

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Budget 2022-23 Estimates Hearing – Early Childhood



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Minister for Early Childhood

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2022-23 Budget overview

This year's Budget investment of

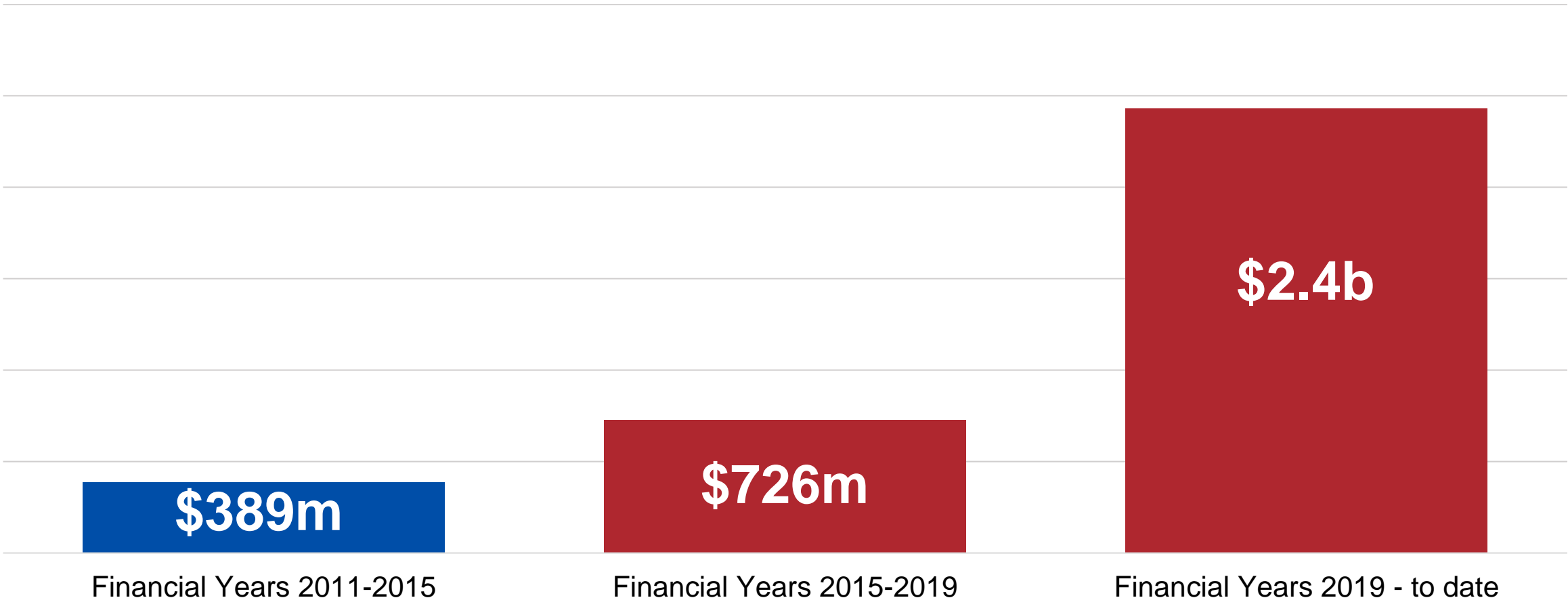
\$217.2 million 

builds on the significant investment and reforms of recent years to:

- help maintain universal access to 15 hours of funded four-year-old kindergarten
- support the delivery of the landmark Three-Year-Old Kindergarten reform
- ensure vulnerable children are strongly supported
- improve outcomes for culturally and linguistically diverse children
- continue the successful Early Childhood Language Program
- make kindergarten services more inclusive through building upgrades



Investing in the early years – recent Budget investment



Three-Year-Old Kindergarten

The Budget supports ongoing record investment in Three-Year-Old Kindergarten

- Almost **\$5 billion** decade-long reform will mean **2 years** of funded **15 hour-a-week** kindergarten programs for all Victorian three- and four-year-olds by 2029
- This year, **children across the state** have access to at least 5 hours of funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten at about **2,700** services
- More than **2,800** teacher scholarships have been awarded

- **5,842** commencements in Free TAFE Early Childhood Education and Care Diploma and Certificate III since 2020 – **59%** increase in 2021 as compared to 2019
- By 2029 about **90,000** children each year will benefit from this reform
- A **\$14.7 million** investment will extend popular Kinder Kits to boost children's learning through play at home



Maintaining Universal Access To Kindergarten Services

Investment of

\$131.2 million 

to maintain universal access to kindergarten and deliver 15 hours of 4-year-old kindergarten including:

- **\$63.7 million** supporting services to maintain staff/child ratios
- **\$55.2 million** to implement the Preschool Reform Agreement, including working with the sector on better understanding the attendance of children at services
- **\$4.3 million** to 100 rural kindergartens to deliver Four-Year-Old Kindergarten
- **\$6.7 million** to supplement the cost of employing more than 2,400 experienced teachers a year
- **\$1.4 million** to meet demand for Kindergarten Fee Subsidy so all eligible children can access free or low-cost services



Tailored support for vulnerable and disadvantaged children

\$20.9 million 

for early interventions and supports for vulnerable children taking part in early childhood education, including:



\$13.6 million to continue the Early Childhood LOOKOUT Program to support children in out of home care



\$4.2 million to continue the Access to Early Learning Program



\$2.2 million to expand the Kindergarten Fee Subsidy for all children known to child protection or from a refugee or asylum seeker background



Improving outcomes for culturally and linguistically diverse children

\$4 million 

to provide outreach support for children from culturally and linguistically diverse families to boost participation.

\$5.5 million 

to continue our early childhood language program – **17** languages in **161** kinders for **6,000** children



Supporting young children with disability

\$16.9 million 

to improve outcomes for children with disability or complex medical needs by meeting the demand for the Kindergarten Inclusion Support program

\$11.9 million 

to help kindergarten services provide more inclusive facilities as part of the successful Building Blocks Inclusion grants program

\$5.1 million 


to ensure children with disability who are not eligible for National Disability Insurance Scheme due to their residency status can access early childhood intervention services




Investing in early childhood infrastructure

Since 2019-20 we have invested:

 more than **\$259 million** in **159** capacity-building projects

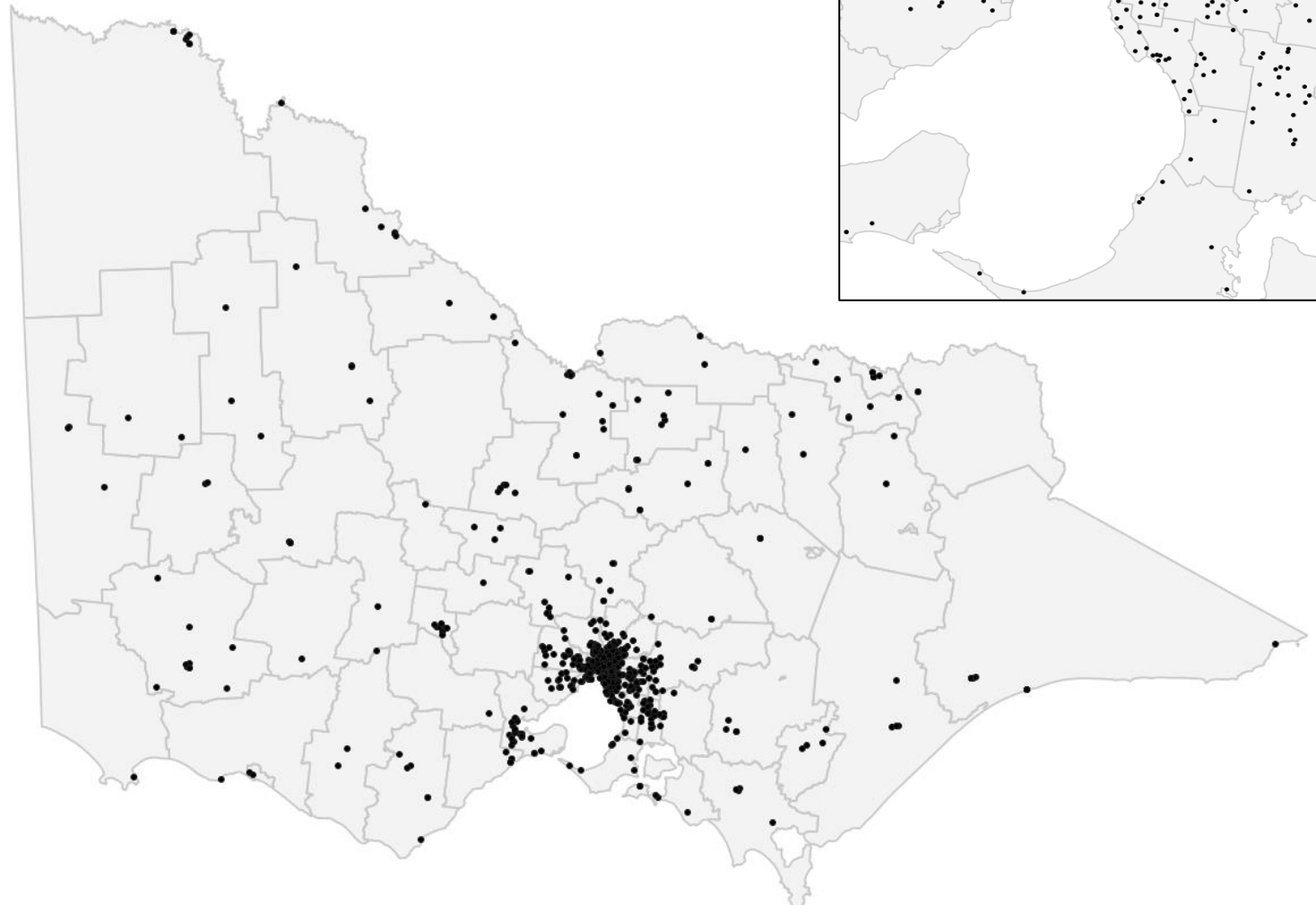
 more than **\$7.6 million** in **81** inclusion projects

 more than **\$35 million** in **375** improvement projects

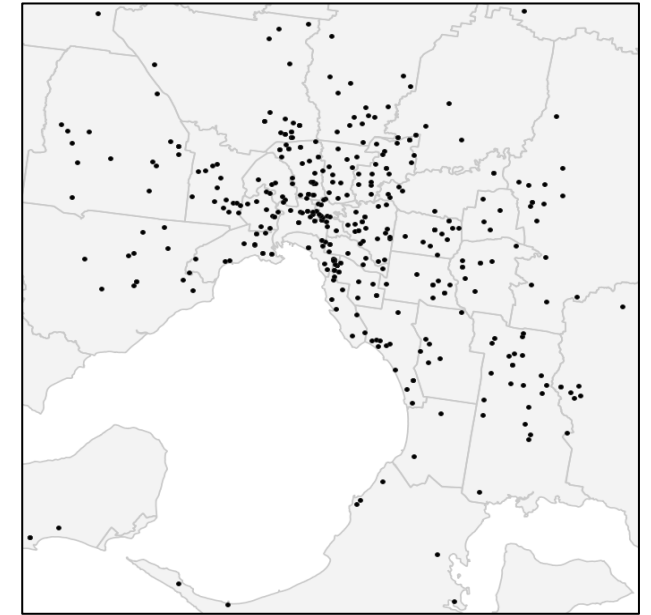
Across two grants rounds in 2021 and 2022 we have invested:

 more than **\$9 million** in ventilation support grants to early childhood services

Map of Early Childhood Infrastructure projects since 2019-20



Metropolitan Melbourne



Thank you