



Let's break down the 2026-27 Federal Budget for Victorian Carers

WHAT ARE THE WINS FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES?

Thriving Kids: \$2 billion Commonwealth (\$4 billion total)

The Government is investing \$4 billion (Commonwealth + states) in a new program called Thriving Kids — for children under 8 with autism or developmental delay.

This means more support for children and the kinship carers raising them, without needing to rely solely on the NDIS.

Children and Family Support Program: \$171.7 million

A new Children and Families Support Program will consolidate existing services into one simpler national model from 1 July 2027.

The goal: better early intervention, more flexible services, and stronger support for Aboriginal families through Community Controlled Organisations.

What we're watching: services must be protected during the transition — no funding gaps.

Family violence funding: \$308.6 million expanded package

Expanded funding includes the 500 Workers Initiative and a new national plan to end violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children. These investments directly support Victorian and Tasmanian specialist family violence services and will be felt on the frontline.

Child Support Scheme reform: \$182.6 million

Loopholes that allowed the child support system to be weaponised as a tool of financial abuse are being closed.

This is a win for the safety and financial wellbeing of children — and the carers supporting them.

Paid parental leave to six months and 3 Day Guarantee for childcare

- Paid Parental Leave extends to 6 months from 1 July 2026
- Families now get a 3-day guarantee of subsidised childcare per week

Source: The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare



BREAKING DOWN THE NUMBERS FOR FAMILIES & CHILDREN:

- **\$171.7 million** over 5 years to establish a single national Children and Family Support program, including \$156.3 million over three years from 2027–28 (and \$40.8 million per year ongoing) to provide additional funding for frontline services to support children’s development and wellbeing and empower parents, caregivers and families.
- **\$182.6 million** over 4 years to make the child support system safer
- **\$400,000** in 2026/27 to enable the National office for Child Safety to continue its response to child sexual exploitation
- **\$3 billion** over 5 years to establish Foundational Supports outside the NDIS
- **\$2 billion** over 5 years to deliver Thriving Kids program
- **\$200 million** over 3 years to establish an Inclusive Communities Fund
- **\$59.4 million** over 4 years to supplement rental income for social housing for 4000 eligible young people
- **\$218.3 million** over 5 years to support initial actions under the Our Ways Strong Ways Our Voices National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plan to End Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence 2026–2036
- **\$42.8 million** over 5 years to establish the National Commission for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child and Young People

