

## **2026–27 Victorian Budget**

05 May 2026

On Tuesday 5 May 2026, Treasurer the Hon. Jaclyn Symes MLC delivered the 2026–27 Victorian Budget. This Budget is the third delivered by the Allan Government, and the twelfth consecutive budget of the Victorian Labor Government.

The 2026–27 Victorian Budget continues the fiscal position established in last year's Budget, which marked the first return to surplus since the pandemic. This Budget maintains investment in cost-of-living measures for Victorian families and households, alongside further funding for frontline services including health, education, crime management, and emergency services. The Budget also reflects the Government's continued focus on responsible financial management and the long-term sustainability of Victoria's finances.

As the Treasurer said in her speech today, this budget is about “real help, right now, and real confidence in what comes next”. The 2026–27 Victorian Budget is framed around the financial pressures facing Victorian households, which the Treasurer attributed in part to global economic factors and geopolitical tensions. In response to these pressures, the Budget directs funding towards a range of cost-of-living measures, including a 20% rebate on motor vehicle registration, half-price public transport fares for the remainder of the year, and the continuation of existing programs across health, education, and early childhood services.

Beyond this, the Budget also includes a range of localised funding commitments directed at communities across Victoria, spanning metropolitan and regional areas. These investments cover local infrastructure, community facilities, and service improvements, and are intended to complement the broader cost of living measures by addressing the specific needs of individual communities and improving access to services at a local level.

The Budget also outlines Victoria's fiscal position, confirming an operating surplus of \$727 million for the current fiscal year, with surpluses projected to average \$1.7 billion across the forward estimates period. Net debt is forecasted to be lower in each year of the forward estimates compared to the previous budget update. The Government

attributes this fiscal position to expenditure restraint and consolidation measures undertaken in recent years.

This will be the last Budget of the current parliamentary term, in the lead-up to the Victorian state election in November 2026.

The Treasurer's Budget speech is available [here](#).

The 2026-27 Victorian Budget is available in full [here](#).

## Budget Outlook

Victoria's economy is growing, and the labour market is in a sound position with employment and participation rates at historically high levels, and unemployment below long-term averages. The Government is presenting this Budget as evidence that its five-step fiscal strategy, introduced in 2020, is being delivered.

This Budget displays how the responsible expenditure management over the past several years has returned the Budget to a surplus, stabilised debt, and created the fiscal capacity to fund cost-of-living measures without compromising the state's long term financial position. Operating surpluses are forecast to grow steadily across the forward estimates, and net debt as a share of the economy is projected to decline each year.

## 2026-27 Victorian Budget Commitments

### Health, Disability and Aged Care

#### Services

- **\$10 million** to continue the ambulance transfer pilot
- **\$10 million** to Victoria's Urgent Care Clinics
- **\$192 million** for critical services
  - **\$35 million** to boost critical blood, organ and tissue services
  - **\$27 million** to provide greater access to endoscopies
  - **\$21 million** to provide care for people living with chronic illnesses
- Access to women's contraceptive pills at local chemists from July 2026 without a prescription from the GP
- **\$299 million** for maternity services

- **\$133 million** to deliver hospital-level care in patients' homes through home visits and virtual care.
  - **\$10 million** to deliver dialysis services at home
- **104 million** to reduce alcohol and drug harm

### Hospital Funding

- **\$284 million** to open and operate hospitals across the state.
- **\$145 million** to hospital upgrades
  - \$75 million for the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund
  - \$35 million for upgraded medical equipment across public hospitals

### Workforce

- **\$76 million** to strengthen the workforce
  - **\$26 million** to support 250 nurse graduate positions
  - **\$25 million** for a dedicated Psychiatry Training pathway
  - **\$11 million** for a Psychology Registrar program
- **\$51 million** to help paramedics and Triple Zero Victoria triage patients

### Mental Health

- **\$30 million** for new and existing mental health Hospital in the Home beds
- **\$5.4 million** to continue the Youth Outreach and Recovery Service, Victoria's dedicated statewide outreach service for young people with complex mental health challenges
- **\$4.9 million** to support Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals and Hubs

### Aged Care

- **\$80 million** in additional funding to continue support for residential aged care facilities and services
  - **\$36 million** to sustain public sector residential aged care services
  - **\$17 million** to deliver hospital care at residential aged care facilities
- **\$30 million** to strengthen palliative care

### Disability

- **\$4.7 billion** for Victorians with disability

- **\$2.4 billion** over five years to jointly fund the Foundational Supports program introduced by the Commonwealth Government. This includes funding for Thriving Kids
- **\$42 million** for advocacy, support and liaison services for Victorians with disability
- **\$20 million** to support people in home and aged care with disability outside of the NDIS
- **\$19 million** to make sure our specialist disability accommodation is safe, compliant and fit for purpose

## Energy, Environment and Climate Action

### Agriculture

- **\$16.8 million** towards safeguarding the future of Victoria's agriculture sector and supporting animal welfare

### Energy

- **\$10 million** to support action on energy efficiency by the community housing sector
- **\$14.7 million** to meet the State Governments contribution towards National Energy Market Bodies

### Fire and Emergency Management

- **\$26 million** to build new CFA stations
- **\$147 million** for specialised aerial firefighting fleet
- **\$100 million** for new and improved trucks and pumpers for the CFA
- **\$45 million** to upgrade Forest Fire Management Victoria emergency vehicles
- **\$22 million** for assisting CFA Volunteers and safety improvements
- **\$10 million** to FRV for new ultra-large and heavy pumper appliances

### Management of Public Lands and Forests

- **\$10 million** to continue the Future Forests program
- **\$29 million** for the maintenance of critical assets for emergency and land management
- **\$15 million** for Zoos Victoria Kids Go Free program

### Solar Victoria

- **\$28 million** to help up to 27000 eligible households install an energy efficient hot water system

### Education

#### Additional Supports for Students with Disabilities

- **\$265 million** for disability inclusion in schools
- **\$79 million** for the students with disabilities transport program

#### Early Childhood Supports & Kindergarten Delivery

- **\$187 million** to deliver 27 new and expanded kindergartens and childcare sentences
- **\$71 million** to deliver five Government-owned Early Learning Victoria centres where demand for childcare outstrips the places available
- **\$26 million** across four years to deliver the Victorian Early Childhood Regulatory Authority

#### Promoting Equal Access to Education

- **\$112 million** towards regional education
- **\$28 million** to meet demand for the English as an Additional Language program
- **\$56 million** over the forward estimates to support families with the cost of education
- **\$13 million** to continue connecting early school leavers with further education, training or employment pathways
- **\$16 million** to continue and expand the Glasses for Kids program

#### School Education

- **\$10 million** to continue Vocational Education and Training (VET) and applied learning in schools
- **\$26 million** to deliver career education and work-based learning programs in schools, linked to the Government's Early Intervention Investment Framework
- **\$84 million** for school enrolment-based funding

### Support for Schools and Staff

- **\$49 million** to support the rebuilding of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA)
- **\$15 million** towards securing school IT systems

### School Infrastructure

- **\$552 million** for school building, maintenance and compliance
- **\$295 million** for 31 school upgrades across Victoria
- **\$217 million** to deliver the Modular Classrooms Program
- **\$104 million** to acquire land for new schools and campuses

## Transport and Planning

### Public Transport

- **\$433 million** for half-price public transport from June to 1 January 2027
  - **155 million** to make public transport free for everyone in April and May
- **\$481 million** for regional transport services
  - **\$318 million** for upgrades that will reduce delays and improve reliability on the regional rail passenger rail network
  - **\$127 million** to improve regional freight rail infrastructure

### Roads and Vehicles

- **\$560 million** in additional funding for road maintenance, bringing this year's total to a record \$1 billion
  - **\$73 million** for regional roads
- **\$759 million** to provide 20 per cent rebates on Victorian light vehicle registrations for up to two cars per person
- **\$5 million** is provided for the Fair Fuel Plan

## Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions

### Businesses

- **\$19 million** in new initiatives aimed at cutting red tape, supporting business capability and transition
  - **\$12 million** to ensure Victorian workers and businesses are given more opportunities to benefit from government procurement

- **\$3.3 million** for the Skills Solutions Partnerships program to design and pilot new training approaches in priority areas, including AI, leadership and technology adoption
- **\$1.2 million** for the Small Business Activation Fund
- **\$2.4 million** to strengthen Victoria's international relationships and attract trade and investment opportunities

## Jobs

- **\$8.2 million** to fund the Digital Jobs – AI Career Conversion Support
- **\$459 million** investment in skills and training
  - **\$244 million** to deliver government-subsidised training, including Free TAFE
  - **\$87 million** for the TAFE Services Fund

## Resources

- **\$2.1 million** to continue unlocking Victoria's critical mineral resources

## Families, Fairness and Housing

### Prevention of Family Violence & Child Safety

- **\$100 million** for prevention and response activities
  - \$74 million for family violence prevention and response activities including:
    - family violence core and cluster refuges, providing up to 229 families a safe place to live each year
    - 12,093 emergency crises support packages and specialist case management for 4 766 victim survivors per year
    - specialised, trauma-informed counselling recovery programs for 915 children and young people each year.
  - **\$23 million** to continue the Central Information Point
  - **\$2.2 million** for Sexual Assault Services Victoria
- **\$165 million** for social and community services workers to help families with children who are at risk of abuse or neglect
- **\$126 million** to modernise digital systems that support services for at risk-children, young people and families

- **\$71 million** to make sure child protection services and carers are ready to support children in need
- **\$208 million** in compensation for Victorians who experienced abuse in institutional care as children prior to 1990
- **\$8.4 million** will support the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority to continue delivering regulatory functions and ensure Child Safe Standards are met
- **\$5.1 million** will strengthen the Social Services Regulator's collection and management of data under the Reportable Conduct Scheme, to enable better intelligence and stop child safety information falling through the cracks
- **\$17 million** so that Working with Children and NDIS checks can be processed effectively

### Housing

- **\$97 million** to continue delivering housing reform and improving confidence in the building industry
  - **\$16 million** to protect consumers and raise standards in the building industry
- **\$37 million** is being put towards unlocking better uses of Victorian land in this Budget
  - **\$16 million** to continue delivering on our 10-year plan for Melbourne's greenfields
  - **\$11 million** to update Victoria's planning legislation
  - **\$9.8 million** for the Development Facilitation Program to continue its work to fast-track significant housing projects
- **\$860 million** over five years into the Social Housing Growth Fund
- **\$6.1 million** to support vulnerable renters to maintain tenancies

### Homelessness

- **\$26 million** for additional emergency accommodation and nine new outreach teams to expand support for rough sleepers
- **\$15 million** to provide stable, long-term housing with flexible wraparound supports for people experiencing homelessness, across five supportive housing sites in Victoria.



## Government Services

### Customer Services to the Community

- **\$10.3 million** to maintain Births, Deaths and Marriages Victoria
- **\$5 million** to invest in Victoria's Digital Future, allowing Service Victoria to deliver new products and services, and for the Department of Government Service establish an AI Advisory Committee.

## Justice and Community Safety

### Policing

- **\$62 million** to recruit up to 200 police reservists for police station counter duties, freeing up frontline police
- **\$55 million** to support Victoria Police operations
- **\$51 million** to deliver 50 new PSOs
- **\$41 million** to refresh Victoria Police's information technology infrastructure and cyber security
- **\$38 million** to upgrade Victoria Police's information system to integrate with the National Firearms Register
- **\$35 million** for 3000 mobile devices for specialist police, and equipment upgrades
- **\$13 million** to enforce new tobacco enforcement laws
- **\$9.9 million** for critical upgrades to maintain police custody cells

### Community Safety & Corrections

- **\$229 million** to increase capacity in the corrections system
- **\$125 million** for 40 new forensic mental health beds at Thomas Embling Hospital
- **\$43 million** to deliver programs within prisons to reduce reoffending.
- **\$23 million** to provide educational support and guidance for young people who are at risk of or already in contact with the justice system
- **\$9.5 million** for Blue Light Victoria to mentor children and young people at risk of offending
- **\$9.1 million** to support students' engagement with the education systems
- **\$33 million** for the Violence Reduction Unit to support initiatives

### Court Services

- **\$117 million** for a specialised, fast-tracked youth court list in the County Court.

- **\$11 million** for maintenance, repair and renewal works of courts
- **\$7.3 million** to continue fast-tracking homicide cases straight to the Supreme Court
- **\$6.8 million** to provide more legal assistance for vulnerable Victorians

### Victims of Crime

- **\$10 million** provided for the Office of Public Prosecutions and Victorian Legal Aid
- **\$8.7 million** to continue providing financial assistance for victims of crime
- **\$6.3 million** to continue the Victims' Legal Service

### Tourism, the Arts, and Sport

#### Tourism and the Arts

- **\$29 million** to continue the delivery of the Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation project
- **\$27 million** to attract new international productions, digital games and visual effects through the new Victorian Screen Incentive stream of the Victorian Investment Fund
- **\$23 million** to continue to attract business events to Melbourne and regional Victoria
- **\$4.3 million** to maintain state-owned cultural facilities across the state

#### Sports

- **\$92 million** to the State Sport Centres Trust and the Kardinia Park Stadium Trust to continue community access to sporting facilities
- **\$25 million** investment in community sport

### Further Information

For more information, please contact Hawker Britton's Partner's [Emma Webster](mailto:emma.webster@hawkerbritton.com) on [emma.webster@hawkerbritton.com](mailto:emma.webster@hawkerbritton.com) and [Andy Gargett](mailto:andy.gargett@hawkerbritton.com) on [andy.gargett@hawkerbritton.com](mailto:andy.gargett@hawkerbritton.com) +61 427 552 980

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