

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Budget Estimates Hearings

The Hon. Anthony Carbines MP
Minister for Crime Prevention

Tuesday 21 May 2024



Preventing crime in Victoria

Tackling the underlying causes of offending through evidence-based investment

We are continuing to invest in crime prevention and early intervention initiatives that are evidence-based and effective in reducing offending.

- Our investment has a strong focus on:
 - Preventing youth offending through early intervention
 - Investing in communities to deliver effective local solutions to crime.
 - Partnering with key organisations to create safer Victorian communities.
- Since 2015-16 we have invested **more than \$100 million in 948** crime prevention projects across the state.



69

Crime prevention projects currently being delivered across metro and regional Victoria, and statewide

Preventing youth offending through early intervention

Delivering on **\$13.64 million** invested in 2023-24 to continue to keep young people out of the justice system and on the right track.

We are focusing on investing in early intervention and prevention programs that are proven to divert young people away from crime.

This year we are reviewing the successful **Youth Crime Prevention Program** with the view to expanding the program, which will enhance implementation of our wider reforms to support young people.

5,998

young people aged 10-24 supported since the commencement of the Program

Over \$40 million

invested in total since the commencement of the program in 2016-17 in locations with higher rates of youth offending

29%

reduction in offending shown for those who completed the Program

24%

reduction in seriousness of offending shown for those who completed the Program



Mzuri Dance ArtisTree Fund INC
– Wellbeing Beyond the Bell
Youth Creative Program

Investing in community-led action

Empowering Communities Partnerships

The Victorian Government is continuing to partner with local communities to address the causes of crime and deliver real outcomes.

Work is continuing to support **nine** Empowering Communities Partnerships across the state.

Empowering Communities grants support local communities to design and lead new projects to address the causes of crime and improve perceptions of safety.



9

community groups

Community services and city councils working together to improve safety through awareness raising and community connection



62

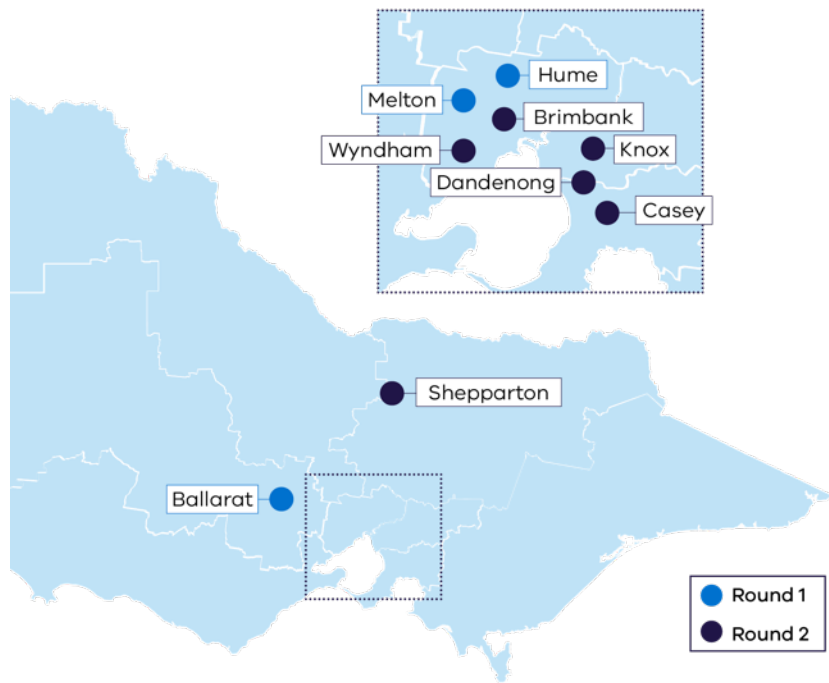
projects designed by community groups

that target key cohorts and respond to local priorities and issues

Investing in community-led action

Empowering Communities Partnerships

Across two rounds of funding in 2020-21 and 2021-22, the government invested in 9 Local Action Groups in communities with higher need for crime prevention



Program benefits in local communities

Partnerships are supporting a range of activities that address local issues, including:

- supporting skills development, school transitions employment through career planning and access to employment
- building emotional resilience, fostering social support networks, and encourage positive development in young men
- supporting young people to have a voice and share their stories and experiences through short films, podcasts and local radio programs, and
- building community connection, inclusion and cultural awareness through provision of culturally responsive mentoring programs.

Working with our trusted partners



Crime Stoppers Victoria

\$2.85 million investment over four years to 30 June 2025.

Crime Stoppers partners with the community, media and Victoria Police to prevent and to confidentially receive reports about unsolved crime.

In 2023-24, Crime Stoppers received **more than 110,000 contacts** and supported **over 1,085 arrests** and **\$14.7 million in drugs recovery**.

Each year, Crime Stoppers partners with Victoria Police to design and deliver four crime prevention campaigns.

In 2024, these campaigns will cover firearms, family violence and stalking, road policing, a youth campaign and vehicle related crime.



Neighbourhood Watch Victoria

\$1.43 million investment over four years to 30 June 2025.

Neighbourhood Watch improves quality of life within a neighbourhood by minimising preventable crime and promoting closer community ties.

In 2023-24, Neighbourhood Watch supported more than **4,522 active members across 210 local groups**.

Neighbourhood Watch continues to deliver community safety campaigns focused on new housing estates.

This includes the Building Communities Together and Neighbourhood Watch Pop-Up programs, as well as vehicle crime prevention activities.

Key achievements in the Crime Prevention portfolio



5,998

Young people supported through the Youth Crime Prevention Program since 2016-17, including intensive support for **2,140** young people and **3,858** young people in pro-social activities to build protective factors against offending.



110,000

Contacts to Crime Stoppers Victoria in 2023-24, supporting more than **1,080 arrests** and approximately **\$14.7 million** in drugs recovery.



4,522

Active Neighbourhood Watch Victoria members across **210 groups**.



1,313

People have engaged in community safety capacity building activities in 2023-24. For example, \$6.5 million has supported 24 innovation projects that include workshops, consultations, safety planning and community safety information sessions.

Thank you

