

# Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

2016-17 Budget Estimates Hearing

**Jenny Mikakos MP**

Minister for Youth Affairs



# Youth Affairs portfolio

- Every young person needs opportunities and support to reach their potential
- We are developing a new youth policy to build stronger youth engagement in government policy & decision making in Victoria
- We are delivering programs that support youth engagement and participation in community and economic life



# Youth participation and engagement

## Delivering on 2015-16 initiatives

- Programs funded in the 2015-16 Budget are well underway:
  - round 1 of the rural and regional engagement grants program is supporting better representation of young people in local government decision making in rural Victoria
  - YACVic's regional presence is being established in Warrnambool & Swan Hill
  - new scout and guide programs have commenced, focusing on building social inclusion in areas of social and economic disadvantage, and in culturally diverse communities
  - following feedback from youth consultations, new programs are being developed to support and reconnect young people at risk of disengagement

# 2016-17 Budget highlights

## Building supportive and culturally strong communities

- **\$875,000** in the 2016-17 Budget will support young people most in need of assistance, through a mentoring program to foster cultural identity and build resilience in young Aboriginal people
- **\$2.2 million** is also being provided over two years for the Koori Youth Justice Program to:
  - strengthen state-wide capacity to deliver Community Based Koori Youth Justice initiatives
  - provide new area based program support
  - provide new prevention and early intervention brokerage packages