- » \$954 million to deliver community-based care, providing health and wellbeing support for Victorians wherever they live
- » \$370 million to improve access to mental health beds and better acute care for Victorians living with mental illness
- » \$264 million for new local services for adults and older adults – providing early care where people live
- » \$196 million to support a dedicated system for infants, children and families
- » \$173 million for suicide prevention and response – to continue our support for 13 Hospital Outreach Post-suicidal Engagement (HOPE) sites including four new sites for youth across Victoria
- » \$116 million to support the mental health and wellbeing of Aboriginal Victorians, including funding for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

Together, these investments will also support 3 000 new jobs – ensuring Victorians can access care, where and when it's needed.

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Together, these investments will support 3 000 jobs – ensuring Victorians can get the care they need, while also giving thousands more Victorians the security of a job









## A front door and more pathways for care

The Royal Commission told us that when it came to accessing care, some Victorians don't know where to turn, or who to turn to.

It means – too often – Victorians are denied the mental health support they need, until it's too late.

It's why this Budget delivers \$264 million in local care, providing a 'front door' for care, with the first 20 of between 50 to 60 new local services to be delivered across Victoria.

These services will focus on early intervention, ensuring Victorians get the care they need much sooner and much closer to their families and communities.

These services will connect Victorians with professional mental health support, early intervention with a focus on wellbeing, pathways to more acute treatment and – critically – expanded operating hours, so care is available when it's needed.

The first six of these 20 sites have been fast-tracked, with local services in Benalla, Brimbank, Frankston, Greater Geelong, the Latrobe Valley and Whittlesea opening in 2022.

This Budget is also investing \$954 million to establish 22 reformed area mental health and wellbeing services to replace current services. These services will have more capacity to treat and support Victorians experiencing severe and complex mental health challenges.

And because it's an issue that touches all of us, \$6 million will go towards initiatives including the creation of dedicated tools and resources specifically designed to support occupational mental health – just one of a raft of reforms to support the wellbeing of workers and workplaces.

## Help for children and young people

We know the earlier we can reach someone struggling with their mental health, the better their life outcomes. That's particularly true when it comes to our kids.

We also know that approximately 75 per cent of diagnosable mental illness first emerges before the age of 25, making these early years so critical in ensuring lifelong mental health and wellbeing.

It's why we're investing \$842 million in mental health and wellbeing support for children and young people, ensuring we're providing support to them, and their families, as early as possible.

This investment will see two separate streams of care created – one devoted to infants and children (ages 0 to 11) and one devoted to young people (ages 12 to 25).

An investment of \$138 million will deliver 13 reformed Infant, Child and Family Mental Health and Wellbeing Services providing local support that is specifically designed around the needs of children and young people.

We're also investing \$266 million to reform and expand 13 Youth Area Mental Health and Wellbeing Services across Victoria and to support organisations providing mental health care to young people. This will deliver more hours of care for young people, including extended and after-hours support.

A further \$41 million will establish three new multi-disciplinary community-based hubs, which will take a one-stop approach to children's health, including emotional, developmental and physical health, integrated with a range of other services and paediatricians.

These hubs will serve as a recognisable and accessible front door for care, providing the tailored support children and their families need, when they need it.

This Budget also invests \$141 million to deliver five new Youth Prevention and Recovery Care (YPARC) units, totalling 50 beds specifically for young people. Delivering sub-acute care, services will be located in Melbourne's North Eastern Metropolitan region as well as the Barwon South-West, Gippsland, Grampians and Hume regions. This investment will include upgrading three existing YPARC units in the South Eastern Metropolitan (Frankston and Dandenong) and Loddon Mallee (Bendigo) regions.

Funding of \$16 million will also see the establishment of four new HOPE sites, specifically designed and delivered for young people. These will be located at the Royal Children's Hospital, Alfred Health, the Monash Children's Hospital and Orygen.

These HOPE sites, which have already achieved success as a service for adults, will provide individualised, intensive and one-on-one support for younger Victorians as they recover.

Funding of \$218 million will support a new School Mental Health Fund, enabling schools to deliver tailored mental health and wellbeing support to their students, in addition to the expansion of the Mental Health in Primary Schools pilot.

A further \$16 million will see our existing Mobile Targeted Assertive Outreach teams, which provide support to young people with multiple and complex needs, expanded.

Funding will also be provided to Switchboard to deliver LGBTIQ+ peer-led support, and the Healthy Equal Youth project increasing support for young LGBTIQ+ Victorians.

This Budget also supports youth-centred research at Orygen, as well as delivery of online programs and workforce development, ensuring that we continue to provide our kids the very best of care.





## Care in our rural and regional communities

Right now, too many people living in rural and regional Victoria cannot access care close to home.

Instead, and often when they're at their most vulnerable, they're forced to travel away from their communities, families and support networks.

It's why our record investment ensures that care is extended to every corner of our state.

That includes delivering the first 20 new local services embedded in local communities across Victoria, providing a front door for care for Victorians close to home. Three of our first six sites are in regional Victoria – Benalla, Latrobe Valley and Greater Geelong – along with services in Brimbank, Frankston and Whittlesea.

This investment has a double benefit of creating and supporting jobs in regional communities, getting even more Victorians back into work.

This investment will also deliver ongoing funding for the successful HOPE (Hospital Outreach Post-suicidal Engagement) program, ensuring the three regional sites funded in last year's Budget continue caring for their communities.

We're also supporting follow-up care and outreach services with \$17 million for nine new sites – including Bairnsdale, Hamilton, Horsham, Echuca, Swan Hill, Wangaratta, Bass Coast, Central Gippsland and West Gippsland.

This Budget will also provide \$11 million to deliver five new beds at the Mental Health Acute Inpatient Unit at Warrnambool.

Last year, we experienced new and innovative ways of delivering care. It's why a further \$2.3 million will trial two new digital services, enabling rural and regional Victorians to access care from their own homes.

An additional \$11 million will deliver a Rural and Regional Workforce Incentive Scheme, attracting and training more mental health professionals for our country communities.

To oversee our investments and make sure we're meeting the needs of local communities, eight interim regional bodies will also be established statewide, providing on-the-ground insight and expertise.

Together, these investments will give people in regional Victoria a pathway to recovery in their own community, and close to friends and family.

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These investments will give people in regional Victoria a pathway to recovery in their own community, close to friends and family

## Supporting families and carers

Not only is our current system failing Victorians in need, it's failing their families and carers too.

Instead of feeling supported, they can be left scrambling for answers in an overburdened system. It's why this Budget includes \$93 million in dedicated support for families and carers.

This investment will ensure the voices of families are being heard at the heart of our system, while also recognising the additional support they need in caring for a loved one.

This investment includes delivering eight family and carer-led centres – providing a point of support for families across our state.

These centres will provide personalised help for families and carers, working with them to understand their needs and connect them to the right services.

This work will also include practical help like assisting with short-term respite and enabling family and carer peer support groups – creating connection and community among Victorians who are caring for a loved one.

We will also be improving access to perinatal services, with \$6.9 million to expand community perinatal health teams across the state, so new and expectant parents get the support they need close to home.

And recognising the unique experience of our younger carers, this Budget includes \$23 million to expand the range of support across Victoria for young people and children caring for a family member, including funding for the Families where a Parent has a Mental Illness (FaPMI) program.

A further \$9 million will deliver additional support for parents, with new online parenting programs and dedicated group-based parenting sessions.

## Care when it's needed most

If you're in need of serious support, you shouldn't have to wait for help. And yet right now, that's the experience of thousands of Victorians.

It's the reason the Andrews Labor Government is investing \$370 million in acute mental health services, making sure that Victorians are getting the ongoing support they so desperately deserve.

That includes funding to make 53 recently-built acute and youth beds available for patients, and opening 35 acute mental health beds specifically for Victorian women in need.

Funding of \$36 million will operationalise 24 Hospital in the Home beds, which have been commissioned throughout 2020-21. These are an innovative alternative to acute hospital-based treatment, providing wraparound care for Victorians in the comfort of their own homes.

This investment builds on the 179 additional beds funded in last year's Budget.

Funding will also ensure the nine new HOPE sites funded in last year's Budget can continue to provide care to their communities, including locations in Warrnambool, Shepparton, Mildura, Box Hill, the Royal Melbourne, Monash Medical Centre, Austin Health, Broadmeadows and Epping.

Funding of \$5.1 million will develop and trial an intensive 14-day support program for adults who are experiencing psychological distress.

We will also start planning work to establish a new Statewide Trauma Service, to bring together mental health practitioners, trauma experts, peer workers and Victorians with lived experience of trauma to undertake research, education and training to support our mental health workforce deliver trauma-informed care.

And because we know this issue impacts all Victorians, new resources will be made available to workplaces, schools and communities on how to identify and support someone in acute need.



Last year, we were reminded of how much home matters. For many Victorians, it provides the stable foundation they need as they recover from mental illness.

The *2020/21 Budget* funded the Big Housing Build to deliver 9 300 new social housing homes – including 2 000 for Victorians living with mental illness.

Now, this Budget provides \$46 million so Victorians housed through the Big Housing Build have the mental health and wellbeing support they need to recover. This includes funding to co-design and plan for a further 500 housing places for young people living with mental illness.

## Protecting future mental health funding

Through the Royal Commission, Victorians told us that it wasn't enough to just build a new mental health system – this transformational change needed to be protected.

It's the reason the Royal Commission recommended the introduction of a new revenue mechanism to protect the long-term funding and future of our mental health system.

By introducing a dedicated stream of funding for mental health, we can continue to improve our mental health system and protect this reform well into the future.

A Mental Health and Wellbeing Levy will apply to businesses with more than \$10 million in wages nationally, less than 5 per cent of employers, from 1 January 2022.

Revenue collected from the Levy can only be invested in improving our mental health system.

Businesses will also see the benefits of our investment, with mental illness a massive and ongoing cost to our economy.

The Royal Commission's interim report estimated that the economic cost of poor mental health to Victoria was \$14.2 billion each year. This included a cost of \$1.9 billion a year to employers – with \$1.6 billion in lost productivity and \$300 million due to workplace injuries.

Our investments in targeted programs focused on prevention and early intervention will also help more people participate in work – taking fewer sick days, and being their best at work.

It's why this generational reform matters so very much.

Rebuilding our mental health system will change lives, save lives – and help our state truly recover.

# CREATING JOBS AND CARING FOR VICTORIANS

Over the past six years, our Big Build has been delivering the road, rail, schools and hospitals our growing state needs.

Since 2014, the Andrews Labor Government has announced infrastructure investment that has supported, or will continue to support, over 177 000 jobs.

Far more than numbers on a page, these jobs have changed lives – giving more Victorians the secure foundation on which to build their future.

Now, as we recover from the pandemic, we’re using that same approach.

That means making sure every investment is delivering a double benefit – supporting Victorians in need, and supporting good, stable jobs for Victorians.

Helping look after kids in care. Providing more support to victims of family violence.

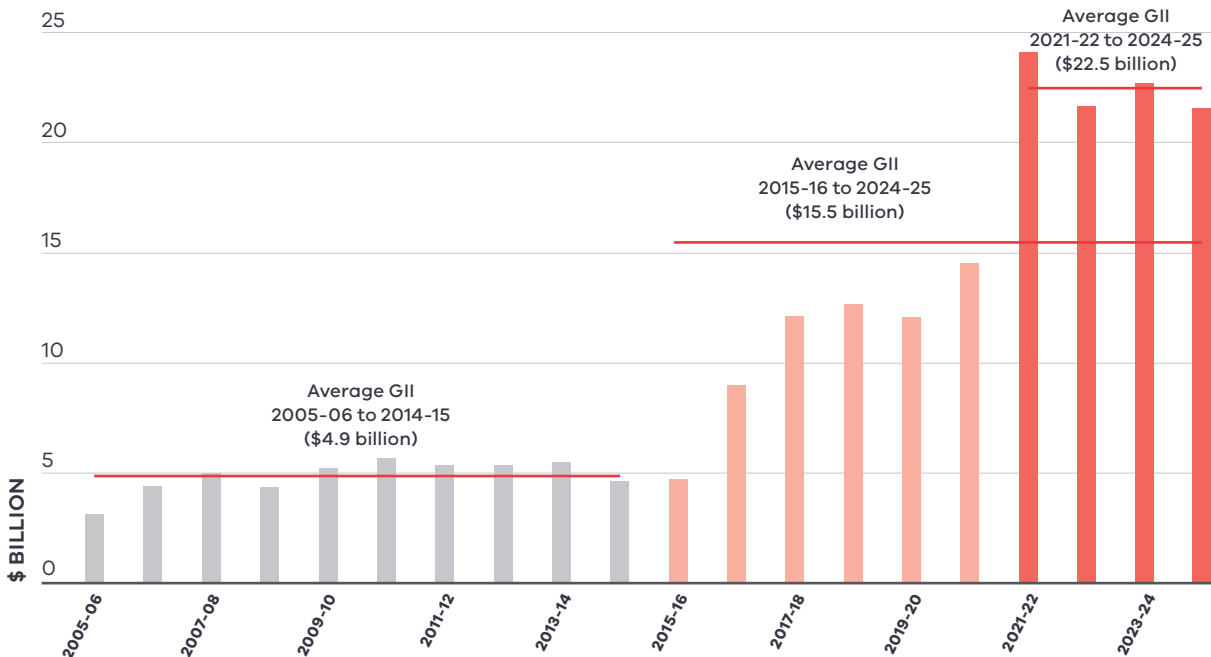
Supporting those struggling with their mental health. Giving more Victorians the security of a home.

Not only will it make our state stronger, it will create new opportunity in every corner of our state.

Together, the investments made in this Budget will support an average of 38 000 jobs every year over the next four years.

With this Budget, we’re creating jobs, and caring for Victorians.

## GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT



Source: Department of Treasury and Finance



## Building our mental health workforce

Right now, when people need help, we just don't have a big enough workforce to respond.

That means delivering significant reform to our mental health system will require a significant boost to our hardworking mental health workforce.

That means that as we continue our state's recovery, not only are we delivering the mental health system Victoria needs – we're also supporting around 3 000 jobs.

But we understand that truly building a mental health system that works will require a strong pipeline of new and additional mental health workers.

We are investing a dedicated \$206 million in training support, delivering 120 graduate placements for nurses, 140 postgraduate mental health scholarships, 60 new graduate placements for allied health professionals and additional rotations for psychiatry.

Funding will also be provided to train and grow our lived experience workforce, supporting more Victorians to use their direct experience of our mental health system to support others.

Free TAFE continues to support Victorians to train for these roles, with almost 1 900 students enrolling in certificates in mental health and mental health peer work since January 2019.

This Budget also includes funding to undertake a Statewide Mental Health Workforce Strategy by the end of 2021, fulfilling a key recommendation of the Royal Commission, and beginning planning on our mental health workforce needs into the medium and long term.

These investments will give thousands of Victorians the security and stability of a good job, while ensuring that if you or someone you love needs help, help is available.

This Budget invests \$324 million in a package of early intervention investments, including in health, child protection, housing assistance, early childhood and crime prevention.

These investments focus on helping Victorians early – improving their lives and reducing their need for more intensive services later.

Funding will also develop and drive an Early Intervention Investment Framework for future budgets – investing more, earlier, and based on what works.

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Not only are we delivering the mental health system Victoria needs – we're also supporting around 3 000 jobs

## Helping families stay together

We know how important family is.

And we know that, wherever possible, the best place for children is with their families.

Building on our \$1.4 billion investment last year, this Budget provides \$1.2 billion to protect our children and help keep vulnerable families together.

Not only will these investments improve the lives of children and families around Victoria, they'll also support around 1 000 jobs across our state.

This includes \$1 billion to expand the child protection workforce, increase out-of-home-care placements and provide a range of other supports for vulnerable Victorian families. This investment will also fund 246 new child protection practitioners across the state.

Funding of \$18 million is provided to trial a new whole-of-family support model for families with complex needs in Brimbank-Melton and Goulburn. At the same time, this investment will also support 30 jobs.

A new trial – Frontline Victoria – will also create a fast-tracked path for degree-qualified career changers to move into a role within the child and families' services system – strengthening the workforce and strengthening support for our kids.

In addition, our \$1.2 billion investment will:

- » Help siblings stay together and connected in the out-of-home care system
- » Bring family services to schools, early childhood education and community health hubs to make it easier for vulnerable families to get the support they need
- » Support carers through our helpline, training and support programs
- » Give kinship carers access to respite care placements, giving families a break

With this investment, we'll help support young Victorians and their families, while also supporting more Victorians with a good, secure job.





## Keeping women and children safe

Keeping women and children safe has been our priority from the very beginning.

It's the reason we established the Royal Commission into Family Violence and are implementing every one of its 227 recommendations.

This Budget provides a further \$354 million to support victim survivors and address family violence. This investment includes:

- » \$97 million to improve information sharing to better protect victim survivors and their families
- » \$78 million to expand the network of specialist family violence courts to include Broadmeadows, Dandenong, Geelong, Latrobe Valley, Melbourne, Ringwood and Sunshine
- » \$49 million to continue to support victim survivors with 24/7 crisis services, support packages and culturally safe responses for our diverse communities
- » \$44 million to support children and young people impacted by family violence and sexual assault
- » \$18 million to deliver perpetrator interventions, behavioural change programs and accommodation support for victim survivors

- » \$14 million to strengthen the justice system's response to family violence, including establishing legal services in the Orange Door Network
- » \$7.3 million for a new Victims Legal Service to provide critical support during criminal proceedings
- » \$2.3 million for youth programs that promote healthy relationships, preventing family violence from happening in the first place
- » \$1.3 million to give victim survivors who are leaving violent situations comfort their pets are being cared for

Recognising a growing need, this Budget also supports the Family Violence Graduate Program, helping up to 80 new graduates with training and on-the-job support as they work to become specialists in family violence services.

Together, these investments will also support hundreds of jobs in our growing family violence workforce.

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Keeping women and children safe has been our priority from the very beginning



## More homes – and more jobs – for Victorians

The pandemic has shown us how much a home really matters. It also made it clear just how many Victorians are missing out on that security and stability.

That's why the *2020/21 Budget* invested \$5.3 billion in Victoria's Big Housing Build.

Our Big Housing Build is building thousands of new homes for Victorians in need, while also supporting our recovery with 10 000 jobs each year over the next four years.

This Budget builds on our commitment to give more Victorians a place to call home, while continuing to drive our state's recovery.

This includes:

- » \$194 million for services that prevent homelessness, focusing on people who need help in the rental market, young people leaving care and vulnerable Victorians with complex needs
- » \$26 million to better target early intervention for rough sleepers
- » \$17 million to help the Victorians housed in hotels during the pandemic continue to find permanent accommodation
- » \$9.1 million to build and operate a new Aboriginal refuge in Horsham to support victim survivors of family violence

Together these investments are ensuring more Victorians have the stable foundation of a home – and more Victorians have the security of a job.

# JOBS

Over the past six years, we've made jobs our priority.

And as we continue our rebuild, jobs – good, secure, meaningful jobs – must be at the heart of our recovery. That includes supporting our skills sector to help more Victorians train, retrain and find new opportunities.

And making sure we're using the 'double benefit' of our projects and policies to create good jobs for the future – and for our future generations.

It's this approach that underpins our Budget – and our recovery. Just as importantly, it'll help more Victorians find employment – and with it, security, stability and certainty.

## Continuing our economic recovery

The Andrews Labor Government made a historic investment in the *2020/21 Budget* to establish the *Jobs Plan*.

This support, both during the pandemic and through the *Jobs Plan*, has helped our economy rebound. In fact, more than 200 000 jobs have been created across Victoria – well ahead of our interim target for 2022.

Jobs in both regional Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne rebounded strongly.

This year's Budget builds on that work, supporting an average of 38 000 jobs each year over the next four years. We are funding \$431 million to support businesses and create new jobs.

That includes \$147 million provided earlier this year to support businesses and workers with the Circuit Breaker Action Business Support Package, and a further \$51 million to support our international education sector.

The Andrews Labor Government will continue to work with Victorian businesses to support their recovery, including \$31 million to support our ongoing COVIDSafe activities. We're also bringing forward tax cuts for businesses to 1 July 2021. The payroll tax-free threshold will be increased to \$700 000 – reducing tax for 42 000 businesses across the state. The regional employer rate will also reduce from 2.02 per cent to 1.2125 per cent from 1 July 2021, further reducing tax for around 4 000 regional businesses.

### Jobs for Victoria: helping Victorians to find jobs and support Victorian businesses



For 20 years, owning Beaufort Butchery has kept Rohan and Barbara Quinton more than busy, with rarely a day off.

Now they finally have some breathing room, thanks to their

new employee, Christopher Cook, brought on with the help of a wage subsidy from the Jobs Victoria Fund.

Christopher, a qualified butcher, started at Beaufort Butchery in March this year, after eight months out of the workforce.

Last year, things went from bad to worse when he was laid off due to impacts of the pandemic and then suffered two hernias.

As well as making it easier to pay bills and live the kind of life he wants, the new job at Beaufort Butchery has put a spring back in Christopher's step – something he lost during his extended period of unemployment.

'You feel a bit lost, and like you don't have anything to do in life', he says. By hiring Christopher, Beaufort Butchery was eligible for a wage subsidy from the Jobs Victoria Fund, which supports priority jobseekers, including the long-term unemployed.

'It'll help a lot, because we're only small and it gives us a bit of a kick-start,' Rohan says.





### Implementing our *Jobs Plan*

Our *Jobs Plan* has supported thousands of Victorian businesses and workers. A total of \$2.6 billion has been paid out to 134 000 businesses in the three rounds of the *Business Support Fund*. A further \$262 million has been provided to businesses through the *Business Resilience Package*.

Key *Jobs Plan* initiatives are also well underway, creating local jobs and setting Victoria's economy up for the future:

- » The \$2 billion Breakthrough Victoria Fund was established to ensure Victoria remains at the forefront of research and innovation. An interim board has been appointed, and will soon finalise an investment plan
- » The \$350 million Higher Education State Investment Fund is working with universities to identify the projects that will set our state up for the future – including the University of Melbourne and Illumina Genomics Hub to bring together the best of genomic expertise and technology in Australia; the Digital and Bio Innovation Hubs at La Trobe University's Bundoora campus, which will support students, start-ups and Victorian businesses to develop innovative new products like anti-viral medication and water treatment solutions; and the Swinburne University of Technology Hydrogen Hub in Melbourne's south-east. This facility will create jobs and help to explore new hydrogen technologies including clean energy vehicles and hydrogen storage containers
- » We have established Apprenticeships Victoria to connect the future pipeline of apprentices with our Big Build projects and support 1 500 opportunities each year to work on some of our biggest projects, including the new Footscray Hospital and North East Link
- » The \$619 million Jobs for Victoria initiative is delivering new services for people looking for work, including Jobs Victoria Advocates, scaling up of employment services and the Jobs Victoria Fund, which provides wage subsidies to businesses to employ jobseekers. At least 60 per cent of subsidies paid from the Fund will be for women, reflecting the significant impact the pandemic has had on their employment opportunities
- » We established the New Jobs Tax Credit, which supports small and medium businesses to rehire staff, restore hours and create new jobs. Under the initiative, the more eligible businesses increase employment, the less tax they'll pay. This year's Budget continues the Credit, giving employers and their staff ongoing certainty.



## Jobs for Victoria is helping Victorians to find jobs while supporting Victorian businesses

### Coffee shop hires three employees with wage subsidy

Chris Choong runs the Jamaica Blue coffee shop in Westfield Fountain Gate. He says the Jobs Victoria Fund wage subsidy came at the right time. He can now put on new staff and grow his business, while supporting new workers who may not have had the same chance elsewhere.

Chris says his coffee shop is a place where all are welcome. He has hired three staff members, two from migrant backgrounds and the other living with disability.

Two of Chris' current employees, Mia and Chloe, have autism, and Chris is supporting them to train as baristas at the cafe.

'They come in when it's not busy and practise making coffee and I'm the one to try the coffee.'

The team is also culturally diverse, with 'some staff from refugee backgrounds, from Afghanistan and Iran. We are all from multiple nationalities,' says Chris.

When hiring new staff, Chris chooses carefully but with an open mind and an outlook that his staff can learn and grow on the job.

'It is not easy to find good people,' he says. 'When I look [for new staff], skills are not number one. What I look at is their attitude and their loyalty.'

He found those assets in his new team members.

'If anyone is willing to learn ... there is always an opportunity...'



## Playing to our strengths

Victoria is famous for its manufacturing expertise, and is home to some of the very best fresh produce. This Budget plays to our strengths, delivering new investment in both sectors.

To put Victoria at the forefront of advanced manufacturing, engineering and design, this Budget invests \$179 million to deliver the first stage of the transformation of the former General Motors Holden site at Fishermans Bend into a global innovation hub.

The site will house the University of Melbourne's School of Engineering from 2024 and is expected to become a world-renowned centre for innovation by 2051, supporting up to 30 000 high-value science, technology, engineering and mathematics jobs.

This Budget also invests \$33 million in our agriculture industry to grow and protect the sector so it continues to be a cornerstone of our economy, in line with the Andrews Labor Government's transformative 10-year Agriculture Strategy.

That includes investing \$12 million to deliver the establishment of a traceability information hub, the development of new systems to prove the origin and quality of Victorian produce, and campaigns to promote the paddock-to-plate journey of Victoria's produce.



## Victorian jobs for Victorian workers

Since coming to government, we've made sure every Victorian benefits from our record investment in infrastructure.

That includes mandating minimum local content on major projects, including a 90 per cent minimum on construction projects.

We've also mandated the use of local apprentices, trainees and cadets, creating more opportunity for young Victorians.

To further this commitment, this Budget provides \$41 million to create even more opportunities for Victorian businesses and workers.

This includes funding to oversee and enforce compliance with the *Local Jobs First Act 2003* and the Local Jobs First Policy, and to implement the Fair Jobs Code, supported by a new unit to undertake education and compliance activities.

This will make sure we're getting a double benefit from every dollar of investment – building and making in Victoria, while also supporting Victorian jobs.

As part of this investment, funding for Ethical Clothing Australia will ensure government uniforms and personal protective equipment (PPE) are bought from accredited ethical and local sources.

## Revitalising our CBD

Melbourne's central business district (CBD) is a vibrant part of our state, but was hit hard during the pandemic. Our support in this year's Budget builds on our investments in the *2020/21 Budget* to help businesses and landlords to rebound and regrow.

This Budget provides \$107 million to help drive economic activity and revitalise Melbourne's central business district. This includes \$7.4 million for a new voucher scheme to entice Melburnians and visitors to city cafes and restaurants, and support CBD arts and cultural events.

The \$200 million Melbourne City Revitalisation Fund – jointly funded with the City of Melbourne – will also help renew city spaces and support CBD arts and cultural events.

This Budget also includes tax relief measures to support home buyers and local construction jobs, including:

- » A concession of up to 100 per cent of stamp duty for new dwellings worth up to \$1 million in the Melbourne local government area
- » Temporarily increasing the eligibility thresholds for off-the-plan purchases
- » Extending the vacant residential land tax exemption for new developments

This builds on the significant supports provided in the last Budget, including payroll tax breaks and land tax reductions for businesses and landlords most impacted by the pandemic.







## Creating jobs in creative industries

The Andrews Labor Government will support our creative sector to bring back jobs and create new jobs with a significant Budget boost.

We are investing \$288 million to further strengthen our reputation as our nation's creative capital.

This includes \$121 million to transform the Victorian screen industry by growing jobs, developing home-grown talent, and promoting our people and content to the world.

This investment will increase Victorian-led screen production while also attracting international and interstate screen productions, helping to create new opportunity for more Victorians.

This funding will also deliver flagship screen events and revitalise the Melbourne International Film Festival, reaffirming our position as Australia's leading destination for screen industry events.

This investment will help the sector recover after the pandemic and position it for growth. This includes:

- » \$79 million to support institutions and the companies they support – like Arts Centre Melbourne, the Geelong Arts Centre and the Melbourne Theatre Company
- » \$34 million to invest in our cultural institutions, including new immersive exhibitions at Melbourne Museum. This will include a new Triceratops Gallery showcasing the recent acquisition of the most complete Triceratops fossil skeleton ever found
- » \$24 million to deliver a sustainable multi-year investment funding framework for non-government creative organisations. This will mean greater certainty for these organisations, while attracting audiences and supporting new opportunities for Victoria's creatives
- » \$11 million to extend the Music Works program to support musicians, managers, technicians, venues, peak bodies and small-to-medium businesses and organisations to accelerate the recovery and growth of Victoria's music scene
- » \$4.5 million to invest in established and emerging creative neighbourhoods by supporting affordable creative spaces for artists and enterprises. This will promote the creative reputation of these communities and help to create jobs in metro, regional and outer-suburban areas. An Emporium Creative Hub will be created in Bendigo together with the establishment of the Brunswick Design District
- » \$4.0 million in support for Victorians from First Peoples, youth and diverse backgrounds to obtain secure, well-paid work, and support leadership programs for a diverse cohort of mid-career and established creatives. This includes support for First Peoples' festivals and platforms such as Yirramboi, Blak & Bright Literature Festival and the Koorie Art Show, attracting more visitors to Victoria and creating new local jobs

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**We are investing \$288 million to further strengthen our reputation as our nation's creative capital**

## Supporting our tourism sector

The Andrews Labor Government is supporting Victoria's tourism industry to bounce back after a year of bushfires and pandemic.

That includes a dedicated investment in our state's tourism sector, with \$160 million in funding – building on our investments to bring more people into the heart of our city with the Melbourne Dining Experiences scheme.

This package of support will highlight Victoria's strengths as a visitor destination and rebuild the Victorian visitor economy brand.

Before the pandemic, Victoria attracted a steady flow of business visitors, supporting local jobs in tourism, hospitality and other industries.

This Budget will help strengthen Victoria's reputation as the nation's leading business destination, with a \$43 million Business Events Program to attract a strong pipeline of business events to our state.

A new \$10 million distillery door grant scheme will continue to grow Victoria's distillery industry, supporting jobs and the visitor economy.

A further \$8.9 million will support our new Visitor Economy Partnerships, driving more tourists to our regional communities.

Additional funding will also support new marketing and engagement activities, attracting more visitors and supporting local jobs.



## The skills our state needs

As we continue to invest in the services our state needs, skilled workers are in demand.

And across Victoria, our investments are supporting tens of thousands of new jobs.

This Budget invests \$384 million in our skills sector to make sure Victorians are ready for these jobs.

### Victorian Skills Authority: championing our training sector

In this Budget, we're supporting thousands of jobs. And the new Victorian Skills Authority will be central to making sure it's Victorians who are first in line.

This Budget invests \$86 million to establish the brand-new Victorian Skills Authority, ensuring Victorians are getting the right skills that lead to a good, secure job.

This also represents our next step in reforming the training sector and implementing the recommendations of the *Skills for Victoria's Growing Economy* review – chaired by Jenny Macklin.

The Victorian Skills Authority will be an anchor organisation, bringing together industry, providers and other stakeholders to identify priority training areas, culminating in an annual Victorian Skills Plan.

The Victorian Skills Authority will also support continuous improvement in the quality of teaching and training across the system.

With a comprehensive training system that supports students from day one to the first day on the job, we're getting thousands more Victorians back to work.

We're investing \$209 million to further support our TAFE and training sector. This investment includes:

- » Up to 12 200 extra subsidised training places in our TAFE and training system to ensure all Victorians can access training
- » Providing 4 800 additional places in digital literacy and employment skills courses to help get more Victorians back into work
- » Increasing the funding provided to TAFEs and other registered training providers to maintain high-quality training across Victoria

We are delivering \$72 million from the Building Better TAFEs Fund for projects that will help set our students up for success, with funding for upgrades at Bendigo Kangan Institute's Broadmeadows Campus and GOTAFE's Archer Street Shepparton Campus.

And to ensure our TAFEs have the modern tools and equipment they need to provide traineeships and apprenticeships, we are providing \$12 million to establish the TAFE Equipment and Facilities Fund.

# EDUCATION

**We all want our kids to be happy and healthy. After last year, we understand that's more important than ever.**

It's why over the past six years, the Andrews Labor Government has delivered \$21.6 billion to give our kids a quality education.

It's also an investment that has created thousands of new jobs.

This Budget is continuing that approach – investing in our schools, while at the same time getting more Victorians into work.

This Budget invests a total of \$3.5 billion in education, including \$716 million in school programs and support for our teaching workforce.

For our kids, it'll mean fantastic new classrooms and learning spaces.

For families, it'll mean confidence their kids are getting the support they deserve.

For our teachers, it'll mean a new focus on professional development and opportunity.

And for Victorians workers, it'll mean thousands of new jobs.

These initiatives are an investment in our kids – and an investment in Victoria's recovery.

## Supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our students

As we continue work to ensure more Victorians are getting the mental health support they need, we know that our schools are integral to our effort.

This Budget invests \$277 million to deliver a comprehensive range of reforms that will put student health, mental health and wellbeing at the centre of our school communities.

This includes \$218 million for a new School Mental Health Fund, which will allow schools to select and implement mental health and wellbeing programs that best meet the needs of their students, while also connecting with specialist services where required.

The Mental Health in Primary Schools pilot will be expanded to include 90 government schools and 10 non-government schools, supporting 100 jobs.

A partnership with the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, the pilot enables schools to employ a Mental Health and Wellbeing Coordinator, while also supporting staff to better understand and respond to mental health issues affecting their students.

This investment builds on our existing commitment to fund a mental health practitioner in every government secondary and specialist secondary school campus by the end of 2021.

In addition, the Doctors in Secondary Schools program will continue, giving students at participating secondary schools access to primary health care at school.



Cristina is one of 5 600 tutors we've hired to help make sure no student is being left behind. Cristina entered the education system as a mature-aged graduate in 2018.

Through the Tutor Learning Initiative, she is providing literacy support to children in years three and four at Clarinda Primary School, targeting their needs and giving them every opportunity to experience success.

Delivered as part of last year's Budget, this \$250 million package represents the single biggest boost to individual learning support in our state's history.

This investment helps our kids catch up and supports thousands of new jobs – with an estimated 80 per cent of these tutor roles filled by women.





## An Australian first: kinder for every three-year-old

The Andrews Labor Government is determined to ensure our youngest Victorians are ready for school – and ready for life. That begins with a great early education.

Research shows that early learning is a powerful way to support a child's development, with the benefits lasting into the school years and beyond.

That's why this Budget invests \$167 million to continue the roll-out of three-year-old kinder, which for the first time will be available in every local government area in the state.

As a result of this investment, Victorian kids will have access to at least five hours a week of a funded three-year-old kinder program from next year, on offer in about 2 600 long day care and stand-alone services. The program will be scaled up to deliver 15 hours a week to families by 2029 as part of a \$5 billion investment.

This nation-leading reform will support an additional 6 000 roles for qualified early childhood teachers and educators – affording more Victorians a great career teaching our kids.

This reform will also save families money, with an average saving of around \$1 150 a year for five hours a week of kinder and \$3 500 when the roll-out is completed in 2029. Around a quarter of families will be able to access low or no-cost programs at a stand-alone service.

## A great education for every child

Every parent wants their child to be happy, healthy and to have every opportunity in life.

That means being able to rely on a great local school and know their children are getting the most out of their education.

That's why we're investing to make sure Victoria's schools continue to support our kids to be their best. This includes:

- » \$55 million to continue swimming and water safety programs in schools across Victoria
- » \$39 million in programs to improve outcomes for Aboriginal students from early childhood to senior secondary, including an expansion of the Koorie Pre-School Assistants program to four new locations, including one in regional Victoria
- » \$20 million to continue supporting our Tech Schools including expanding online teaching, as well as a new mobile delivery pilot for students in remote Gippsland, connecting more secondary students to the skills and jobs of the future

Last year's Budget included \$1.6 billion to transform support for students with disability – doubling the number of students receiving extra support, including kids with autism, dyslexia or complex behaviours.

This Budget builds on that investment, to reduce barriers for children with disability and additional needs. This includes:

- » \$20 million to extend outside school hours care and school holiday programs for young people with disability, as part of a pilot at six government schools
- » \$15 million to improve access to school facilities for students with disability and additional needs, including ramps and handrails, alterations to toilets and showers and technology for students with vision or hearing impairments
- » \$10 million to make our schools more inclusive, delivering new playgrounds, outdoor sensory areas and quiet spaces

This Budget also delivers the new Mount Ridley Special School in Craigieburn, with additional funding to begin planning the upgrade of Verney Road School in Shepparton.

## Building and upgrading our schools

Far more than bricks and mortar, we understand that investing in our classrooms is an investment in our kids.

It's why, over the past six years, the Andrews Labor Government has invested more than \$9.3 billion in building and improving Victoria's government schools.

We are also delivering on our promise to open 100 new schools by 2026, helping to provide certainty to families in our fastest-growing communities.

We're making good on that promise, delivering great local schools – for every child, wherever they live and whatever their background.

As a result of these investments, 15 new schools are currently being built, plus a further 14 new schools and campuses opened in Term 1, 2021.

This Budget continues our education building blitz, with a \$1.6 billion investment to deliver new schools and upgrades to existing schools, including:

- » \$492 million to build 13 brand-new schools and additional stages at three further schools, helping to meet the needs of local families
- » \$340 million to upgrade 52 schools, delivering great classrooms and learning spaces for local kids
- » \$188 million to deliver maintenance upgrades at schools across our state
- » \$105 million for relocatable buildings to relieve pressure at fast-growing schools and to provide additional functional spaces for learning
- » \$85 million to expand six Victorian schools to meet enrolment growth and be ready for the 2024 school year

And to ensure we continue to deliver new schools where they're needed, this Budget also includes funding for land acquisition in Cardinia, Casey, Hume, Melton, Mitchell, Port Phillip and Wyndham for future new schools.

Together these investments are expected to support around 3 500 jobs in construction and supply chains – investing in local kids, and backing local workers.

## Investing in our teachers

Every day, Victoria's teachers give our kids their all.

As a Government, we understand the importance of their work – and the profound difference they can make in the lives of their students.

That's why this Budget is investing \$185 million to support our teaching workforce. This includes \$148 million to establish the new Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership.

The Academy will have a presence in Melbourne's central business district, as well as seven regional learning centres located in Bairnsdale, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Mildura, Moe and Shepparton.

Building on the existing work of the Bastow Institute of Educational Leadership, the Academy will be dedicated to the professional learning and development of our teachers.

The Academy's flagship Teaching Excellence Program will act as a centre of excellence, enabling teachers to advance their skills by drawing on the latest research.

The Academy will also focus on best practice, sharing ideas, knowledge, experience and resources with our teachers and our wider school communities.

Not only is this an investment in our teachers, it's an investment in our kids – and their futures.

# METRO SCHOOLS





## NEW METRO SCHOOLS IN 2023

The following new schools (interim names listed below) will be constructed:

- » Camms Road Primary School
- » Hayes Hill Primary School
- » Holyoake Parade Primary School
- » Lollypop Creek Primary School
- » Merrifield West Secondary School
- » Mount Ridley Special School
- » Officer Rix Road Primary School
- » Riverdale East Primary School
- » Rockbank Murray Road Primary School
- » Tarneit Missen House Primary School
- » Wollert East Secondary School
- » Wollert West Primary School

The following new school will be built to open in 2024:

- » Truganina North Secondary School

Additional stages of new schools will also be constructed at three schools:

- » Cranbourne West Secondary College
- » Elevation Secondary College
- » Tarneit Senior College

## SCHOOL UPGRADES – GROWTH FOR 2024

The expanded capacity will be ready for the 2024 school year at:

- » Glen Eira College
- » Manor Lakes P-12 College
- » Moorabbin Primary School
- » Mount Ridley P-12 College
- » Newlands Primary School

## METRO SCHOOL UPGRADES

- » Alamanda K-9 College
- » Albert Park College and the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School
- » Ashburton Primary School
- » Birralee Primary School
- » Brentwood Park Primary School
- » Chelsea Primary School
- » Croydon Primary School
- » Dandenong North Primary School
- » Footscray City Primary School
- » Frankston High School
- » Glen Waverley South Primary School
- » Goonawarra Primary School
- » Kangaroo Ground Primary School
- » Kensington Primary School
- » Kerrimuir Primary School
- » Koo Wee Rup Primary School
- » Manchester Primary School
- » Montmorency Primary School
- » Moonee Ponds Primary School
- » Mullauna Secondary College
- » Niddrie Primary School
- » Northcote High School
- » Parkwood Green Primary School
- » Pascoe Vale Girls Secondary College
- » Plenty Parklands Primary School
- » St Albans East Primary School
- » Swinburne Senior Secondary College
- » Templeton Primary School
- » Viewbank Primary School
- » Warrandyte High School
- » Watsonia North Primary School
- » Weeden Heights Primary School
- » Wembley Primary School
- » Westall Secondary College
- » Wheelers Hill Primary School

## METRO LAND ACQUISITION FOR NEW SCHOOLS

Land will be acquired in the municipalities of Cardinia, Casey, Hume, Melton, Port Phillip and Wyndham for future new schools.



New school – construction

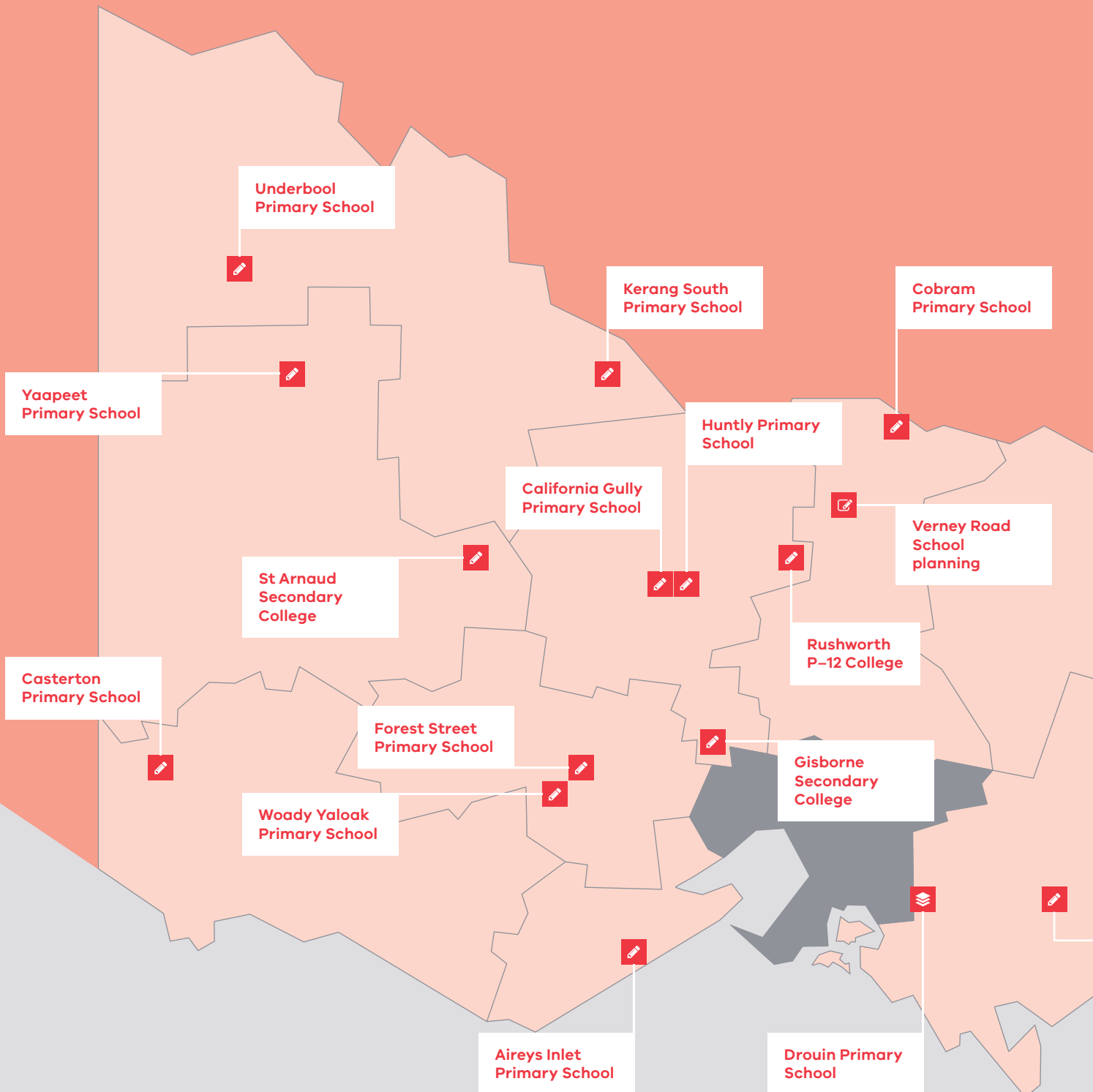


School upgrade



School upgrade (growth for 2024)

## REGIONAL SCHOOLS



## PLANNING FOR SCHOOLS

- » Verney Road School and specialist provision across the Shepparton region

## SCHOOL UPGRADES

- » Aireys Inlet Primary School
- » California Gully Primary School
- » Casterton Primary School
- » Cobram Primary School
- » Forest Street Primary School
- » Gisborne Secondary College
- » Huntly Primary School
- » Kerang South Primary School
- » Mount Beauty Primary School
- » Orbost Regeneration
- » Rushworth P-12 College
- » Sale College
- » St Arnaud Secondary College
- » Traralgon (Stockdale Road) Primary School
- » Underbool Primary School
- » Woody Yaloak Primary School
- » Yaapeet Primary School

## SCHOOL UPGRADES – GROWTH FOR 2024

- » Drouin Primary School

## LAND ACQUISITION FOR NEW SCHOOLS

- » Mitchell Shire



**Mount Beauty  
Primary School**

**Orbost schools  
regeneration**

**Sale College**



**Stockdale Road  
Primary School  
Traralgon**



Planning for schools



School upgrade



School upgrade (growth for 2024)

# HEALTH

Last year drove home the importance of great local healthcare – and the dedicated people who look after us all.

Since coming to office, the Andrews Labor Government's investments in our healthcare system – and the workers that look after us – total more than \$133 billion.

Now, as we continue to recover from the pandemic, this Budget delivers \$7.1 billion to continue improving our hospitals and healthcare system.

Not only will this investment ensure care when it's needed, it is also creating and supporting new jobs.

From doctors and nurses, cleaners, support staff and construction workers – this Budget will give more Victorians the security of a job.

It's an investment in Victorian workers – and the health and wellbeing of every Victorian.

## Continuing to protect Victoria from COVID-19

As far as we've come, it's clear that without an effective national and international vaccine roll-out, the pandemic is far from over.

It's why this Budget includes a further \$1.3 billion to continue our public health response to COVID-19.

This investment backs the ongoing efforts of our contact tracers and public health team, while also supporting Australia's vaccine roll-out here in Victoria.

A further \$50 million will support establishing Victoria's capability to manufacture mRNA vaccines, providing certainty of supply for new vaccines and lifesaving treatments in Australia.

Victoria is ideally placed to lead in mRNA production, and the Victorian Government will work closely with the Commonwealth and world-leading experts from Monash University, the University of Melbourne, the Doherty Institute and other leading research institutes, as well as domestic and international medical technology manufacturers, to develop the first mRNA manufacturing capability in the southern hemisphere.

Increasingly, mRNA and other forms of RNA nanomedicines can be used in the treatment of cancer, rare diseases, and protein-replacement therapy.

These vaccines also offer a promising alternative to traditional vaccines because of their efficacy, capacity for rapid development, low-cost manufacture, and safe administration.

Securing the Victorian production of mRNA will create new local jobs, and ensure our state remains a world leader in infectious disease research and treatment.

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This Budget delivers \$7.1 billion to continue improving our hospitals and healthcare system





## Investing in our healthcare system

Our healthcare system and dedicated workforce faced an unprecedented challenge in 2020.

That challenge continues, with unprecedented levels of demand expected across the country.

This demand is being driven by more people presenting to our emergency departments, including people who deferred their normal check-ups and are now experiencing more complex or critical conditions.

It's why this Budget will deliver more than \$759 million in funding for more paramedics, more triage care and support staff for Ambulance Victoria, as well as targeted funding to improve flow of patients in our busy emergency departments.

The investment will also support the opening of new beds in health services across the state, supported by Victoria's hardworking healthcare workforce.

Our support for Ambulance Victoria will also provide new funding for more than 200 paramedics, helping ensure our ambulance services can respond rapidly in emergencies.

It includes an extra \$266 million to support the work of Ambulance Victoria, with additional triage nurses, an expansion to secondary triage services and non-emergency patient transfers.

This funding will kick-start planning for new ambulance stations at Marong and Armstrong Creek.

It will also fund a \$204 million investment to bolster Ambulance Victoria's resources through programs like Telehealth, and will deliver ongoing operational improvements across the state.

Our busy emergency departments will receive \$89 million to boost capacity and drive improvements, and we will fund \$200 million to commission the opening of hospital facilities. This will support the operation of previously-announced beds and the additional staff to support them, including our hardworking nurses, allied health professionals and doctors.

Overall, the Budget delivers \$3.7 billion in funding to meet demand for hospital services, including more emergency department staff, extra highly specialised therapies, and support for new wards as they open.

This funding also meets demand for more elective surgeries, and supports a \$136 million elective surgery improvement fund to reduce the elective surgery waitlist and deliver better outcomes for patients.

Community-based health services will also receive a \$91 million boost, including help to catch-up on treatments that Victorians have deferred during the pandemic like public dental, cancer diagnoses and screening, and maternal and child health.

We're also expanding the future pipeline of Victoria's healthcare workforce, delivering 200 000 additional student placement days in the public health system and supporting clinicians to supervise students.

Recognising the need for more alcohol and other drug (AOD) services – particularly in regional Victoria – this Budget will deliver nearly \$38 million to build and open new residential rehabilitation beds, and boost community-based treatment services.

## Building and upgrading our hospitals

Our hospitals and local health services were at the heart of our state's response last year – and will continue to be critical in our recovery.

It's why the Andrews Labor Government is investing over \$1.2 billion to build and upgrade the health infrastructure Victoria needs.

In addition to providing care patients can rely on, this investment will support thousands of jobs, creating secure and stable positions for Victorians at the heart of our health response.

As part of this investment, this year's Budget includes \$556 million to deliver on the Andrews Labor Government's commitment to build and expand 10 community hospitals.

Located in Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Pakenham, Phillip Island, Sunbury, Torquay, Mernda, Eltham, Point Cook and the inner-south of Melbourne, this investment will give local families confidence the very best care is available close to home and support around 1 550 jobs at the peak of construction.

Further investments include:

- » \$100 million to ensure our youngest Victorians continue to have the very best care with new emergency department paediatric zones at University Hospital Geelong, Maroondah, Casey, Northern and Frankston hospitals. Planning work will also begin on new adult emergency departments at the Maroondah, Casey, Northern, Werribee Mercy and Austin hospitals. The project will support around 300 jobs at the peak of construction
- » \$95 million to upgrade Maryborough Hospital, delivering a new two-level building with early works to commence in 2022. The new building will include day surgery, birthing suites, medical imaging, pathology, ambulatory services and urgent care. The project will support over 330 jobs at the peak of construction
- » \$99 million to expand the Angliss Hospital with a new in-patient unit. The project will support around 220 jobs at the peak of construction

The Budget also continues our build and upgrade of rural and regional health services, with a \$20 million boost to our landmark Regional Health Infrastructure Fund. This Fund has helped to deliver more than 280 projects across our state, and ensures country communities have care they can rely on.

An additional \$103 million will deliver upgraded medical equipment, technology and infrastructure.







## Supporting more Victorians to start a family

The Andrews Labor Government will help more Victorian families experience the joys of parenthood, helping to cover the costs of in-vitro fertilisation (IVF).

IVF can help people who want to become parents achieve their dreams. But with an initial IVF cycle costing an average of \$5 500, for many it's unaffordable and out of reach.

It's why this Budget delivers \$70 million to establish public fertility care services – which will be free for 4 000 Victorian patients each year when the program is fully operational.

Access to public IVF services will begin in 2022, helping more Victorians become parents, without the high costs.

This funding also includes \$3.5 million to deliver Australia's first public sperm and egg bank, helping even more Victorians have a family of their own.

Funding of \$4.1 million will also establish three new women's reproductive health hubs, enabling more women to access expert advice on sexual and reproductive health issues, and helping to catch-up on deferred check-ups as a result of the pandemic. Funding will also expand the hours of operation for the eight existing hubs and expand the scope of services they provide.

## More support for aged care

The pandemic has shown how important it is that we protect and support older Victorians relying on aged care.

Victoria has the largest public residential aged care sector in Australia, and research by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety showed that government-run facilities return the best results and quality in aged care.

This Budget continues to protect and support older Victorians with an extra \$29 million for our public aged care services across the state.

We are also investing \$65 million to rebuild the Glenview Community Care aged care facility in Rutherglen to deliver 50 beds, as well as to plan and design redevelopment of facilities at Cohuna and Camperdown.

The new Rutherglen facility will help ensure residents have the very best care and that local families have confidence their loved ones are being looked after.

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**This Budget delivers \$70 million to establish public IVF services – which will be free for 4 000 patients each year**

## ROAD AND RAIL

Our roads and rail are vital in connecting Victorians to work, study and to each other.

Our \$80 billion transport infrastructure investment over the past six years is not only delivering these vital connections but it has also ensured new opportunities for Victorians – supporting thousands of jobs across the construction sector and supply chains.

The Andrews Labor Government is delivering state-shaping projects like the Metro Tunnel, removing 75 level crossings, the new Mordialloc Freeway and upgrading thousands of kilometres of local roads.

Not only are the projects ensuring we have a modern transport system, our big infrastructure build has supported tens of thousands of jobs.

This Budget builds on that record, investing in the next round of projects that will ensure Victorians have the fast, reliable and safe transport system they deserve.

This Budget invests in the road and rail projects that will get Victorians where they're going – and get more Victorians back into work.

### New trains supporting new local jobs

In just six years, the Andrews Labor Government has invested in a major pipeline of projects to completely transform our state's rail network, including Metro Tunnel, Melbourne Airport Rail and early works for the Suburban Rail Loop.

At the same time, we've invested in the services, staff and rolling stock we need to maximise the benefits of our Big Build.

This year's Budget continues that record with a \$2.3 billion investment in our rail network.

This includes \$986 million to build 25 brand-new, modern, X'Trapolis 2.0 trains and supporting infrastructure for our metropolitan network.

These new metropolitan trains will mean a more efficient and reliable rail network, while also improving access and comfort for passengers.

Not only will it get Victorians home sooner, it's an investment that will also create hundreds of new local jobs.

Importantly, these new trains will have a minimum 60 per cent local content requirement and be manufactured in Victoria, with major works occurring in Ballarat.

This will also support local manufacturing and supply chains, with the investment expected to support around 750 jobs.

With this investment, we'll be building trains for Victoria – built by Victorians.





## Public transport Victorians can rely on

Last year, we were reminded there's nothing more important than spending time with the people you love.

It's why we're transforming our public transport system – investing in the projects that will get Victorians home sooner.

This Budget continues that transformation, investing \$3.2 billion to keep our public transport network moving.

\$94 million will be invested in the Melton and Wyndham Vale corridor to enable higher capacity trains, including nine-car VLocity trains. These longer trains will increase capacity by up to 50 per cent during peak periods. Development work will also be undertaken for a new commuter train as a future replacement for the existing classic fleet operating on regional lines.

Funding of \$368 million will deliver infrastructure for our Next Generation Trams, including upgrades to the Southbank Tram Depot and the construction of a new tram maintenance facility in Melbourne's north-west.

This investment will support the delivery of 100 new modern Next Generation Trams funded in the *2020/21 Budget*, which will support more than 1 800 local manufacturing and supply chain jobs at the peak of production.

Funding of \$42 million will improve performance on our tram network, with tram and road traffic separations in six Melbourne central business district locations, upgrades to the Automatic Vehicle Monitoring system, and continuation of St Kilda Road corridor tram services.

Disability shouldn't be a barrier to accessing public transport. It's why we're investing \$25 million to deliver accessibility and usability upgrades across the public transport network. This includes upgrades at over 1 000 kerbside tram stops across Melbourne with features like braille plates and tactile ground markings – as well as improved lighting, weather protection and safer road markings at 42 priority stops.

Additional investments include:

- » Funding to upgrade the South Dynon train maintenance facility which maintains our regional VLocity trains
- » \$74 million to improve and reform our regional and suburban bus network, including more frequent buses, extended routes and a more reliable service
- » \$15 million to continue planning, development and protection of mass transit connections for Fishermans Bend
- » \$3.1 million for glass safety screens on 450 Victorian buses and to replace handrails on trams, improving safety for drivers and passengers

## The next step towards a turn up and go service

This Budget invests \$242 million in the next step towards 'turn up and go' services in our city's south.

Funding will upgrade the tracks near Caulfield Station, separating the Cranbourne-Pakenham and Frankston lines, enabling more trains and more frequent services.

These improvements will untangle the lines, preparing this crucial section of the network for the opening of the Metro Tunnel.

New signalling equipment will also make the junction safer and deliver a more reliable service for local passengers.

This investment also includes \$2 million to undertake planning to improve interchange connections at Caulfield Station, making it easier for commuters to make their train.

Not only will this investment deliver a safer, more reliable trip for local passengers, it will support around 600 jobs at the peak of construction.



## Investing in our walking and cycling network

Last year, our local walking and cycling paths were more important than ever.

That's why this Budget invests \$21 million to improve the safety and access of our walking and cycling network.

That includes building new walking paths at the intersection of Highbury Road, Seven Oaks Road and Newhaven Road in Melbourne's eastern suburbs.

This Budget also delivers further upgrades including a bridge with shared bike and walking lanes along the Kew to Highett Strategic Cycling Corridor at Toorak Road.

## Improving our road network

Our road network keeps Victorians connected. That's why this Budget provides a further \$265 million for our roads, improving intersections and travel times, and planning for the future of our road network.

This includes:

- » \$100 million to progress planning of targeted upgrades, including improvements to safety and capacity at Calder Park Interchange, along the Calder Freeway between Gap Road in Sunbury and the M80 Ring Road, jointly funded with the Commonwealth Government
- » \$95 million to upgrade and maintain our suburban and regional roads
- » \$42 million for a safer and more productive road network for freight, upgrading local bridges and improving access for heavy vehicles across our regional road network
- » Funding for early works to upgrade Mickleham Road between Somerton Road and Dellamore Boulevard, and for the Ison Road – Rail Overpass, improving safety and connectivity in Melbourne's growing north and west

Funding of \$14 million is also provided to continue planning the Bulla Bypass.

## Supporting zero and low-emission vehicles

We know how important the transport sector is to Victoria's target of net zero emissions by 2050.

That's why the Andrews Labor Government has launched Victoria's Zero Emissions Vehicle Roadmap. This Budget provides additional support, taking our total investment in the uptake of Zero Emissions Vehicles to \$100 million.

This includes \$46 million to introduce the first zero emissions vehicle purchase subsidy in Australia, to encourage the early adoption of lower-cost zero emission vehicles by households and businesses.

Funding is also provided to add 400 zero emission vehicles to the Victorian government fleet and upgrade infrastructure across government-owned and leased buildings. New charging stations will also be delivered across the state, giving drivers more certainty and supporting new local jobs.

These supports have been made possible by the zero and low-emissions road user charge, a charge that will be a fraction of the motor vehicle-related taxes and charges other vehicle owners pay and ensures all road users contribute their fair share to the upkeep of our roads.

## Getting Victorians home safe

Every Victorian deserves to get home safe. This Budget builds on our commitment to ensure Victorians are safe on our roads.

We're investing \$386 million in our new Road Safety Strategy to develop and deliver new safety technology and improvements, helping to keep all Victorians safe.

Funding will tackle the most dangerous behaviours on our roads, including drink-driving, speeding and mobile phone use, with more safety cameras, additional enforcement and improved technology – all with the goal of reducing the risk of death and serious injuries on our roads.

This Budget will also improve safety infrastructure across Victoria, including upgrades to traffic signals, signage and installing more safety barriers.

## STRONG COMMUNITIES

In Victoria, we've shown that if we look out for each other, we can achieve anything.

That's why with this Budget, the Andrews Labor Government is investing in the projects and priorities that will further strengthen our communities.

The local sports clubs that bind us together.

The emergency services that keep us safe.

The open spaces that matter to local families.

And the investments that will make our state stronger and fairer.

This Budget invests in Victoria's communities – and the people who call them home.

### Investing in what makes our communities great

We know that our investment in sports and recreation helps make Victorians healthier, supports local jobs – and creates stronger, more connected communities.

This Budget invests \$623 million to support the strength of our neighbourhoods and communities.

An investment of \$55 million will deliver new and upgraded community sport and recreation infrastructure, increasing participation opportunities and improving access for local families. This includes extending the Female Friendly Facilities Fund to deliver new community pavilions, changerooms, playing grounds and courts.

A further \$50 million will provide a boost to the Growing Suburbs Fund, delivering the local projects that matter to local communities in our interface and peri-urban areas.

Victoria's parks and public spaces give all Victorians an opportunity to relax and unwind, and to experience our state's world-leading natural environment.

Funding of \$32 million will keep our parks at their best, ensuring local spaces for local families and communities. Additional investments include:

- » \$20 million to allow children under 16 years of age to continue to enjoy free access to Melbourne Zoo, Healesville Sanctuary and Werribee Open Range Zoo on weekends, public holidays and during school holidays
- » \$16 million to continue the Regional and Metropolitan Partnerships programs, which help to deliver the local projects that matter to local people
- » \$3.6 million to support continued free public Wi-Fi network services in the Ballarat and Bendigo central business districts

This Budget also builds on our significant support for recreational boaters – like reinvesting boating fees back into the community – by providing \$19 million to improve water safety and accessibility at Warrnambool and Lake Bullen Merri.

Funding of \$5.9 million will also support the fish hatchery in Shepparton to produce up to 1.6 million in additional fish stock every year, supporting recreational fishing and creating local jobs.





A further \$14 million will help protect the cultural heritage of Aboriginal Victorians by investing in Victoria's Aboriginal cultural heritage management system, supporting decision-making for Traditional Owners and investing in strong, inclusive and effective Traditional Owner groups.

Dedicated funding will see the Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Fire Strategy implemented, supporting Traditional Owners to undertake cultural burning and ensure this knowledge is sustained through generations. This investment will be delivered in partnership with the Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations, Parks Victoria and the Country Fire Authority, and will create new employment opportunities for Aboriginal people.

## Advancing Treaty and self-determination

A fairer future for Victoria relies on a fairer future for our First Peoples.

It's why this Budget again delivers record investment for Aboriginal Victorians from the Andrews Labor Government.

Across this Budget, \$448 million will directly support Aboriginal Victorians, including supporting self-determination and our state's Treaty process.

This represents the single biggest investment in support for our Aboriginal communities.

That includes making sure that as we build our mental health system, we're investing in culturally safe support for Aboriginal Victorians.

This \$116 million package – part of our record \$3.8 billion investment to build the mental health system – will support the mental health and wellbeing of Aboriginal Victorians, including funding for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.

Further investments include:

- » \$58 million to establish the Yoo-rrook Justice Commission, and ensure the Government and First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria are ready to support this first step towards meaningful healing
- » \$32 million to continue the transfer of case management of Aboriginal child protection and out-of-home care services to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations
- » \$17 million to continue to advance Treaty and self-determination for Aboriginal Victorians, including supporting the ongoing work of the First Peoples' Assembly – the state's first and only democratically elected body for Aboriginal Victorians
- » \$3.2 million to progress Traditional Owner Settlements and complete the Traditional Owner Settlements First Principles Review
- » \$2.6 million will give 400 Aboriginal families each year access to Koorie Supported Playgroups and In-Home Parent Coaching to support young Aboriginal children
- » Funding will also be provided for the Koorie Pre-School Assistants program, which will be expanded to four new locations





## Support for communities in an emergency

The Andrews Labor Government is continuing to back our police and emergency services workers with the support they need – so they can support their communities.

That includes ensuring ongoing help for communities affected by the 2019-2020 Victorian bushfires.

A further \$104 million will deliver continued case support, financial counselling, mental health support, legal aid and business support for local residents.

Funding will also go towards restoring waterways, rebuilding visitor facilities in local parks, and looking after bushfire-affected local wildlife. An additional \$3.8 million will help ensure schools and early childhood services – and the kids they care for – have everything they need to recover.

This Budget also invests in upgrading the vital communication technologies our emergency services need to keep Victorians safe in an emergency. More than \$133 million will upgrade the digital radio service for Forest Fire Management Victoria staff so they can avoid radio blackspots and communicate better with other emergency services. An additional \$139 million will replace CFA radio equipment with modern digital technology, strengthening brigades' emergency response and keeping volunteers safe.

A further \$28 million will support facility upgrades for our emergency service organisations, including refurbishing the CFA station at Doreen, replacement of stations at Serpentine, Metcalfe, Irymple, and information, communication and technology upgrades at the Edithvale station. A new Port Fairy Victorian State Emergency Services facility will be developed and co-located with the local Country Fire Authority unit.

Funding is also provided to redevelop Life Saving Victoria's Wonthaggi clubhouse, Williamstown clubhouse, and Point Lonsdale beach base.

Funding of \$384 million will continue the Reducing Bushfire Risk Program and Safer Together Strategy to reduce the impact of bushfires on Victorian communities, the economy and the environment. Investments include:

- » Planned burns across our state
- » Increasing mechanical and other non-burn fuel treatments
- » Providing additional field and safety equipment, including firefighting vehicles, as well as personal protective gear
- » Upgrading and replacing our fire safety infrastructure, including regional fire towers and dedicated fire tracks

This year's Budget also backs our men and women in blue, with funding of \$44 million to upgrade police facilities across the state. This investment includes replacing Benalla Police Station with a new state-of-the-art facility, helping to keep this local community safe.

An extra \$210 million will help address the backlog in our courts as a result of the pandemic, delivering new magistrates and judges, court staff, online services, and additional resources across the justice system.

A further \$93 million will boost forensic and toxicology services at the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine.

Delivering on the Andrews Labor Government's promise to ensure wage theft cases are heard quickly, a new fast-track model will be established in the Magistrates' Court with \$9.6 million, making it faster, cheaper and easier for employees to recover the money they are owed.





## Protecting our environment

Protecting our environment means protecting the health of Victorians – and the future of our state. Our ambitious Climate Change Strategy is central to this – positioning Victoria as a leader in tackling climate change and creating new jobs and industries of the future.

This strategy will keep Victoria on track to meet our target of net zero emissions by 2050, while also seizing the opportunities of climate action – advancing technology, investing in new industries and creating Victorian jobs.

At the heart of the plan are ambitious targets to reduce emissions by 28-33 per cent by 2025 and 45-50 per cent by 2030 – putting Victoria at the forefront of Australia's climate change action.

This Budget builds on this work, investing \$250 million to protect and preserve our environment.

This includes \$52 million to support our volunteers, local community organisations and continue the Victorian Landcare Program. This includes grants to help protect threatened species, improve local habitats and strengthen our biodiversity.

Support is provided to manage weeds and pests in order to protect wildlife.

Our investment includes \$25 million to improve the health of Victoria's regional waterways and wetlands, including river rehabilitation and protection works.

And, we are investing \$8.8 million to continue the Port Phillip Bay Fund, which provides grants to rehabilitate Port Phillip Bay ecosystems.

These investments build on our \$20 million investment to position Victoria as a leader in low-emissions agriculture, which includes developing the Victorian Agriculture and Climate Change Statement. The Statement will be co-designed with industry and regional leaders, and create a shared vision and pathway on emissions reduction for the agriculture and primary production industries.

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**\$52 million will support our volunteers, local community organisations and continue the Victorian Landcare Program**

## Embracing our diversity

We know one of our greatest strengths in Victoria is our diversity.

It's why this Budget invests in supporting opportunity for all Victorians – regardless of disability, background, belief, gender or sexuality.

This includes \$9.2 million to support inclusive and safe communities for Victorians with disability.

This investment will see the continuation of Disability Liaison Officers, established during the pandemic, to ensure Victorians with disability have the help they need in navigating and finding the right support.

This funding also supports the Victorian Disability Advocacy Program to continue promoting the rights and voices of people with disability.

A further \$2.5 million will expand the Changing Places initiative, building new fully-accessible public toilet facilities across Victoria, helping to support people with disability, their families and carers.

This Budget also delivers \$4.4 million to support multicultural communities recovering from the pandemic, including upgrading local facilities. This investment will also provide support for the development of a bicultural worker strategy.

An additional \$4.3 million includes support for community organisations to deliver targeted programs to support migrant and refugee women into employment. A further \$1.4 million will go towards dedicated programs to address racism, vilification and hate-based conduct.

Funding of \$1 million will go towards Melbourne Pride 2021, a major event to celebrate and support LGBTIQ+ Victorians. Melbourne Pride 2021 will mark the 40-year anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexuality by the Victorian Parliament.

Additional funding will further support LGBTIQ+ legal services and establish a civil response scheme to support the recent banning of change or suppression (conversion) practices.

And to ensure outcomes for women are measured and considered as part of our budget decision-making processes, funding will also go towards gender-responsive budgeting measures.

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Funding of \$1 million will go towards Melbourne Pride 2021, a major event to celebrate and support LGBTIQ+ Victorians







## Respecting and recognising our veterans

This Budget includes important investments that honour the contribution of our veterans, while continuing to recognise that they have much to offer our state.

Dedicated funding of \$6 million will deliver upgrades at the Shrine of Remembrance, including improved access and security.

Not only will this investment support the day-to-day operations of the Shrine, it will also help protect it for future generations.

A further \$2.3 million will extend the Public Sector Veterans Employment Strategy, helping our veterans as they transition back into civilian life, after finishing their service.

This investment supports Victoria's veterans to find employment across a range of areas in the Victorian public sector, including working on our Big Build.

This funding also includes support for our calendar of major commemorations, anniversaries and events.



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## Victorian Budget 2021/22

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Overview

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Treasury  
and Finance