

2025-26 VICTORIAN STATE BUDGET NEWS

Protecting Vulnerable Children

A total of \$297 million to protect vulnerable children, delivering early intervention, more help for parents and more support for the child protection workforce.

- \$167 million to help more families, providing earlier support to parents and carers, and addressing the root causes of vulnerability.
- \$90 million to improve outcomes for more children and young people with complex needs in residential care and provide vital support for carers through the Carer Kafe.
- \$25 million for community-led support and advocacy for First Nations children and young people in the child protection and family services system.
- \$14 million to grow and support the state's critical child protection and family services workforce

Help with the Cost of Living

- A once-off \$400 School Saving Bonus, helping families with the cost of uniforms, textbooks, camps and excursions.
- \$859 million to continue Free Kinder, currently saving families up to \$2,600 a year on three and four-year-old kinder per child, making sure young Victorians get the benefits of an early childhood education and the very best start in life.
- \$320 million to deliver free public transport for under 18s, making public transport free for kids and teens. Every day. Saving families up to \$755 per child, beginning 1 January 2026. And also from 1 January 2026, free statewide **weekend** public transport for Victorian seniors aged 60 and over that are holding a Victorian senior card.
- \$23 million to deliver 65,000 extra Get Active Kids Vouchers for families who need them most. Vouchers, worth up to \$200, to help with the cost of fees, equipment and uniforms, removing financial barriers and making sure kids have the chance to play the sport.
- Increased payments via the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF). The fund helps around 200,000 kids in families holding a health care or concession card, every year. Annual payments will increase from \$154 for primary school students and \$256 for secondary school students to \$400, from 1 January 2026.

Education

- \$20 million for small-group tutoring to support students who need it most to improve their reading, writing and maths skills.
- \$25 million to drive excellence in reading and writing education by providing phonics education in every government school, supporting teachers with better diagnostic tools and the expertise of experienced teachers.