



Victorian Budget  
2023/24

# Doing what matters

Tim Pallas  
Treasurer of Victoria  
VCOSS  
26 May 2023



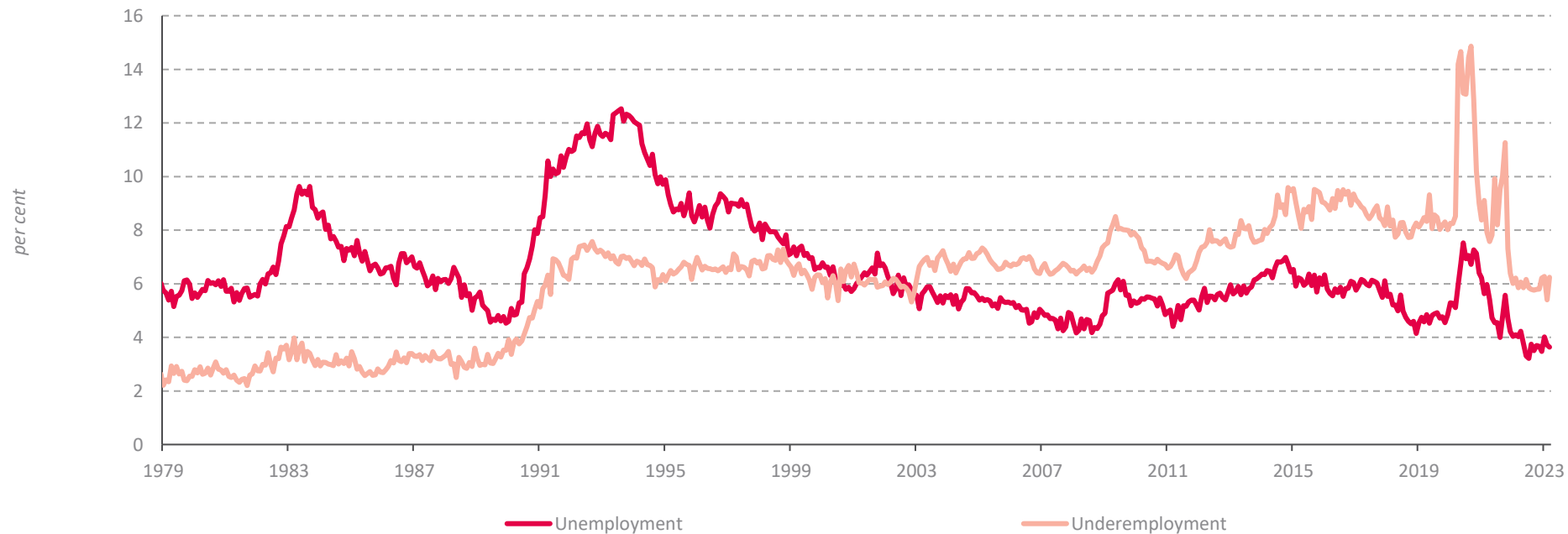
## Doing what we said we'd do

- Last year, we took a positive plan to the Victorian people.
- It was a plan for better hospitals, world-class schools, and the road and rail our growing state needs.
- It was a plan for cleaner, cheaper renewable energy, a plan for the very best start in life for our kids, and a plan to help Victorians with the rising cost of living.
- It was a plan to keep doing what matters.
- This Budget funds every election commitment we made.



# The unemployment rate is below 4 per cent as it has been for the past year – which hasn't happened for nearly 50 years

## UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATES



# Delivering on our fiscal strategy

## FOUR-STEP FISCAL STRATEGY

- **Step 1:** Creating jobs, reducing unemployment and restoring economic growth
- **Step 2:** Returning to an operating cash surplus
- **Step 3:** Returning to operating surpluses
- **Step 4:** Stabilising debt levels



**ON TRACK**

	Unit of measure	2021-22 actual	2022-23 revised	2023-24 budget	2024-25 estimate	2025-26 estimate	2026-27 estimate
<b>Net result from transactions</b>	\$ billion	(13.8)	(10.3)	(4.0)	(1.1)	1.0	1.2
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	\$ billion	(8.9)	2.9	0.8	4.3	6.5	6.5
<b>Government infrastructure investment</b>	\$ billion	18.7	22.5	22.4	20.6	18.6	16.9
<b>Net debt</b>	\$ billion	100.0	116.7	135.4	151.2	162.2	171.4
<b>Net debt to GSP</b>	per cent	19.4	20.6	22.6	23.9	24.4	24.5

# COVID Debt Repayment Plan

**WHEN THE PANDEMIC HIT VICTORIA, WE ACTED QUICKLY AND DECISIVELY TO SAFEGUARD THE ECONOMY – AND TO PREVENT ECONOMIC SCARRING THAT WOULD HAVE LEFT A GENERATION OUT OF WORK.**

We had to borrow \$31.5 billion to save jobs and save lives and to get through. We are not the only government in this position. But we're the only government with a plan to manage it with our *COVID Debt Repayment Plan*.

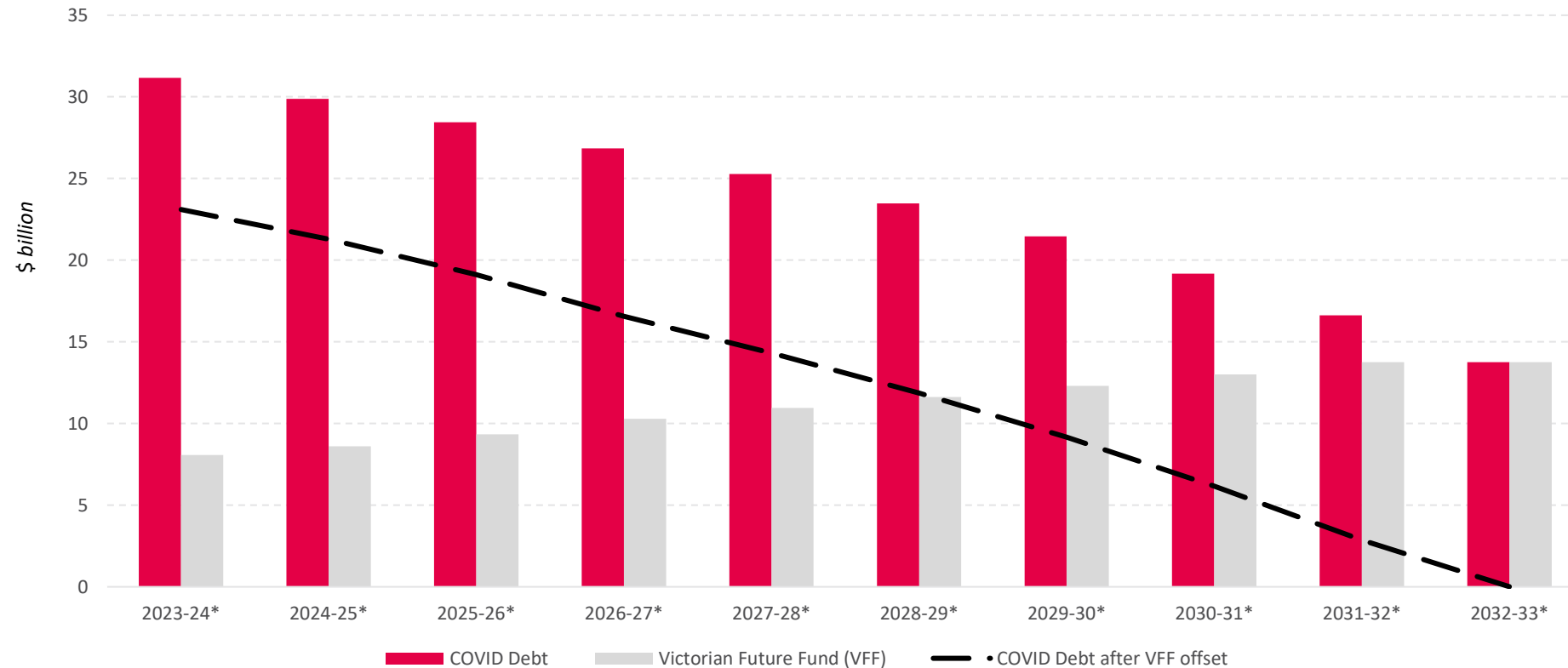
With the economy strong, now is the time to confront this situation squarely to repay the COVID debt that kept Victoria going during the pandemic. We will repay this debt over the next 10 years, by 2033.

The Plan is temporary, targeted and above all, responsible. The repayment plan is structured in a way that's reasonable and proportionate to ability to pay. The government will also do its bit.

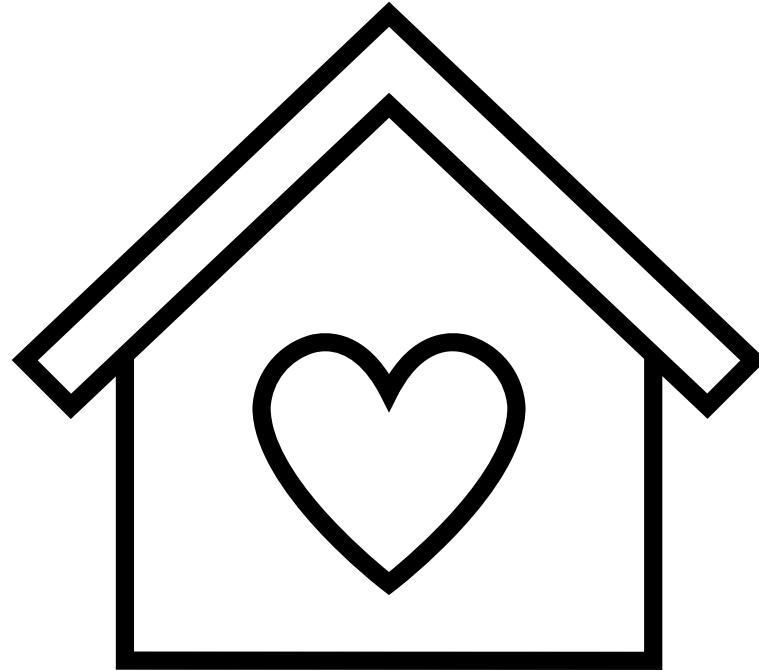
There are three parts to the plan: a COVID Debt Levy, government rebalancing the public service and the Victorian Future Fund.

# After 10 years the Levy will end, and debt will be where it would have been without the pandemic

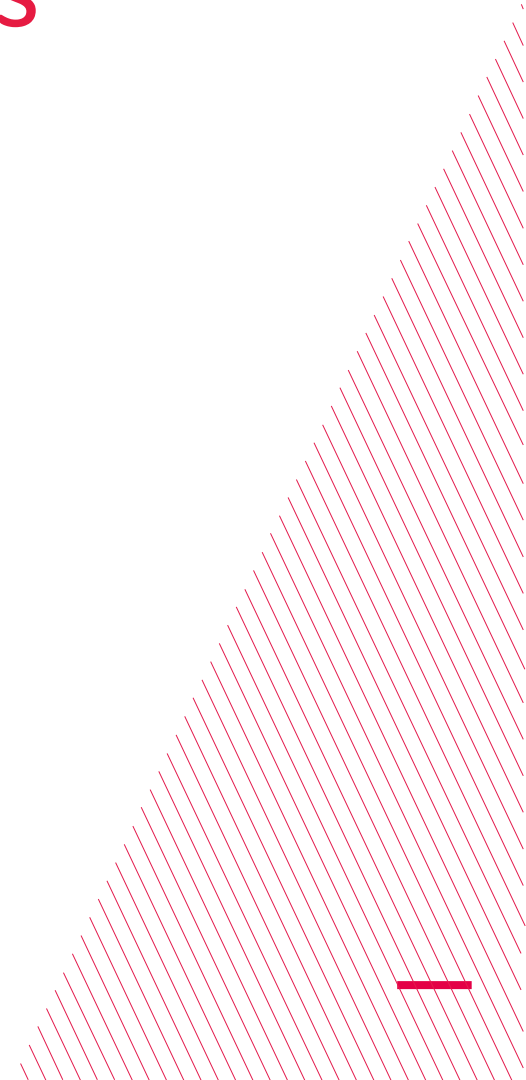
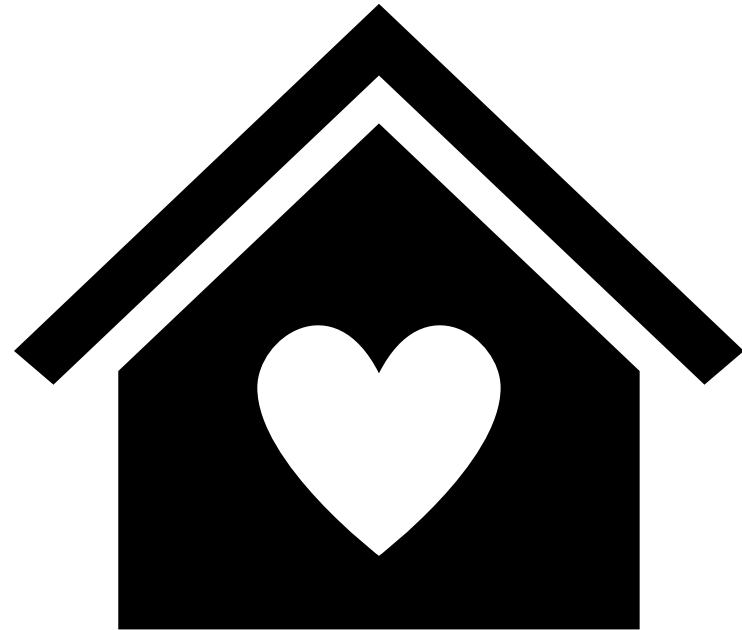
## COVID DEBT REPAYMENT PLAN PROFILE OVER 10 YEARS



## Tax concessions for families providing a home for a relative with a disability



# Making land transfer duty fairer for pensioners and concession card holders





This Budget will commence delivery of every election commitment, including:

- Healthcare: where and when you need it
- Bringing back the SEC
- Powering the economy
- The best start in life for all Victorians
- Getting Victorians home sooner and safer
- A fairer Victoria
- Supporting rural and regional Victoria.



## Healthcare: where and when you need it

- **\$320 million** for a Hospital Infrastructure Delivery Fund to prepare for seven new and upgraded hospitals
- **\$969 million** to ensure new and upgraded facilities are patient ready
- **\$44 million** for PET scanners at eight hospitals
- **\$201 million** in a range of initiatives to give our healthcare workers the helping hand they need
- **\$201 million** to boost emergency care
- **\$154 million** for a Women's Health Package, including establishing 20 new comprehensive women's health clinics
- **\$421 million** for nine health initiatives focused on early intervention
- **\$77 million** to begin work on three new Wellbeing Locals and plan a further 20

# Investing in women's health

We'll give women's health the serious focus and funding it deserves

- **\$65 million** for 10 800 additional laparoscopies
- **\$58 million** for 20 new women's health clinics and a dedicated Aboriginal-led women's clinic
- **\$50 million** for public fertility care, with up to 3 375 treatment cycles funded each year
- **\$12 million** for research initiatives that will directly benefit women's health
- **\$10 million** for nine sexual and reproductive health hubs and continued funding for the Local Public Health Unit
- **\$5.3 million** for a mobile women's health clinic to improve access in regional Victoria
- **\$2 million** in grants to women's health NGOs for health and wellbeing support programs
- **\$2 million** for women's health specialist scholarships.

# Looking after mental health

We'll keep investing in the mental health services that matter to Victorians

- **\$157 million** to provide 22 new beds at Melbourne Health, 10 new integrated care residential beds and 12 statewide eating disorder treatment centre beds at Alfred Health, as well as other key bed-based mental health initiatives.
- This year, through the Mental Health Capital Fund, we'll invest:
  - » **\$53 million** for planning and development for Stage 3 of the Thomas Embling Hospital.
  - » **\$10 million** to upgrade infrastructure across a range of health services.
- **\$91 million** to begin work on three new Local Services in Northcote, Leongatha and Narre Warren and continue delivery of other community based services.



## The best start in life for all Victorians

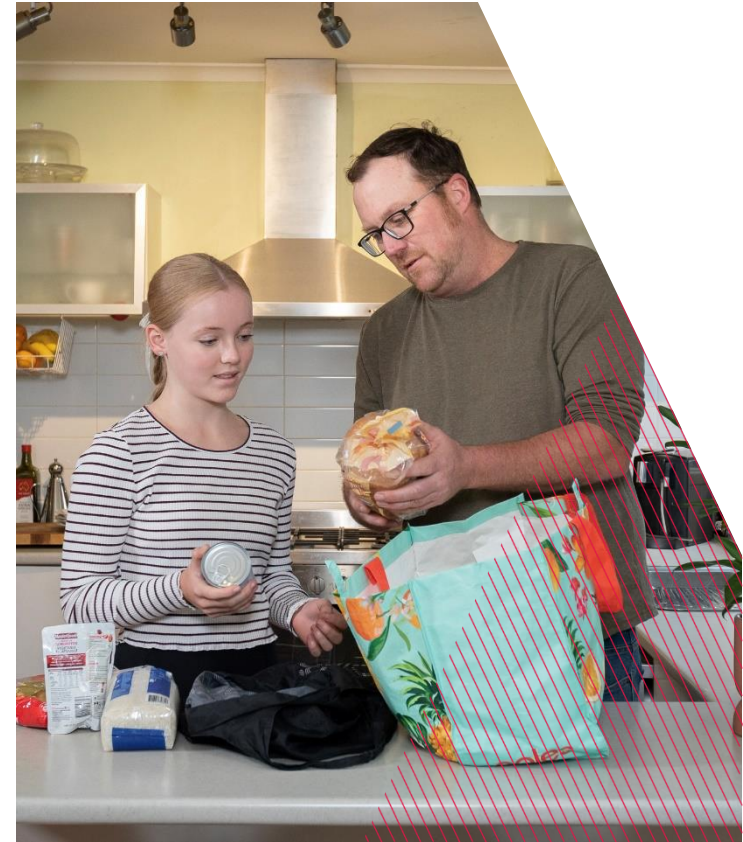
- **\$1.7 billion** to roll out the Best Start, Best Life and Three-year-Old Kinder reform, bringing its total investment to \$6.2 billion
- **\$618 million** to build nine new local schools, an additional stage at two recently opened schools, and planning and early works for three more new schools
- **\$266 million** across 43 schools to deliver high-quality classrooms and facilities and another \$24 million School Upgrades Delivery Fund, which enables planning and development for upgrades at 54 schools
- **A \$235 million** package to transform the lives of students living with disability, their carers and families
- **\$169 million** for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund so students from disadvantaged and vulnerable backgrounds aren't held back from activities with their friends
- **\$105 million** for the School Breakfast Clubs program, Affordable School Uniforms initiative and Glasses for Kids Program



## Fairer Victoria: Cost of living relief for families

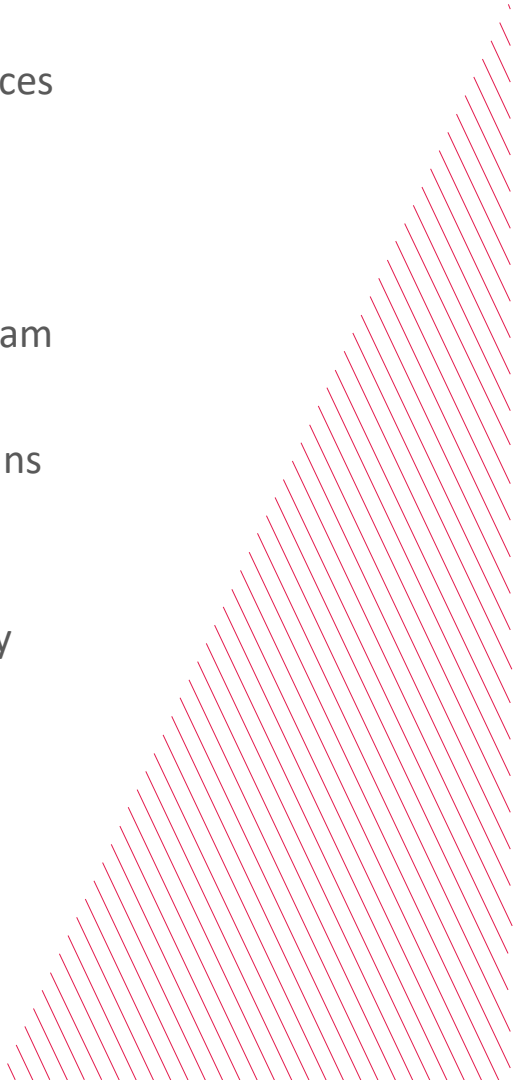
The cost of living keeps rising, and Australians are paying the price. That's why we're providing relief in energy, transport and everyday living expenses

- **\$400 million** for the fourth round of the Power Saving Bonus
- **\$190 million** for fairer regional public transport fares
- **\$90 million** to digitise essential government services
- **\$50 million** to enable more Victorian families to access public fertility care, with up to 3 375 treatment cycles funded each year
- **\$42 million** to install 100 neighbourhood batteries across the state
- **\$42 million** to recognise the service of Victorian veterans and their families and helping them with the cost of living.



## Fairer Victoria: More cost of living relief for families

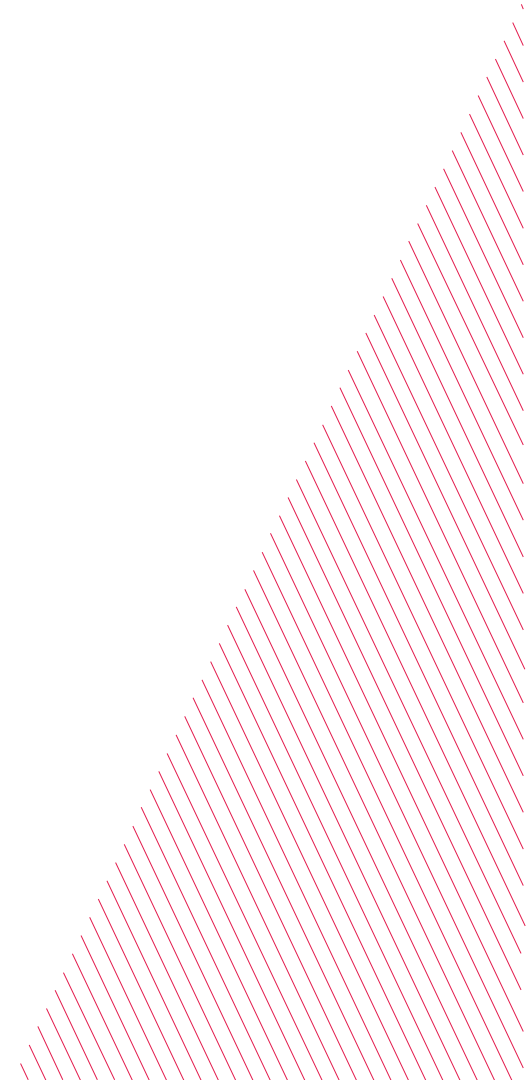
And the list goes on

- **\$23 million** to provide free period products in public places across the state
  - **\$17 million** over four years to continue our Baby Bundle program
  - **\$17 million** to expand the Smile Squad free dental program to low-fee independent and Catholic schools
  - **\$16 million** for Solar Victoria to provide interest-free loans to install solar battery storage systems to eligible households
  - **\$16 million** to keep providing pads and tampons in every government school free of charge
  - **\$10 million** to deliver free car registration for our hardworking trade apprentices.
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## Supporting vulnerable children and families

That's why we'll provide an additional \$895 million to protect our children and help keep vulnerable families together, including

- **\$535 million** including funding to meet demand for residential care placements for children and young people.
- **\$140 million** to reduce Aboriginal overrepresentation in child protection and family services through culturally appropriate care, led by the Aboriginal community
- **\$11 million** to continue trials to embed family services in universal settings such as schools, early years services and community health hubs.





# Keeping women and children safe

Keeping women and children safe has been our priority from the very beginning

It's why we've implemented every one of the Royal Commission into Family Violence's 227 recommendations

And it's why we've invested more than \$3.7 billion over the past eight years to keep women and children safe, and why we're investing:

- **\$117 million** to continue to support victim survivors of family violence and hold perpetrators to account, including in Aboriginal-led services, by delivering perpetrator intervention programs, keeping victim survivors safe in their homes, increasing sexual assault support services and providing specialist family violence legal assistance at court.



## More homes for Victorians

Every Victorian should have a place to call home, that's why we're investing on further initiatives to support those in need

- **\$68 million** to deliver a Housing First response including housing and multidisciplinary support services for those rough sleeping and experiencing homelessness
- **\$33 million** to support around 225 young people with complex needs leaving residential care and other settings
- **\$9.1 million** for the Pathways to Home program to help people with disability make the transition out of hospital beds and into home-like settings equipped to meet their needs

## Supporting Treaty and self-determination

*The foundation for a fairer Victoria starts with a fairer future for our First Peoples.*

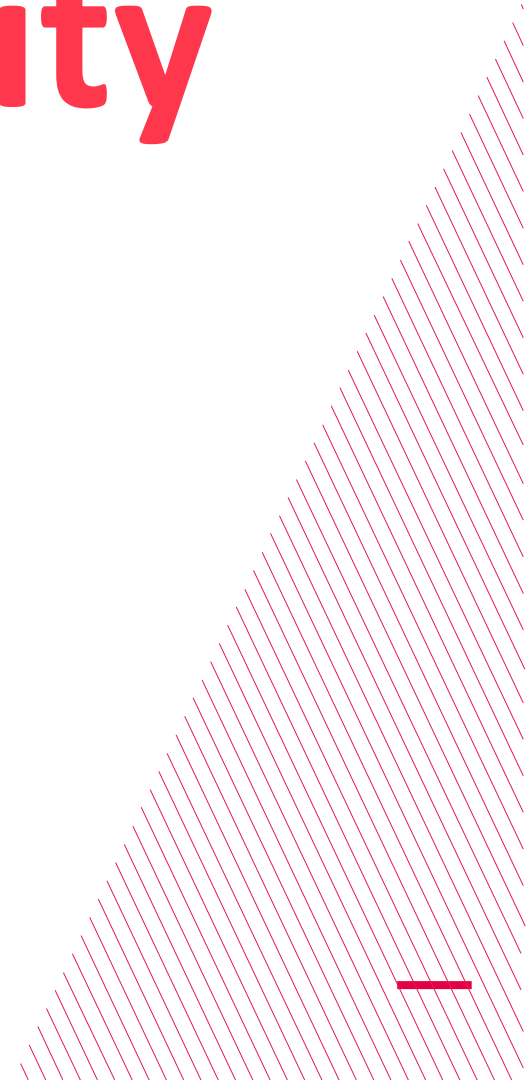
- **\$35 million** to support 25 self-determining Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations
- **\$17 million** to improve justice outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians
- **\$14 million** to attract First Peoples into teaching degrees and teaching roles
- **\$10 million** to continue the Aboriginal Community Infrastructure Program
- **\$6.4 million** to continue to support Traditional Owner Corporations when negotiating a Recognition and Settlement Agreement package
- **\$3.9 million** to continue the First Nations Legal and Research Services
- **\$3.9 million** for an Aboriginal-led Early Parenting Centre
- **\$2.6 million** to strengthen the Aboriginal Heritage Officer and the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape World Heritage Rangers programs
- **\$1.4 million** to deliver Aboriginal cultural events and awards.

## Early Intervention Investment Framework

- This year, we'll invest more than \$677 million, our largest package on record.
- Funding of **\$677 million** over five years is provided in this budget to deliver **22** early intervention initiatives which are anticipated to generate economic and fiscal benefits of around **\$1 billion** in the next decade.
- The funding provided under the EIF as part of the 2023-24 Budget will provide early assistance to Victorians across the health, education, community services and criminal justice systems.



# Supporting Community Sector Jobs



# FAIR JOBS CODE for the Community Services Sector

- The FJC seeks to promote the fair treatment of workers by entities who provide services to or who receive funding from the Victorian Government.
- Aims to promote secure employment and fair labour standards.
- The Victorian Budget 2023/24 provides **\$15 million** funding to assist the sector to transition to the code.
- The government is committed to working with the sector to establish a fair and appropriate rate of indexation.

## Treasurer Tim Pallas is proud to nominate Fareshare as his 2023-24 State Budget Charity

FareShare is a charity which has been cooking free, nutritious meals for people doing it tough since 2001.

FareShare operates Australia's largest non-profit kitchens in Melbourne and Brisbane where chefs and volunteers work hand in hand to cook the best possible meal for every person in need.

Each year FareShare transforms rescued, donated and our homegrown food into millions of delicious, healthy meals that feed dignity and wellbeing for Australians experiencing hardship.

<https://www.fareshare.net.au>

