

# Public Accounts and Estimates Committee 2020-21 Budget Estimates Hearings

The Hon. Natalie Hutchins MP

Minister for Youth Justice

Tuesday 15 December 2020



# We are committed to the health and safety of our staff and young people as we transition to COVID normal

**\$103.6 million** to support the Corrections and Youth Justice COVID-19 safe response in custody and maintain a safe and stable environment.

**0** Active cases in young people in custody and community, and staff

**25** Cases in young people in custody and community since the pandemic began

**4** Cases in staff since the pandemic began

**0** Cases of young person to young person transmission in custody

In line with health advice, Youth Justice is focusing on easing restrictions in a way that is safe for staff, young people, visitors and service providers. The Youth Justice COVID-19 Roadmap also prioritises the easing of restrictions for supports and services that contribute to a young person's rehabilitation and wellbeing.

The following measures have been lifted:



Return to face-to-face mental health service provision, criminogenic and psychosocial programs



Education returned to face-to-face delivery as at Term 4 in line with the rest of Melbourne



Increased in-person personal and professional visits and temporary leave arrangements to support effective transitions from custody



Removal of COVID isolation requirement of 14 days on admission for young people with no known COVID-19 risk factors

The following measures remain in place:



Remote Court, legal and personal visits, at this stage until mid-December

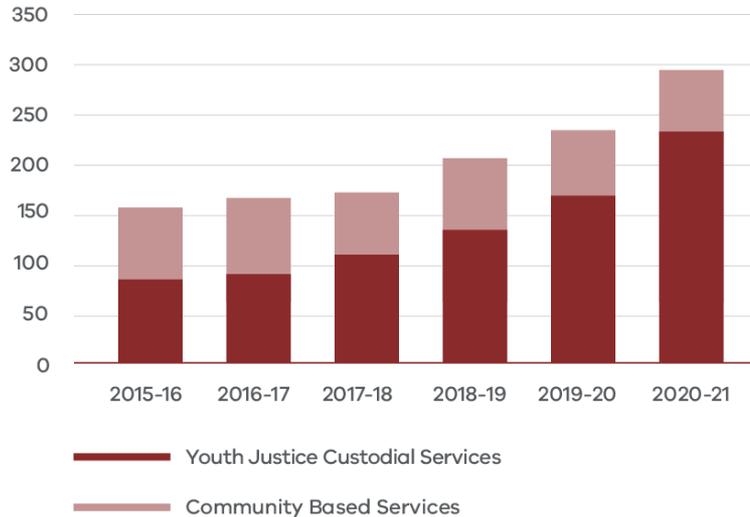


PPE – including masks – in place until COVID Normal.

Aboriginal and CALD children and young people are continuing to have their cultural needs supported.

# The 2020-21 Budget invests to further stabilise and improve Victoria's Youth Justice system

## Youth Justice Output Youth Justice – Output Target



The Budget provides the following output funding:

**\$12.4m** for Youth justice staffing and programs

**\$17.1m** for ensuring a secure youth justice system

**\$5.5m** for maintaining initiatives to counter violent extremism

**\$11.8m** for Aboriginal community-led responses within the youth justice system

**\$103.6m** to continue COVID-19 responses in Corrections and Youth Justice

**\$4.8m** to support children with disability and to help them access the NDIS

**\$7.0m** to stop young people entering youth justice through the Youth Support Service

## The 2020-21 Budget invests to further stabilise and improve Victoria's Youth Justice system

There has been significant investment into the Youth Justice system over a number of years.

The 2020-21 Youth Justice System output target reflects this investment, including previous asset investments and the related output costs such as depreciation and capital asset charges.

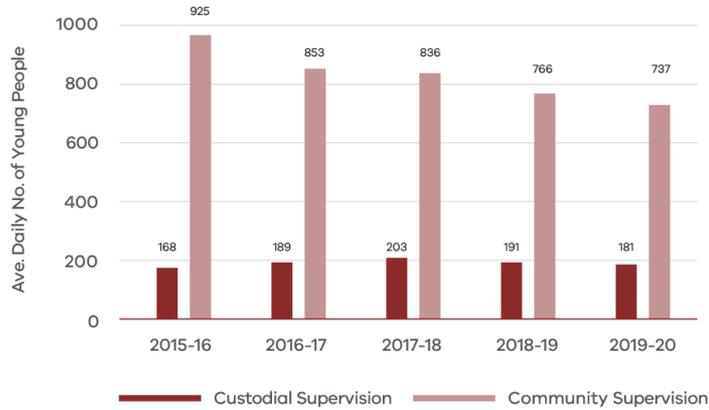
The Budget also provides **\$141.2 million** to enhance the safety and security of the new Youth Justice Facility at Cherry Creek.



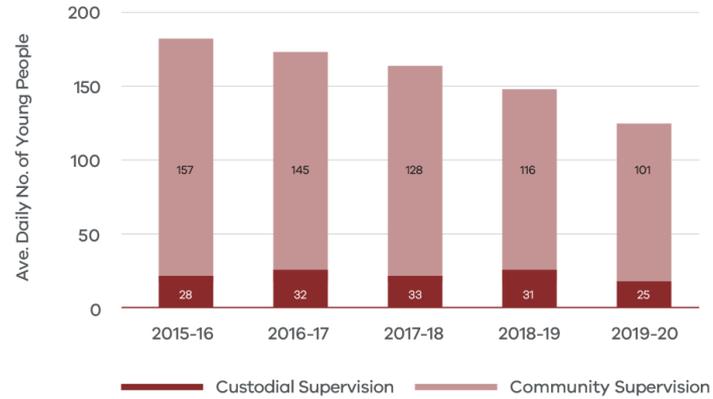
*Artist impression of proposed new Youth Justice Facility at Cherry Creek*

# We have seen significant signs of stabilisation in Youth Justice in 2019-20 and investments in 2020-21 will help us stay the course

**Graph 1**  
Young people under Youth Justice supervision

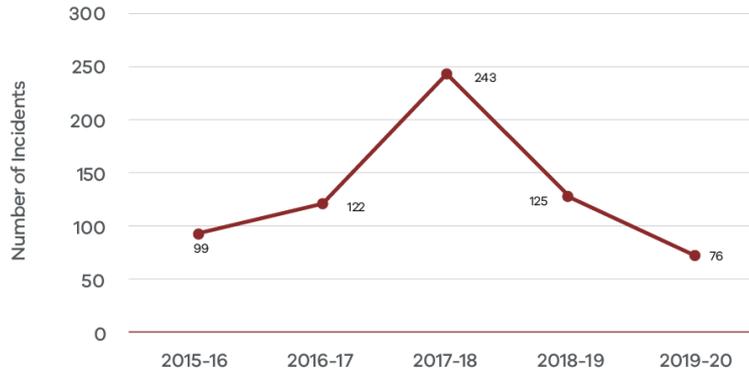


**Graph 2**  
Aboriginal young people under Youth Justice supervision

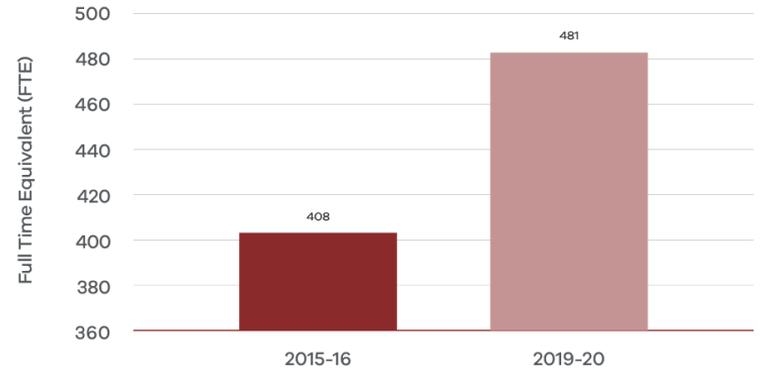


# We have seen significant signs of stabilisation in Youth Justice in 2019-20 and investments in 2020-21 will help us stay the course

**Graph 3**  
Category 1 Incidents



**Graph 4**  
Custodial staffing numbers



\*Includes ongoing full time, ongoing part time, fixed term and casual employees

# The 2020-21 Budget provides more funding to improve services in custody with a focus on the workforce

**\$12.4m**

in support for youth justice staffing and programs, including a *Youth Justice Custodial Services Workforce Plan* – will improve capability and reduce occupational violence

**\$17.1m**

for ensuring a secure youth justice system, including through an enhanced structured day

**\$103.6m**

to keep Corrections and Youth Justice facilities safe from COVID-19, noting 0 cases as at today and no young person to young person transmission so far

**\$141.2m**

to enhance the safety and security of new Youth Justice Facility at Cherry Creek

The *Youth Justice Custodial Services Workforce Plan* includes funding to:



build new pathways to attract and recruit staff



recruit Behavioural Support Specialists to help staff build their capability to support challenging behaviours



enhance learning and development.

In 2020-21 we are also exploring new models of possible service delivery at Cherry Creek with a focus on smaller groups of young people and multi-disciplinary interventions.

# The 2020-21 Budget has more funding to work in partnership to keep children out of Youth Justice

**\$7m**

for community services working closely with Victoria Police to divert children from crime through the Youth Support Service and the after-hours Youth Justice Community Support service

**\$11.8m**

to significantly increase Aboriginal led community responses

These priorities are underpinned by the work underway to develop a contemporary and standalone Youth Justice Act in line with Armytage and Ogloff Review and Strategy.

Based on this investment, we expect to see:



fewer children and young people under Youth Justice community supervision



16-20 Aboriginal young people (aged 10-17) under Youth Justice custodial supervision on an average day

# The 2020-21 Budget includes funding to rehabilitate young people who enter Youth Justice

**\$12.4m**

for Multi-Agency Panels for young people who are at highest risk and community engagement workers for CALD children and cultural workers in custody

**\$4.8m**

to best support children with a disability and connect with NDIS



We are also supporting the rehabilitation of young people by:



building a much more structured day for young people in custody



providing evidence-based program interventions that address offending behaviour and promote rehabilitation



offering skill-building programs such as Sweet Justice

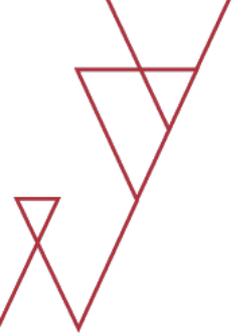
Based on this investment, we expect to see:



at least 85% of community-based orders successfully completed



improved case planning compliance



Thank you.

