*2024-25 BUDGET PAPER NO. 3*

Appendix B – Early Intervention Investment Framework

This section outlines the *2024-25 Budget* initiatives that Government has funded through the Early Intervention Investment Framework (EIIF). EIIF prioritises initiatives that have higher estimated impacts in terms of social outcomes and fiscal benefits.

Funding of $1.1 billion over five years is provided in this budget for 28 early intervention initiatives. This increases funding by more than 50 per cent compared to the *2023-24 Budget’s* investment in early intervention, and demonstrates the valuable contribution this world-leading initiative is providing to improve community wellbeing.

Over the next 10 years this investment in early intervention services is expected to generate avoided costs of approximately $655‑770 million through reduced demand for government services (including hospitals, family violence services and prisons), and broader economic benefits of approximately $360-560 million (including reduced healthcare costs to individuals and to the Commonwealth Government, increased earnings and reduced welfare payments). Together, these deliver an estimated benefit cost ratio around 1.0-1.3. Moreover, more than a third of initiatives target support at children and young people, who are likely to experience significant long‑term benefits beyond the 10‑year timeframe captured in these estimates.

Figure B.1 represents the investment and expected avoided costs over the next 10 years from the 2024-25 EIIF package, along with expected additional benefits if a portion of avoided costs are reinvested in future early intervention programs in future budgets.

Figure B.1: Aggregate impacts from early intervention investments



*Source: Department of Treasury and Finance*

A key focus of this year’s EIIF package is initiatives that seek to mitigate and respond to family violence. This includes funding of $167.5 million over five years for programs that support victim survivors, provide perpetrator case management, and support schools to implement respectful relationships education. These initiatives are estimated to deliver benefits larger than their total funding, for family violence, health and justice services as well as other economic benefits to clients that include increased earnings and reduced out of pocket healthcare costs.

Table B.1 outlines the funding from the 2024-25 package for each initiative funding through the framework, as well as estimated avoided costs to government and economic benefits over the next 10 years. A description of each initiative, including outcomes and outputs, is also contained within Chapter 1 of this Budget Paper.

Table B.1: Early Intervention investments (a)(b) ($ million)

|  |  | Service Delivery Funding | Estimated avoided  costs (c)(d) | Estimated economic benefits (e) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Department | Output initiative | 5 years | 10 years | 10 years |
| Department of Education (DE) | Strengthening participation of CALD children in early childhood education | 9.3 | <5 | <20 |
| Place-based education and wellbeing programs | 9.5 | <5 | <20 |
| Education support for students at risk | 22.4 | 10-15 | <20 |
| Supporting senior secondary completion in non-school settings (f) | 14.5 | 5-10 | 40-60 |
| Improving school staff mental health and wellbeing support | 55.4 | 10-15 | 20-40 |
| School-wide positive behaviour support | 15.8 | <5 | <20 |
| Student health and wellbeing | 41.0 | 5-10 | <20 |
| Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) | Strong Families, Safe Children | 178.9 | 60-65 | 20-40 |
| Continuing support for Victorians with disability | 20.8 | 5-10 | <20 |
| Breaking the cycle of homelessness  (Journey to Social Inclusion (J2SI)) | 45.4 | 75-80 | 20-40 |
| Breaking the cycle of homelessness  (non-J2SI components) | 151.5 | 40-45 | <20 |
| Innovative support to re-engage young people | 3.6 | 5-10 | <20 |
| Department of Health (DH) | Aboriginal Health in Aboriginal Hands: Strengthening cultural safety and supporting culture and kinship | 9.8 | 5-10 | <20 |
| Timely emergency care (f) | 34.4 | 30-35 | <20 |
| Supports for people with disability outside of the NDIS | 23.1 | <5 | 20-40 |
| Support and treatment for Eating Disorders | 19.8 | 15-20 | 20-40 |
| Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS) | Youth Crime Prevention and Early Intervention Project | 6.6 | 15-20 | <20 |
| Supporting the corrections system to improve community safety | 52.6 | 60-65 | 20-40 |
| Community sector legal support and early intervention services | 28.8 | 45-50 | 20-40 |
| DJCS and Court Services Victoria (CSV) | Continuing to support a safe and stable Youth Justice system (f) | 25.7 | 10-15 | <20 |
| CSV | Continuing therapeutic court programs | 87.3 | 140-145 | 20-40 |
|  | **Sub-total for service delivery** | **856.3** | **540-630** | **300-440** |
| **Family Violence related EIIF initiatives** | | | | |
| DE | Respectful relationships for children and youth | 35.9 | 20-25 | <20 |
| DFFH | Driving down family and sexual violence | 41.1 | 30-35 | 20-40 |
|  | Family violence victim survivors supports | 67.4 | 50-55 | 20-40 |
| Department of Government Services (DGS) | Financial counselling support for victim survivors of family violence | 6.8 | 10-15 | <20 |
| DJCS | Self-determined justice diversion and family violence supports | 16.3 | 5-10 | <20 |
|  | **Sub-total for service delivery  (Family Violence initiatives)** | **167.5** | **115-140** | **60-120** |
|  | **Total service delivery** | **1 023.8** | **655-770** | **360-560** |
| **Enabler funding** | | | | |
| DFFH | Victorian Social Investment Model | 1.0 |  |  |
| DH and DGS | Improved data capability to support early intervention investment | 11.7 |  |  |
| DJCS and CSV | Justice system costs associated with court programs (f) | 24.7 |  |  |
|  | Other enablers (g) | 68.5 |  |  |
|  | Total enabler funding | 106.0 |  |  |
|  | **Total output funding** | **1 129.8** |  |  |
|  | **Total asset funding (h)** | **5.0** |  |  |

*Source: Department of Treasury and Finance*

*Notes:*

*(a)*  *Funding amounts presented in this table correspond to service delivery. The sum of service delivery and enabler funding components match the funding allocated in Chapter 1.*

*(b)*  *Table may not add due to rounding.*

*(c)*  *Avoided cost estimates are used to inform savings (equivalent to 50% of avoided costs), which Government can then put towards investment in future EIIF initiatives. Departments have refined and improved avoided cost estimation techniques since Government first implemented EIIF in the 2021-22 Budget, relying primarily on historical data for cohort baselines and evaluations/literature to estimate impacts from new initiatives.*

*(d)*  *In addition to estimating avoided costs and economic benefits, all EIIF initiatives report against outcome measures to build evidence over time around program impact. This also informs future decision making and avoided cost estimation.*

*(e)*  *Economic benefit estimation is a more recent extension to impact quantification and does not inform savings decisions. It focuses only on direct impacts to individuals rather than broader economic impacts (e.g. labour force participation, Commonwealth Government expenditure and reduced costs incurred by individuals). Estimates generally exclude macroeconomic factors such as productivity and taxation deadweight loss, making them an underestimate of total economic impacts.*

*(f)*  *Only select components of these initiatives align with EIIF.*

1. *Supporting senior secondary completion in non-school settings: Funding for Non-school Senior Secondary and Foundation Secondary providers*
2. *Timely emergency care: Priority Primary Care Centres component*
3. *Continuing to support a safe and stable Youth Justice system: Weekend Online Remand Court and NDIS Youth Justice components.*
4. *Justice system costs associated with court programs: Continuing therapeutic court programs component.*

*(g)*  *Enabler funding includes funding for components that support the delivery of services. Key enabler components include funding for Eating Disorders Victoria to support workforce management, embedding the Education Justice Initiative data portal, funding for the ‘Outcomes Practice Evidence Network’, and maintaining critical system foundations to support the evidence-based approach across family services. The full list of initiatives with enabler funding is:*

1. *Strengthening participation of CALD children in early childhood education*
2. *Education supports for students at risk*
3. *Place-based education and wellbeing programs*
4. *Supporting senior secondary completion in non-school settings*
5. *Respectful Relationships for children and youth*
6. *Improving school staff mental health and wellbeing support*
7. *Student health and wellbeing*
8. *Strong Families, Safe Children*
9. *Continuing support for Victorians with disability*
10. *Driving down family and sexual violence*
11. *Family violence victim survivors supports*
12. *Aboriginal Health in Aboriginal Hands: Strengthening cultural safety and supporting culture and kinship*
13. *Support and treatment for Eating Disorders*

*(h)*  *EIIF initiatives include additional asset funding of $5.0 million TEI:*

1. *Place-based education and wellbeing programs ($0.3 million)*
2. *Family violence victim survivors supports ($4.0 million)*
3. *Supporting the corrections system to improve community safety ($0.7 million).*