

Victorian Government COVID-19 investments

Funding that targets/benefits Victorian young people

Initiative (chronological order)	Funding (\$)	Components / purpose and delivery partners
Mental health package (12 April 2020)	\$59.4 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$6 million to deliver Orygen Youth Health's new eOrygen platform MOST – Moderated Online Therapy – which allows young people to access tailored online therapy and peer support where and when they need it. • \$1.6 million for YMCA Victoria to digitise existing health, wellbeing, youth activation and mental health programs ('Virtual Y' program) and retain up to 100 youth workers over the next six months. • \$6.7 million to expand online and phone counselling services for Beyond Blue, Lifeline, Kids Helpline and Suicide Line Victoria. • Digital resources for parents to help them support their children manage anxiety and promote calm and build emotional wellbeing, to be delivered by Smiling Minds. • Continued funding to the Alannah and Madeline Foundation program to provide intensive case management and mental health supports to children and young people with complex mental health needs who have been victims of domestic homicide and/or significant trauma or violence. • Targeted support for people with post-natal depression and eating disorders delivered by Perinatal Anxiety and Depression Australia (PANDA) and Eating Disorders Victoria respectively. People with mental health conditions experiencing escalated anxiety, distress and vulnerability will receive wellbeing checks and emotional support, including young parents. • Regular podcasts and YouTube material to support child and adolescent mental health developed by mental health and education experts, a Department of Education and Training initiative.
Arts survival package (26 April 2020)	\$16.8 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support Victorian creative organisations and individuals to sustain employment, develop new works and provide opportunities for community participation: young people, who make up a significant portion of the arts industry (27 per cent of workers).
Emergency support for international students (29 April 2020)	\$45 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International students in Victoria who have lost income due to the coronavirus pandemic can receive a one-off relief payment of up to \$1,100.
Targeted supports for multicultural and faith communities (5 May 2020)	\$11.3 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Victorian Government is supporting multicultural and multifaith families and communities who are facing their own unique challenges due to social isolation, language barriers or difficulties accessing services such as income support, Medicare or Centrelink.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.4 million provided to expand and deliver family support packages through six Community Support Groups (CSGs) and the Le Mana Pasifika Project (delivered by the Centre for Multicultural Youth).
Supporting Victorians with disability during coronavirus (6 May 2020)	\$17 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This package supports all Victorians with a disability get the help they need, when they need it across health services, through advocacy, respite services, justice system and across disability sector organisations. • \$2.2 million for advocacy organisation to ensure people with disability, including children and students, are appropriately supported with access to phone and online services. • Extension of the Our Home and Community Care Program for Younger People, supporting young people requiring daily living assistance who are ineligible for the NDIS.
Royal Commission recommendations – mental health beds	\$17.8 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$17.8 million to begin the first phase of the roll out of 170 extra youth and adult acute mental health beds – a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System interim report.
Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System – implementation of interim report recommendations (15 May 2020)	\$19.5 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Royal Children's Hospital, Monash Children's Hospital, Alfred Health and Orygen are partnering to design, deliver and evaluate a specific Hospital Outreach Post-Suicidal after Engagement (HOPE) model for children and young people. • As a first step, Mental Health Reform Victoria is engaging the Victorian Mental Illness Advisory Council and Tandem to develop and facilitate a co-design process with children and young people and their families and carers. This will ensure that the service model responds to the particular needs, circumstances and experiences of children and young people. • Melbourne Health, in partnership with Orygen, will be delivering a 'Hospital in the Home' program for up to 15 young people in the North West of Melbourne. The program will be codesigned, with the aim of providing acute mental health services to young people in their home as opposed to an inpatient unit.
Financial assistance for people who get tested (23 July 2020)	\$1500 per person \$300 per person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A one-off payment of \$1,500 is available to workers who are unable to work during their isolation, have no income during this period, and are not entitled to any paid sick leave, special pandemic leave or other income support. • The Government has extended the scheme to ensure that as soon as a person is tested, they are eligible for a \$300 support payment – as long as they meet eligibility for the existing scheme.
From Homelessness to a Home package (28 July 2020)	\$150 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$6 million has been provided to homelessness organisations. • \$80 million rent relief fund has been established. • This will benefit young people in Victoria at risk of housing and homelessness during the pandemic, both because of insecure housing and insecure employment.
Working for Victoria Fund	\$500 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Working for Victoria scheme is supporting Victorians left unemployed by the coronavirus pandemic to get back to work. • \$6.78 million provided to a coalition of community organisations led by the Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic) to create 98 new roles supporting Victoria's young people and youth sector during the pandemic.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$29 million to support the creation of the Youth Employment Program (YEP), developed in collaboration with the Community and Public Sector Union, which will provide between 400 and 800 young people aged 17 – 29 years old with jobs across the Victorian public sector. These are paid positions of between 6 – 12 months. • Funding is supporting the Retrenched Apprentices and Trainees Program being delivered in collaboration with the Apprenticeship Employment Network to support apprentices and trainees to complete their training.
Remote and flexible learning support	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government has loaned approximately 70,000 laptops and tablets, and provided more than 25,000 internet access devices, including internet dongles and SIM cards, to students at government schools who need it the most (figures as at 14 August 2020).
Support for Pasifika young people in Brimbank – Pasifika Thrive program and the Village Response Plan (7 August)	\$400,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$200,000 to Charis Mentoring to deliver Pasifika Thrive, an early intervention mentoring program for young people delivered in collaboration with schools • \$200,000 to Charis Mentoring and community partners to provide support for Pasifika young people who have had contact with the justice system, and to help reduce reoffending.
Supporting students' mental health through the pandemic (7 August)	\$28.5 million	<p>To help students struggling with their mental health, the Government will provide \$28.5 million to ensure students receive more support. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional mental health training for more than 1,500 school staff in partnership with headspace, to help identify at-risk students as remote learning continues; • recruitment of a school-based mental health practitioner in all specialist schools with secondary aged students, who will provide wrap-around support to students and families; • expansion of the successful Navigator program to reach more students and ensure that even during coronavirus, they remain connected to their education; • expansion of the LOOKOUT program to tackle disengagement from education of highly vulnerable students in out-of-home care, and other young Victorians who are at risk.
Mental health package (9 August 2020)	\$59.7 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community mental health services and all 15 Melbourne based headspace centres will be provided funding to do more proactive outreach throughout the pandemic – reaching out to known mental health clients to check that they are ok and have the support they need.
Working together with multicultural communities package (13 August 2020)	\$14.3 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$6.9 million will be provided for expanded health messaging and support for multicultural organisations working on the ground to deliver emergency relief, such as food for those self-isolating or in quarantine. • \$5.5 million will expand the distribution of health advice that has been translated into 55 different languages, with a focus on supporting younger people. • \$2 million will go towards translation and interpreter services to meet the increase in demand.