

Our promise, *Your future*

Summary

With thousands of young Victorians, the Victorian Government has created a new youth strategy to make our state the best place for young people.

Our promise, *Your future* will give young people better access to opportunities and support them to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is a five-year plan for every young Victorian, and we will work with young people and our youth and community partners to deliver it.



Our vision

A Victoria where young people are healthy, well, safe and secure

Young people are respected and central in decision making

Young people have inclusive and accessible support to achieve their goals and feel optimistic, motivated and inspired about their future

Our priorities

To see the complete list of our commitments to young people, head to the full version of the strategy at **Youth Central**:
<<https://www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/youthstrategy>>



#1

Young people are healthy & well



Young people have the *best possible health* and can draw on their strength, optimism and *support* from their families and communities to recover from adversity.

We will:

Help young people to have the best possible physical, mental health and wellbeing.

Provide more opportunities for young people to engage in sport, active transport, the arts, and volunteering.

Increase information and awareness of how to stay healthy and what to do when experiencing a health or mental health issue.

Work with services and community groups to help them better understand young people and meet their needs.

Key actions:

Enable young people with diverse lived experience to be involved at all stages of rolling out recommendations from the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System.

Expand access to mental health and positive wellbeing supports for all young people.

Promote positive health and wellbeing in schools by providing inclusive relationship, sexuality and consent education and resources.

Reduce barriers young people face to taking part in sport and support more multicultural young people, and young women and girls to participate.

Extend the Get Active Kids Voucher Program and continue the Active Schools initiative to boost support and resources to get kids moving.



#2

Young people are safe and secure



Young people experience *security*, are safe from harm (discrimination, neglect, emotional, physical and sexual abuse) and live in a stable home that is *affordable and nurturing*.

We will:

Provide more community and family supports to prevent young people from coming into contact with tertiary and crisis services.

Increase information and awareness of the different forms of discrimination impacting young people and ways to improve their safety.

Build on transformational reforms like Victoria's Big Housing Build to give young people the housing stability they need.

Work towards a justice and family violence system that is more trauma-informed and better recognises young people as victim survivors in their own right.

Key actions:

Provide more support early on to reduce the risk factors that lead to over-representation of Aboriginal young people and multicultural and multifaith young people in the justice system.

Support young people's access to legal services and advice.

Lessen the impact of fines on young people experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage.

Improve safety for young people travelling on public transport.

Deliver 500 new supported housing places for young people with mental illness, co-designed with young people through Victoria's Big Housing Build.



#3

Young people achieve their goals through education, training and employment



Young people are *positively engaged* with and progress in education and have the knowledge and *skills* to successfully transition to meaningful further education and *employment*.

We will:

Identify and respond early to young people who face barriers to completing their education.

Build young people's life skills to support their transition to independence.

Give young people better access to hands-on learning opportunities to increase their ability to get the job they want.

Set out a path to give all young people the confidence, support and opportunities they need to secure a job, build a fulfilling career and set them up for financial independence.



Key actions:

Develop an online skills-for-life toolkit to support young people to build the skills and confidence they need to become independent.

Expand secure job opportunities and improve employment pathways for young people through learn and earn pathways such as apprenticeships, traineeships and cadetships.

Improve the accessibility and affordability of public transport for disadvantaged school students.

Improve the quality of vocational training at schools and provide students with skills for the modern economy.

Support young people's access to accreditation to help them enter the sport and recreation sector.

Support young people who want a career in the creative industries.

#4

Young people are respected and involved in decisions in their communities



Young people are supported to have their voices, *lived experience* and solutions heard, and have genuine, meaningful opportunities to *influence decisions*.

We will:

Help create a future where young people have more power in their lives and more of a say in the policies, laws, services and infrastructure that affect them.

Learn from the valuable solutions and lived experience that young people have by inviting them into rooms where decisions are made.

Increase the positive representation of young people in the media and help them to have a platform to advocate for issues that matter to them like climate change, mental health and discrimination.

Build the capability of state and local government to work with and support young people.

Key actions:

Increase representation of young people aged 25 or under on Victorian Government boards.

Establish the Koorie Youth Council as a principal youth sector partner to support policymaking and advocacy for Aboriginal young people.

Promote ways for young leaders across Victoria to connect with each other, contribute to decision making and to organise place-based action on important issues.

Expand opportunities for young people to engage with civics and citizenship education.

Set up opportunities for young people to work on Victoria's response to climate change.



#5

Young people are confident and strong in their identity and culture and are supported in their communities



Young people are *connected*, to their culture, language, beliefs and identity and feel *accepted and valued* within their communities.

We will:

Provide young people with more ways to connect to their communities and celebrate their culture and diverse identities.

Learn from young people who are speaking up to make our state a better and fairer place, tackling discrimination such as ableism, racism, sexism and homophobia.

Build on place-based networks to give young people better access to support and education and employment opportunities close to home.

Key actions:

Provide local youth hubs in priority areas, co-designed with young people

Embed the diverse voices of multicultural, multifaith and Aboriginal young people in the roll out of the new anti-racism strategy.

Support access to local mentoring and work experience opportunities for young people.

Improve supports for LGBTIQ+ young people in regional and rural Victoria.

Remove barriers to participation for disabled young people, and support their equitable access to services, information and opportunities.



#6

Services are coordinated, responsive and accessible



Services *work together* to effectively identify and respond to young people's *individual needs* and circumstances. ↩

We will:

Focus on prevention first and intervening early to steer young people away from crisis and further trauma.

Move towards more streamlined, high-quality and age-appropriate services that work in partnership with young people to improve their lives.

Recognise and act on young people's calls for services that understand that their needs are unique and shaped by multiple interconnected factors, lived experience, context and social dynamics.

Key actions:

Partner with young people to review the Victorian Government's Youth Central website and social media channels to improve communication with young people.

Partner with the Koorie Youth Council to develop a Victorian Aboriginal youth engagement framework led by Aboriginal young people.

Promote increased youth sector collaboration by supporting communities of practice, promoting evidence and evaluation, and sharing tools and resources.

Improve how services work together to provide young people and their families with wrap around supports.



What next?

The commitments in the youth strategy will inform the Victorian Government's work over the next five years.

As this is a whole of government strategy, our promises to young people will be delivered by multiple departments – not just the Youth portfolio.

Implementation of the youth strategy will be guided by an outcomes framework, and we will use this tool to measure our success. More detail on the outcomes framework can be found at **Measuring and reporting on progress** <<https://www.vic.gov.au/victorias-youth-strategy-2022-2027/measuring-and-reporting-progress>>.

Young people and the youth and community sectors will continue to inform how the youth strategy is rolled out.

To keep us accountable, we will:

- Report on the progress of implementation
- Continue to seek feedback from young people through surveys and consultations
- Set up an advisory group with equal membership of young people and youth sector partners to advise government and guide implementation

If you'd like to get involved in the delivery of our strategy, or keep up to date with our progress, visit **Youth Central** <<https://www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au/youthstrategy>> or send us an email at: youth@dffh.vic.gov.au.

To receive this document in another format, email the Office for Youth <youth@dffh.vic.gov.au>.

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In this document, 'Aboriginal' refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. 'Indigenous' or 'Koori/Koorie' is retained when part of the title of a report, program or quotation.

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