

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Inquiry into Budget Estimates 2018-19



THE HON. JENNY MIKAKOS MP
Minister for Early Childhood Education

Building on our achievements

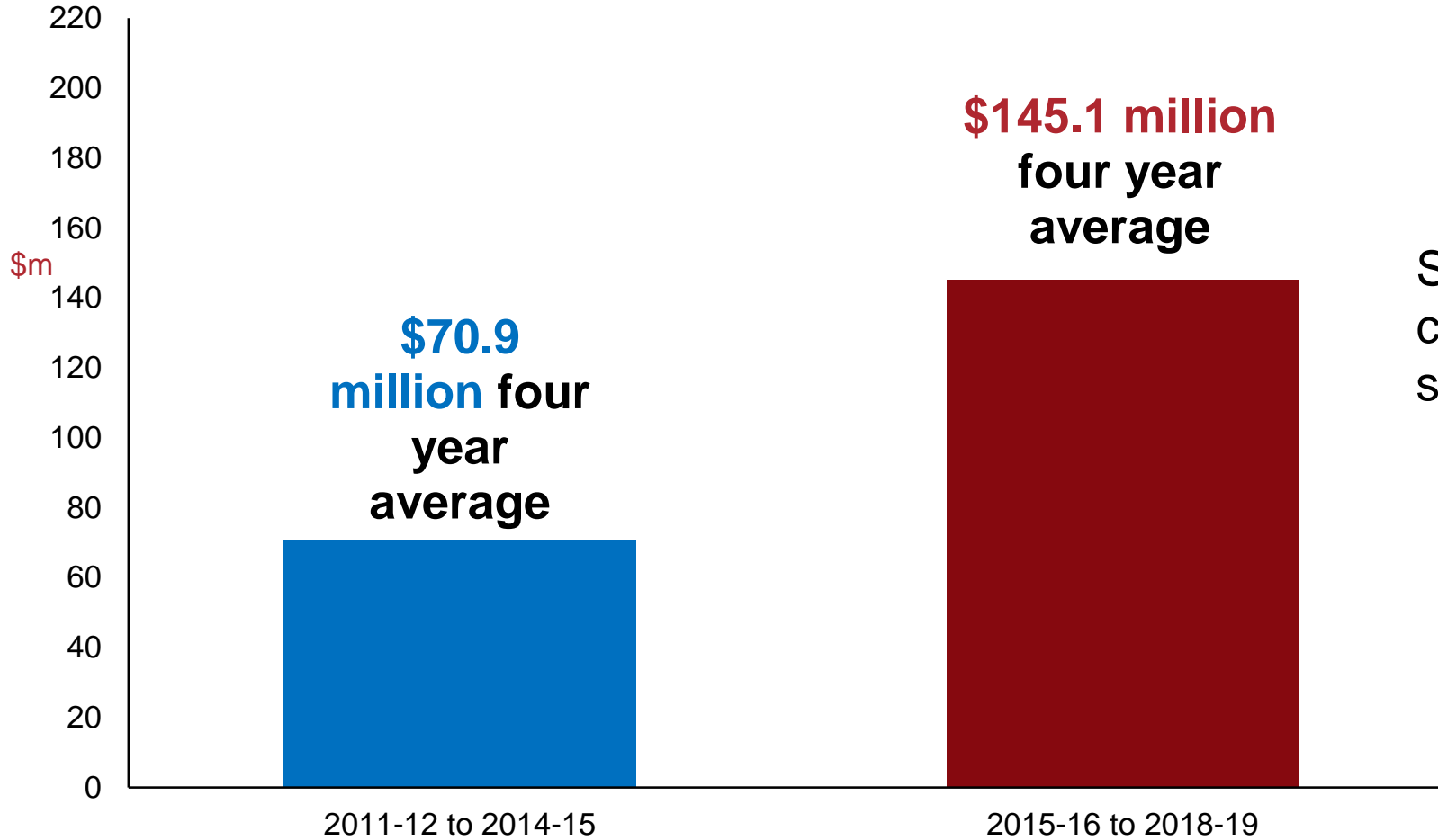
Making progress on our \$202.1 million Early Childhood Reform Plan

- This 2018-19 Victorian Budget invests **\$135.9 million** in early childhood education
- Our investment builds on the work of the **\$202.1 million Education State Early Childhood Reform Plan**
- Our long-term vision for the early childhood system in Victoria is:
 - high quality
 - equitable
 - inclusive and welcoming of all
 - every child is ready for kinder, ready for school and ready for life



Early childhood education investment

Our commitment to early childhood education is demonstrated by our record investment in the portfolio over the past four years



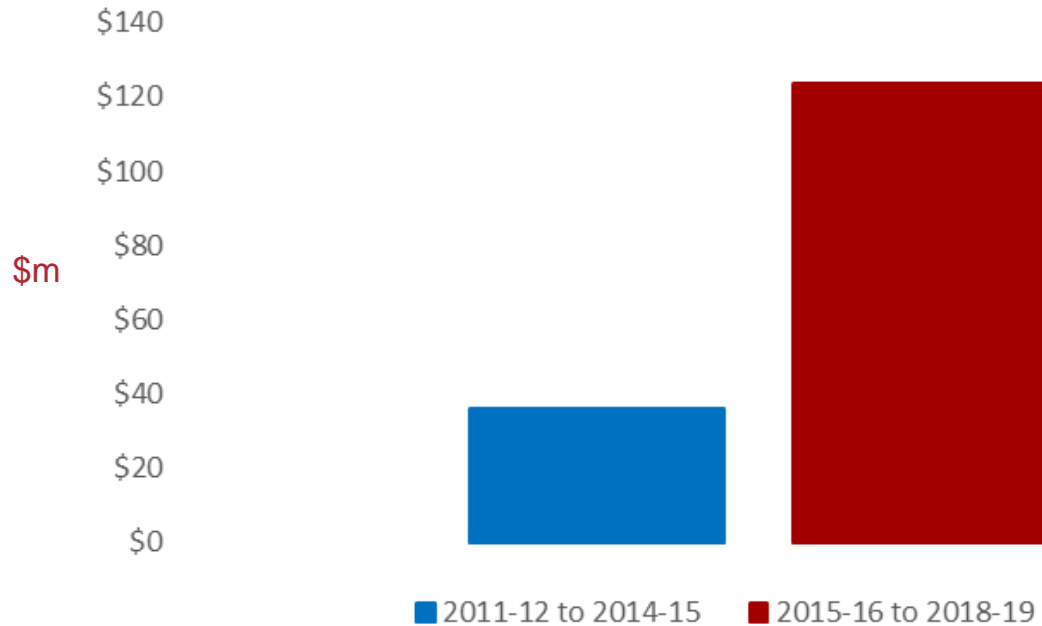
Since 2014-15, investment for early childhood education and parenting services has **more than doubled**


Source: Victorian Budget Papers

Record investment in kindergarten infrastructure

We have invested a record \$123.6 million over the past four years in kinder capital

State infrastructure investment



\$42.9 million 
**in 2018-19 is the
single largest state
investment ever**

Source: State government investment

Ready for kinder – capital and scholarships

Investing in more kindergarten infrastructure and a high quality workforce.

\$42.9 million

will fund:

- new and upgraded existing early learning facilities and integrated children's centres
- additional kindergarten places
- expand early childhood services across Victoria to meet demand pressures
- co-locate early learning centres on three government primary school sites

\$8 million 

For new scholarships to attract new teachers, and support educators to get a teaching qualification



Ready for school – School Readiness Funding

This is a new, permanent part of the Victorian kindergarten system

\$58.1 million

to help more children reach school developmentally 'on track'



- In 2019, it will be available in 25 local government areas

1 in **5** children 

start Prep not ready for school –
we want to change this

- Our investment facilitates access to evidence-based programs and services like:
 - speech therapists
 - language and literacy professionals
 - child psychologiststo work with educators, families and directly with children



Ready for life – Language programs

We want to help children prepare for an increasingly interconnected world

\$17.9 million 
specialist language program:

- specialist teachers funded to deliver language classes in up to **120 kinders**
- more than **3,000 children** learning a language other than English
- another **10 kinders** become bilingual.



Giving every child, every chance

Providing additional support for some children and families

\$4 million

in funding will:

- help meet growing demand for the Early Start Kindergarten Program
- expand **LOOKOUT** program to kindergartens for the first time and for children in Out of Home Care

\$4 million 

Continue and expand Maternal and Child Health services tailored for Aboriginal families

\$900,000

in funding for **Early Childhood Intervention Services** to support children ineligible for the NDIS

