



WOMEN

VICTORIAN BUDGET 2021/22

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MINISTER FOR WOMEN

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CREATING JOBS & CARING FOR VICTORIANS

Advancing gender equality in all parts of our state:

- > The 2021/22 Budget includes a \$521.6 million investment to boost women's economic security, prevent and respond to family violence, and support women's health and wellbeing.
- > Women were hardest hit by the pandemic, which is why we continue to put women at the heart of our recovery.
- > This Budget delivers funding devoted to advancing gender equality, with dedicated support to improve outcomes for Victorian women.
- > This will support thousands of new jobs and training opportunities, giving more women stability and security.
- > It further invests in our commitment to end family violence, not just by improving our response to it, but by actively addressing the gendered factors that drive it.
- > This Budget will strengthen women's workforce participation and make our state safer and fairer, with wide-ranging investments to support economic participation in jobs, health and mental health, and women's sport.



BOOSTING WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SECURITY

The 2021/22 Budget invested **\$259 million** to remove barriers to women's workforce participation, including initiatives that support women's economic security.

Supporting jobs in sectors that employ a high proportion of women.



- > **\$288 million** to support our creative sector.
- > **\$206 million** for placements for mental health nurses and allied health professionals, and postgraduate mental health scholarships.
- > **\$185 million** to support our valued teaching workforce.
- > **\$32 million** to support training, attracting and retaining kindergarten teachers.
- > **\$89 million** to deliver more than 12 000 extra subsidised training places in our TAFE and training system.

GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

This Budget includes targeted support for women including:

- > **\$4.2 million** to improve outcomes for women in Victoria by:
 - > Embedding gender impact analysis in Government's budget decision-making through a brand new **gender responsive budgeting unit** – continuing Victoria's nation-leading approach to advancing gender equality.
 - > delivering targeted programs to support migrant and refugee women to pursue employment, establish a small business or access further education.
- > **\$1.8 million** to improve the representation of women in local government.
- > **\$1.4 million** to assist the Victorian Rural Women's Network to upskill and support professional development of women living in rural communities.
- > **\$1.8 million** for a Community Leadership Training program for 120 women across local government, with a focus on supporting development pathways for women ahead of the next council elections in 2024 – with the aim to meet our target of 50% female mayors and councillors by 2025.

WOMEN'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- > **\$70 million** to establish free and public in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) services for 4,000 Victorian patients each year when the program is fully operational, and deliver Australia's first public sperm and egg bank.
- > **\$4.1 million** to establish three new women's reproductive health hubs, enabling more women to access expert advice on sexual and reproductive health issues, and helping to catch-up on deferred check-ups and care as a result of the pandemic. Funding will also expand the operating hours and scope of services at the eight existing hubs.
- > **\$91 million** to help Victorians catch-up on treatments they may have been deferred during the pandemic, including public dental, cancer services and maternal and child health.
- > Additional support for Victoria's 12 women's health services to meet growing demand for gender responsive healthcare.

Our record \$3.8 billion investment to rebuild our mental health system will support Victorian women, including:

- > **\$370 million** to improve access to mental health beds and better acute care, including funding to open a dedicated 35 bed women's mental health unit.
- > **\$196 million** to support the mental health and wellbeing of infants, children and families, including **\$6.9 million** to expand and reform community perinatal mental health teams across Victoria
- > **\$264 million** in community-based care, providing a 'front door' by connecting Victorians to support before they reach crisis point.
- > **\$93 million** to provide better support for carers – seven in ten of whom are women.
- > **\$206 million** to enable Victoria's mental health and wellbeing workforce to deliver a reformed system, including funding to expand the nursing workforce – delivering 120 graduate placements for nurses, 140 postgraduate mental health scholarships, 60 new graduate placements for allied health professionals and additional rotations for psychiatry.



JUST THE BEGINNING



These investments are just the beginning. Other significant reforms underway to improve outcomes for women include:

- > Gender Equality Act 2020, came into effect 31 March 2021, covering 11% of Victoria's workforce.
- > establishing a Ministerial Taskforce on Sexual Harassment to develop reforms to better prevent and respond to sexual harassment in workplaces in March 2021
- > driving change through continuing progress under Victoria's first Gender Equality Strategy, Safe and Strong
- > continuing our commitment to 50% representation on Government boards.