

# 2026–27 PAEC Budget Estimates

**Hon. Luba Grigorovitch MP**

Minister for Carers and Volunteers

22 May 2026



Families,  
Fairness  
and Housing

# Portfolio overview

The portfolio was established in 2023 and recognises the important contributions that carers and volunteers make to Victoria.



**+\$85m**

provided since 2020 to deliver more food relief to Victorians in need.



**560,000+**

hours of support provided by neighbourhood houses to communities in 2025-26.



**547**

grants provided to men's sheds across Victoria since 2015.



**+13,250**

unpaid carers supported annually with more than **260,000** hours of respite, counselling and support available in 2025-26.



**+7,400**

Victorians provided with no-interest loans provided in 2025.



# Key achievements over the past 12 months

In 2025-26, the portfolio has continued to support social and economic inclusion across Victoria, including through:

- › more than **\$43 million** invested annually neighbourhood houses
- › releasing the *Victorian Carer Strategy 2025-2035*, with **\$32 million** annually supporting unpaid carers including younger and older carers
- › more than **33,000** unpaid carers holding a Victorian Carer Card, with proof of eligibility requirements streamlined in late 2025
- › **133** grants delivered through the Community Food Relief Program
- › expanded partnership with Foodbank Victoria for its GROW Program, diverting **4,000 tonnes** of surplus farm produce to food relief services
- › **\$5.1 million** over 4 years to expand the Good Money Program, including a new store for no-interest loans now open in Craigieburn
- › **31** grants of up to **\$100,000** provided for men's sheds
- › recognising a diversity of volunteers and volunteering involving organisations through the 2025 Volunteering Awards.



# Budget investment highlights

The 2026-27 State Budget provides \$11.2 million to boost critical food relief support:

- › **\$8.5 million** to deliver a third round of the refreshed Community Food Security Program, including:
  - » Grants to support local food relief initiatives delivered through community organisations, neighbourhood houses, multicultural and faith-based groups and First Nations organisations.
  - » Funding to help meet food security system and infrastructure gaps, to improve access to food relief across the state.
- › **\$2.7 million** immediate food relief package supporting frontline organisations facing rising prices, including:
  - » \$1.1 million to regional foodshares and the Regional Food Security Alliance
  - » \$900,000 to Foodbank Victoria
  - » \$200,000 each to OzHarvest and SecondBite | FareShare
  - » \$200,000 for Sikh community organisations
  - » \$100,000 to Community Information & Support Victoria.



# Portfolio priorities for the year ahead

## Over the next 12 months we will:

- › deliver a third round of the **Community Food Security Program**
- › support the **state's 6 regional foodshares** and the Regional Food Security Alliance with **\$6 million** over 2 years
- › Partner **Foodbank Victoria** with more than **\$3.3 million** invested annually to support operations, in addition to the GROW Program
- › drive expansion of the **Good Money Program** including increasing the number of community providers across the state and growing its digital platform to deliver more no-interest loans to Victorians
- › support **unpaid carers**, including through the *Victorian Carer Strategy 2025-2035* and grants for First Nations carers
- › support **volunteers**, including through the *Volunteer Strategy 2022-2027* and annual Victorian Volunteering Awards
- › continue supporting critical social infrastructure including funding **neighbourhood houses** and **men's sheds**.



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