



Victorian Budget 2020/21

The Hon Luke Donnellan MP
Minister for Child Protection

Funding Overview

The *Victorian Budget 2020-21* is investing an additional **\$1.15 billion over four years in new services, supports and programs for children and families**, including child protection, care services and family services.

This includes:

- **\$365.4 million** to maintain the capacity of the children and families system
- **\$363.6 million** to reform care services
- **\$335.4 million** to strengthen intensive family preservation and restoration
- **\$75.0 million** to support young people leaving care
- **\$9.0 million** for maintenance, minor capital improvements and building of new Care Services properties

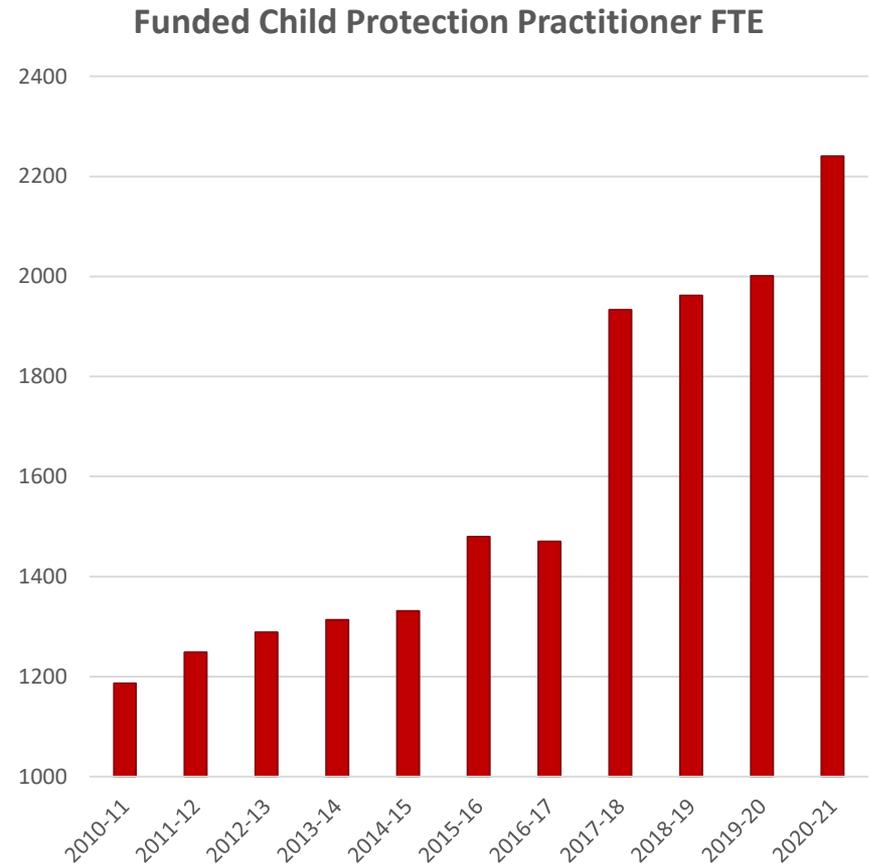
This is in addition to funding of **\$77.5 million** for Family and Placement Prevention Services and Care Services to bolster services for vulnerable Victorians, in recognition of the challenges Victorian families are facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Maintaining the capacity of the children and families system

The *Victorian Budget 2020-21* provides **\$365.4 million** to maintain the capacity of the children and families system.

This includes:

- **\$106.7 million** to recruit 239 new child protection practitioners
- **\$122.3 million** for additional kinship, foster care and permanent care placements
- **\$22.5 million** for 48 staff to support frontline practitioners
- A **\$15 million** Community Service Organisation Sustainability Fund



Maintaining the capacity of the children and families system (cont'd)

It also includes:

- **\$9.1 million** to maintain flexible funding support for permanent carers
- **\$5.8 million** for the Fostering Connections foster care recruitment campaign to encourage all Victorians to open their homes to a foster child
- **\$3.4 million** to continue Child FIRST assessments and services



Reforming care services

The *Victorian Budget 2020-21* provides **\$363.6 million** to reform care services. This includes:

- **\$90.2 million** for targeted care packages across the care system to provide tailored and individual support for children and carers, preventing entry into residential care
- **\$85.9 million** for residential care placements, offering young people a safe place to live away from home and **\$40.9 million TEI** for 2 & 3 bedroom residential facilities
- **\$15.9 million** to expand the *Keep Embracing Your Success* (KEYS) program, an intensive, trauma-informed model of care for children with mental health and complex needs, to enable a transition back to home-based care
- **\$9.1 million** to establish Care Hubs to provide wrap-around support for children entering residential care for the first time as well as sibling groups – giving kids a greater sense of security and reuniting families earlier

Reforming care services (cont'd)

Care service reforms also include an additional **\$85.8 million** in support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families:

- **\$44.3 million** to continue and expand the Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care (ACAC) initiative
- **\$29.9 million** to continue the transition of case management for Aboriginal children to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations
- **\$11.6 million** to establish Aboriginal-led family support teams at two pilot sites, helping local families and addressing the over-representation of Aboriginal children in care



Intensive Family Preservation & Reunification

The *Victorian Budget 2020-21* provides **\$335.4 million** to strengthen intensive family preservation and restoration. This includes:

- **\$47.9 million** to continue funding for Integrated Family Services, Cradle to Kinder, Aboriginal Cradle to Kinder and other evidence-based programs in 2020-21
- **\$269.2 million** from 2021-22 to expand delivery of the outcomes-focused, intensive family preservation and restoration program.

In line with the *Roadmap for Reform*, this is about investing in what works for families to keep them together and divert children from statutory care.

Universal support for care leavers

The *Victorian Budget 2020-21* provides **\$75.0 million** to support young people leaving care. This includes **\$64.7 million** to provide Home Stretch up to the age of 21 for every young Victorian in out of home care from 1 January 2021, an Australian first, and **\$10.3 million** to continue the Better Futures response



“The single most significant reform to child welfare in a generation”

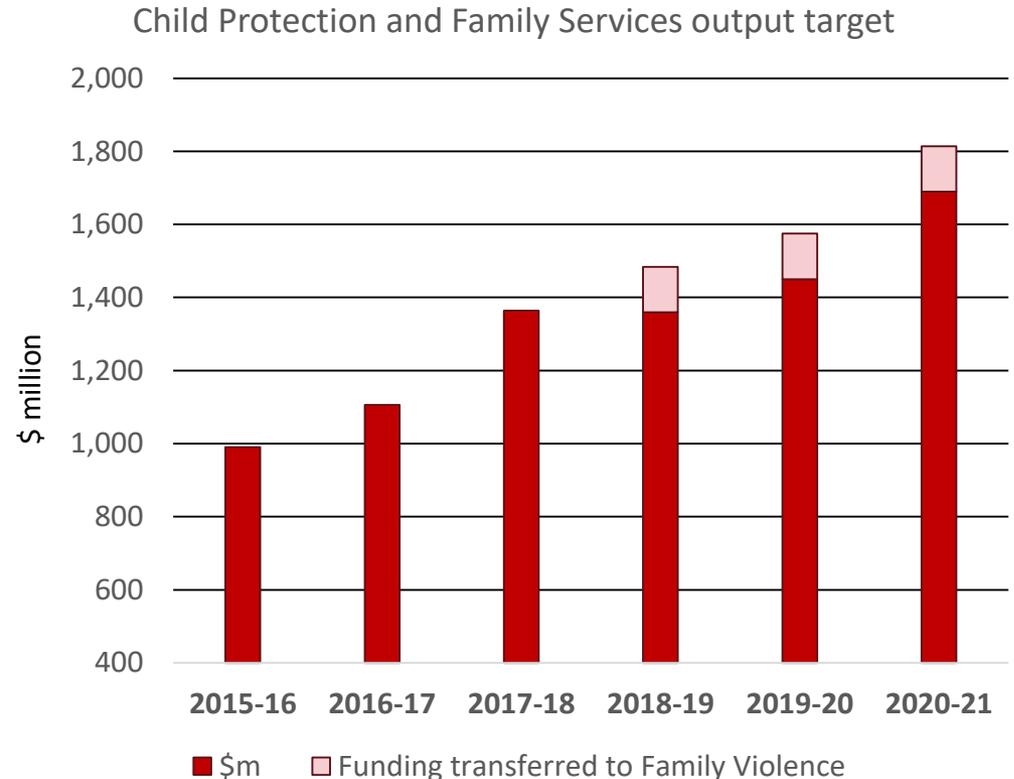
*Home Stretch chair
Paul McDonald*

“...this budget sets us on a new course. One where people come first, and community and individual wellbeing is the main game in town.”

*VCOSS CEO
Emma King*

Building on our investment

- In 2020-21, the Andrews Labor Government is investing **\$1.69 billion** in child protection and family services.
- This investment is a 16.5% increase compared to 2019-20, and a 99.4% increase compared to six years ago.
- Accounting for family violence and sexual assault services, which transferred to the Prevention of Family Violence portfolio in 2019-20, it represents a 114.2% increase.



Andrews Labor government investment in Child Protection