



PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2017-18

Families and Children

Jenny Mikakos MP

Minister for Families and Children

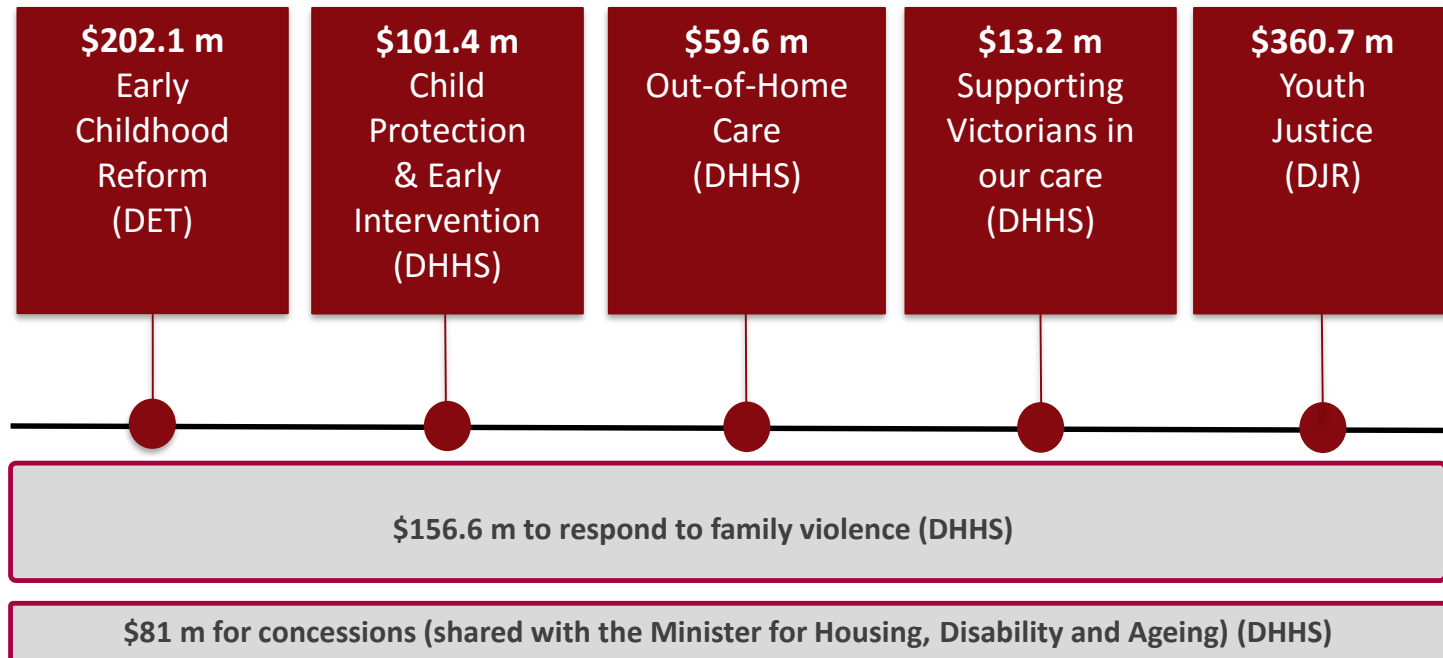
30 May 2017

2017-18 Budget

\$975 million is being invested as part of the Victorian Government's ongoing commitment to improve the outcomes of children and families.

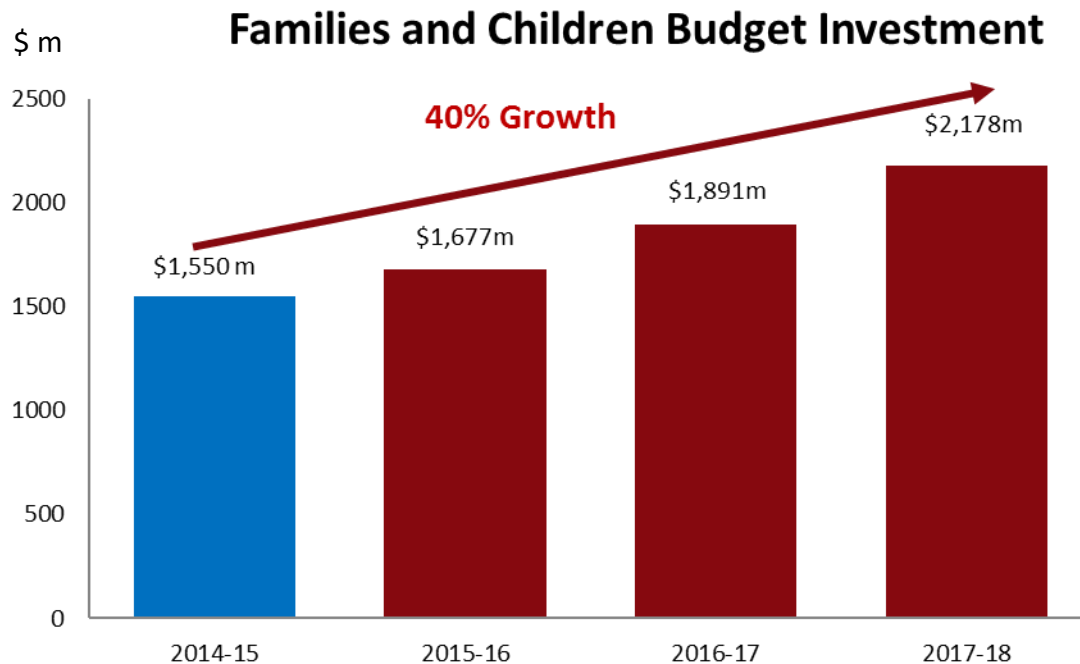
This builds on our Education State Early Childhood Reform Plan, the *Roadmap for Reform: Strong Families, Safe Children* and supports our response to the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

This investment includes:



Families & Children – Record Investment

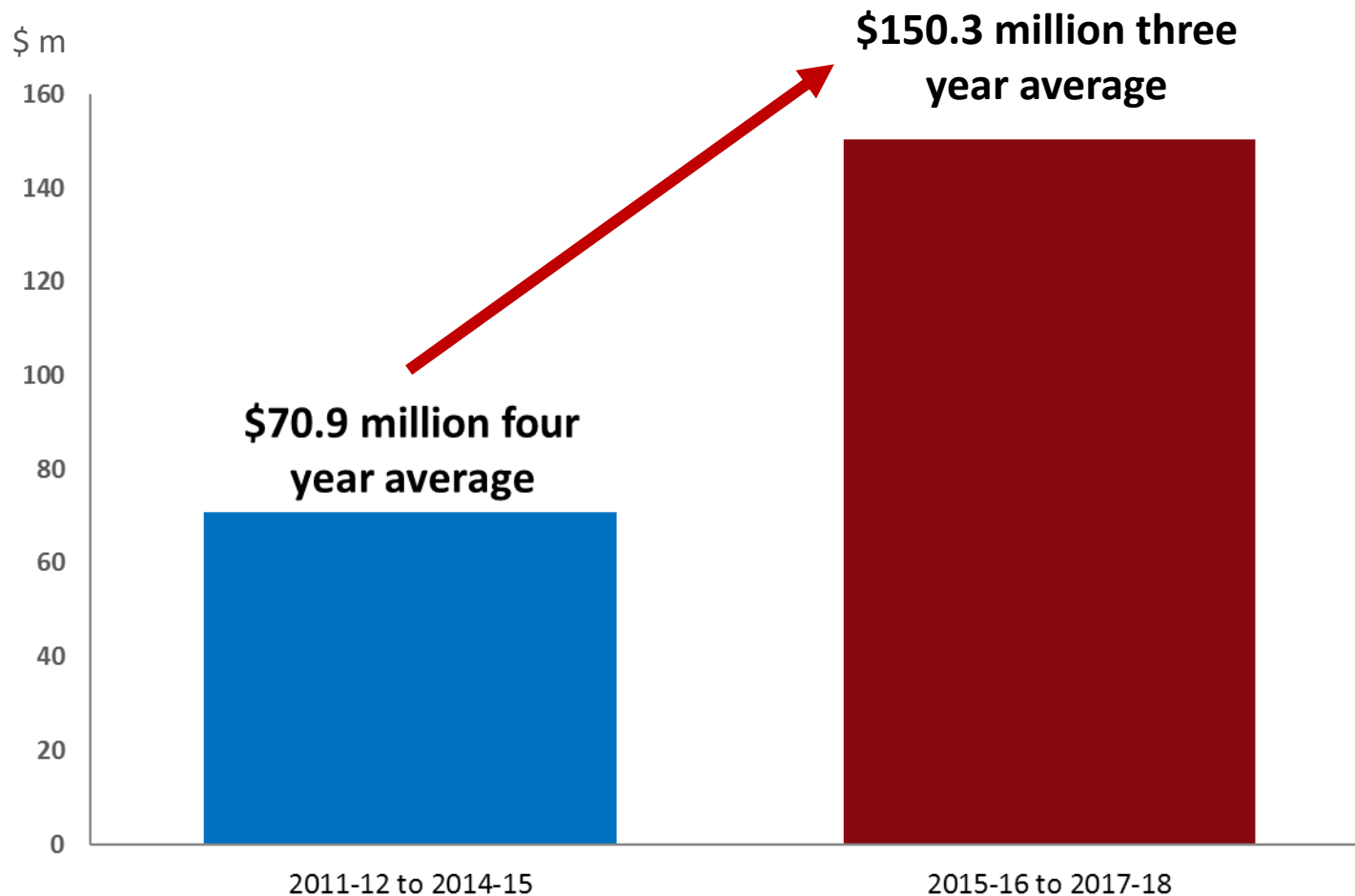
Our commitment to families and children is demonstrated by our record investment in the portfolio over the past three state budgets.



- Since 2014-15, investment for families and children has increased **by \$628 million**
- This is an **increase of more than 40 per cent**

Early childhood education and parenting support - investment

Average early childhood education and parenting investment has **more than doubled**:



Early Childhood Reform Plan

\$202.1 million for the *Early Childhood Reform Plan*.

The plan will create a system that:

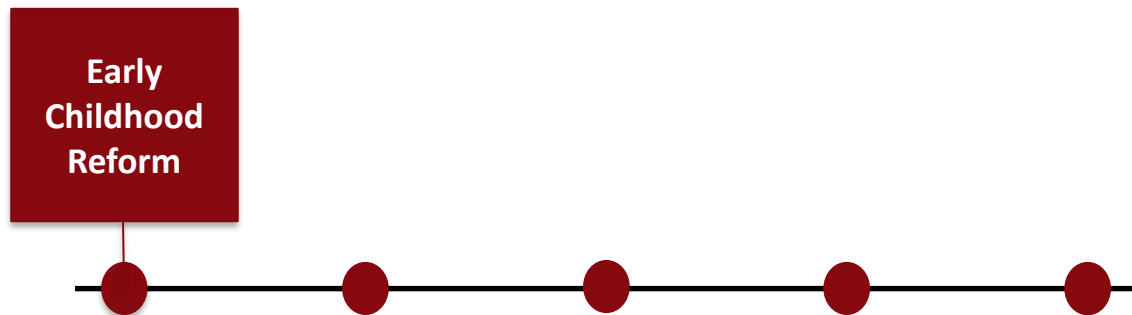
- supports high quality services
- is equitable
- inclusive, and
- makes sure every child is ready for kinder, ready for school and ready for life.



Early Childhood Reform Plan – Supporting access and inclusion

\$108.4 million in kindergarten reforms, including:

- **\$55.3 million** in school readiness funding to support a new, Australian first, needs-based kindergarten funding model to give more support to the children who need it most
- **\$22.8 million** to improve kindergarten quality
- **\$10 million** to build new Early Childhood facilities co-located with government schools, and
- **\$1.1 million** to encourage non-government schools to offer a kinder program
- **\$5.5 million** to expand and enhance central enrolment

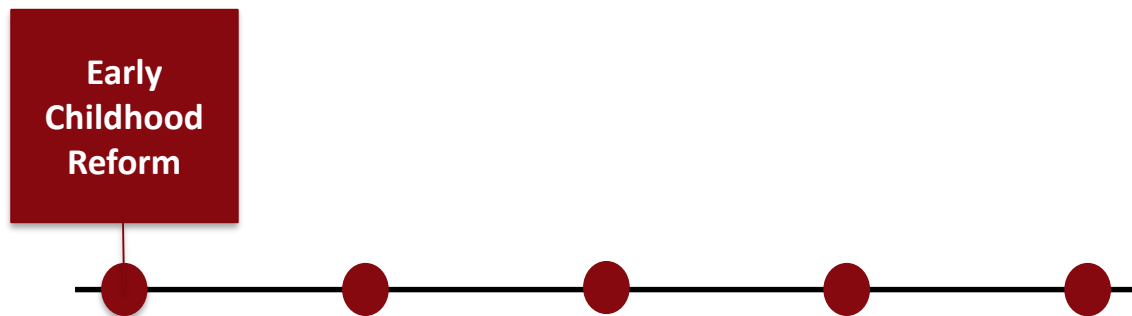


Early Childhood Reform Plan – Supporting access and inclusion (continued)

This **\$108.4 million** includes initiatives to make services more accessible and inclusive:

- **\$6.3 million** to support Early Start Kindergarten, so more Koori children and children known to child protection get two free years of kinder
- **\$2.3 million** to make pre-purchased places a permanent part of the system
- **\$5 million** to expand Kindergarten Inclusion Support to enable children with disabilities to access kindergarten

An additional **\$7.2 million** will help children with disabilities access Early Childhood Intervention Services

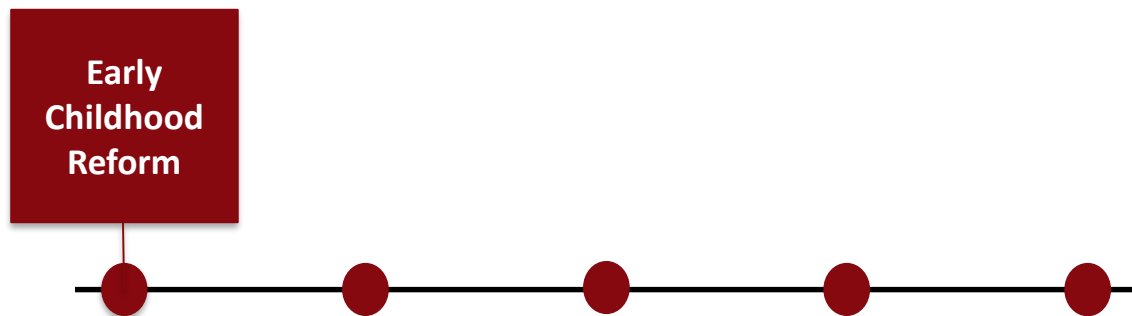


Early Childhood Reform Plan – Supporting parents

\$81.1 million to expand and strengthen the Maternal Childhood Health (MCH) Service and improve parenting support, including:

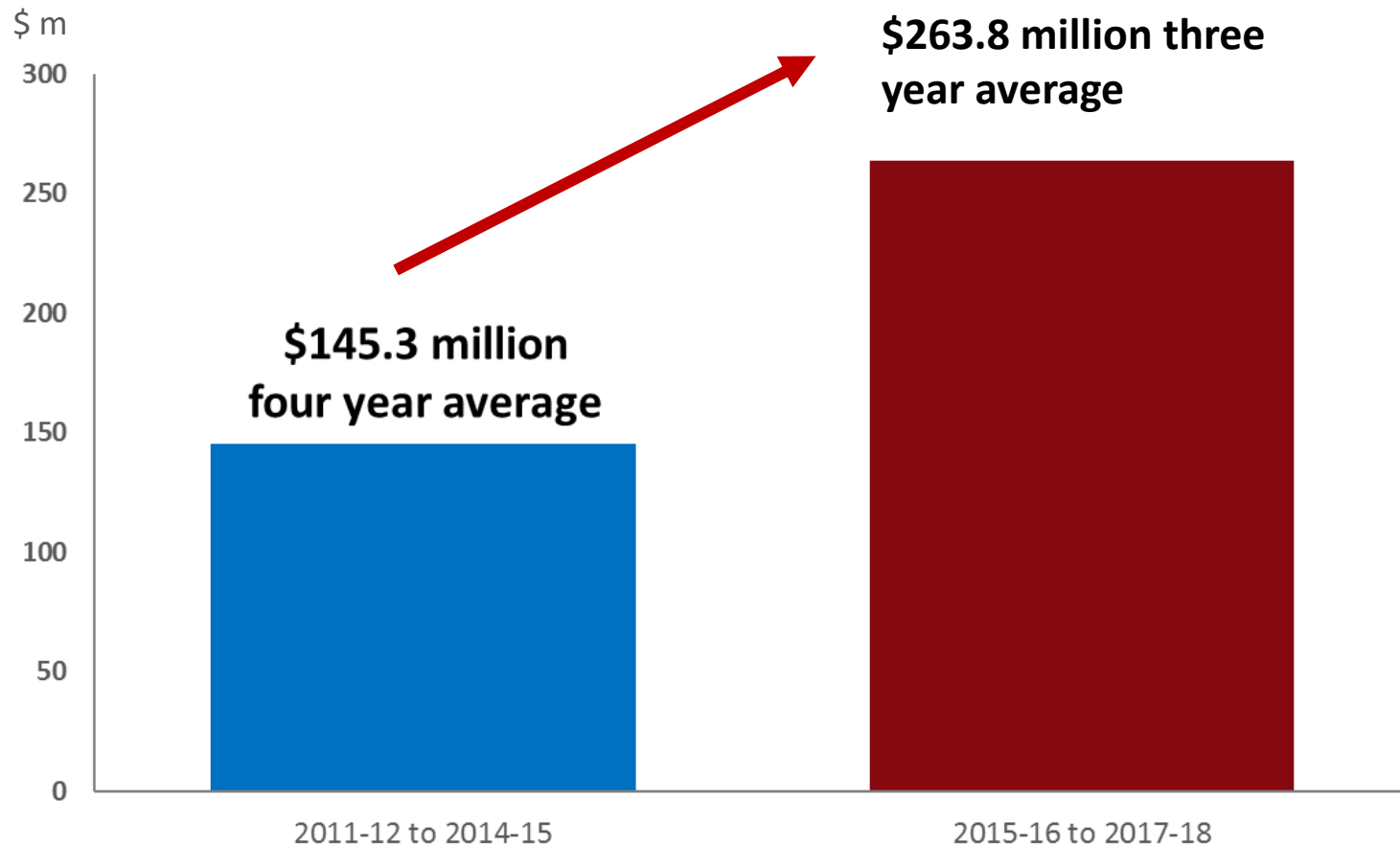
- **\$37.7 million** to expand the Enhanced MCH service so that **15 per cent of families** are able to access additional support until their child turns three
- **\$11 million** to fund MCH nurses to provide an additional outreach visit where an MCH nurse is concerned about family violence - an Australian first
- **\$22.3 million** to expand Supported Playgroups state-wide

\$5.4 million for specialised Koori Supported Playgroups and other culturally relevant programs



Support for vulnerable families and children - investment

Average investment in Child Protection and Family Services has increased by almost **\$120 million**:



Support for families and children at risk

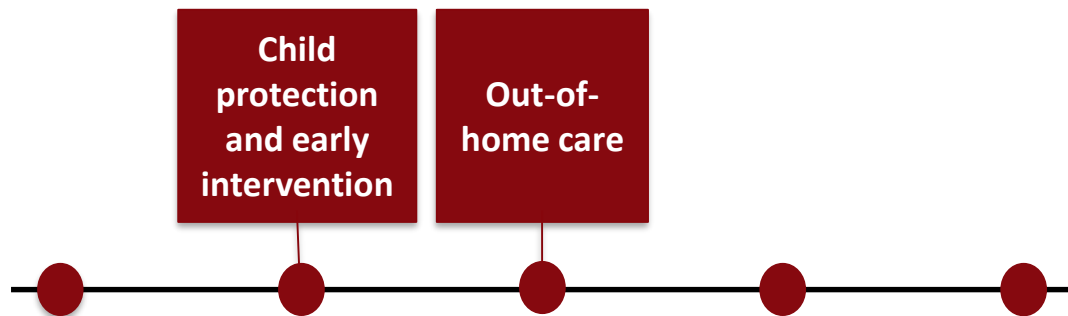
\$161 million investment in the *Roadmap for Reform* to support improved responses to reduce harm and protect vulnerable children:

Child protection and early intervention - \$101.4 million

- **\$72.2 million** for **450** new child protection practitioners – the biggest expansion ever of our workforce
- **\$29.2 million** in family services funding for earlier intervention and strengthened responses for an additional **1,229** families

Out-of-Home care

- **\$59.6 million** for an additional **1,982** home-based out-of-home care placements and **100** more targeted care packages to continue to reduce the number of kids in residential care



Responding to family violence

\$1.9 billion for a whole of government family violence package that continues to deliver on our commitment to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

This includes:

- **\$156.6 million** for victims and survivors of family violence and to work with perpetrators to change their behaviour:
 - **\$100.1 million** for therapeutic counselling for **11,000** victims and survivors of family violence, including **3,500** children
 - **\$49.5 million** to target and change the behaviour of perpetrators
 - **\$7 million** for a Risk Assessment Report Portal to ensure victims of family violence are connected to services faster



Responding to family violence

Supporting Victorians in our care

\$13.2 million to support Victorians who are currently or were previously in our care:

- **\$2 million** for increased access to services for people who grew up in institutional care
- **\$4 million** for the settlement of civil claims for victims of historical institutional child abuse
- **\$7.1 million** for the Commission for Children and Young People's work in monitoring Child Safe Standards and the reportable conduct scheme to keep children safe



Supporting
Victorians
in our care

Concessions

\$81 million is being invested to support eligible concession card holders to continue to access electricity, gas and water concessions.

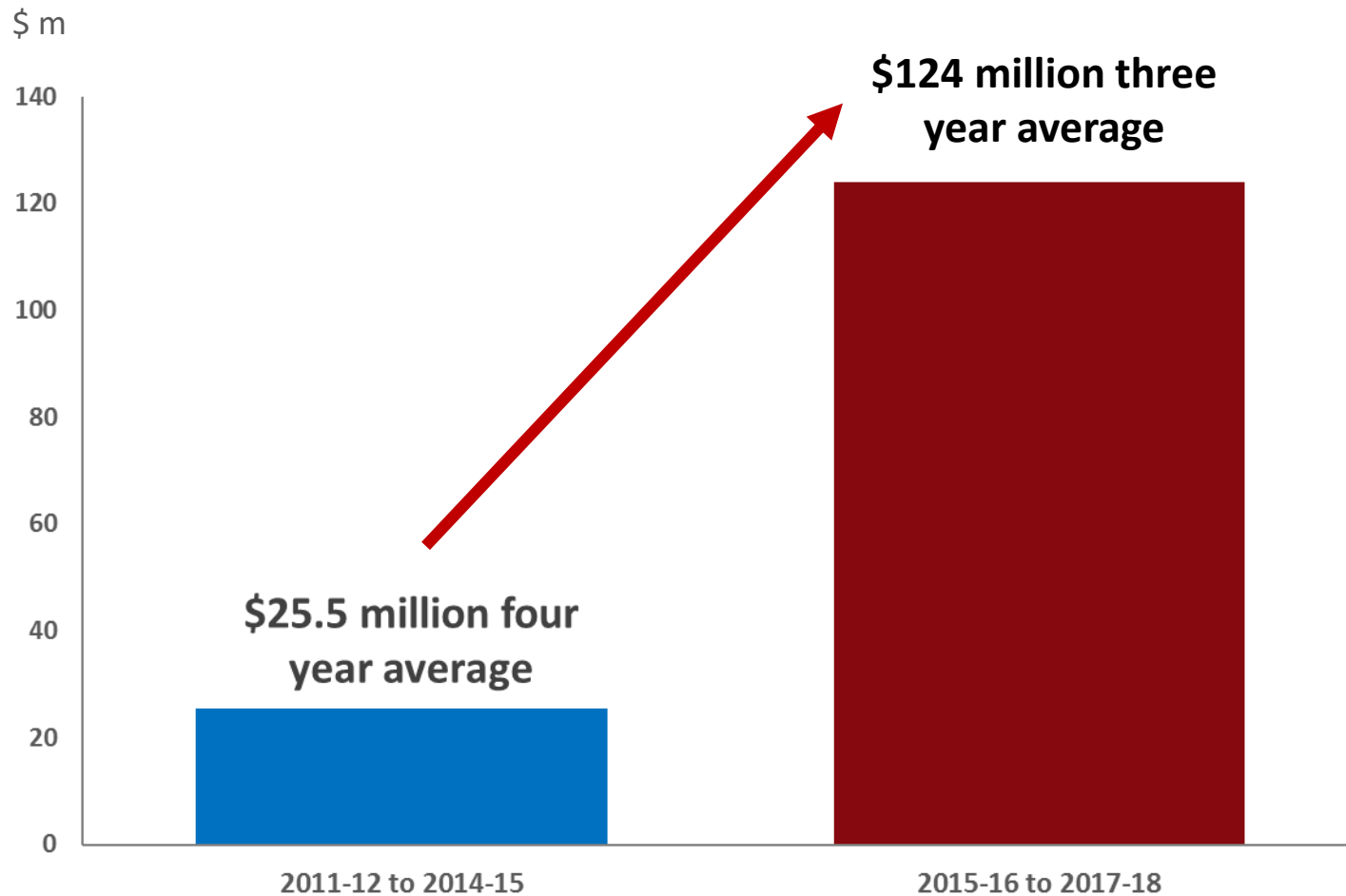
This is a joint responsibility with the Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing.



Concessions

Youth justice - investment

Average youth justice investment has grown by almost **\$100 million**:



A more secure Youth Justice system

\$360.7 million for strong and secure Youth Justice facilities, including:

- **\$288.7 million** for a fit-for-purpose, high security Youth Justice centre that will include:
 - **224 beds** for remand and sentenced clients
 - **12 beds** for clients with mental health issues
 - **8 beds** for intensive supervision
- **\$72 million** to upgrade security at Parkville Youth Justice Precinct and at Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre
 - This boost will include improved intelligence gathering across Youth Justice centres

