

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee 2024-25

Budget Estimates Hearing

The Hon Anthony Carbines MP
Minister for Police

21 May 2024



Supporting police to deliver community safety in 2024-25

This year's Budget allocates **\$6.63 million** for the continuation and expansion of the Youth Crime Prevention and Early Intervention Project.

- YCPEIP aims to reduce rates of re-offending among young people through increased cautions, diversions, early referrals to legal and social supports and community legal education.

The 2024-25 Budget also includes **\$31.34 million** for Victoria Police within the Justice system for costs associated with court programs initiative to:

- manage court holding cells at the new Bendigo Law Courts and Dandenong Children's Court, and
- deliver the Drug Court program in metro locations as well as at the Ballarat and Shepparton Drug Courts,
- continue engagement with the Children's Court Weekend Online Remand Court which hears online bail and remand applications from across the state.





Supporting pathways for at-risk young people to thrive and live health and happy lives

The Victorian Government is committed to continuing to divert young people away from the criminal justice system, including through effective policing.

The funding for YCPEIP builds on programs previously funded in the 2023-24 Budget including:

- **\$5.00 million** over four years to the Aboriginal Youth Cautioning Program to ensure any engagement with police continues to focus on their wellbeing and safety,
- **\$7.37 million** over four years to ensure police can deliver the Embedded Youth Outreach Program in more communities across Victoria to reduce long term involvement in the criminal justice system.

Victoria Police undertakes a range of practices aimed at diverting eligible young people away from the justice system, such as youth cautioning. The cautioning rate for all youth offenders aged 10–17 has increased from 23 per cent in 2019 to 34 per cent in 2023.



Equipment to safely manage high-risk incidents on our streets

The government is delivering tasers to more than 10,300 police and protective services officers (PSOs) statewide.

- This new rollout of tasers will ensure police and protective services officers have greater access to this important tactical option.
- As at 31 March 2024, police in Springvale and Dandenong as well as the Public Order Response Unit are equipped with next generation tasers.
- The rollout to remaining police and Protective Services Officers will run through until September 2026.
- Victoria Police has established special training venues to teach officers how to safely handle a taser and upskill those already equipped with them.

Supporting our police through new frontline resources

Boosting front line resources in our growing communities through an additional 502 new police and 50 Protective Services Officers, building upon the 3,135 frontline resources delivered since 2016.

- As at 31 March 2024, all 502 police and 50 protective services officers have been recruited and are being progressively allocated to those communities across the state that need them the most.
- Additional protective services officers are now serving the community across the public transport network and supporting agile policing operations through mobile patrols around public transport and major events.
- In recognition of the significant contribution police make to the community, while negotiations for a new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement are ongoing, the Victorian Government has increased salaries for police by 1.75% effective 1 December 2023, which will be included in any final enterprise agreement.
- The 2023-24 Budget provided **\$4.00 million** to ensure police continue to receive tailored supports for those instances when police face violence and high-harm incidents in the community, with the BlueHub program providing a primary contact point for Victoria Police and Victorian-based Australian Federal Police members experiencing mental health trauma, crisis or injury.



Total police investment (since 2015-16)

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|---------------------|---|
| 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 |
| 2023-24 \$60.1 M | Strengthening community safety outcomes and increasing support to police so they can carry out their jobs effectively |
| 2024-25 \$37.9 M | Continuing to deliver critical court programs and strengthening early intervention and diversion pathways for at-risk young people |

The Victorian Government has made significant investments in Victoria Police over 10 years to ensure our police in regional and metropolitan Victoria are supported in delivering community safety to their local communities.



Thank you

