

MEDIA RELEASE

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SUPPORTING THE STATE'S MOST VULNERABLE

Vulnerable children and families, those at risk of homelessness and victims of domestic violence and sexual assault will be better protected and supported with a \$6.8 billion investment in the FACS cluster that will help them improve their lives and build their future.

Minister for Pru Goward said this Budget will invest more than \$61 million over four years in new funding for assertive outreach, early intervention and tenancy supports as part of the \$1 billion investment over four years in this year's Budget to support those experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness.

"This Government is continuing to build an effective system that is able to recognise and respond to the complex nature of homelessness and break the cycle of disadvantage," Ms Goward said.

Ms Goward said the Budget will deliver a \$59 million boost to the child protection frontline over four years which will see more caseworkers and continue the Adoptions Taskforce's record-breaking and nation-leading work in finalising adoptions from out-of-home care.

"Our wonderful caseworkers are seeing more than 15,000 additional children reported at risk of significant harm than they were in 2010-11 and I am delighted that this investment will support them in this important work," Ms Goward said.

There will also be more than \$44 million over three years in new funding to continue to tackle domestic violence in the community and reduce the rate of re-offending, taking NSW's total investment to more than \$390 million over four years in specialist initiatives across Government.

The Budget will invest more than \$33 million over four years in new funding to deliver the Aboriginal Housing Strategy that will provide homes and wraparound support services.

The \$6.8 billion FACS cluster Budget for 2018-19 also includes:

- \$1.2 billion to support out-of-home care and permanency support, guardianship and adoption, which helps children and young people and improves their educational and health outcomes. This includes \$31.6 million annual funding to support high-needs children in out-of-home care.
- \$95 million to provide parenting, youth and family support programs;
- \$83.4 million for community housing leasing, a pathway to independence for vulnerable individuals and families in the private rental market;
- \$41.3 million for the Office of the Children’s Guardian to continue to protect children by promoting and regulating quality, child-safe organisations and services;
- \$39.2 million to implement evidence-based models as part of the Their Futures Matter child protection reforms, including through family preservation models to help at least 900 families a year;
- \$35.7 million for private rental assistance to support people to establish and maintain tenancies in the private rental market;
- \$26.5 million for Start Safely, to help people escaping domestic violence move into stable housing in the private rental market.

MEDIA: Amy Dale | 0418 910 598