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Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Inquiry into the 2025-26 Budget Estimates

The Hon. Enver Erdogan MLC
Minister for Youth Justice

Wednesday 4 June 2025



System overview

Youth Justice is responsible for the **statutory supervision** of children and young people who come into contact with the criminal justice system.



Early intervention services

Delivered by **community service organisations**

Statutory **Children's Court Diversion** Service, with more than **1,100** diversions and **94% successful completions** in 2024-25



Youth Justice community services

Over 20 locations statewide

Over 200 staff delivering **Court advice, case management** and **supervision**

Five Multi Agency Panels for high-risk young people



Youth Justice custodial services

Two **custodial precincts**: Parkville and Cherry Creek

Health and rehabilitation services through public or community health providers

Parkville College – 52 weeks per year, six days per week



Aboriginal Youth Justice

Community based **Aboriginal Youth Justice** program

Culturally responsive services for young people in custody

Implementation of key **Wirkara Kulpa** initiatives

2025-26 Budget overview

The 2025-26 Victorian Budget supports Youth Justice to continue to deliver a leading Youth Justice system that focuses on keeping the community safe.

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We are investing \$727 million as part of the Government's community safety package

- Expanded capacity to deal with increases of young people on remand
- More supports and interventions that hold children and young people to account, while providing opportunities to turn their lives around.

We are also investing \$106 million to support a safe and effective Youth Justice system.

- Evidence-based diversion and early intervention programs
- Additional staff, training and support services to ensure safe and stable custodial facilities
- Implementation of the new *Youth Justice Act 2024*.

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Community Safety Package – Youth Justice

The Government introduced new bail reforms to **reduce reoffending** and **keep Victorians safe**.



Funding for 320 additional frontline custodial staff to operationalise a further 88 rooms across the Cherry Creek and Parkville Youth Justice precincts.



Investing in expanded rehabilitation services, health care and supports in custody to reduce risks of reoffending and support children and young people with complex needs.



Continuing efforts to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children and young people in the Youth Justice system.

Supporting a strong and effective Youth Justice system



Youth Justice has achieved **all 14** Budget Paper performance measures in 2023-24, with targets either **exceeded**, met or within **5%** variance.

Outcomes are expected to also be **achieved** in 2024-25.

2024-25 expected outcomes



95% of young people on supervised community-based orders have a case plan completed within 6 weeks.



90% of community-based orders are completed successfully.



95% of young people on custodial orders have a case plan completed within 6 weeks of the commencement of the order.



The average daily number of young people (under 14 years) in custody is **<5**.



80% of young people in youth justice custody participated in community re-integration activities.



The average daily number of Aboriginal children and young people (under 18 years) in custody is **12**.

Youth Justice Act 2024

New landmark legislation to keep the community safe and hold young people who offend to account

The 2025-26 Budget provides support for the landmark Youth Justice Act.

Once fully implemented, it will deliver nation leading reforms that will

- **divert children and young people** from the justice system (where appropriate)
- more effectively **hold young people who offend to account**
- **keep the community safe.**

Some reforms under the Act have already commenced, with all others to commence progressively by 30 September 2026.

Early start reforms

- Earlier access to rehabilitation programs for young people on remand
- Other amendments targeted at serious alleged offending on bail and remand

Phase 1 reforms – 30 Sept 2025

- Minimum age of criminal responsibility changes

Phase 2 reforms – 30 Sept 2026

- All remaining Youth Justice Act reforms

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Thank you

