

2021–22 Victorian State Budget Child Protection portfolio

The Hon Luke Donnellan MP
Minister for Child Protection

OFFICIAL

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Funding overview

The 2021–22 Victorian State Budget is investing \$1.2 billion over four years in Child Protection, to strengthen the foundations of the children and family services system; support and trial innovative and evidence-based approaches.

- **\$1.0 billion** to strengthen the capacity of the children and family services system, including:
 - **\$31.5 million** to continue the implementation of Wungurilwil Gapgapduir
 - **\$19.8 million** for Family Group Conferencing
- **\$102 million** to support children in care and their carers, including:
 - **\$38.9 million** in new funding and **\$13.8 million** in ongoing funding for the ground-breaking Home Stretch program, giving young people on permanent care orders support until they turn 21
- **\$70.3 million** to provide earlier intervention support for families and children, and to further reduce escalation and demand on statutory services
- **\$17.8 million** to trial a new interdisciplinary model that works holistically with families to address their needs, individually and collectively

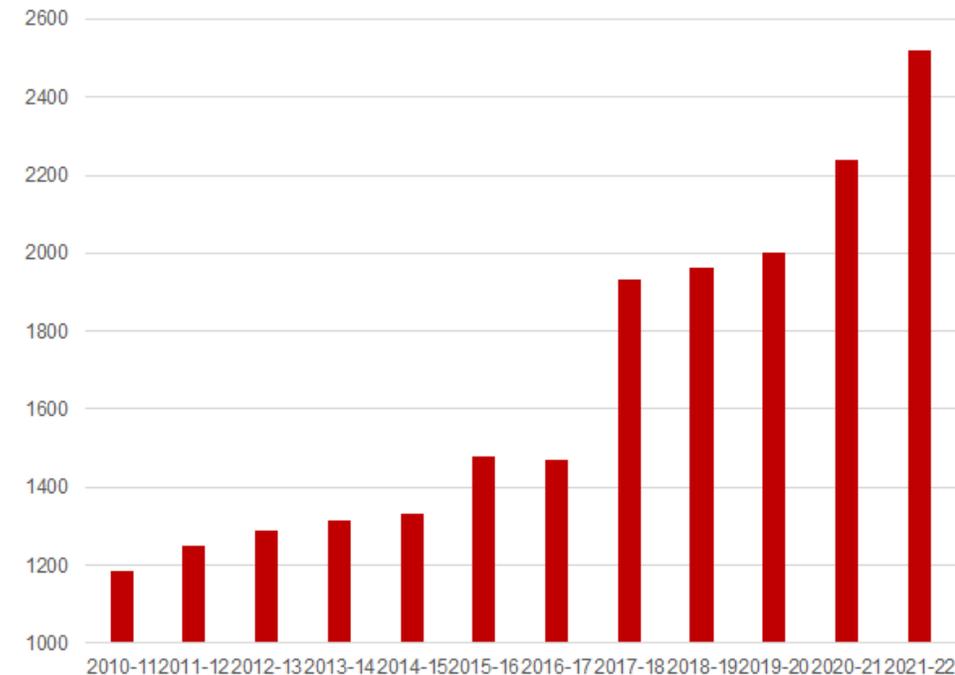
Strengthening the foundation of the children and families system (1/2)

The 2021–22 Victorian State Budget provides \$1.0 billion to strengthen the capacity of the children and family services system to help the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding includes:

- ▶ **\$641 million** to continue ongoing 487 Child Protection Practitioners (\$329 million) and 2,773 home-based care placements (\$312 million).
- ▶ **\$171 million** to recruit 280 new child protection practitioners including 34 specialist navigators
- ▶ **\$76.4 million** for additional 408 kinship, foster care and permanent care placements

Funded Child Protection Practitioner FTE



Strengthening the foundation of the children and families system (2/2)

Funding also includes:

- ▶ \$31.5 million to transfer case management of Aboriginal children to ACCOs
- ▶ \$19.8 million to undertake a three-year trial of Family Group Conferences for children and families, to plan and make decisions for a child at risk of harm, abuse or neglect
- ▶ \$3.5 million to continue Child FIRST assessments and intake services.



More support for carers and children in care

The 2021–22 Victorian State Budget provides \$102 million to progress reforms to care services.

Examples of innovative approaches:

- ▶ **\$38.9 million** to expand Better Futures and Home Stretch to include young people on permanent care orders who require support beyond their 18th birthday
- ▶ **\$7.9 million** to continue the Keeping Connected Sibling and placement support model which provides a targeted service response, including therapeutic assessment and support, to keep siblings together on entry to care while longer term options are identified
- ▶ **\$6.5 million** to continue the Treatment Foster Care Oregon (TFCO) model, which is a licensed and accredited evidence-based program, providing time limited and intensive treatment in home-based settings to children with challenging behaviours and complex needs
- ▶ **\$2.2 million** over four years and ongoing funding for an expansion of respite placements to kinship carers
- ▶ **\$1.6 million** to expand Carer KaFE to permanent carers, so they have access to a range of training options to equip them to better respond to children's immediate and long-term needs

Earlier support for families

The 2021–22 Victorian State Budget provides \$70.3 million to help us to intervene earlier to deliver better outcomes for children and families. This includes:

- ▶ **\$37.9 million** to fund ongoing growth in family services. This will enable delivery of targeted family support to an additional 500 families.
- ▶ **\$16.3 million** over two years to embed family services in universal settings such as schools and early years services. Community services organisations and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations will support more than 2,000 families through this new model.
- ▶ **\$2.6 million** to fund Koori Supported Playgroups ongoing – this supports parents of children from birth to four years via three ACCOs across eight metropolitan and regional locations.
- ▶ **\$13.5 million** to fund a trial of Frontline Victoria to fast-track degree-qualified career changers into a career in the child and families services system.

Putting Families First

The 2021–22 Victorian State Budget provides \$17.8 million to trial a new interdisciplinary model working with families to address their needs, individually and collectively and build their confidence and capability to improve their safety, health and wellbeing.

Funding for this trial has been provided for three years.

The trial will support approximately 200 families across two sites in Brimbank-Melton and Goulburn.

People who will take part will either be:

- families where the mother started a corrections custodial sentence in the past year
- and families where at least one child aged 19 years or under has been subject to a Youth Justice order in the past year.

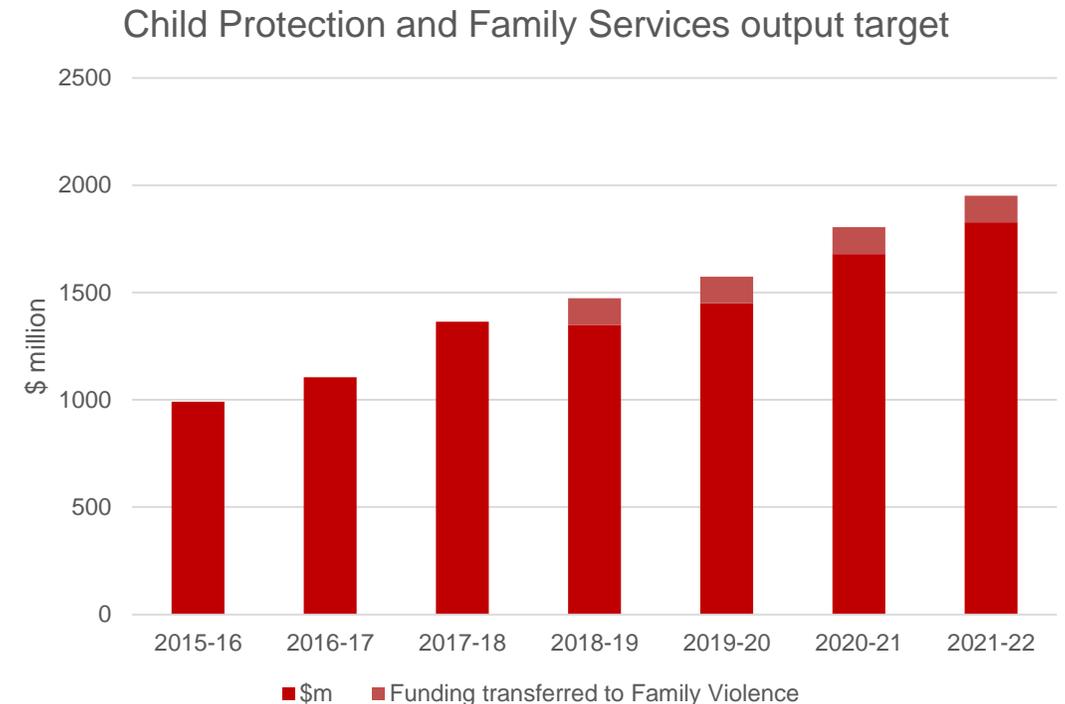
Building on our investment

In 2021–22 the Victorian State Government is investing \$1.8 billion in child protection.

This investment is an **8.8% increase** vs 2020-21

This investment is an **84.4% increase compared to six years ago**

Accounting for family violence and sexual assault services, which transferred to the Prevention of Family Violence portfolio in 2018-19, it represents a **97% increase**.



**Victorian State Government investment
in Child Protection**