

2025–26 State Budget

The Hon Natalie Suleyman MP

Minister for Youth

5 June 2025



Families,
Fairness
and Housing

Portfolio overview

The Youth portfolio provides meaningful opportunities for young Victorians to reach their full potential by:

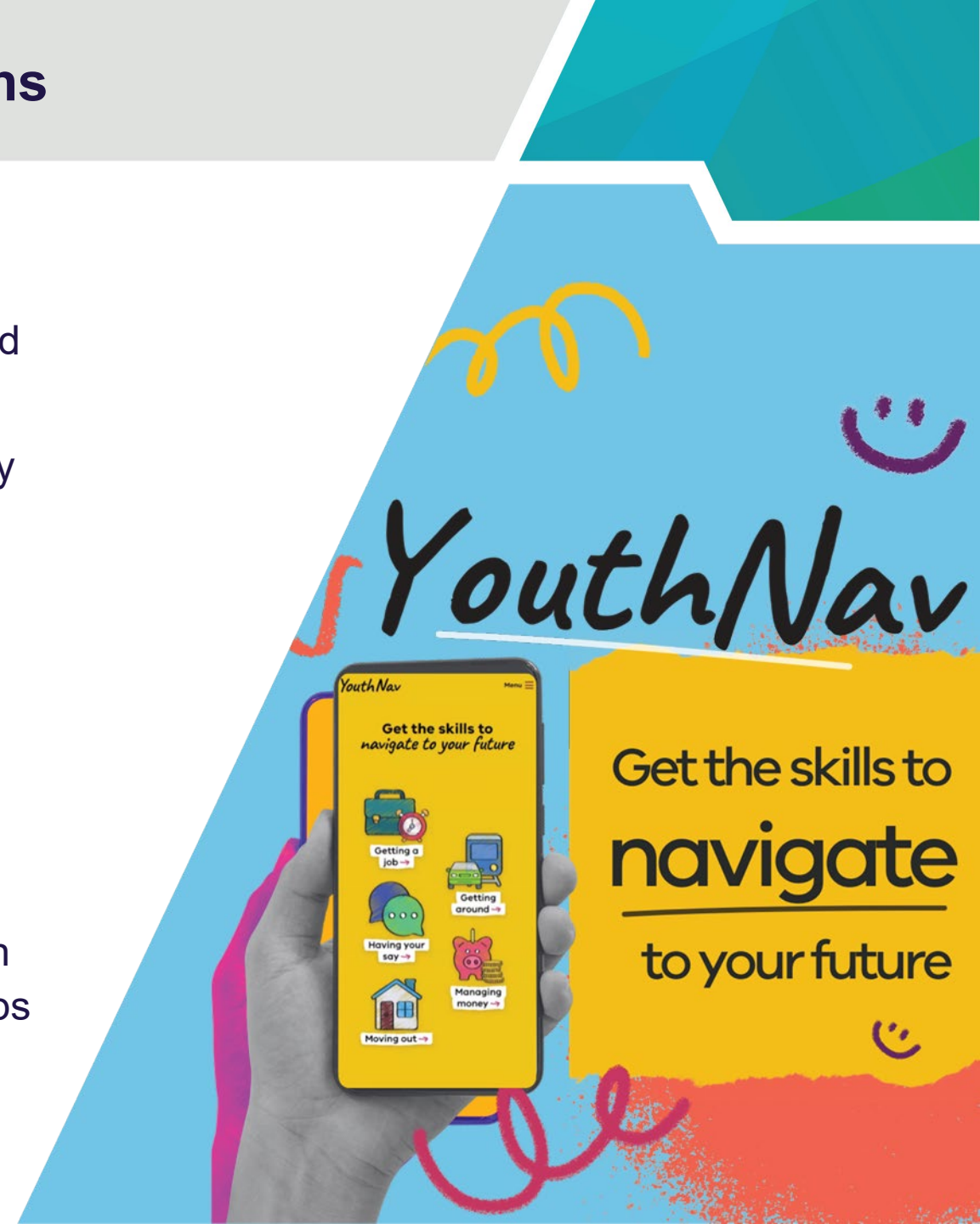
- › supporting young people, including First Nations, regional and multicultural young people, to lead healthy lives and achieve their goals
- › increasing young people's involvement in their communities, including through programs and activities designed to meet their needs
- › listening to young people on the issues that matter most to them, including through the Victorian Youth Congress and Victorian Youth Parliament.



Key achievements over the past 12 months

Over the past 12 months, the Youth portfolio has:

- › Delivered YouthNav, an online life skills toolkit codesigned with Victorian young people.
- › Rebranded the long-standing FReeZA program to Amplify to deliver a fresh, modern approach for youth events.
- › Launched Future Ready for young people to gain real-world skills through hands-on learning, mentoring, and leadership programs.
- › Awarded **181** multi-year grants through the Amplify, Engage! and Future Ready programs, providing events, skill building, mentoring and leadership opportunities.
- › Boosted community infrastructure through the completion of **3** Scout hall projects so far in 2024-25 and **2** youth hubs in Nillumbik and Geelong with local councils.



Key achievements over the past 12 months

Over the past 12 months, the Youth portfolio has:

- › Invested in First Nations young people through our continued partnership with the Koorie Youth Council and delivery of the Marram Nganyin Aboriginal Youth Mentoring Program.
- › Delivered targeted programs for youth facing disadvantage and additional barriers to achieving their goals, including:
 - » Community Support Groups providing individual support to more than **2,500** multicultural young people and their families
 - » Le Mana Pasifika engaging **1,000** Pasifika young people
 - » Living Learning supporting **72** young people experiencing mental health challenges to re-engage in education.
- › Continued working across government to implement *Our promise, your future: Victoria's youth strategy 2022–2027*, including launching YouthNav, opening 2 youth hubs and upgrading YACVic's youth engagement toolkit.

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Continuing to invest in Victorian young people

The 2025-26 Victorian State Budget continues our Government's investment in programs to improve outcomes for young people:

- › **\$20.0 million** over 2 years through the *Investing early in young Victorians* package, including funding for:
 - » Community Support Groups boosting youth engagement and providing culturally appropriate programs and referral pathways
 - » Le Mana Pasifika engaging Pasifika young people and their families in schools, local services and other settings
 - » AOD wraparound supports for multicultural young people
 - » Regional Presence Project supporting regional young people
 - » Youth infrastructure projects, including Scout hall upgrades.
- › **\$7.5 million** over 2 years to continue the innovative Living Learning program, providing mental health and wraparound supports to re-engage young people in education.



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In this presentation, 'Aboriginal' refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. 'Indigenous' or 'Koori/Koorie' is retained when part of the title of a report, program or quotation.

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