

VICTORIAN BUDGET 2020-21 SNAPSHOT



CARERS

- **\$4.6 million to support unpaid carers to pursue education and employment opportunities** in the community, disability and aged care sector. This includes relief for carers to get assistance with their caring responsibilities while they study and during their placements, helping with the cost of study materials, mentoring and additional supervision and support.

CARER AND SICK LEAVE PILOT SCHEME FOR CASUAL WORKERS

- A two-year pilot to provide up to five days of sick leave and carer's pay at the national minimum wage for casual or insecure workers in priority industries.
- The pilot will roll out in two phases over two years with the occupations eligible for each phase to be finalised after a consultation process which will include workers, industry and unions.
- The future ongoing scheme would be subject to an industry levy, but the pilot scheme will be fully funded by the Victorian Government at no cost to business.

EDUCATION

- Impacts of remote learning:
 - \$250 million to hire 4,100 tutors across government schools next year;
 - \$30 million to recruit 600 tutors to work with disadvantaged students in Catholic and independent schools; and
 - Families who borrowed laptops and tablets while students were learning from home will get to keep them in an initiative worth \$24.5 million.
- Free kinder for three and four-year-olds in funded programs, at a cost of \$169.6 million.

- Disability Inclusion package \$1.6 billion:
 - Transforming support for students with disability in Victorian government schools – doubling the number of students receiving extra support in the classroom to 55,000;
 - All schools will benefit from the change, enabling them to better support students who may have previously been ineligible for targeted support such as those with autism, dyslexia or complex behaviours;
 - New facilitator roles will be established to help schools and families work together; and
 - \$102.8 million to deliver new resources and support to build the skills and knowledge of our incredible school staff in delivering inclusive education for every student. This includes more than 100 extra staff to provide on-the-ground implementation support and program delivery for schools.

MENTAL HEALTH

- \$235 million for the state's COVID-19 Recovery Workforce, including the creation of 500 jobs, training pathways and internships for around 875 people across the mental health, family violence, health and child protection systems.
- \$868 million to support the implementation of the interim recommendations of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System. The commitment includes:
 - \$492 million for 120 mental health beds in Geelong, Epping, Sunshine and Melbourne;
 - \$47.8 million for early intervention support for young people;
 - \$21.4 million to complete the state-wide expansion of the Hospital Outreach Post-Suicidal Engagement (HOPE) service;
 - \$18.9 million for 35 acute treatments beds for public mental health patients in private health services;

- \$16 million for the lived experience workforce, including training positions, education and opportunities for employment;
- \$8.7 million to establish a residential mental health service designed and delivered by those with lived experience;
- \$7 million to support Orygen’s research into youth mental health; and
- \$2.2 million to establish the Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing.

HEALTHCARE

- The Victorian Budget 2020–21 will spend \$120.9 million over three years on the Better at Home initiative to meet growing demand for healthcare through increased delivery of hospital services in patients’ homes.
- \$102.6 million to provide a range of different types of care at home, including clinic appointments, chemotherapy, post-surgical care and rehabilitation – making a real difference to people’s lives.
- \$12.5 million investment to sustain the high rates of telehealth we have achieved during the pandemic, and support the development of innovative new models of 21st century care.
- \$5.8 million will help health services to engage the clinical workforce in this transformation of care in Victoria.

HOUSING

- \$5.3 billion Big Housing Build to construct more than 12,000 new homes throughout metro and regional Victoria. The investment will include 9,300 new social housing homes 2,000 of which will be for Victorians living with mental illness, 1,000 new dwellings for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and another 1,000 will be reserved for victim survivors of family violence.

JOB SCHEME FOR WOMEN

- \$250 million for the new government funded job creation scheme, \$150 million towards getting 6,000 women back to work. Of this, \$50 million towards funding jobs for those aged over 45.

Sources:

www.premier.vic.gov.au

www.abc.net.au/news/2020-11-24/victorian-state-budget-2020-what-we-know-so-far/12910874

Mental Health Victoria