



Victorian Budget 15 | 16

For Families



Extracts from
Budget Overview
Paper.



\$2.1 billion for our health system

4 upgraded hospitals for the suburbs

60,000 extra patients

New Western Women's and Children's Hospital

Health

The Andrews Labor Government is increasing investment in our health system, so families in Australia's fastest-growing state can get the care and peace of mind they deserve.

The *2015-16 Victorian Budget* provides significant funding to our hospitals, ambulances and mental health system, and gives our best medical minds the resources they need to save more lives.

It's about fairness. Everyone should have the care they need, not just the care they can afford.

More patients

The Budget provides **\$200 million** to increase hospital capacity – in line with the recommendations of respected surgeon and former AMA Victoria President, Dr Doug Travis – and **\$60 million** for an elective surgery boost to cut waiting lists.

With this funding, hospitals can admit an extra 60,000 patients and treat an extra 40,000 emergency patients.

MORE PROGRAMS

Research institutes, hospitals and universities in Victoria will receive **\$25 million** to work together and develop cutting-edge treatments for our most debilitating genetic diseases.

Super Pharmacies across our state will stay open for extended hours, in a **\$28.7 million** plan to help families during late night emergencies.

A National Centre for Farmer Health will support the wellbeing of the men and women who work on the land.

The free whooping cough vaccine for parents of newborns will return, because we can't take any risks with the health of our youngest Victorians.



More hospitals

The Budget provides over **\$560 million** to build – and rebuild – hospitals in fast-growing areas across Victoria. This includes:

\$200 million for a dedicated Western Women's and Children's Hospital, with 237 beds, 39 special care nursery cots and four theatres for families in the west.

By 2026, the number of births at Sunshine Hospital is expected to exceed 7000 per year. The fastest growing area of Australia needs more services so no young family is left behind.

\$106.3 million to expand Casey Hospital, in Melbourne's south east, so it can treat 12,000 more patients, conduct 8000 more surgeries and support 500 more births.

The project will provide four new operating theatres, a surgery recovery centre and 96 extra beds, including an intensive care unit – expanding the size of the hospital by more than a third.

\$85 million to expand the Werribee Mercy Hospital, delivering six extra operating theatres and 64 new inpatient beds in this fast-growing area of Melbourne.

\$20 million for an intensive care unit and short stay unit at the Angliss Hospital in Melbourne's outer east, reducing the distance families have to travel in a medical emergency.

\$10 million to bring urgent heart assessment, treatment and care to Ballarat, with funding for a new cardiac catheterisation laboratory at Ballarat Base Hospital.

The Victorian Heart Hospital – Australia's first specialist heart facility – is one step closer, with **\$15 million** for planning and development.

It will be built at Monash University in Clayton, treating cardiac diseases from early childhood to later life, undertaking ground-breaking research and training the next generation of heart specialists.

The Monash Children's Hospital gets a helipad, the Moorabbin Hospital gets a significant upgrade and hospitals across the state get the vital equipment they need.



Education

All kids deserve the best start, no matter what their background. The Budget invests **\$2.9 billion** in schools over four years, making it the biggest education budget in Victoria's history.

Through this Budget, the Andrews Labor Government reconfirms its commitment to the Gonski Agreement, the principles of which are central to making Victoria the Education State.

The Abbott Government has failed to commit to its share of school funding for 2018 and 2019, but the Andrews Labor Government will keep standing up for our state and our schools.

For the first time, this Budget sees Victoria fully deliver on its obligation under the Gonski Agreement for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 school years.

Education investment will grow by 3.4 per cent on average over the next three years compared to growth of 2.0 per cent over the last three years.

More classrooms and schools

Too many kids are learning in run down and overcrowded classrooms.

The Budget invests **\$688 million** for new and upgraded schools. This includes:

\$325 million to renovate, refurbish and rebuild 67 schools, with nine receiving major rebuilds of **\$10 million** or more.

\$111.1 million to support the delivery of 10 new schools, in Craigieburn, Sale, Doreen, Tarneit, South Melbourne, Footscray, Richmond, Albert Park as well as Mernda and Bannockburn which are part of a public private partnership.

\$42 million to conduct the first stage of a statewide school asbestos removal program.

\$40 million to purchase land for new schools in more of Melbourne's fast-growing suburbs, where increasing population puts pressure on the services that families rely on.

Biggest education budget in Victorian history

Upgrades to 67 run down and crowded schools

\$111.1 million for 10 new schools across the State



\$35 million for more than 120 new, safe relocatable classrooms to ease the pressure and reduce overcrowding at schools that are bursting at the seams.

\$10 million for works and equipment to support schools for students with disabilities.

In addition, **\$50 million** is allocated for kinders across the state, plus **\$9 million** to assist young children with a disability or developmental delay.

More support for struggling families

Too many kids are finding out what disadvantage means the hard way, when they don't have the right uniform, can't see the whiteboard or don't get to go on school camp with their friends.

The Budget also helps families who are struggling to afford the extra costs of education, providing **\$178 million** to give students the things they need to fit in and thrive.

A **\$148.3 million** Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund will help over 200,000 disadvantaged students receive these expensive but essential parts of an education.

Prep to Grade 3 students in 250 disadvantaged government schools will get free eye tests and glasses if they need them.

Breakfast Clubs at disadvantaged schools will serve up the most important meal of the day to 25,000 students.

The Budget also expands a free uniform, shoes and books program run by State Schools' Relief, so it can assist more than twice as many students every year.

Music is part of a modern curriculum, and the Budget funds quality music programs in all government schools and help for students to buy musical instruments.



More skills and jobs

Cuts took our training system to the brink of collapse. The Andrews Labor Government will invest in training and save TAFE, so all kids have the chance to get a job, start a career and have a decent life. The Budget includes:

\$300 million to complete the \$320 million TAFE Rescue Fund, helping campuses across the state reopen closed buildings, upgrade workshops and classrooms and get back in the black.

\$50 million for the TAFE Back to Work fund, which will help campuses meet the needs of local employers, creating new, dedicated training courses.

\$32 million for Local Learning and Employment Networks, providing jobs and skills advice to people across Victoria to get them back on track.

All skills start at school, and all secondary students deserve a head start on a hands-on vocation – a chance to build their career early while maintaining their enrolment at secondary school.

\$12 million will establish Tech Schools across the state, which will be open to students from Years 7 to 12 who will learn skills alongside a comprehensive secondary education.

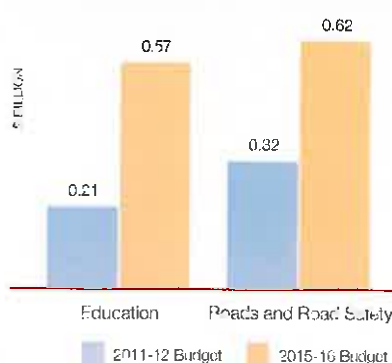
*this includes
Wynelham.*

\$178 million boost
for disadvantaged
families

Gonski funding
levels met to the
end of 2017

\$350 million to
save our struggling
TAFE system

FIRST YEAR BUDGET INITIATIVES: SERVICES AND PROJECTS





Transport

The Andrews Labor Government is getting on with the projects our state needs, so we can get people home to their families safer and sooner.

The *2015-16 Victorian Budget* funds projects that will transform our public transport system, reduce congestion on our roads and improve safety and services for everyone.

It fast-tracks planning, development and construction of the road and rail upgrades that families and businesses need – creating jobs, driving growth and getting our state back on track.

The Budget is delivering record investment in public transport, with a 41 per cent increase over 2014-15. As a proportion of the Budget's total new asset investment, public transport is receiving 37 per cent more than in 2014-15.

The Labor Government is laying the foundations for a public transport system that can move millions of people every day, in Australia's fastest growing capital.

Removing level crossings

The Budget commits **\$5-\$6 billion**, including **\$2-\$2.4 billion** over four years to implement the Government's plan to remove 50 of our most dangerous and congested level crossings over eight years.

Removing all nine level crossings between Dandenong and Caulfield on Melbourne's busiest train line is a key priority. A further four level crossing removal projects are already out to market.

The Labor Government will also improve safety at 52 high-risk country level crossings and 25 high-risk rail pedestrian crossings in the regions – because the road toll touches our whole state.

Biggest ever investment in public transport

\$5-\$6 billion to remove our worst level crossings

\$9-\$11 billion for Melbourne Metro

\$574 million to reduce congestion on busy roads

More trains, more trams, and more new jobs



REMOVING LEVEL CROSSINGS:

- › **Reduces congestion.** Level crossings make up almost half of the RACV's traffic hotspots in Melbourne. Boom gates can stay down for up to 80 minutes over the morning peak.
- › **Means more trains can run on every line.** At present, the addition of services on major train lines would cause traffic chaos on surrounding streets.
- › **Helps reduce the road toll.** There were over 240 crashes at level crossings over the decade to 2013. That's not good enough in the road safety capital



Building Melbourne Metro

The Budget commits **\$9–\$11 billion** to deliver the Melbourne Metro Rail Project, including **\$1.5 billion** over four years, to complete the planning and design of the project and to commence construction by 2018.

The project will build two nine-kilometre underground rail tunnels through the heart of Melbourne, stretching from South Kensington to South Yarra.

It's the biggest overhaul to the train network since the construction of the City Loop, creating space for more trains across the network and serving 20,000 extra passengers during peak times every day.

More trains, trams and jobs

The Budget provides more than **\$600 million** to build 20 new E-Class trams, build 21 new VLocity train carriages, and refurbish the Comeng train fleet and B-Class trams.



This is part of Victoria's first long-term rolling stock strategy and it will directly support jobs in rolling stock manufacturing and maintenance, and boost the entire supply chain. Immediate investments include:

- ▶ 21 new VLOCITY regional carriages to be built in Dandenong
- ▶ 20 new E-Class trams and upgrades and urgent works on 25 B-Class trams
- ▶ Extending the life of Comeng trains in the existing metropolitan fleet

Ordering 37 trains for the Cranbourne-Pakenham line, upgrading signalling and removing every level crossing between Caulfield and Dandenong will transform Melbourne's busiest train line, boosting capacity by up to 42 per cent and accommodating an extra 11,000 passengers in the morning peak.

In addition, **\$90 million** is provided for five new X'Trapolis trains to be built in Ballarat.

More services for the suburbs

The Budget provides **\$50 million** to trial all-night public transport on weekends to get shift workers and late night revellers home safely. Homesafe will begin on 1 January next year.

The Budget also provides **\$100 million** to improve bus services by introducing new and expanded routes, restoring services and fixing missing links in growth areas. This includes:

\$15 million for better integration of the bus network, so students can get to uni more easily and families in growing suburbs have services they can rely on.

In addition, **\$7.6 million** is allocated for a new bus interchange and improved car parking at Huntingdale Station, assisting students at Monash University.

Families in Mernda — one of Australia's fastest growing areas — deserve better public transport. For years, locals have campaigned for the extension of the South Morang Line to serve their community.

The Budget provides **\$9 million** to develop and plan the Mernda Rail Link project, so public transport becomes a real option for local residents.

42% boost in capacity on Cranbourne-Pakenham line

\$50 million to trial all-night public transport on weekends

\$100 million to improve bus services



Less time on busy roads

The Budget invests **\$574 million** to fix the congested roads that Victorians use to get to work, get back home and get around their community. This includes:

\$150 million to undertake the next stage of the M80 upgrade, to widen the road and install traffic management equipment from Sunshine Avenue to the EJ Whitten Bridge.

\$110 million to duplicate the Chandler Highway bridge over the Yarra River, easing congestion for the thousands of motorists who use it daily.

\$90 million for smaller initiatives that will make a big difference, including intelligent transport system technology and upgrades to congested chokepoints in suburban and regional areas.

\$86.7 million to resurface unsafe, deteriorating roads around the state, so families in the outer suburbs and regional Victoria can get around safely.

\$40 million for the first stage of the West Gate Distributor project, which will take 5000 trucks off the West Gate Bridge every day when completed.

In addition, **\$273 million** is provided towards a project to widen CityLink and the Tullamarine Freeway, speeding up travel times to and from the airport for businesses and families.

A further **\$76 million** is provided for 23 projects on key freight corridors so heavy vehicles can take more direct routes to our farms, towns and communities.

Road safety

Victoria is the road safety capital of the world, and the Andrews Labor Government is investing **\$131 million** to make our roads even safer, so families have peace of mind. The Budget includes:

\$80 million to open the first dedicated road safety complex in the world: a Crash and Trauma Education Centre that will educate young drivers about the consequences of poor decisions on the road and help repeat driving offenders.

\$24.4 million for free defensive driving courses for Year 10 students, because young people need to know how to handle a vehicle in all conditions and situations.

\$16 million to continue the L2P driver mentor program, so those who don't have access to a car can still get their licence if they need it for work.



Safe, just and fair

Urgent support for strained family violence services

Additional funding to protect our most vulnerable children

\$45.5 million to help families and communities overcome ice addiction

All families deserve fairness and every child deserves every chance. The *2015-16 Victorian Budget* focuses on the building blocks of our safe, just and fair society, providing support to families when they need it.

Family violence

One Australian woman is killed by her current or former partner every week. This is our number one law and order issue and Australia's first Royal Commission into Family Violence will give us the answers.

The Budget provides **\$81.3 million** to support the work of the Royal Commission, and to take immediate action to protect women and children and hold perpetrators accountable.

This funding will relieve the pressure on strained family violence support services until the Royal Commission reports back to the community in early 2016. The Labor Government will be guided by the recommendations of the Royal Commission in the future.

Vulnerable children and families

The safety of Victoria's children is a shared responsibility. When the most vulnerable members of our population are at risk of danger, it is the Government's duty to step in and protect them.

Investment in children and family services will grow by 14.4 per cent in 2015-16, compared to growth of 6.6 per cent on average over the last four years.

The Andrews Labor Government is investing **\$257 million** in Victoria's child protection system, so children, their families and their carers get the support they need.

The Budget invests **\$48.1 million** for Child FIRST and Family Services to improve early intervention, to help prevent abuse and neglect before it occurs, or before it gets worse.

The Budget also provides **\$65.4 million** to employ more than 110 child protection workers to respond to reports of abuse and neglect and expand child protection capacity statewide.

Foster carers make a great sacrifice to care for our most vulnerable children. The Budget invests **\$31.4 million** to consolidate allowances to provide greater support to carers, helping them meet their costs.



70 CFA trucks

The answers that
Latrobe Valley
locals deserve

400 more police
officers out on
the beat

Police and emergency services

Giving police and emergency services men and women the resources they need to do their job keeps them safe at work and keeps us safe at home.

Emergency services

The Andrews Labor Government is investing **\$78 million** in our emergency services, increasing funding to support and recruit more firefighters. The Budget provides:

Funding to commence the recruitment of 450 additional career firefighters.

\$9.6 million for a program that dispatches firefighters at the same time as paramedics, increasing survival chances for heart attack patients.

\$33.5 million to purchase 70 new CFA trucks with modern, up-to-date firefighting technology to boost the capability and safety of the volunteers who crew them.

\$11 million to give firefighters a safe and comfortable place to meet and train and help their units grow, upgrading rundown and threadbare CFA stations and amenities.

New stations will be built in Huntly, Buninyong, Plenty and Edithvale, and toilets and bathroom facilities will be installed at up to 100 CFA stations.

\$200,000 to expand support services for firefighters suffering post traumatic stress disorder, because they can be exposed to horrific scenes any time they're on shift.

In addition **\$30 million** will be provided to implement all recommendations of the Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire Inquiry.



The Labor Government has started a new CFA district, is conducting a long-term health study of the fire and implementing better procedures to manage smoke if such an event ever occurs again.

A new emergency services hub for fire and ambulance services will also be established at Morwell, to strengthen the emergency response in the Latrobe Valley.

Police

The Andrews Labor Government will put hundreds more police on our streets, investing **\$226 million** to keep our community safe and give families peace of mind. The Budget includes:

\$148.6 million to recruit 400 custody officers to guard prisoners at 20 police stations across Victoria, allowing 400 police officers to return to the front line.

Victoria's police officers are among the best in the world, but too many are stuck babysitting petty criminals in the local police lock-up instead of getting out on the beat where they belong.

\$35.4 million to upgrade the regional police radio system from the outdated analogue network to a secure, encrypted digital network to prevent eavesdroppers picking up details of police operations.

\$15 million to build a new police station in Mernda to give this growing area a permanent police presence. More police will also be stationed in Bellarine and Geelong.

\$15 million as part of the Ice Action Plan, to provide Victoria Police with new booze and drug buses to improve road safety.

The new fleet will let police drug test 100,000 people a year for drugs. Further funding will also help police track down and close clandestine drug labs more quickly.

In addition, **\$333 million** is provided to increase the capacity of Victoria's prisons, including upgrades to women's and men's correctional facilities and expanded Community Correctional Services.