



PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 2018-19

Families and Children

Jenny Mikakos MP

Minister for Families and Children

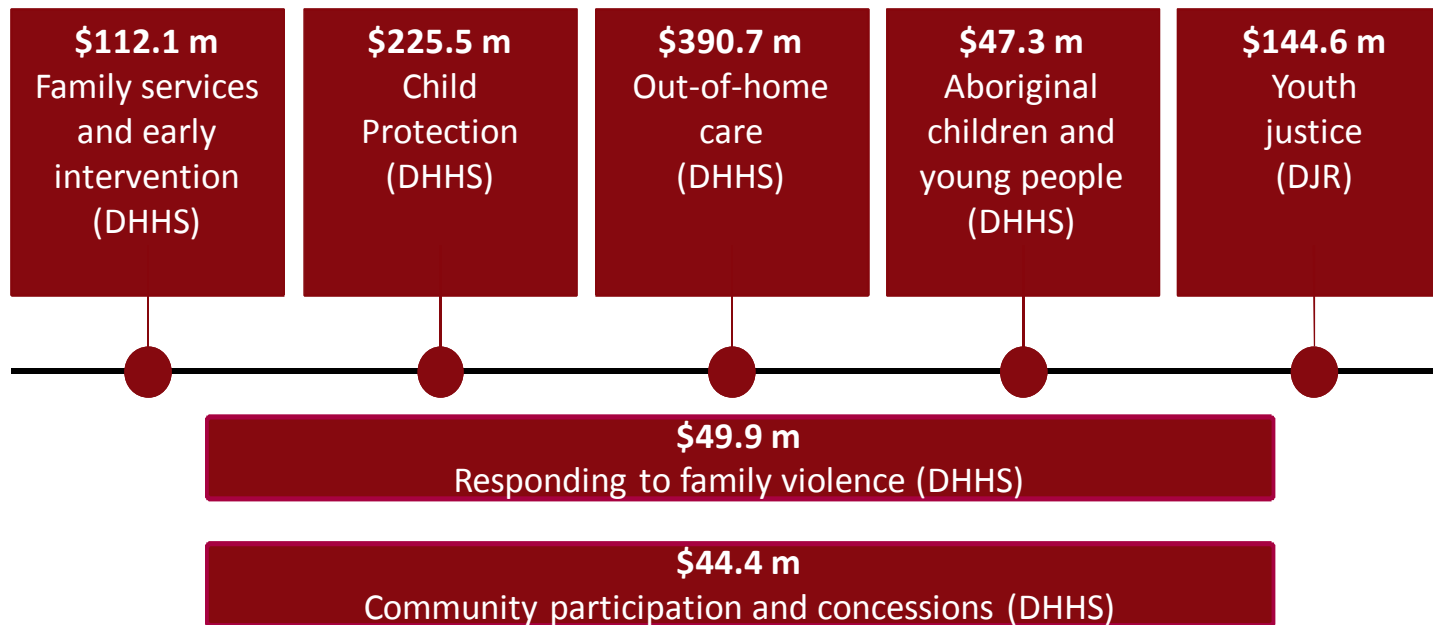
31 May 2018

2018-19 Budget

\$1 billion is being invested as part of the Victorian Government's ongoing commitment to improve the outcomes of children and families.

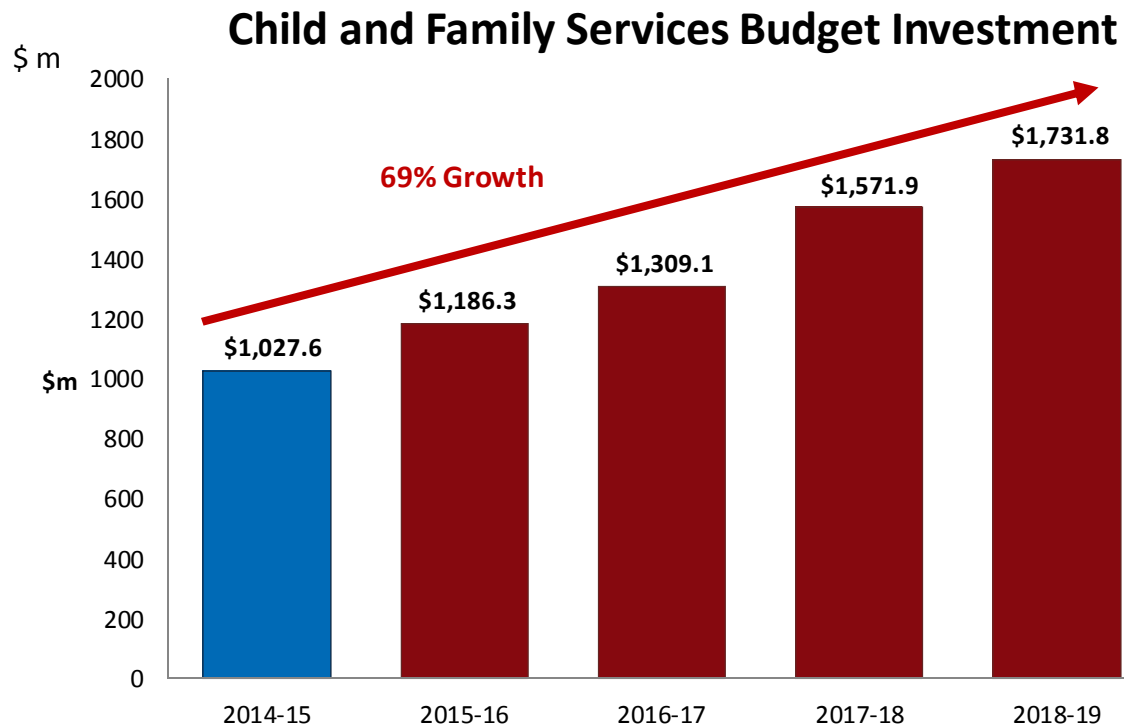
This builds on the *Roadmap for Reform: Strong Families, Safe Children*, supports our response to the Royal Commission into Family Violence and strengthens the youth justice system.

This investment includes:



Record investment in child and family services

Our commitment to families and children is demonstrated by our record investment in the portfolio over the past four state budgets.



- Since 2014-15, investment for child and family services has increased by **\$704 million**
- This is an **increase of 69 per cent**

More family services and early intervention

\$112.1 million for a range of services that provide support for family preservation and reunification, including:

- **\$64.4 million** for **2,709** Child FIRST assessments and **1,699** intensive family services
- **\$27.6 million** to continue support for children early in life through the Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, Cradle to Kinder and other early intervention programs
- **\$10.4 million** to embed additional child and family service practitioners in universal services
- **\$9.8 million** to expand evidence based program trials that aim to prevent the abuse and neglect of children, through intensive weekly support to parents with children and young people



Family services and early intervention

Expanding child protection and supporting after-hours service

\$225.5 million to support the child protection workforce and protect children where abuse or neglect is alleged to have occurred, including:

- **\$207.9 million** for **450** child protection practitioner positions - the biggest expansion ever of our workforce
- **\$17.7 million** to continue support for specialist child protection staff, including the After Hours Child Protection Emergency Service



New approaches to out-of-home care

\$390.7 million investment in the *Roadmap for Reform* to help ensure that children who need to go into out-of-home care are with a loving family:

- **\$214.3 million** for **2,839** home-based placements and associated client expenses, as well as funding to support carers
- **\$140.6 million** for therapeutic approaches for children in care with complex needs, including **162** targeted care packages to continue to reduce the number of kids in residential care, professionalised foster care and our sibling model.
- **\$33.5 million** for a new model of kinship care with **36** dedicated kinship practitioners
- **\$2.3 million** to extend a trial of independent living support for **100** young people as they transition from out-of-home care into adulthood up until the age of 21



Building a stronger future for Aboriginal children

\$47.3 million to support the implementation of Wungurilwil Gapgapduir Aboriginal Children and Families Agreement

- **\$14.0 million** for the Australian-first Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care program, which enables Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to take on legal guardianship of Aboriginal children in care
- **\$13.3 million** to support Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to take on the management of Aboriginal children in care
- **\$20.0 million** to continue the important support for the Aboriginal Child Specialist Advice and Support Service, and for cultural planning

A further **\$7.1 million** will drive workforce improvements across the families and children service system, with an emphasis on Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations



Aboriginal children and young people

More support for survivors of sexual assault and family violence

Building on this government's investment of **\$1.9 billion** in the 2017-18 Budget to tackle family violence, **\$49.9 million** is being invested for:

- Approximately **6,500 packages** each year for victims of family violence
- An additional **500** sexual assault support sessions, extra staff to address demand pressures on the state-wide Sexual Assault Crisis Line, and additional Adolescent Family Violence places
- Operation of the Wyndham Multidisciplinary Centre to link child protection practitioners with specialist police investigators and sexual assault counsellor/advocates



Responding to family violence

Building stronger communities

We are building stronger communities through:

- **\$21.8 million** for Neighbourhood Houses across the state to deliver an additional **76,700 coordination hours** and **4,800 more networker hours** to provide extra services and activities to more families, tailored to the needs of their local community
- **\$21.7 million** is being invested to increase the annual cap on the Utility Relief Grant Scheme from \$500 to \$650, helping low-income families experiencing unexpected hardship
- **\$0.5 million** to establish a training program for managers of volunteers and technology trials to support volunteering activity and help strengthen community connections across the state



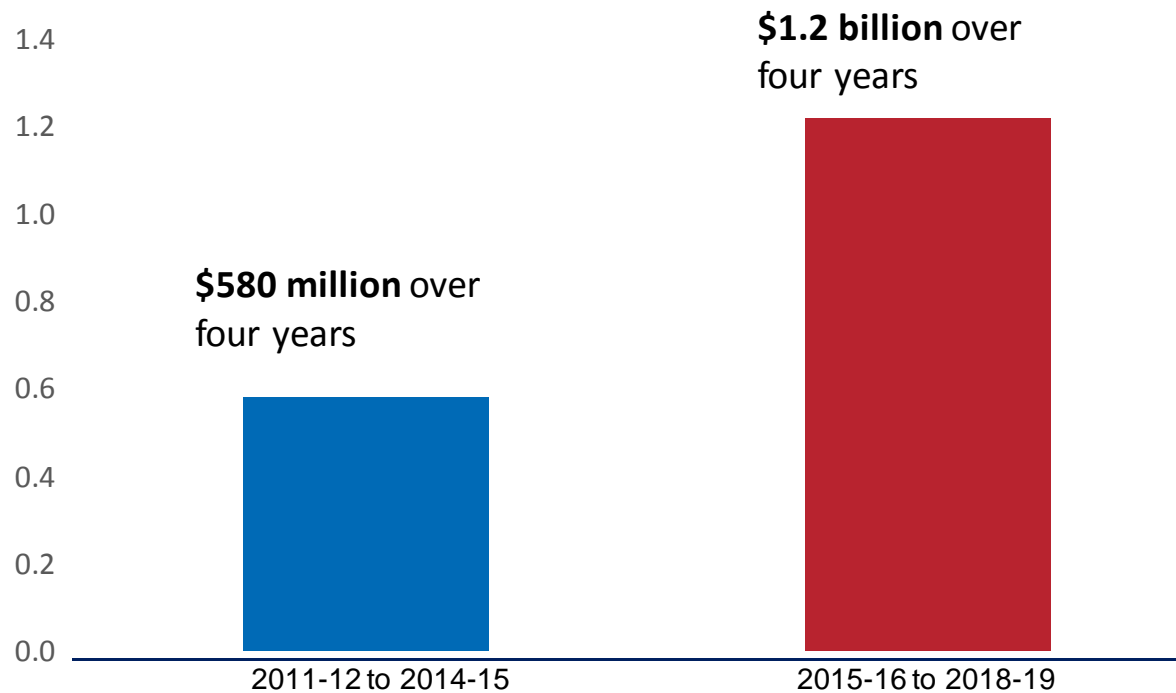
Community participation and concessions



Record investment in Youth Justice

The 2018-19 State Budget provides an additional **\$145 million** over four years to strengthen youth justice, support rehabilitation and ensure the safety of staff, young people and the community.

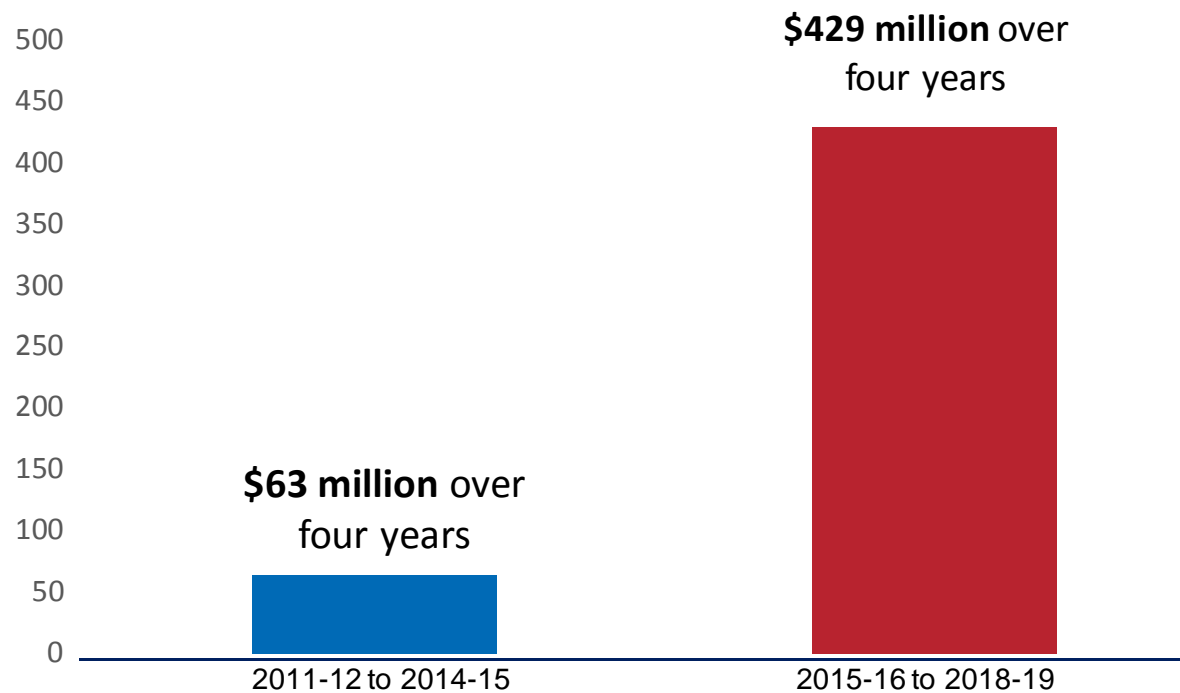
This investment builds on the unprecedented investment of over **\$1 billion** our Government has made over the past four years.



Source: Victorian Budget Papers

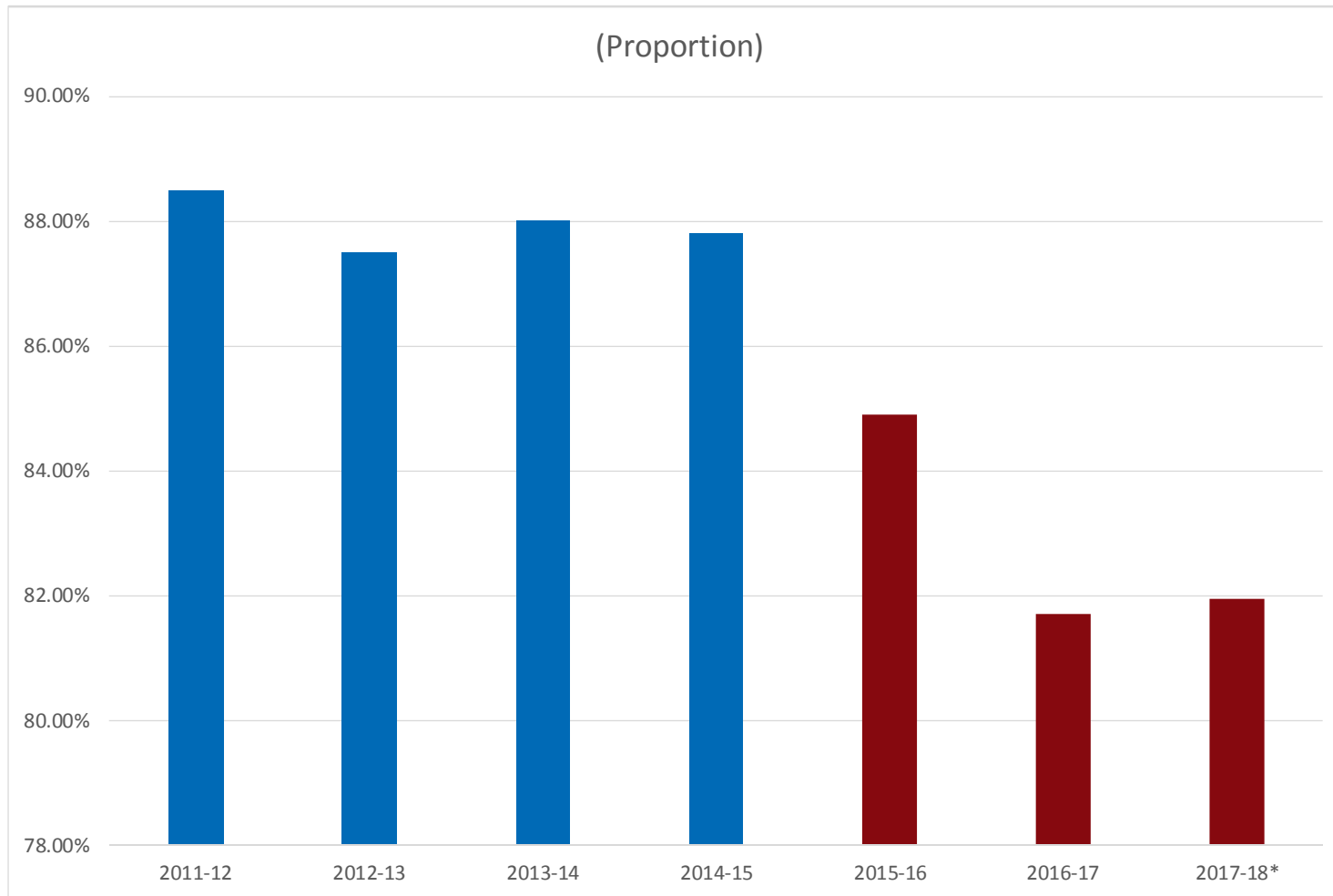
Youth Justice investment in infrastructure – building a strong system

- We have increased infrastructure investment in youth justice by **580 per cent** compared to the previous four years to build fit for purpose facilities.



Source: Victorian Budget Papers

Young offenders under community supervision

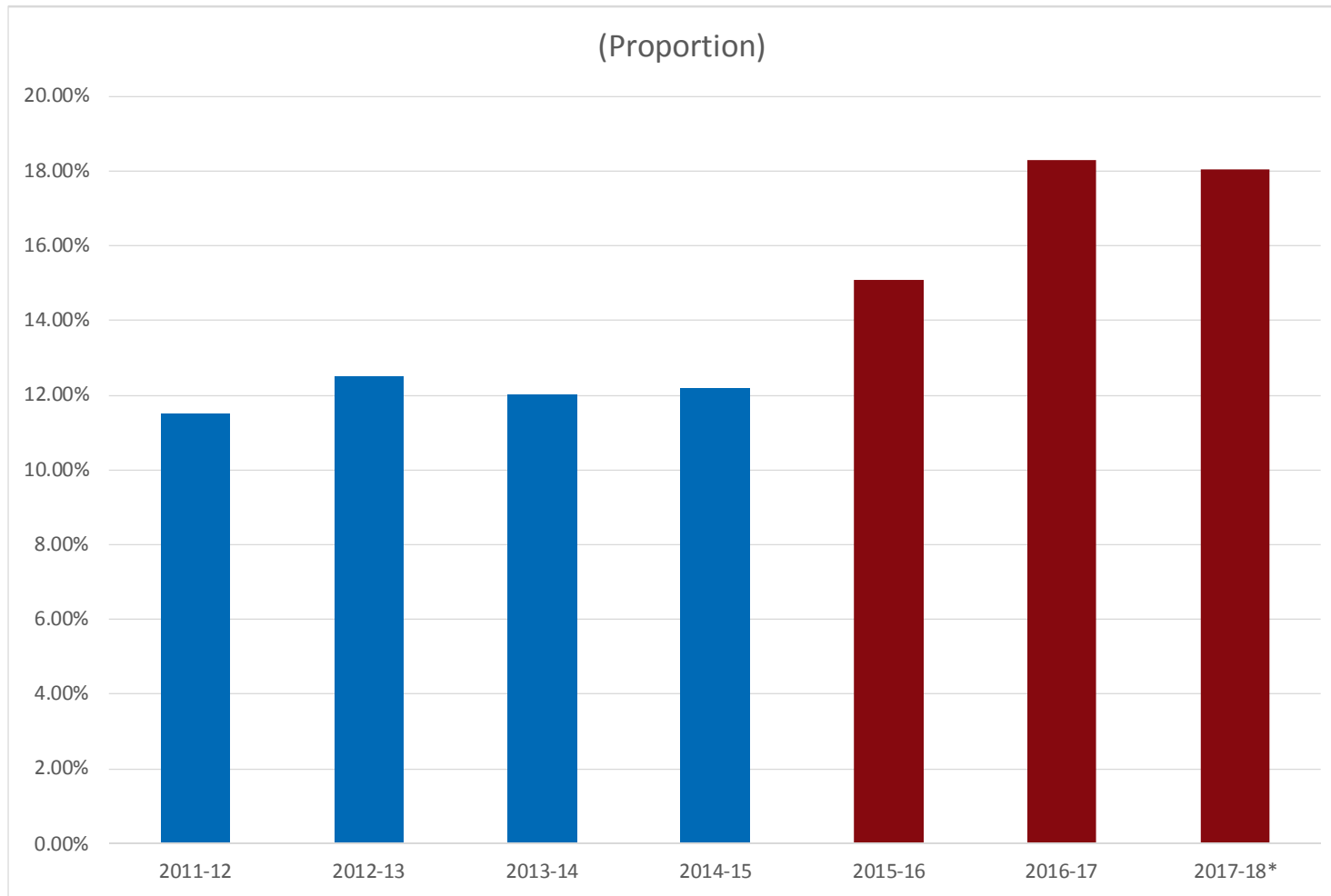


Source: Victorian Budget Papers

* 2017-18 Expected Outcome



Young offenders under custodial supervision



Source: Victorian Budget Papers

* 2017-18 Expected Outcome



2018-19 Budget initiatives for Youth Justice

Strengthening the Youth Justice System

\$145 million for a strong Youth Justice system reducing reoffending

- **\$73 million** to operate new secure units
- **\$14.3 million** to continue secure operations at youth justice centres
- **\$18.7 million** for additional health and mental health services
- **\$12.9 million** to continue the Children's Court Youth Diversion Service
- **\$10.8 million** to address Aboriginal overrepresentation
- **\$2.5 million** to expand structured day programs in custody

Preventing Youth Offending

- **\$15 million** – Whole of Government response
- Increased engagement and support for overrepresented young people from CALD backgrounds

Overhauling the Youth Justice System

Secure and safe youth justice centre

- Accommodation strengthened and fortified
- Intelligence and SESG
- New staff and higher levels of training
- Behaviour management model

New laws to address serious offending by young people

- Youth Justice Reform Act 2017 and Intensive Monitoring and Control Bail Supervision Scheme

Independent Review of Youth Justice responding to recommendations

- Better manage and supervise young people
- New risk and needs assessment
- Expanding offending behaviour programs

Building high security facility – Cherry Creek

