



Public Accounts and Estimates Committee 2020-21 Budget Estimates Hearings

The Hon. Natalie Hutchins MP

Minister for Crime Prevention

15 December 2020



Crime Prevention Budget Overview

In the 2020-21 budget, the government has committed **\$18 million over 4 years** for crime prevention.

There is one performance measure for crime prevention – 100 per cent of Community Crime Prevention grant payments were properly acquitted in 2019-20.

This measure is on track to be met again in 2020-21.



\$11 million

To improve community safety through a new **Building Safer Communities Program**, including grants and a series of community forums



\$7 million

To strengthen connections between families, education, jobs and communities, through an expanded **Youth Support Service** for young people with a history of justice involvement

Crime Prevention Budget Overview

We have delivered for Victorian communities under our crime prevention priorities, to keep communities safe and support recovery from COVID-19:



Empowering and investing in communities to deliver effective place-based crime-prevention initiatives:

- Establishing a partnership with New York University to support place-based work
- Commissioning original research and developing a survey tool for use by local councils to measure community perceptions of safety in Victoria



Enhancing and connecting support for people and communities to address risk factors for offending:

- \$2.35 million investment in sports initiatives to support young people; and initiatives to support African-Australian communities in Victoria
- \$400,000 investment to support Pasifika communities



Building evidence and increasing the impact of our crime-prevention activity:

- \$11 million investment in the new Building Safer Communities Program
- \$5.6 million investment in 31 projects through the Community Safety Infrastructure Grants program

Building Safer Communities – working in place

In line with our priorities, we will invest in and empower communities to develop and deliver place-based solutions to crime and safety issues.

\$11 million has been invested through the 2020-21 State Budget for the *Building Safer Communities Program*, which includes a series of community forums, and three grant streams to open in early 2021:



Stream 1 – Creating Safer Places:

competitive grants up to \$300,000 for councils to deliver urban design and place activation projects to improve community safety.



Stream 2 – Crime Prevention Innovation Fund:

competitive grants up to \$300,000 for councils and community organisations to deliver innovative local crime prevention initiatives and programs to address social causes of crime.



Stream 3 – Empowering Communities:

negotiated grants directed to communities where there are opportunities to improve community safety and address crime, with up to \$700,000 invested in each project.

Infrastructure fund overview

Investment in local public safety infrastructure projects help to improve community safety, deter crime, and stimulate local economies and create jobs to support recovery from COVID-19.

To help get Victorians back to work, tenders generated by Community Safety Infrastructure Grant projects require contractors to find new employees through the Working for Victoria platform.

Urban design projects such as installation of lights, fences and CCTV funded through 2019-20 crime prevention grant rounds are also underway, with all projects on track for completion to create safer communities and places for Victorians.

Over \$5.6 million

was announced in October 2020 for thirty-one projects under the Community Safety Infrastructure Grants program, including for example \$200,000 for Melton City Council to improve safety and use of the Little Blind Creek reserve in Kurunjang, following community consultation.

Community engagement

Effective crime prevention requires partnering with and engaging communities.

A series of *Building Safer Communities Forums* will support identified communities to work together to address crime issues in the context of COVID-19 recovery.

Two online forums were held in 2020 focused on Brimbank and Hume, including local councils, young people, community agencies, school leaders, state government departments, Victoria Police, and crime prevention partners, with further forums planned for 2021.



We have also partnered with community stakeholders to deliver crime prevention initiatives and support Victorians during COVID-19 including:

\$2.35 million

invested in support for young people through a new *Sports Alliance*, and to support African-Australian families and communities.

\$400,000

invested in grassroots efforts led by local organisation Charis Mentoring, to support Pasifika young people and families in Melbourne's West.



Thank you.

