

MEDIA RELEASE

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CARE FOR MOST VULNERABLE IN RECORD \$7 BILLION FACS BUDGET

Vulnerable children and families, social housing tenants and people experiencing homelessness will benefit from a record investment in the 2017-18 Budget.

Minister for Family and Community Services and Social Housing Pru Goward said the FACS cluster will invest \$7 billion in 2017-18 – an increase of \$459 million, or seven per cent on the 2016-17 revised budget.

“I am delighted this Budget will deliver 75 new caseworkers and 66 new casework support workers, with \$63 million of new spending over four years to help see more of our most at risk children,” Ms Goward said.

This Budget will continue to invest significantly in early intervention. Initiatives include:

- \$95 million for Targeted Earlier Intervention to provide parenting, youth and family support programs
- \$81 million to support community housing providers head lease properties for vulnerable families as a pathway to housing independence
- \$65 million for community development and strengthening programs
- \$60 million for Brighter Futures, delivering services to families with children who are at high risk of entering or escalating within the statutory child protection system
- \$25 million for new evidence based service models to improve family preservation through new Multisystemic Therapy for Child Abuse and Neglect (MST-CAN) and Functional Family Therapy Child Welfare (FFT-CW) services to help at least 900 children a year in 15 priority locations
- \$19 million to empower people to break the cycle of disadvantage in social housing through improved parenting, health, education, work and training
- \$5 million (\$20 million over four years) new spending for homelessness initiatives to provide more transitional accommodation and support packages for rough sleepers

“This Budget delivers support along the continuum from early intervention, restoration, guardianship to open adoption, as well as improving the lives of our social housing tenants,” Ms Goward said.

The Budget also includes:

- \$218 million in capital maintenance expenditure to upgrade and improve existing public housing by the Land and Housing Corporation

- \$198 million for Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS) and critical referral services such as Link2Home
- \$152 million to improve Aboriginal housing through capital works, maintenance and strengthening the Aboriginal community housing sector
- \$30 million in new spending to support high needs children in out-of-home care
- \$12 million to expand the Premier's Youth Homelessness Initiative
- \$8 million for the Social Housing Community Improvement Fund (SHCIF)
- \$3.5 million in new spending to improve the response for people formerly in care to obtain access to their information
- \$1.3 million in new funding for additional legal supports to respond to and resolve civil claims of historical child abuse claims

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