



# Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

## Budget Estimates Hearing

The Hon. Natalie Hutchins MP

Minister for Crime Prevention

Wednesday 18 May 2022





# Investing in Crime Prevention

Since 2015-16, the Victorian Government has invested **over \$90 million in crime prevention** and has supported **more than 860 community projects** so Victorians are safer and feel safer.

This includes investing in:

- Our Crime Prevention Strategy
- Youth Crime Prevention Grants Program
- Building Safer Communities Program
- Our crime prevention partners including Crime Stoppers Victoria and Neighbourhood Watch Victoria





# Delivering crime prevention outcomes

The quarterly Victorian crime statistics release for the year ending 31 December 2021 shows:



**12.7 per cent**

decrease in criminal offences



**13.3 per cent**

decrease in the number of alleged youth offender incidents.

We know there is more to be done:



As at 9 May 2022,

**46 per cent**

of young people under youth justice supervision were from a culturally and linguistically diverse background.

We will continue to deliver our **Crime Prevention Strategy** so that:

- Victorian communities are more connected, cohesive and engaged in designing and delivering local solutions to prevent crime
- Fewer Victorians come in to contact with the criminal justice system
- More people at risk of offending are connected with earlier, more effective support
- Victorians are safer and feel safer.





# Budget 2022-23

## Continued investment in key programs in 2022-23



**\$4.5 million**

– Addressing  
risk factors

We are investing a further \$4.5 million in 2022-23 for the **Youth Crime Prevention Grants** Program, building on \$22 million invested since 2016-17.

The program has shown positive outcomes for participants, including decreased offending after exiting the program

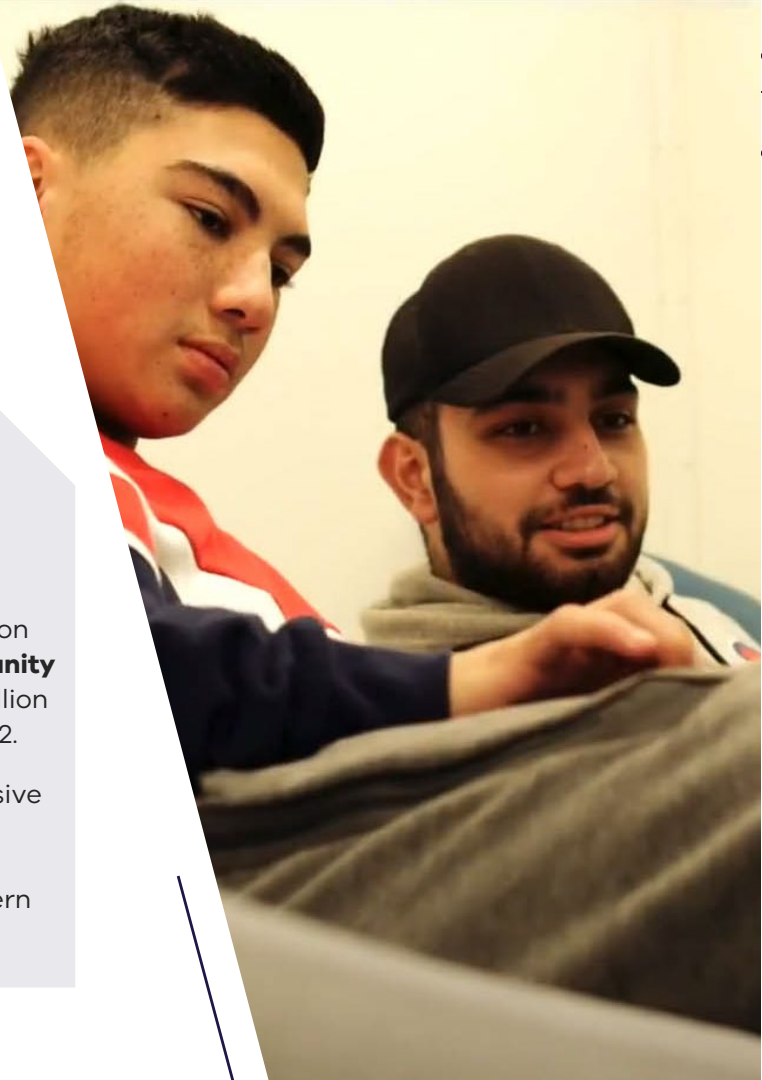


**\$1.5 million**

– Supporting  
communities

We are investing a further \$1.5 million in 2022-23 for the **Northern Community Support Group**, building on \$2.8 million invested across 2020-21 and 2021-22.

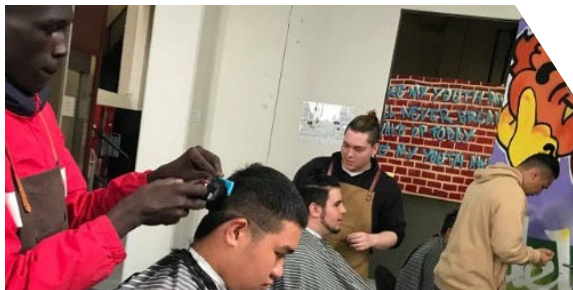
The program provides comprehensive case management support and community resilience for Muslim communities in Melbourne's northern suburbs.





# Youth Crime Prevention Grants Program

## – supporting young Victorians



We have invested **over \$26 million** in the **Youth Crime Prevention Grants Program** since 2016-17, including \$4.5 million through the 2022-23 State Budget.

The YCPG Program has provided intensive support to **over 1500 young people** to date, with 15 projects operating across Victoria.

A recent independent evaluation found:

**Reduced offending:** of the young people who had offended prior to entering the Program, there was a **29% reduction** from 93% of this group offending to 64% in the post-program period. For young people who had not offended pre-program, but were at significant risk, only 13% offended in the post-program period.

**Longer term positive impacts:** participants who spent six months or longer in the program showed offending **reducing by 31-40%**. Of 223 participants studied for a year or longer, 53 young people had a 'crime free' period of approximately one year or longer after exiting the Program.

**Reduction in seriousness of offending:** the number of participants who committed a 'high seriousness' offence **went down 24%**, from 71% pre-program to 47% post-program



# Northern Community Support Group

**\$1.5 million has been allocated in the 2022-23 State Budget to continue the NCSG, building on \$2.8 million allocated in 2020-21 and 2021-22.**

- The Northern Community Support Group (NCSG) was established in 2018 and works with Muslim communities in Melbourne's northern suburbs.
- The NCSG provides activities and supports for young people and families and connects people with relevant services, including mental health, financial hardship supports, and social participation.
- The NCSG has delivered **over 260 programs and activities** to **more than 100,000 people**, and has made **over 1800 referrals** for case management.
- Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, NCSG has supported the community through distribution of food hampers and development of culturally appropriate vaccination information.







# Empowering Communities

## – investing in local partnerships

Empowering Communities is a **\$7.1 million** investment in new and innovative approaches to tackling crime and safety issues in **Ballarat, Brimbank, Casey, Dandenong, Knox, Hume, Melton, Shepparton** and **Wyndham**.

Each of these communities has received:

- A **\$700,000 Empowering Communities grant**.
- Support to deliver a **Building Safer Communities forum** to explore safety concerns and identify priorities for action
- Support to establish **local Action Groups** to agree on a focus for crime prevention activity and oversee coordinated partnership approaches to tackle local issues.

BETTER UNDERSTANDING  
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND  
HOW TO STRENGTHEN IT



BUILDING AND  
STRENGTHENING  
PARTNERSHIPS



PROVIDING A COMMON  
FOCUS TO BETTER  
COORDINATE ACTIVITY



EVALUATING  
ACTIVITY TO LEARN  
WHAT WORKS AND WHY



SUPPORTING THE  
WORK OF GRASSROOTS  
ORGANISATIONS





# Delivering crime prevention outcomes



In 2021-22, **over 649 members** of the community participated in crime prevention activities including **Building Safer Communities Forums**, capacity building workshops and information sessions.



**Over 800 young people** participated in **culturally appropriate community activities** over the 2021-22 summer holiday and 2022 Term 1 school holiday as part of our School Holiday Programs.



Since 2020-21 **111 African-Australian mothers and their families** have been supported through the **Ubuntu Empowering Mothers project** in west and south-east Melbourne.







Thank you.

