



2017-18 Victorian State Budget: Summary & Analysis

25 May 2017

Summary

Budget Paper 3 includes a summary of new spending on family violence over the next 4 years (pp. 5-6). This table specifies only new initiatives, with spending allocated in the 2016-17 Budget continuing. An extract outlining perpetrator interventions is included below.

Table 1.1: Output initiatives – Family Violence (\$ million)

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Perpetrator accountability					
Changing perpetrator behaviour	..	19.7	25.7	1.8	2.3
Family violence perpetrator interventions in the justice system	..	3.4	4.5
Intensive residential diversion program for Aboriginal male perpetrators of family violence	..	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Responding to family violence in the Corrections system	..	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.9
Restorative justice in the Magistrates' Court	2.0	3.0	4.4

Source: Victorian Government Budget 2017-18: Budget Paper 3, p. 5

Output measures

The Budget now also includes a number of new output measures relating to family violence, which report on performance of a range of programs and services. A summary of the new output measures is attached, and some of the measures are included below.

Department of Health and Human Services

Child Protection and Family Services Output

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2017-18 target	2016-17 expected outcome	2016-17 target	2015-16 actual
Number of calls made to the statewide telephone help line for men regarding family violence	number	9 000	nm	nm	nm

New performance measure for 2017-18 to reflect Government priorities regarding family violence. The Men's Referral Service is a statewide telephone referral service for perpetrators of family violence.

Department of Justice and Regulation

Community Based Offender Supervision Output

<i>Performance measures</i>	<i>Unit of measure</i>	<i>2017-18 target</i>	<i>2016-17 expected outcome</i>	<i>2016-17 target</i>	<i>2015-16 actual</i>
Successful completion of violence related programs for family violence offenders in community corrections	per cent	80	nm	nm	nm
<i>New performance measure for 2017-18 to reflect the Government's priority in responding to family violence and providing assistance to victims. This performance measure counts community based offenders with current or historical family violence offences who have participated in programs targeting violent offending, including the Men's Behaviour Change Program and other Corrections Victoria clinical violence interventions.</i>					

Source: Victorian Government Budget 2017-18: Budget Paper 3

Department of Health and Human Services

Overall DHHS funding is \$49.5 million in 2017-18 for perpetrator interventions, which includes both recurrent funding and new initiatives (outlined in Table 1.4).¹ This includes Men's Behaviour Change Programs, Enhanced Intake Services, and Men's Referral Service, as well as funding to trial innovative responses to men who use domestic and family violence. Exact allocations to each area will be determined over the next month or so.

Funding for a residential Men's Behaviour Change Program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men has been allocated to Dardi Munwurro.

Analysis

Budget papers specify that increased DHHS funding for perpetrator interventions will fund overall 4000 places in DHHS-funded Men's Behaviour Change Programs. This is approximately double the number of funded places in 2016-17.

At the same time, the Minimum Standards for Men's Behaviour Change Group Work are being reviewed, with a likely outcome that the minimum required length of group programs will increase. NTV/MRS has confirmed that the funding for increased places in MBCPs includes a provision to ensure adequate funding for longer groups, and potential other changes to the Minimum Standards. However, as the review of the Minimum Standards is not yet complete, a number of changes to funding for MBCPs is yet to be determined.

¹ The NTV/MRS e-news published on 11 May outlined only the allocations for new initiatives for 2017-18, which amount to \$25.6 million.