

A new approach to family violence

Frequently asked questions: family violence funding announcement

May 2006

Exactly how much funding is being invested?

A total of \$40.6 million over three years is being provided to expand and reform Victoria's response to family violence. This represents an annual increase of more than 160%.

The funding is allocated over three years as follows:

- Year one: 2006-07 12,339,006
- Year two: 2007-08 13,390,684
- Year three: 2008-09 14,877,164
- Total for three years: **40,606,854**

The funding will be invested in 20 partnerships, involving around 70 community service organisations. These organisations will work together to develop models of integrated service delivery.

How much funding has been allocated to each region?

Metropolitan regions

Total: \$24.84 million over three years

Funds for individual regions:

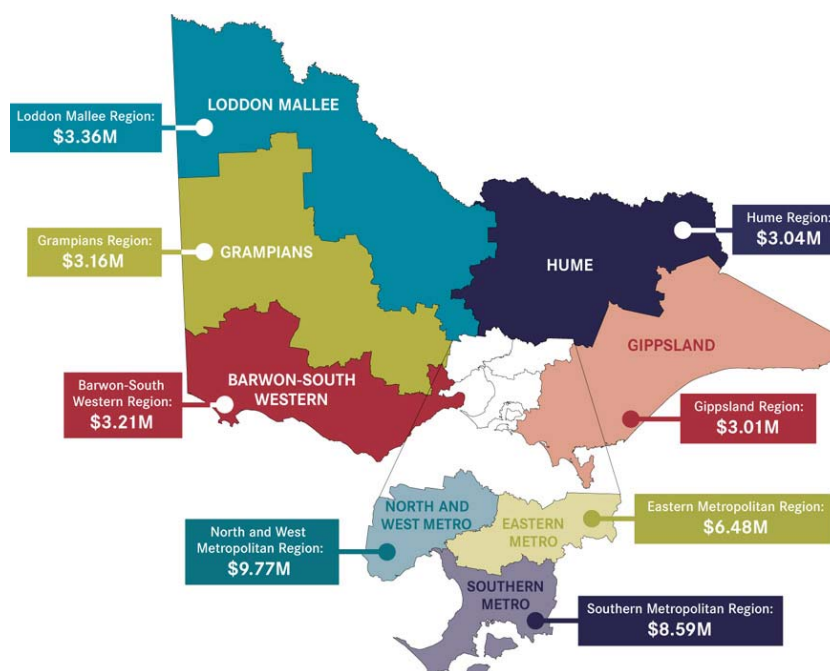
- Eastern Metropolitan Region \$6.48M
- North and West Metropolitan Region \$9.77M
- Southern Metropolitan Region \$8.59M

Rural regions

Total: \$15.78 million over three years

Funds for individual regions:

- Barwon South Western Region \$3.21M
- Gippsland Region \$3.01M
- Grampians Region \$3.16M
- Hume Region \$3.04M
- Loddon Mallee Region \$3.36M



A new approach to family violence

A new approach to family violence

How will this funding make a difference?

Overall, the Victorian Government's new approach to family violence means that community services, police and the courts will now work together to:

- make Victorian women and children safer
- ensure that men who use family violence are held accountable for their actions
- help women make the decision about what happens to them and their families.

More specifically, this funding will:

- **improve immediate response to family violence incidents**
 - After hours service responses will increase
 - More intensive case management and emergency accommodation will be provided.
- **expand choices for housing and support**
 - Outreach support services will increase
 - Women and children will now have access to the private rental market, support in the family home, access to refuge and support within public housing
 - Men who use violence will be provided with more emergency accommodation
- **increase behaviour change programs** for men who use violence
- **increase counselling and support programs** for women and children who have experienced family violence
- **improve the coordination of all family violence services**, with the police, the courts and community services working together to deliver better services to individuals and families.

When will new services commence?

From July 2006.

Why does Victoria need a new approach to family violence?

Until now, much of Victoria's approach to family violence has been fragmented and inconsistent, with different services across the state operating independently. The legal system is also complex.

For many decades family violence was seen as a personal problem to be dealt with in private by the individuals concerned. Often women needed to find support services by themselves, or move away from their community into a refuge. Few services were available for men, and it was difficult to access police or the court system.

These issues made it difficult for many victims to find the right information and support. The gaps in services also affected our capacity to assist the most vulnerable Victorians.

What is family violence?

Family violence involves repeated violent, threatening, coercive or controlling behaviour that occurs in current or past family, domestic or intimate relationships. This may include physical assaults, and other power and control tactics such as direct threats, sexual assault, emotional and psychological torment, economic control and behaviour that cause a person to live in fear.

Family violence can occur in any culture or relationship. While any member of a family could use family violence against another, it is more likely to be perpetrated by men against women and children.

A new approach to family violence

A new approach to family violence

Family violence affects all communities and is a profound cause of entrenched, intergenerational disadvantage. It has significant personal, social, health and economic costs.

A new approach to family violence