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# Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

**Inquiry into the 2025-26 Budget Estimates**

**Hon Anthony Carbines MP**  
Minister for Community Safety

Thursday 5 June 2025



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# Keeping Victorians safe is our highest priority

Community safety is a whole of government priority, led by Justice and delivered in partnership with every portfolio.



Community safety encompasses a **broad range of work and responses** across Victoria. Justice responses play an important role, including police, courts and corrections.



Government has a history of **significant investment in community safety**, including crime prevention, early intervention, policing, courts and corrections, all with the goal of keeping Victorians safe.



Our 2025-26 Budget invests **\$1.6 billion** to back our new **bail laws**, support our **police and justice workforces**, support the modernisation of our **courts** and deliver Australia's first **machete ban, together with a machete amnesty scheme**



# Community Safety is supported with real reforms and investment

Investment in the Government's Community Safety package will support the implementation of reforms, including strengthened bail laws and weapons legislation.



**Boost to capacity and custodial roles** in Victoria's prisons and youth justice centres

The **\$727 million** package will boost the number of frontline custodial roles and increase capacity across prisons and youth justice centres to **support new bail laws**.



**Enhanced weapons legislation** to prohibit the sale or possession of machetes

The package will create **400 new custodial roles** in Corrections Victoria and **320 new custodial roles** in Youth Justice. It includes funding to open almost **1000 beds** in the adult corrections system and **88 beds** across the youth justice system.



Expanded **healthcare, rehabilitation and support services** across the adult and youth systems

We are investing in **healthcare, rehabilitation and support services** across the corrections and youth justice systems, helping to drive down repeat offending.

We are funding a **machete disposal scheme** to support the machete ban and keep these weapons off our streets.

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# We're preventing crime through community partnerships and safer spaces

We are responding to crime to create safer streets, safer neighbourhoods and safer communities.



**\$7.4 million**  
to strengthen frontline **police recruitment**



**\$3.0 million**  
for **Crime Stoppers** and  
**Neighbourhood Watch**



**\$3.5 million**  
for new **security cameras**  
across Melbourne

Safe streets and public spaces mean safer communities.

We are supporting police by **investing in frontline police recruitment** and providing new **powers for police** to search for dangerous weapons. And we are providing funding to continue the Embedded Youth Outreach Program at Dandenong and Werribee police stations.

We are continuing to support **Crime Stoppers** and **Neighbourhood Watch** to empower Victorians to take an active role in preventing crime and enhancing community safety.

We are funding the installation of approximately **100 new security cameras** at key locations to improve safety across the city of Melbourne.

# Neighbourhood Watch & Crime Stoppers

## Case studies



### Neighbourhood Watch 'The Great Safe Plate Blitz'

- The **Great Safe Plate Blitz** was a Neighbourhood Watch campaign supporting the community to prevent number plate theft across metropolitan Victoria
- More than 3,500 cars were fitted with anti-theft one way number plate screws
- The campaign operated across 30 high profile locations where number plate theft is a known issue



### Crime Stoppers 'See it. Share it' campaign

- **See it. Share it** was a joint road safety initiative between Crime Stoppers Victoria and Victoria Police
- Crime Stoppers called on community to share recorded footage of high risk driving through an easy-to-use online platform
- Victoria Police has been able to use the footage submitted by the community to investigate, detect and prosecute dangerous drivers



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# We're building safer communities and responding to youth offending

Effective responses to youth offending and partnerships with communities and key organisations are creating safer, more connected communities



The **Youth Crime Prevention Program** reduces youth offending through early intervention



The **Embedded Youth Outreach Program** is helping at-risk young people



**COBRA** is addressing serious youth offending

The **Youth Crime Prevention Program (YCPP)** has supported more than **7,500 young people**. Through intensive case management, coaching and mentoring and prosocial activities, the YCPP helps build protective factors against offending.

We're providing funding to continue the **Embedded Youth Outreach Program** at Dandenong and Werribee police stations – helping reach more at-risk young people and get them back on track

Government has established the **Council on Bail, Rehabilitation and Accountability (COBRA)** to provide a whole-of Government response to serious and repeat offending to keep the community safe.

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# Youth Crime Prevention Program

## Case study: Broadmeadows Community Youth Justice Alliance

The program provides young people living in the Broadmeadows area with access to support services, including intensive case management tailored to the young person's circumstances and needs. The program has supported more than **1500 young people**.



### David\*

David is 16 years old. He lives in Broadmeadows and has had ongoing police involvement, school disengagement, and an unstable living situation. Since commencing with the program, David and his case manager have had open conversations about his offending and his behaviour. Through pro-social activities, David has developed healthier social connections, independent living skills and other interests and is receiving support to return to school. David is being supported to start preparing for this future, including obtaining a Medicare card, applying for a learner's permit, and securing a tax file number.

\* Name changed



# Thank you

