

GENDER EQUALITY BUDGET STATEMENT

Victorian Budget 18/19



The Andrews Labor Government is leading the way when it comes to gender equality.

And because Victorian women deserve to know which Budget investments are in their direct interest, we are releasing our second ever Gender Equality Budget Statement.

It's one of many reforms included in *Safe and Strong*, Victoria's first Gender Equality Strategy.

At its heart, *Safe and Strong* provides the long-term vision we need to create a more equal Victoria and address the gendered barriers that continue to hold women back.

Importantly, we've backed up our commitment with significant investments, including:

- // A record \$1.9 billion to stop the scourge of family violence, the largest investment by any Australian Government in history
- // Implementing 20 days of paid family violence leave in the Victorian public service
- // Identifying the Public Sector Gender Pay Gap and implementing policies to address it

The *Victorian Budget 2018/19* builds on this work.

From health to economic opportunity, this Budget invests in the policies and programs to make our state stronger, fairer and more equal.

Natalie Hutchins
Minister for Women

Ending gender inequality

Everyone deserves to have access to the services they need, and to participate in community life and employment, free from discrimination.

Since the release of Victoria's first Gender Equality Strategy *Safe and Strong* in 2016, we have delivered landmark reforms that address gender inequality, sexism and violence against women. Through *Safe and Strong*, we are leading the way towards gender equality with sustained, enduring and measurable action.

This second Gender Equality Budget Statement is a demonstration of our ongoing commitment to ensuring gender equality is at the centre of all our policies and programs. It highlights a range of new initiatives funded in the *Victorian Budget 2018/19* that will benefit women and address disadvantage and discrimination.

Ending gender inequality will support the health, wellbeing and economic security of all Victorians.

Leadership, empowerment and cultural change

All Victorians must be visible, have an equal voice and occupy decision making roles, not only at work, but in communities, sport, media and the arts. After meeting its target of gender equity on government boards, the Andrews Labor Government is now targeting the barriers women face to being leaders through:

- // \$8.0 million for improving gender equality in Victoria through the continued implementation of *Safe and Strong*, in the public sector, private sector workplaces, sporting organisations and other settings
- // \$1.2 million grant to the Queen Victoria Women's Centre to fund restoration and additional funding for maintenance

Safety and freedom from gender-based violence

The prevalence of violence towards women, across our nation, is unacceptable.

The Andrews Labor Government has committed to implementing all of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Family Violence. Addressing gender inequality is critical as it is one of the main drivers of violence against women, with 85 per cent of family violence victims being women.

In the *Victorian Budget 2017/18*, we announced \$12 million to establish Respect Victoria, a statutory authority to be enshrined in legislation. It will work to prevent family violence and all forms of violence against women.

This year, we build on the landmark \$1.9 billion commitment in the *Victorian Budget 2017/18*, with additional funding including:

- // \$22.8 million to continue to deliver Respectful Relationships as a core component of the Victorian Curriculum
- // \$49.9 million to continue providing therapeutic and flexible support for victims of family violence. These funds will also go to making sure survivors of sexual abuse will receive additional support, and the statewide sexual assault crisis line will employ additional social workers to address demand pressures
- // \$27.7 million for after-hours refuge responses for victims of family violence to continue to provide secure, after hours crisis accommodation for women and children seeking immediate support
- // Behavioural change campaigns and a range of initiatives will receive \$24 million to support the implementation of Free from Violence
- // \$13.5 million for the implementation of the Aboriginal 10-Year Family Violence Plan to build a strong, integrated Aboriginal workforce and family violence prevention and response sector, which will create better access, and more appropriate family violence services for Aboriginal people
- // \$5 million to provide further graduate level training under the Industry Plan for Family Violence Prevention and Response
- // As part of Victoria's first African Communities action plan, the Government will partner with the African communities to reduce family violence

All Victorians must be rewarded equitably for their contribution in all aspects of society

- // \$4.1 million to continue funding for the Family Violence Implementation Monitor, to assist with oversight and acquittal of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Family Violence
- // \$1.3 million for additional crisis properties in the Wimmera South Mallee area for women facing family violence
- // \$2 million for the continuation of the Out of the Dark family violence recovery program and family violence specialist trauma counselling in women's prisons

Work and economic security

All Victorians must be rewarded equitably for their contribution in all aspects of society. Across their lifetimes, women face significant barriers to achieving economic security.

The Andrews Labor Government is working hard to eliminate the persistent structural barriers that put women at a financial disadvantage. Recognising the value of unpaid care, as well as breaking down the stereotypes around the work men and women do and the career paths that they choose, are important steps to helping support women achieve greater economic security.





Creating high quality jobs is a focus of the *Victorian Budget 2018/19*. Every Victorian deserves the dignity and security of a good job and equal fair pay. Increasing female workforce participation has been a primary driver of Victoria's overall growing participation rate, contributing 74 per cent of the rise since June 2014. The female workforce participation rate was 60.1 per cent in March 2018, up markedly from 58.3 per cent in June 2014. However, the female participation rate is still too low and the gender pay gap remains.

The Budget's significant investment in skills will continue to provide opportunities to grow female workforce participation and provide job opportunities for women in skilled roles across all sectors, including in traditionally male dominated sectors.

Increasing economic security is also a significant factor in family violence prevention – it allows greater choice when a woman has to leave a violent relationship. Economic security for women is critical for the equality of all Victorians.

To improve economic security for women, the Budget provides:

- // Increased funding for TAFE to expand enrolments in training. In addition, we are making priority TAFE courses free, for eligible students, which will further support growth in the family violence workforce
- // \$28.6 million to expand the Tech Schools initiative which provides secondary students with access to high-quality, high-tech STEM learning programs. In addition to this universal access, many Tech schools will offer tailored programs targeted at female students to encourage their increased participation in physics, IT and specialist maths

- // \$5 million to boost jobs through better procurement. The Government will use its infrastructure investments and broader procurement activities to promote secure work and job opportunities for women
- // \$6 million for Jobs Victoria: increasing employment inclusion on Victoria's major projects. New dedicated services will be established to connect young people from Aboriginal and migrant communities and women into jobs on Victoria's major projects, including roles generated by the Major Projects Skills Guarantee
- // \$0.5 million to work with the Building Industry Consultative Council to increase the proportion of women working in the construction industry

Health and wellbeing

All Victorians deserve to be socially connected and healthy. Access to equitable healthcare is vital to ensure gender equality in Victoria. All Victorians, including women and gender diverse Victorians are impacted by gendered health inequalities. Gender norms and roles also impact Victorians' ability to live a healthy life.

The Government recognises the different health needs of all Victorians and is committed to providing appropriate and sensitive access for all. This includes providing appropriate access to sexual and reproductive health services, and doing more to support women and LGBTI Victorians' physical and mental health.

This year's Budget provides critical funding for mental health, including:

- // \$6.4 million for the continued prevention and early detection of perinatal depression for new mothers
- // \$119.2 million for mental health services including the establishment of six new emergency department crisis hubs for people dealing with mental illness, with units to be built at Monash Medical Centre, St Vincent's, Geelong Hospital, Royal Melbourne, Sunshine and Frankston hospital emergency departments. Complex clients will receive additional support and an additional 3 000 people per year experiencing mental health issues will be supported through Hospital Outreach Post-suicide Engagement at six sites

- // \$232.4 million to meet increasing demand for mental health services through the provision of funding for 89 newly built and existing acute inpatient beds, and increased community based service hours for about 12 800 people over four years.
- // \$43 million to open mental health beds at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre women's prison

Funding will also be provided to support health and wellbeing, including:

- // \$461.6 million for the expansion of Ballarat Base Hospital, which will include an inpatient unit with a women's and children's hub
- // \$27.7 million for the continuation of intensive early intervention family service programs such as Cradle to Kinder, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies and Right@Home, which assists mothers in vulnerable families
- // \$3.4 million to address current gaps in support for LGBTI Victorians within our healthcare system
- // \$0.6 million to extend the Korin Gamadji Institute's cultural and leadership program to Koori girls and young women in youth justice centres and on community supervision orders

All Victorians also deserve to benefit equitably from the enjoyment and empowerment of sport. This includes:

- // \$82 million as part of one of the biggest investments in women's and community sports in the state's history. This will include new and upgraded facilities at football code venues, such as Melbourne Victory Football Academy; Rugby League State Centre of Excellence; Casey Fields; Whitten Oval; Moorabbin Oval; Ikon Park and Victoria Park. These upgrades will advance women's participation in sport through new upgraded community and elite women's facilities. This will also include Female Friendly Facilities Fund to provide grants for upgrading community pavilions, playing grounds, courts and change rooms, to ensure women and girls can access appropriate community sporting facilities
- // \$64.6 million for a major upgrade to the State Netball and Hockey Centre, which will cement Parkville as the home for netball and hockey in Australia and establish the Change our Game Sport Leadership Centre to drive cultural change and grow female leadership in sport
- // \$17.7 million for the Significant Sporting Events Program that will continue to fund national and international sporting events across Victoria, providing new opportunities for women to participate in sport

The Victorian Budget 2018/19 makes one of the biggest investments in women's sports in the state's history

