

WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT – FAMILY VIOLENCE

Family violence is the number one law and order issue facing the Victorian community.

The Government will implement all of the Royal Commission into Family Violence’s 227 recommendations and build a new system from the ground up.

The *2016-17 Budget* commits \$572 million over three years as an immediate response. This investment will fund more housing and crisis refuges, more prevention and more support for children who are victims of family violence.

In addition, the Government will work with victims, survivors and the people and organisations that help them, to develop a comprehensive 10-year Victorian Family Violence Plan.

Output initiatives

Table 1.4: Output initiatives – Family violence

	(\$ million)				
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Achieving equality for Victorian Women	..	7.0	2.0	..	..
Architecture to scale up prevention approaches	..	7.8	..	..	..
Building a new and enduring family violence system	1.5	7.5	6.5	..	..
Culturally and linguistically diverse communities – family violence responses	..	3.3	..	..	..
Family violence housing blitz					
Accommodation for the homeless	..	1.6	1.6	..	..
Rapid Housing Assistance Fund	0.4	1.0	..	..	..
Redevelopment of Family Violence Refuges	..	0.2	6.0	..	..
Family violence legal assistance	..	4.6	..	..	..
Housing support for family violence victims					
Private rental housing access	..	16.0	..	..	..
Safe at Home – Flexible Support Packages	..	20.0	20.0	..	..
Hubs in 17 locations	..	5.0	..	..	..
Intensive support early in life	..	14.6	19.3	..	..
Laying the groundwork	..	5.4	5.0	..	..
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people family violence	..	2.5	..	..	..
More support for Aboriginal Victorians at risk of family violence					
Aboriginal community initiatives	..	2.5	2.5	..	..
Enhancing awareness and early intervention	..	1.3	1.3	..	..
Koori women’s diversion programs	..	0.7	0.9	..	..
Supporting Aboriginal children and families	..	8.2	8.3	..	..
Multi-agency risk assessment and safeguarding	0.6	20.0	7.9	..	..
Perpetrator accountability					
Changing perpetrator behaviour – men’s behaviour change programs	..	8.3	..	..	..
Monitoring Perpetrators – new ways of working	..	3.0	..	..	..
Respectful relationships for children and youth	..	8.9	13.0	..	..
Specialist family violence navigators	..	17.6	..	..	..

Table 1.4: Output initiatives – Family violence (continued)

(\$ million)

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Specialist support for family violence victims					
Financial counselling	..	1.8	..	..	..
Flexible support	..	34.0	34.0	..	..
Statewide crisis responses	..	3.0	..	..	..
Therapeutic interventions	..	9.2	16.2	..	..
Support for vulnerable children					
Child protection enhancements	..	1.7	1.7	..	..
Child Protection Specialist Intervention Unit	..	2.3	..	..	..
Increased support for children and carers	..	7.9	8.3	..	..
Integrated family services	..	5.7	..	..	..
Out-of-home care – stock renewal or replacement	..	0.4	..	..	..
Therapeutic interventions – vulnerable children	..	3.1	5.4	..	..
Transitioning residential care targets to complex level of support	..	17.5	18.4	..	..
Youth diversion program	..	3.4	3.4	..	..
Targeted prevention initiatives for all Victorians					
Preventing family violence in diverse communities	..	1.0	1.0	..	..
Reaching all Victorians where they live, work and play	6.0	7.0	5.0	..	..
Targeted initiatives for adolescents	..	0.5	..	..	..
Targeted initiatives for adults	..	0.5	..	..	..
Targeted initiatives for culturally and linguistically diverse communities	..	0.5	0.5	..	..
Targeted initiatives for seniors	..	1.0	..	..	..
Victims' experience of the justice system	..	5.5	2.5	..	..
Total output initiatives ^(a)	8.5	272.8	190.6	..	..

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance

Note:

(a) Tables may not add due to rounding.

Achieving equality for Victorian Women

The Government will develop and deliver Victoria's first gender equality strategy. This will promote women's leadership through initiatives such as boosting female participation on Victorian boards.

Architecture to scale up prevention approaches

A statewide prevention strategy will be developed along with supporting organisational arrangements at the local and regional level. Specific arrangements will be subject to co-design with the victims of family violence and the people and organisations that support them.

Building a new and enduring family violence system

Funding will support initiatives to drive implementation of the Royal Commission recommendations and build a new family violence system.

An independent implementation monitor will be established to report on the government's progress in implementing Royal Commission recommendations.

An implementation unit will be established to lead the Whole of Victorian Government and community response. Support will be provided for consultation and co-design including through the Victim Survivors' Advisory Group, Family Violence Steering Committee, Regional Integration Committees, peak sector bodies, the Indigenous Partnership forum and Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Groups. .

Culturally and linguistically diverse communities family violence responses

Specialist family violence services to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities will be delivered by an enhanced In Touch Multicultural Centre against family violence and other providers.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Multicultural Affairs, policy and programs output.

Family violence housing blitz

Accommodation for the homeless

Refer to the asset initiative for a description of this initiative.

Rapid Housing Assistance Fund

Refer to the asset initiative for a description of this initiative.

Redevelopment of Family Violence Refuges

Refer to the asset initiative for a description of this initiative.

Family violence legal assistance

Family violence legal services at Community Legal Centres and Victoria Legal Aid will continue. Additional funding will support Community Legal Centres to respond to demand.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Justice and Regulation's:

- Criminal Law Support and Reform output; and.
- Public Prosecutions and Legal Assistance output.

Housing support for family violence victims

Private rental housing access

Access to private rental housing will be expanded through market advocacy and rental brokerage. This will include practical assistance such as support for moving costs, furniture costs and paying rent in arrears.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Housing Assistance output.

Safe at Home – Flexible Support Packages

Flexible housing support packages will enable victims to remain safe in their own homes. Brokerage funds will enable increased home security; for example, by installing deadlocks, screen doors, security lighting and home alarms. Funding will also deliver case management and monitoring of perpetrators.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Housing Assistance output.

Hubs in 17 locations

Planning activity will be undertaken to establish 17 service hubs across Victoria.

The hubs will provide an entry point into local specialist family violence services, other support programs and improve access to universal services. The design of these hubs will be informed by detailed consultation and co-design with victims of family violence and the people and organisations that support them.

Intensive support early in life

A new intensive early childhood support service will be provided to vulnerable families. Three existing early intervention initiatives will be integrated and expanded across Victoria (Cradle to Kinder, right@home and Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies). Access to maternal and child health services for Aboriginal families will be enhanced.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Education and Training's Early Childhood Development and Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection and Family Services and Community Health Care outputs.

Laying the groundwork

Training will be delivered across the workforce to implement the new Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework. This initiative supports workforce planning, building workforce capacity and setting best practice standards.

Funding is also provided to further deliver and embed the Family Violence Index, which seeks to integrate data to create a single indicator of family violence, and to develop a demand modelling tool.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people family violence

Dedicated tailored services that respond to violence within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) families will be introduced. Research will improve the understanding of LGBTI family violence to improve service responses. Initiatives will be informed by co-design with victims of family violence and the people and organisations that support them.

More support for Aboriginal Victorians at risk of family violence

Aboriginal community initiatives

Community led prevention and early intervention initiatives will be developed to address the causes of family violence.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Aboriginal policy, strengthening Aboriginal cultural heritage and communities output.

Enhancing awareness and early intervention

Mediation, dispute resolution and inter-generational trauma training will be provided to interested Aboriginal persons to become accredited mediators. Aboriginal conflict resolution workers will be employed in high need locations.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Justice and Regulation's Victims and Community Support Services output.

Koori women's diversion programs

Three Koori women's diversion programs (Odyssey House and two place-based management programs in Loddon Mallee and Gippsland) will be continued.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Justice and Regulation's Victims and Community Support Services output.

Supporting Aboriginal children and families

Additional cultural support will be provided to Aboriginal children in the out-of-home care and child protection systems by expanding Aboriginal Child Specialist Advice and Support Services and ensuring children have a cultural support plan. The Koori Youth Justice Program will be expanded to support young people at risk of offending or on an order.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection and Family Services output.

Multi-agency risk assessment and safeguarding

A multi-agency family violence safeguarding function and data agency will be established to facilitate risk management and information sharing between agencies. Part of this work will involve identifying legislative and other barriers to information sharing. New arrangements for information sharing and data management across government will be developed.

The initiative will build on the existing Risk Assessment and Management Panels that cover select high risk cases.

Perpetrator accountability

Changing perpetrator behaviour – men’s behaviour change programs

Voluntary, court-mandated and corrections-based programs will receive additional support. In addition, an expert panel will review men’s behaviour change programs, review minimum standards and develop a compliance framework.

The Sexually Abusive Behaviours Treatment, which targets adolescent offenders, will be expanded to support teens aged 15-17.

This initiative will contribute to the Department of Health and Human Services’ Child Protection and Family Services output.

Monitoring perpetrators – new ways of working

New and improved systems will be developed to enable information sharing across key sectors, including corrections, courts, health and human services to better monitor perpetrators and hold them to account.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Justice and Regulation’s Community Based Offender Supervision output.

Respectful relationships for children and youth

Victorian school and kindergarten students will learn about respectful relationships to prevent family violence. Building on the Government’s Education State investments in 2016, additional curriculum material will be developed and teachers will receive training to help them teach the program.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Education and Training’s:

- Early Childhood Development output;
- School Education – Primary output; and
- School Education – Secondary output.

Specialist family violence navigators

New specialist family violence navigators will improve the safety of victims and children by ensuring services are co-ordinated and that clients have a single point of contact who will stick with them through their recovery. This initiative will be informed by co-design with victims of family violence and the people and organisations that support them.

Specialist support for family violence victims

Financial counselling

Specialist financial counsellors will support victims in financial distress, including through advocacy to banks, telecommunications companies and utility companies. Accredited family violence training for financial counsellors will improve responses to economic abuse.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection and Family Services output.

Flexible support

Tailored support, including case management will improve crisis responses to victims. Additional outreach services will address increased L17 (police) referrals.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Housing Assistance output.

Statewide crisis responses

Increased 24/7 helpline support will be provided through the community organisation, Safe Steps, to address demand for services and increase capacity to respond to victims from diverse backgrounds.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Housing Assistance output.

Therapeutic interventions

Therapeutic support will provide up to 40 weeks of intensive support through counsellors to support victim recovery.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection and Family Services output.

Support for vulnerable children

Child protection enhancements

Additional child protection practitioners will address demand pressures, support recommendations from the Royal Commission into Family Violence and undertake case planning to secure stability for children. The positions will support information sharing with Victoria Police, Corrections Victoria and the Federal Court of Australia, and enable critical client information to be shared between States and Territories.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection and Family Services output.

Child Protection Specialist Intervention Unit

The Child Protection Specialist Intervention Unit will continue to provide on-site support to child protection areas experiencing operational pressures.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection and Family Services output.

Increased support for children and carers

The initiative addresses barriers to the recruitment and retention of foster, kinship and permanent carers, by providing additional funding to support the children with the most complex needs (e.g. education and training costs, childcare, and essential transport). Training will also be provided to foster and kinship carers when a placement is at risk of breaking down, and a new helpline will be provided for permanent carers.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection and Family Services output.

Integrated family services

Additional support will be provided to families to meet projected demand for integrated family services in the next 12 months. Integrated family services seek to intervene early and identify need, address risk and support the changing needs of vulnerable children, young people and families.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection and Family Services output.

Out-of-home care – stock renewal or replacement

Refer to the asset initiative for a description of this initiative.

Therapeutic interventions – vulnerable children

Tailored long term therapeutic support and sexual assault counselling will be introduced to improve the recovery of children exposed to family violence.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection and Family Services output.

Transitioning residential care targets to complex level of support

Children in residential care will receive 'stand-up' staffing in units throughout the night, as well as daytime care. This will improve the care, safety and supervision of children and young people in residential care.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection and Family Services output.

Youth diversion program

The bail supervision and youth diversion programs will be expanded. The bail supervision program provides early intervention for young people charged with offences. The youth diversion program allows young people who have committed less serious offences to have a second chance.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Community-based Services output.

Targeted prevention initiatives for all Victorians

Preventing family violence in diverse communities

The Government will deliver initiatives addressing the varied experiences and causes of family violence in many communities including the LGBTI community, Aboriginal community, people with disability, the elderly and people in rural and regional communities. Initiatives will be designed in consultation with communities.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Women, the Prevention of Family Violence and LGBTI Equality Policy and Programs output.

Reaching all Victorians where they live, work and play

Major campaigns will be undertaken to change attitudes and behaviours that lead to violence against women and children. Statewide education and awareness-raising activities will be tailored to Victorian communities in consultation with victims and sector participants. The initiative will maintain prevention projects targeting key settings (workplaces and local governments) and populations (women with disabilities), as well as fund the National Campaign to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Women, the Prevention of Family Violence and LGBTI Equality policy and programs output.

Targeted initiatives for adolescents

Targeted initiatives for disengaged youth will promote prevention through research and awareness-raising.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Women, the Prevention of Family Violence and LGBTI Equality policy and programs output.

Targeted initiatives for adults

The Government will target workplaces and the broader community to embed a culture of equality amongst Victoria's workforce. Initiatives will focus on workforce development, education and bystander programs.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Women, the Prevention of Family Violence and LGBTI Equality policy and programs output.

Targeted initiatives for culturally and linguistically diverse communities

The Government will focus on engagement with diverse communities around family violence prevention and gender equality. In addition, youth projects concentrating on respectful relationships in online and social media contexts will be delivered.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Multicultural Affairs, policy and programs output.

Targeted initiatives for seniors

The Government will raise awareness of elder abuse through support for increased understanding of social equality amongst older Victorians.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Women, the Prevention of Family Violence and LGBTI Equality policy and programs output.

Victims' experience of the justice system

Sexual assault counselling and therapeutic family violence recovery programs will be provided to women in the corrections system. Innovative justice options to improve victims' experience of the justice system will be developed. This initiative will be informed by co-design with victims of family violence and the people and organisations that support them.

Asset initiatives

Table 1.5: Asset initiatives – Family violence

	(\$ million)					TEI
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	
Family Violence Housing Blitz						
Accommodation for the homeless	..	4.0	17.9	..	..	21.9
Rapid Housing Assistance Fund	48.8	..	..	..	..	48.8
Redevelopment of family violence refuges	..	9.5	5.5	..	..	15.0
Multi-agency risk assessment and safeguarding	..	4.1	..	..	..	4.1
Specialist family violence navigators	..	1.4	..	..	..	1.4
Support for vulnerable children						
Out-of-home care – stock renewal or replacement	..	9.0	..	..	..	9.0
Total asset initiatives ^(a)	48.8	28.0	23.4	..	..	100.1

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance

Note:

(a) Tables may not add due to rounding.

Family violence housing blitz

Accommodation for the homeless

Community service organisations will be supported to deliver additional accommodation for people experiencing homelessness as a result of family violence. Funding will support construction of up to 180 units of crisis accommodation and upgrades of existing accommodation.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Housing Assistance output

Rapid Housing Assistance Fund

Grants will be provided to deliver up to 130 new social housing dwellings.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Housing Assistance output.

Redevelopment of family violence refuges

Four communal family violence refuges will be redeveloped into a 'core and cluster' model, enabling people to reside in separate dwellings. Funding will enable 24 hour staffing at up to six refuges. This provides a safe environment where families can recover from violence and children can live without trauma.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Housing Assistance output.

Multi-agency risk assessment and safeguarding

Refer to the output initiative for a description of this initiative.

Specialist family violence navigators

Refer to the output initiative for a description of this initiative.

Support for vulnerable children

Out-of-home care – stock renewal or replacement

Residential out-of-home care properties will be renewed or replaced so that they are fit for purpose. The investment will make properties safer and improve the environment for children in residential care.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection and Family Services output.

