



# 2022-23 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Budget Estimates Hearing

The Hon. Lisa Neville MP  
Minister for Police

Wednesday 18 May 2022





## Funding to keep the community safe

Supporting police to keep Victorians safe



**\$342 million**

To deliver 502 additional sworn police members and 50 Protective Service Officers over two years to meet current and future policing demand.



**\$46.9 million**

To replace the South Melbourne and construct the new Point Cook police stations to ensure local police have state-of-the-art facilities to serve their community.



**\$14.9 million**

For Victoria Police Death and Disability Benefits to provide for operational Victoria Police members aged 55-60 with a prospective benefit in the event of their death or permanent disability.



**\$215 million**

To equip frontline police officers and PSOs with conducted energy devices, including body-worn cameras and training, to ensure they have additional non-lethal options to safely resolve violent or dangerous situations.



**\$4.7 million**

To continue the Northern Community Support Group, and continue the department's Countering Violent Extremism business unit, both delivered through the Early Intervention Investment Framework.



**\$5 million**

To increase mental health awareness and improve wellbeing among emergency workers. Funding is provided to continue the programs under the Early Intervention and Prevention Fund and expansion of the Injury Management Program.



## Additional Police Resources



Funding of **\$342 million** for 502 new sworn police officers and 50 new Protective Services Officers



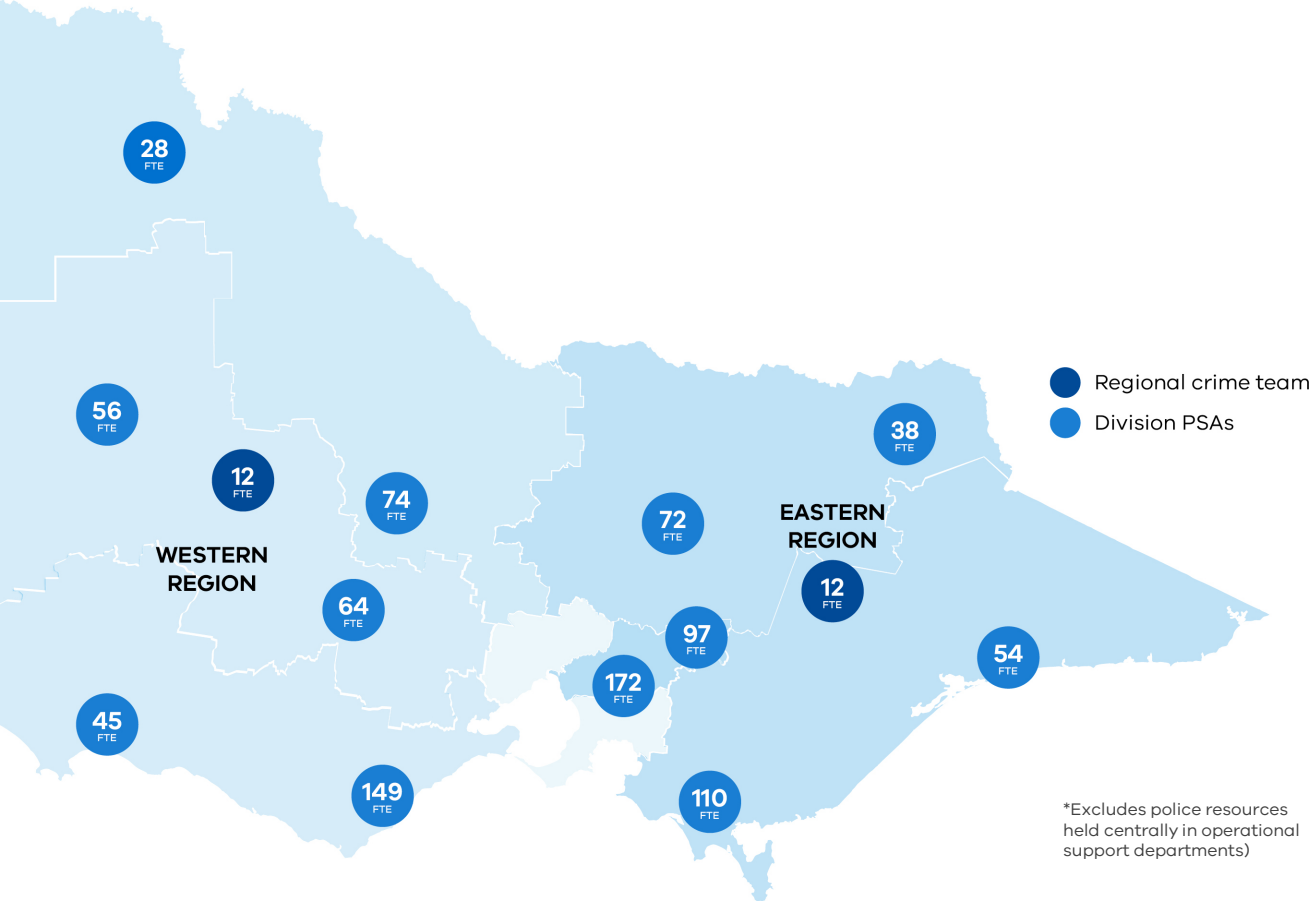
Since 2016 the Victorian Government is delivering **3,637 new sworn police officers**



Committed to giving police the resources it needs to **keep the community safe**

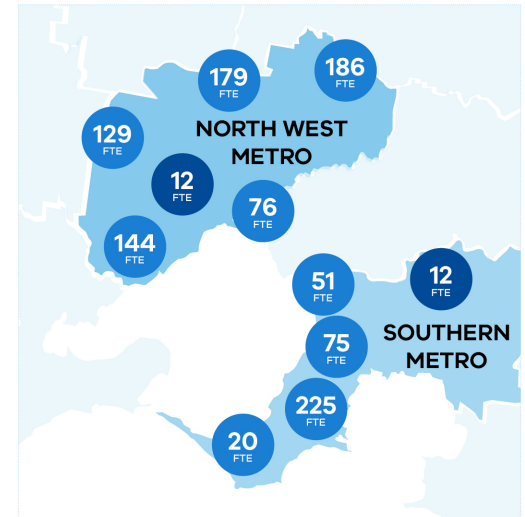


# Additional Police Officers Deployed Since 2016



\*Excludes police resources held centrally in operational support departments)

★	<b>NORTH WEST METRO</b> Total: 726 FTE
★	<b>SOUTHERN METRO</b> Total: 400 FTE
★	<b>EASTERN REGION</b> Total: 555 FTE
★	<b>WESTERN REGION</b> Total: 428 FTE
★	<b>SPECIALIST COMMANDS</b> 667 FTE





# Victoria Police Investment

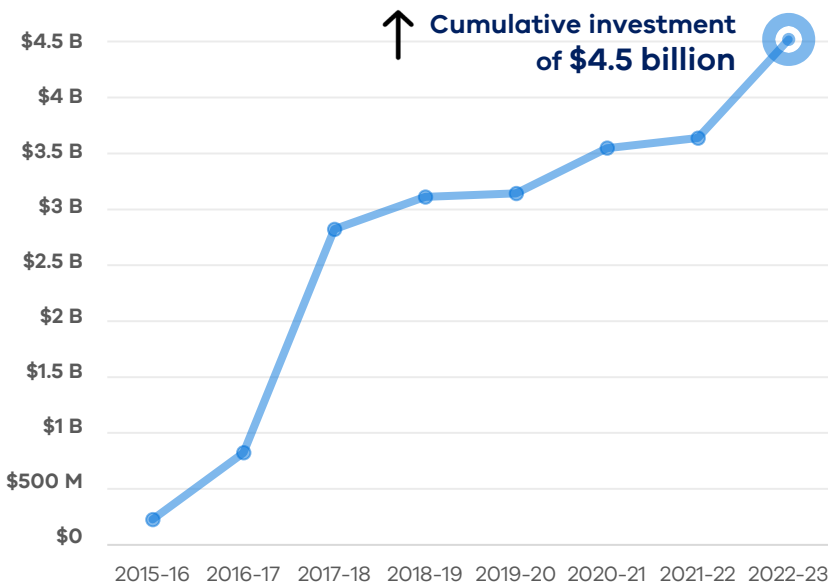
(2015-2023)

The Victorian Government has made significant investment in Victoria Police and public safety over **eight years** to build a safer, stronger Victorian community:

## Record investment of \$4.5 billion over 8 years

- 3637 new sworn police officers
- State-of-the-art intelligence systems
- New technology
- New and upgraded police stations

This record includes:



2015-16  
\$257 M

Delivering on election promises to free up police

2016-17  
\$685 M

Public safety package for technology, equipment and capability uplifts across the force

2017-18  
\$2 B

Resourcing the front line for now and the future, high visibility policing, family violence, youth offending and critical equipment and hardware

2018-19  
\$288 M

Specialist capability to target high harm crimes and organised criminal networks, and prosecuting offenders to hold them to account

2019-20  
\$32 M

Continuing our commitments to strengthening community safety

2020-21  
\$404 M

Backing in Victoria Police and keeping the community safe

2021-22  
\$134 M

Supporting police to keep Victorians safe

2022-23  
\$632 M

Supporting police and keeping all Victorians safe by funding more police and PSOs, and providing funding for non-lethal options to resolve dangerous situations





# Victoria Police COVID-19 Response

- State Policing Operations Centre was operational for **680 days, 24/7**, from 16 March 2020 to 24 January 2022.
- From 21 March 2020 to 4 March 2022, police conducted a total of **1,016,699 checks** across all iterations of its COVID Operations.
- **Operation Ribbon** ran from April 2020- Dec 2020. The operation **ensured family violence** remained an **operational priority** during the pandemic through proactive targeting of high-risk family violence perpetrators. The operation concluded at the end of 2020 but remains part of regular policing.
- **Operation Tidewatch** commenced on 7 December 2021 and saw Victoria Police lead the supervision and enforcement of hotel quarantine, supported by the ADF. It included floor and perimeter monitoring, ID checks, and moving travellers and medical staff into and out of the hotels as needed. Approximately **166 police resources** were deployed daily to support the operation. It concluded on 31 March 2022.
- **Operation Tidewatch** totalled **95,610 Victoria Police** shifts, and **49,403 PSO shifts**.
- Victoria Police will continue to **support CQV** at the Victorian Quarantine Hub (Mickleham).
- The Victorian Government has provided **\$237.8m** (2020-21 and 2021-22) to support the Victoria Police COVID-19 response.





# COVID-19 Quarantine Victoria (CQV)

2022-23 Key Achievements



## Closure of COVID-19 Hotel Quarantine Program

- Provision of quarantine services across **17 hotel sites** and conduct of compliance and enforcement activities at the airport, sea ports and in the community.
- Hotel facilities accommodated **32,290 residents** between July 2021 and closure of the program in March 2022, and **70,992 residents** since the inception of CQV in December 2020.
- Strengthening of infection prevention and control measures resulted in **no CQV-attributed COVID-19 transmission event** during April 2021 – April 2022.
- In response to diminished demand and transition to the Victorian Quarantine Hub, hotels in the quarantine system began to **exit the program in late 2021**.
- Final residents left the last quarantine hotel on **25 March 2022**.



## Commencement of Victorian Quarantine Hub (VQH)

- VQH provides **superior infection prevention and control and improved resident experience relative to hotel quarantine, at reduced cost**.
- VQH accepted its first residents on **22 February 2022**.
- As at 15 May 2022, there have been **1,107 residents at VQH** and operations have proceeded without issue.
- Between 1 December 2020 and 15 May 2022, **72,099 residents have been accommodated in CQV's quarantine program**.
- VQH provides accommodation for those needing **a safe place to isolate** such as diagnosed cases with large families, or who live with vulnerable people such as the immunocompromised.
- VQH is a critical investment for Victoria's **future preparedness** and designed to be put to good use beyond the pandemic.



## Support of other elements of the pandemic response

- Worked with DH to ensure **safe management of apartment buildings** during peak Delta outbreak.
- Provision of **COVID-safe** transport for DH and DFFH to relieve pressure on Non-Emergency Patient Transport Services.
- Accommodated **1,083 Afghan humanitarian intakes**.
- Established **two medi-hotels** to ease anticipated demand on health system from Omicron outbreak.
- In partnership with DH, **distributed 2 million rapid antigen tests** to community.
- Provided **surge workforce for Ambulance Victoria** back-office operations.



Thank you.

