



2021-22 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Budget Estimates Hearing

The Hon. Natalie Hutchins
Minister for Crime Prevention

Wednesday 30 June 2021





Crime Prevention Strategy

Risk factors for offending include unemployment, disengagement from education, poor mental health and disconnection from community.

Our new Crime Prevention Strategy targets these factors by:

- **Empowering and supporting communities** to deliver effective crime prevention solutions
- **Enhancing support for people at risk** before offending occurs
- **Establishing and expanding partnerships** across government and with industry and community, to strengthen access to employment, education and sporting opportunities
- **Building the evidence and focusing efforts** on what works in crime prevention to deliver the greatest impact.

This early intervention focus complements justice system reforms, including the Youth Justice Strategic Plan, to create a spectrum of support for vulnerable Victorians.



Delivering Crime Prevention outcomes

We are investing an additional **\$19.876 million** in 2021-22 to deliver our Crime Prevention Strategy so that Victorians are safer and feel safer.



\$10 million – Engaging communities

We will focus this new \$10 million investment in Victorian communities to deliver *effective local partnership initiatives* to improve community safety and intervene early to prevent justice system involvement.

This continues the work we've started through the Building Safer Communities Program.



\$4.401 million – Addressing risk factors

We are investing a further \$4.4 million in the *Youth Crime Prevention Grants* program, building on \$18 million invested since 2016.

The program has shown positive outcomes for participants, including decreased likelihood of becoming involved in criminal activity.



\$5.475 million – Crime prevention partnerships

We will continue to partner with trusted crime prevention organisations to raise community awareness, create safer neighbourhoods and support local crime prevention initiatives:

- **Crime Stoppers Victoria**
- **Neighbourhood Watch Victoria**

Youth Crime Prevention Program – supporting young Victorians

We are investing a further \$4.4 million in the *Youth Crime Prevention Grants* program. Projects include:

Banksia Gardens Community Services Community Youth Justice Alliance (Broadmeadows)

- Supports young people living in or near the Banksia Gardens Public Housing Estate with drug and alcohol support, legal assistance, employment or mental health support.
- The *Youth Space 3047* activity hub offers sporting and recreation activities with referral to supports as needed.
- Over 270 young people have received one-on-one support and 600 have engaged in pro-social activities to date.

The Youth Junction Youth Umbrella Project (Brimbank)

- Provides a range of targeted interventions to reduce risk and increase resilience for young people aged 12–24 in Brimbank.
- The program works to create practical, purposeful and sustainable employment, education and training, and to prevent isolation and disconnection.
- Over 248 young people have been supported through the program to date.



Youth Crime Prevention Program – supporting young Victorians

We are investing a further \$4.4 million in the *Youth Crime Prevention Grants* program. Projects include:

Save the Children OutTeach (Shepparton)

- This project combines a youth worker and teacher to address barriers to education for young people with extensive justice involvement in Shepparton.
- Many of these young people have lost connection with mainstream education and are supported through alternative education and employment opportunities.
- Over 31 young people have been actively engaged in the project to date.

Youth Support and Advocacy Service PIVOT projects (Casey and Dandenong)

- PIVOT provides intensive support for young networked offenders offering individualised plans for each young person including care co-ordination, crisis management, and individual therapy.
- After-hours pro-social activities and recreation opportunities are provided to engage young people and provide an alternative to risk-taking behaviour.
- Over 79 young people have been supported by the project to date.





Continuing crime prevention efforts

New investment of **\$19.876 million in 2021-22** builds on previous investments **in 2020-21** including:

- \$11 million in the new *Building Safer Communities Program*
- \$5.6 million in 31 Community Safety Infrastructure Grant projects, with 32 jobs to be supported through the program
- \$2.75 million to support young people from multicultural backgrounds, including five sports projects and initiatives to support African-Australian and Pasifika communities.



Building Safer Communities grants – investing in local initiatives

The *Building Safer Communities Program* includes:

***Three grant streams* to empower and invest in innovative local projects to address the causes of crime.**

Through Round One sixteen projects will receive \$4.4 million in competitive grants and three communities will each receive \$700,000 through the Empowering Communities stream.

***A series of community forums* so we can hear from Victorians about issues that matter to them.**

Four community forums have been held so far focused in Brimbank, Hume, Melton, and Ballarat.





Thank you.

