

2024–25 Victorian State Budget

Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP

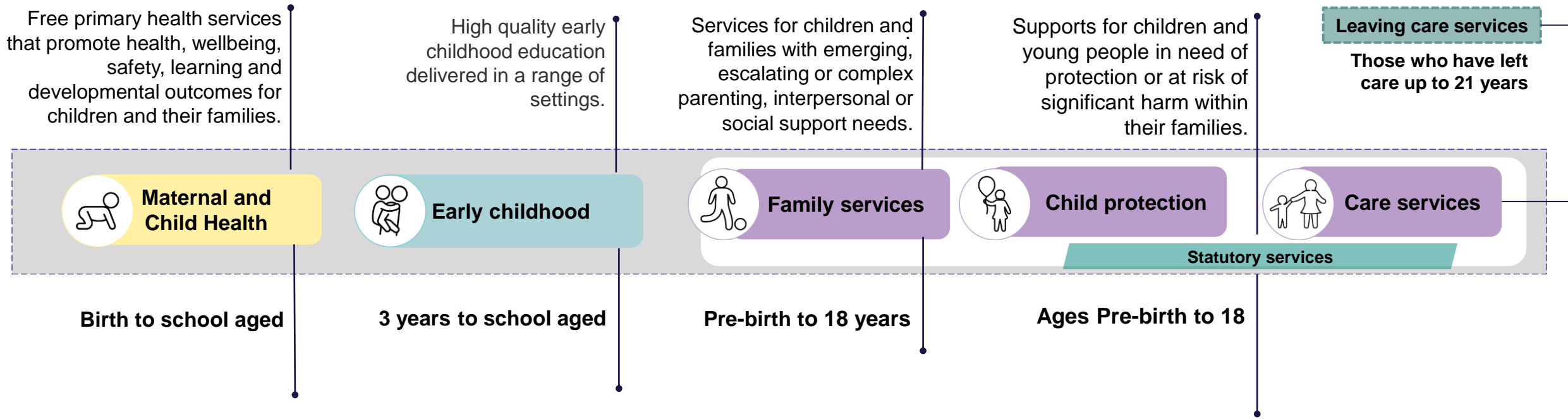
Minister for Children

24 May 2024



Families,
Fairness
and Housing

Victoria's Children Portfolio



Our vision: equity of outcomes and access for Victorian children and families

Statewide Maternal and Child Health services

Every child and family has access to Maternal and Child Health services in Victoria to ensure they have the best start to life.



600,000+

Key ages and stages consultations (22-23)



14,000

Families supported by Enhanced MCH consultations (22-23)



100,000+

Callers supported by 24/7 MCH line (23-24)



Giving children the best possible start in life

- › The 2024-25 State Budget invests **\$28.8 million** over three years to meet increased demand for universally delivered Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services.
- › This builds on 2023-24 State Budget investment for MCH and Early Parenting initiatives, this included the *More Support for Mums, Dads and Babies* package, resulting in more practical support to children and families across Victoria.
- › Since 2019-20, the Victorian Government has invested **\$19 million** ongoing in operational funding to create a network of 13 Early Parenting Centres (EPC) across the state.



Early Childhood Education

The **\$14 billion** Best Start, Best Life reforms are setting the standard for the nation on early childhood education.



11.5%

↑ increase in Three-Year-Old Kinder enrolments between 2022 and 2023



88.7%

eligible children in a Three-Year-Old Kinder program



95.8%

eligible children in a Four-Year-Old Kinder program highest since 2016



Giving children the best possible start in education

- › The 2024-25 State Budget invests **\$128.6 million** in *Best Start, Best Life* to continue delivery of nation leading reforms:
 - › Delivering **Three-Year-Old** Kinder
 - › Continuing to deliver Free Kinder
 - › Pre-Prep begins in **6** local government areas
 - › First **4** Early Learning and Childcare Centres set to open in 2025 followed by **14** more in 2026

This brings the total investment in Early Childhood Education and Care to over **\$8 billion** since we have come to **Government**, including **\$3.6 billion** allocated to early childhood infrastructure.



Children and Family Services

In 2024-25, overall investment for child protection and family services is **\$2.1 billion**, an increase of **46.5** per cent since 2019-20.

Victoria has the lowest rate in the nation of all children and young people in care services.



19,246

families supported in 2022-23
for integrated family services



128,705

Reports to child protection
services about the wellbeing
and safety of children



73%

of Aboriginal children placed with
relatives, kin, other Aboriginal carers
or in Aboriginal residential care



Early intervention to keep families together and safe

2024-25 State Budget Investment

- › Nearly **\$198 million** in early intervention and family reunification to continue to keep families together and children safe.
- › Since 2020-21, The Family Preservation and Reunification Response service model has helped more than **4,900** families – estimated to have kept more than 200 children, including over 50 Aboriginal children, safely at home with their parents, compared to previous placement prevention programs.
- › More than **60** per cent of families accessing Early Help Family Services demonstrated improvements in parenting self-efficacy over time engaged in early help.
- › Jointly with the Disability portfolio funding **\$14.1 million** in 2024-25 to continue supports for children with disability and their families, including Family Services Disability Practitioner program and parenting programs.



Protecting our most at-risk children and young people

- › **The 2024-25 State Budget** invests **\$374 million** over four years for child protection and family services, including:
 - › **\$38.4 million** to improving outcomes for children and young people in home-based care, including ongoing funding for the Care Support Help Desk and Care Hub
 - › **\$128.2 million** to continue critical functions of Child Protection and residential care workforces including **\$1.7 million** to continue building and documenting the evidence-base for Aboriginal-led child and family services
- › This builds on significant 2023-24 investment for Aboriginal children and families, children in care and housing for young people leaving care.
- › Since 2019-20, **\$4 billion** has been invested in the child protection and family services portfolio over five years.



Historic apology to victims of historical physical and emotional abuse and neglect in institutional care

- › The 2024-25 Budget will invest **\$165 million** for a redress scheme for these Victorians – recognising the ongoing impact of their experiences.
- › In February, the Victorian Parliament delivered a historic apology to victims of historical physical and emotional abuse and neglect in institutional care before 1990.
- › No amount of money can ever make up for what happened, but this significant investment is designed to go some way towards acknowledging the actions of the past.
- › Advance redress payments of **\$10,000** are available to people who have a terminal or critical illness and meet the nominated criteria. These payments will be available until the scheme commences.

Accessibility statement and publisher information

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In this presentation, ‘Aboriginal’ refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. ‘Indigenous’ or ‘Koori/Koorie’ is retained when part of the title of a report, program or quotation.

Available at <<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/inquiries/inquiry-into-the-2024-25-budget-estimates/hearings>>.