

2024–25 Victorian State Budget

Hon. Natalie Suleman MP

Minister for Youth

24 May 2024



Families,
Fairness
and Housing

Portfolio overview

The Youth portfolio provides meaningful opportunities for young Victorians to reach their full potential by:

- › supporting young people, including First Nations, regional and multicultural young people, to overcome unique challenges
- › increasing youth engagement and maximising participation in community and civic life
- › elevating the voices of young people in the design of policies, programs and services.

Key achievements over the past 12 months

Over the past 12 months, the Youth portfolio has:

- › Increased youth engagement and maximised participation in community and civic life.
 - » Provided opportunities for skill development and leadership for more than **70,000** young people through the Engage program.
 - » Delivered more than **640** youth-led events through the FReeZA program.
- › Engaged with over **800** at-risk Pasifika young people and their families through the Le Mana Pasifika Project in schools and other settings.
- › Supported **144** young people experiencing mental ill-health to re-engage in education through the Living Learning program.
- › Delivered **5** Scout Hall projects with Scouts Victoria to improve community infrastructure and expand engagement opportunities.
- › Continued working across government to implement *Our promise, Your future: Victoria's youth strategy 2022–2027*, including partnering with local governments to support new or upgraded youth hubs.



Further investment in young people in 2024-25

The 2024-25 Victorian State Budget delivers:

- › **\$3.6 million** through the *Innovative support to re-engage young people* package to continue the innovative Living Learning program which is re-engaging young people experiencing mental ill-health in education, in partnership with Melbourne City Mission.
- › **\$1.7 million** over four years to support the work of the Koorie Youth Council, which provides **100** First Nations young people and **20** Aboriginal-led organisations opportunities for youth participation.



Our continued commitment to Victorian young people

We will continue our commitment to Victorian young people in 2024-25, including through:

- › launching the new **YouthNav online platform** co-designed with young people
- › continuing to **deliver the portfolio's flagship programs** engaging young people from diverse communities and across the state, including:
 - › **Marram Nganyin Aboriginal Youth Mentoring Program** led by Aboriginal community organisations for Aboriginal young people
 - › **6 Community Support Groups** working with multicultural young people and their families
 - › **Regional Presence Project** that supports regional young people and the youth sector in Ballarat, Morwell, Swan Hill and Warrnambool
 - › new grant rounds for **Engage!** and **FReeZA**, implemented right across the state to boost youth participation and engagement.
- › partnering with the **Victorian Youth Congress**, an advisory group of young people, to inform our work.



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