

MEDIA RELEASE

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BUDGET SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON COST OF LIVING

Families across NSW could save thousands of dollars each year, with \$19 million committed in this year's Budget to develop a new Cost of Living Service designed to improve access to and awareness of Government rebates and refunds.

Minister for Finance, Services and Property Victor Dominello said the new Service will make it easier for customers to claim existing rebates and refunds from across the NSW Government.

"Individuals and families already have access to a range of Government cost of living programs including Energy Rebates, Active Kids Rebate, cheaper Green Slips and refunds, Toll Relief and the FuelCheck app," Mr Dominello said.

"This Service will give customers across NSW access to a tailored one-stop shop through Service NSW to help them claim these rebates and refunds as well as other programs including pensioner discounts and early childcare costs."

Customers will be able to access the Service through a face-to-face interview in Service NSW Centres, via a simple online process or by phone by speaking directly to a Service NSW representative who can provide personalised feedback on what savings might be available.

The Service will be piloted in the second half of this year, with the findings to help inform a state-wide rollout.

A typical Sydney family with two school-aged children could be eligible for savings of more than \$1,000, including Active Kids vouchers, CTP savings through a premium reduction and refund, and free rego through the Toll Relief Program.

An additional \$4 million investment will be directed towards a new free 'One-click energy switch' service, where NSW citizens will be able to switch to the best available energy deals on the market.

This new service could help a typical household save more than \$1,000 a year on their bills. Service NSW will pilot the new service in coming months across Service Centres in Wynyard, Lismore, Parramatta, Taree and Wetherill Park, with a wider State rollout later this year.

The Budget allocated \$2 billion to the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation. Other key funding included:

- \$320 million over four years to enhance the coverage of the Government Radio Network in support of emergency services;
- \$9.3 million to enable a state-wide rollout of the Digital Driver Licence;
- \$7.4 million to complete the rollout of Rural and Regional Service NSW Centres; and
- \$20 million over four years to fund a new central whole-of-government cyber security function to better coordinate and improve existing activities across NSW Government agencies.

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