

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Inquiry into 2019-20 Financial and Performance Outcomes

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Our vision is to achieve the best health, wellbeing and safety of all Victorians so that they can live a life they value

2019-20 Victorian Budget highlights



\$209 million to build 1,000 new public housing properties across our state, including immediate work on 160 new homes in Geelong, Ballarat, Darebin, Maribyrnong, Stonnington and Whitehorse.



\$85 million to ensure perpetrators are held to account, including through behavioural change programs and intensive management of perpetrators with complex needs



\$50.4 million to continue much-needed assistance for Victorians experiencing homelessness, including dedicated support for 2,000 people in homelessness after-hours crisis services



\$28.7 million for the Dhek Dja 10-year Aboriginal Family Violence agreement, including \$9.9 million for three Orange Door access points for Aboriginal Victorians, ensuring culturally appropriate victim responses provided by Aboriginal family violence services



\$26.9 million in funding was provided to meet demand for care of children who are unable to live with their families.


Further assistance has been provided to children with significant disability support needs who require residential care or a facility-based shared care placement, which is not currently provided under the NDIS.

The department's performance against outputs

In 2019-20, the summer bushfires and COVID-19 had a significant impact on the department's overall performance achievements, however, the department still achieved several positive outcomes:

- ✓ 13,709 Victorians were provided with respite and support services, an increase of just under 5,000 in the previous 12-month period.
- ✓ Nearly 14,500 less reports to Child Protection Services compared to the 2019-20 target.
- ✓ A decrease of 3,200 in investigations from reports to Child Protection. This is partly due to strengthened early support and intervention services reaching vulnerable children.
- ✓ 97.2% satisfaction of family violence workers with their family violence training
- ✓ 89.5% of eligible seniors have enrolled in the Seniors Card program, an increase of 1.5% on 2018-19.

Improving outcomes for children, young people and families in communities across our state



The 2019-20 State Budget invested \$476 million to support our most vulnerable, including children in care and children who are in care of relatives.

The Victorian Government supported the expansion of the Child Protection workforce. Following the funding of 450 additional workers in 2018-19, the government funded 44 more workers with a \$30 million investment over four years.

A further \$36.6 million to support landmark reforms focused on early intervention so that more kids have the settled and stable lives that they deserve.


This includes trials of innovative new models of out of home care and support for Aboriginal children to stay connected to their culture.

Every child deserves to feel safe – and to be safe. That's why \$116 million was committed to support children unable to live with their parents to be placed with family members.

In response to the coronavirus pandemic the government invested in services for children and families:

- \$46.2 million over two years to immediately build capacity of family services to provide outreach support to the most vulnerable children and families.
- \$15 million over two years to address the risk and safety concerns of children and young people in residential care.

An inclusive Victoria, which supports people with a disability to live satisfying everyday lives



There are now over 108,000 Victorians participating in the NDIS. This above the 105,324 target set in the State Budget papers. To support this, the government has:

Provided over \$100 million in funding for 2019-20 to support a range of services outside the scope of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to assist people with disability in Victoria.

This initiative will deliver on the Government's commitment to continue to provide support to existing Victorian disability services' clients who have not been able to transition to the NDIS.

Supported the implementation of a disability worker registration scheme, with the establishment of the Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria and the Victorian Disability Worker Commissioner.

Provided \$1.3m in funding to strengthen family violence responses for people with a disability in Orange Doors to ensure victim survivors with disability are appropriately supported.

As part of the NDIS, over 5,500 staff were transferred to non-government organisations, along with the successful transfer of 542 disability group homes (2,500 residents).

The full NDIS scheme agreement between the Commonwealth and Victoria took effect 1 July 2019.

Supporting all Victorians in having safe and secure housing

Over 29,000 Victorians were provided with accommodation, exceeding the 27,000 target set for 2019-20.

Over 115,000 Victorians were assisted by the Victorian Government to address and prevent homelessness, slightly above the 2018-19 figure.

To address this, the government invested \$209 million to build an additional 1,000 new public housing properties across the state. The department has progressed this work, with construction commencing in December 2019

The Private Rental Assistance Program Plus was launched in late 2019 in response to feedback from service providers of the need for increased support for some households accessing private rental

The department has also increased the quality and safety of social housing, investing \$500 million to build 168 new units and upgrade 23,000 dwellings through the \$2.7 billion Building Works investment package. This includes:

- funding for Aboriginal Housing Victoria sites in Hampton Park and Dandenong, creating 12 homes;
- \$35 million for upgrades, maintenance and repairs of existing Aboriginal social housing;
- and \$10 million to accelerate and increase a range of new and existing activities to support women and children escaping family violence.

Advancing Aboriginal self-determination

- 49% of Aboriginal children now being case managed by an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation (ACCO)
- ACCOs fully authorised to undertake powers and functions usually undertaken by the Secretary.
- Aboriginal Private Rental Assistance Program
- The Victorian Aboriginal housing and homelessness framework released in February 2020.
- \$23 million invested in ACCOs and Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations to provide culturally safer Coronavirus (COVID-19) services and public health information to Aboriginal Victorians.
- \$39.6 million for intensive, evidence-based and therapeutic supports aimed at supporting vulnerable children to stay home with their family, through the delivery of the Victorian and Aboriginal Family Preservation Response.



Embedding Family Violence reforms

More than 59,500 people (including more than 23,000 children) were referred to The Orange Door or directly sought help for family violence or for support with the care and wellbeing of children in 2019-20.

We're implementing the Royal Commissions recommendations to support all Victorians experiencing family violence

The Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework:

- The department published the MARAM victim survivor-focused tools and practice guides.
- The department also commenced the phased rollout of the Tool for Risk Assessment and Management to non-Orange Door providers.
- In excess of 10,500 workers were trained in the MARAM Framework in 2019-20, exceeding the 2019-20 target.

The Dhelk Dja: Safe Our Way – Strong Culture, Strong Peoples, Strong Families Agreement – Three Year Action Plan 2019-2022 was released in October 2019.

The Strengthening the Foundations: First Rolling Action Plan 2019-22 was published in November 2019. This is the first rolling action plan of the *Building from strength: 10-Year Industry Plan for Family Violence Prevention and Response*