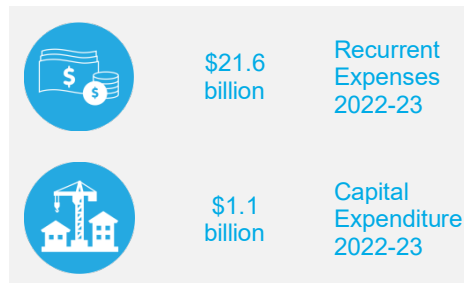


# 8. STRONGER COMMUNITIES CLUSTER

## 8.1 Introduction

The Stronger Communities Cluster delivers community services that support a safe, just and brighter future for New South Wales. It does this by operating an effective legal system; protecting children and families; building resilience and responding to natural disasters and emergencies; promoting public safety; reducing reoffending; and supporting community harmony and social cohesion.



The Stronger Communities Cluster has responsibility for delivering key policies for the NSW Government, including seven State Outcomes and five Premier’s Priorities. The Stronger Communities Cluster also includes the Office of the Children’s Guardian; the Ageing and Disability Commissioner; the Advocate for Children and Young People; Multicultural NSW; and the Office for Veterans Affairs.

### State Outcomes to be delivered by the Stronger Communities Cluster

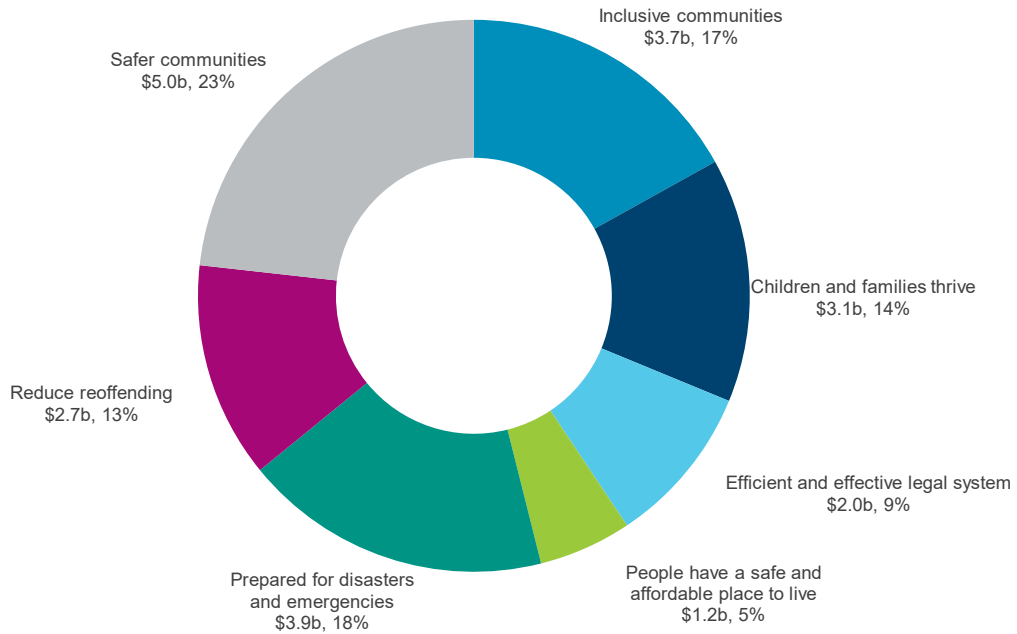
<b>State Outcomes</b> What the Cluster is delivering for people and business	<b>Key Programs</b> underway to support delivery of Outcomes
<p><b>1. Children and families thrive</b></p> <p>Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children, young people and families, and protecting them from the risk of harm, abuse and neglect.</p> <p><i>2022-23 investment: \$3.1 billion in recurrent expenses &amp; \$12.0 million in capital expenditure</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Out of Home Care and Permanency Support</li> <li>• Child Protection</li> <li>• Targeted Early Intervention</li> <li>• Domestic and Family Violence</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Efficient and effective legal system</b></p> <p>Resolving matters through legal services, the administration of courts and tribunals, and client-facing justice services to victims and vulnerable people.</p> <p><i>2022-23 investment: \$2.0 billion in recurrent expenses &amp; \$125.1 million in capital expenditure</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Courts and Tribunals</li> <li>• Legal Aid and Justice Services</li> <li>• Victims Services</li> <li>• Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Inclusive communities</b></p> <p>Delivering programs and support services that aim to promote community harmony and social cohesion, particularly for participants in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.</p> <p><i>2022-23 investment: \$3.7 billion in recurrent expenses &amp; \$2.0 million in capital expenditure</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting the NDIS</li> <li>• Community Support and Development</li> <li>• Multicultural NSW</li> <li>• Office of the Ageing and Disability Commissioner</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. People have a safe and affordable place to live</b></p> <p>Assisting people who are unable to access or maintain appropriate housing, including homelessness services.</p> <p><i>2022-23 investment: \$1.2 billion in recurrent expenses &amp; \$8.0 million in capital expenditure</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Housing</li> <li>• Homelessness Services</li> </ul>

<p><b>State Outcomes</b> What the Cluster is delivering for people and business</p>	<p><b>Key Programs</b> underway to support delivery of Outcomes</p>
<p><b>5. Prepared for disasters and emergencies</b> Coordinating and delivering emergency management to enhance response and recovery efforts and build community resilience. <i>2022-23 investment:</i> \$3.9 billion in recurrent expenses &amp; \$255.8 million in capital expenditure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resilience NSW</li> <li>• Fire and Rescue NSW</li> <li>• NSW State Emergency Service</li> <li>• NSW Rural Fire Service</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Reduce reoffending</b> Operating the State’s corrections system, including support for, and management of, adult and youth offenders in correctional centres and the community. <i>2022-23 investment:</i> \$2.7 billion in recurrent expenses &amp; \$201.4 million in capital expenditure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult and Youth Custodial Offender Management</li> <li>• Community Offender Management</li> <li>• Offender Management Services</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Safer communities</b> Preventing, detecting and investigating crime, maintaining social order and community safety, promoting road safety, and supporting emergency management. <i>2022-23 investment:</i> \$5.0 billion in recurrent expenses &amp; \$507.7 million in capital expenditure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24-hour policing Metropolitan</li> <li>• 24-hour policing Regional NSW</li> <li>• Investigation and Counter-Terrorism</li> <li>• NSW Crime Commission</li> </ul>

## 8.2 Overview of Cluster expenses by State Outcome

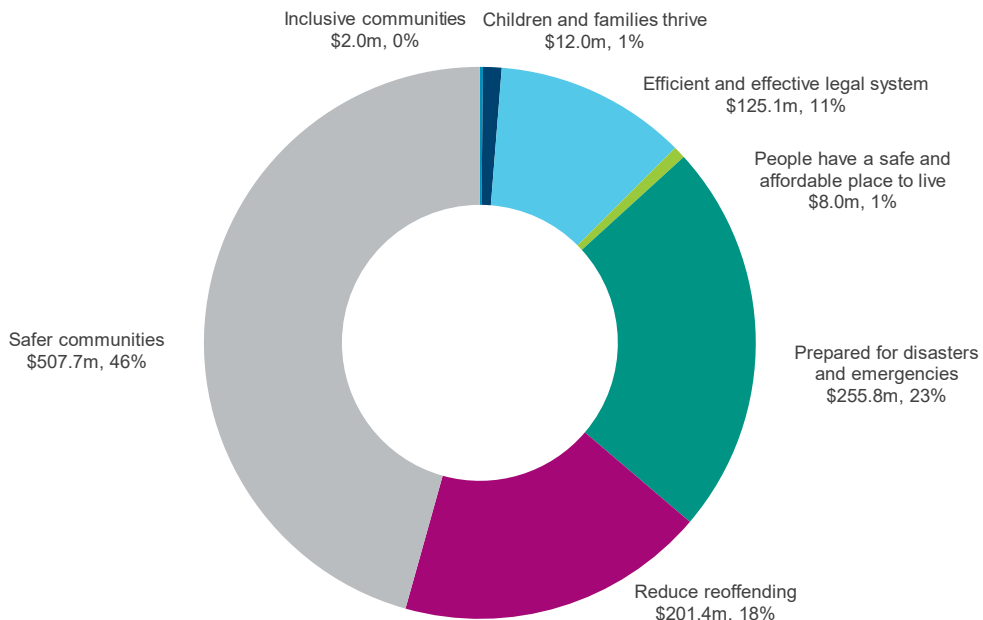
A summary of expenses by State Outcome is provided in the charts below.

Chart 8.1: Recurrent expenses by Outcome 2022-23 (dollars and %)



Note: The sum of the percentages does not equal 100 due to rounding.

Chart 8.2: Capital expenditure by Outcome 2022-23 (dollars and %)

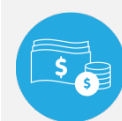


## 8.3 Outcome 1: Children and families thrive

### State Outcome overview and 2022-23 investment

This Outcome focuses on ensuring the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children, young people, women and families, protecting them from the risk of harm, abuse and neglect. Services supporting this Outcome are delivered by the Department of Communities and Justice and the Office of the Children's Guardian.

This work also supports the Premier's Priorities to protect our most vulnerable children, increase permanency for children in out-of-home care, and reduce domestic violence reoffending.



\$3.1  
billion

Recurrent  
Expenses  
2022-23



\$12.0  
million

Capital  
Expenditure  
2022-23

### 2022-23 State Outcome Budget highlights

In 2022-23, the Stronger Communities Cluster will invest \$3.1 billion (\$3.1 billion recurrent expenses and \$12.0 million capital expenditure) in this Outcome, including:

- \$1.6 billion to support the safety, welfare, and wellbeing of vulnerable children in out-of-home care and enhance permanency outcomes
- \$815.4 million to support a robust child protection system to assess reports of child abuse and neglect and provide support to keep children safely at home and prevent entries to care. This includes:
  - \$5.1 million (\$21.5 million over four years) to continue and expand Pregnancy Family Conferencing for vulnerable women and their partners. This expansion is part of the 'Brighter Beginnings' initiative and the *Women's Opportunities Statement*
  - \$2.9 million (\$12.6 million over four years) to support the NSW Government's commitment to meet the outcomes the Cluster has responsibility for, under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, including:
    - \$1.8 million (\$8.7 million over four years) for the Strong Families Our Way initiative to strengthen sustainable, community-led structures of self-determination in the Aboriginal child and family system
    - \$1.1 million (\$3.9 million over four years) to enhance Aboriginal communities' decision making over service design, delivery and evaluation
  - \$2.3 million (\$4.3 million over two years) under the Digital Restart Fund for software to support frontline staff identifying early indicators of vulnerability
- \$262.7 million to prevent domestic and family violence, reduce reoffending and support victim safety through the continuation of evidence-based early intervention, victim support and perpetrator interventions. This includes:
  - \$77.0 million (\$484.3 million over four years) to provide housing and related support services for women and children. This landmark investment will deliver around 75 new core and cluster refuges as announced in the NSW Government's *Economic Recovery Strategy*
  - \$11.3 million (\$43.6 million over four years) to expand and enhance Safer Pathway as part of this Budget's focus on investing in women. This includes funding for the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service and Local Support Services to deliver additional case management services and enhancement of the Central Referral Point
- \$1.0 million (\$4.3 million over four years) for the Office of the Children's Guardian to maintain the Residential Care Workers Register.

## Key performance insights

This section provides analysis and insights on key Outcome Indicators for this State Outcome.

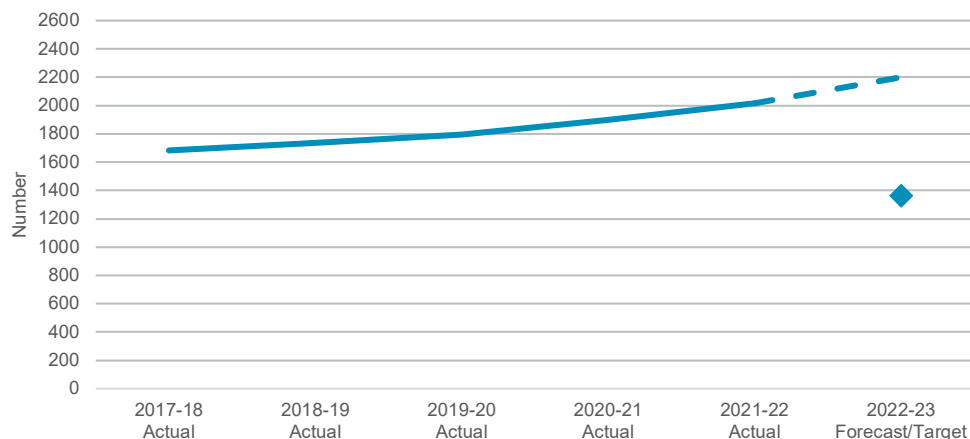
### Number of people charged with a domestic violence assault who had an earlier domestic assault charge in the last 12 months

Performance against this indicator remains challenging. In the 12 months to December 2021, there was an increase of 11.1 per cent in the number of domestic violence reoffenders from the 2015 baseline, and an increase of 11.5 per cent compared to the previous 12 months.

Performance against this target reflects the complex nature of domestic violence and reoffending behaviours and the NSW Government continues to develop, evaluate and deliver evidence-based programs to reduce reoffending in the short and long-term. Evaluations of programs to address domestic violence reoffending are currently underway, including DV Electronic Monitoring, High Intensity Programs Unit and ReINVEST.

Work has commenced to develop a whole-of-government plan to reduce domestic and family violence, which will align with the next National Plan to End Domestic and Family Violence 2022-2032. In addition, work continues on developing tailored, community-led interventions for Aboriginal offenders through the next National Plan and current work underway to address Closing the Gap targets.

Chart 8.3: Number of people charged with a domestic violence assault who had an earlier domestic assault charge in the last 12 months



### Proportion of children and young people re-reported at risk of significant harm (ROSH) within 12 months

Performance against this indicator continues to be challenging but has shown some improvement.

In March 2021, a taskforce of subject matter experts from across the Department of Communities and Justice was established to develop and implement a number of interconnected strategies focusing on the key drivers of ROSH re-reports.

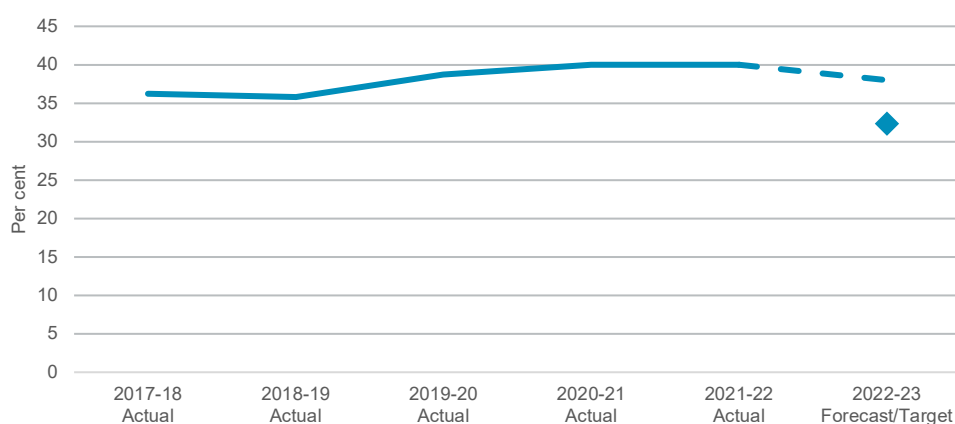
The trend of rising re-report rates has begun to decline. The re-report rate peaked at 42.5 per cent in August 2021 and has decreased each month since. The December 2021 quarter shows the re-report rate at 40 per cent. This is an improvement from the forecast rate of 44.5 per cent, had the current strategies not been implemented.

New strategies being employed include improving:

- the assessment of ROSH reports, ensuring the amount and quality of information received enables accurate assessments
- the quality of service provided to vulnerable children and families, so they receive support to prevent them re-entering the child protection system
- case closure practices and better integration with safety networks and mandatory reporters.

The reduction in the re-report rate of children and young people at ROSH correlates with the introduction of these strategies as well as the Government's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which has impacted reporting patterns.

*Chart 8.4: Proportion of children and young people re-reported at risk of significant harm (ROSH) within 12 months*



Note: 2022-23 shows the forecast as at December 2022.

## Number of children and young people exiting out-of-home care (OOHC) to restoration, guardianship or adoption

Adoptions from OOHC in New South Wales to permanent, safe, loving homes continue to remain the highest in Australia.

Performance against this indicator has improved in some areas, with the number of children exiting OOHC to permanent, legal guardianship increasing by 7.6 per cent in 2020-21 compared to the previous year. Nonetheless, achievement of the target for this indicator remains challenging. The number of children exiting OOHC to restoration with family decreased by 12 per cent in 2020-21 compared to the previous year.

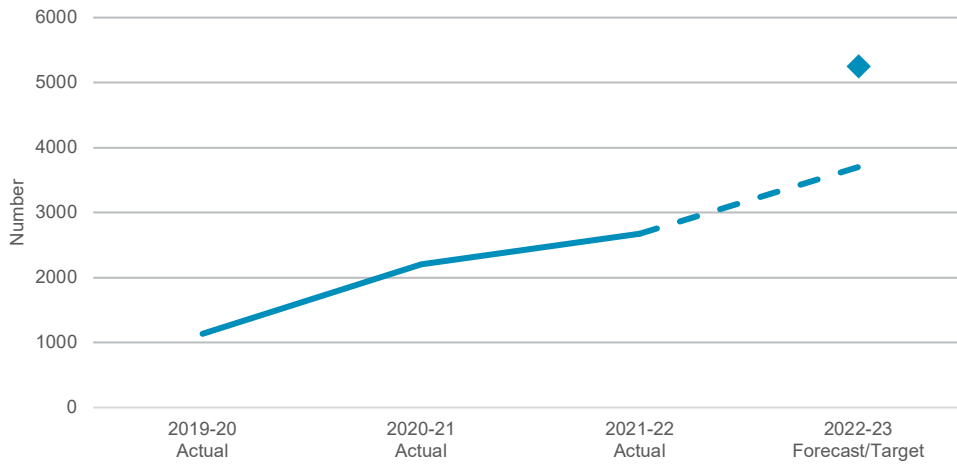
In the 2021-22 Budget, the NSW Government invested \$12.0 million over four years to increase the number of children exiting OOHC to permanency. A key initiative of this funding, the Permanency Taskforce, became operational in March 2022.

The investment will boost achievement of permanency through:

- a dedicated permanency team incorporating casework practitioners and legal officers to increase the number of permanency matters proceeding to the Children's Court
- a communications campaign promoting the benefits of permanency to increase the number of prospective guardians and adoptive parents
- allowing an end-to-end adoption process for accredited adoption providers to increase the number of adoptions achieved.

The implementation of a refreshed permanency strategy is now underway, following a review of performance and barriers.

**Chart 8.5:** *Number of children and young people exiting Out-of-Home Care to restoration, guardianship or adoption*



Note: 2021-22 reflects annual rounded forecast to 30 June 2022. The target is for 5,250 (cumulative) permanent outcomes over four years to 2022-23.

### Performance indicators for this Outcome

Outcome Indicators	Units	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Forecast
Number of people charged with a domestic violence assault who had an earlier domestic assault charge in the last 12 months	no.	2,016 <sup>(a)</sup>	2,200
Proportion of children and young people reported at risk of significant harm (ROSH) who are re-reported within 12 months of closure of plan	%	40 <sup>(b)</sup>	38 <sup>(c)</sup>
Number of children and young people exiting out-of-home care to restoration, guardianship or adoption	no.	2,674 <sup>(d)</sup>	3,700 <sup>(c)</sup>
Number of entries to out-of-home care	no.	2,406 <sup>(e)</sup>	2,200 <sup>(c)</sup>

**Notes:**

- (a) Current year actual represents 12 months to December 2021.
- (b) Current year actual represents as at December 2021.
- (c) Forecast data represents to December 2022.
- (d) Current year actual is the cumulative number from 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2021.
- (e) 2021-22 actual data is unavailable until September 2022, this data represents as at June 2021.

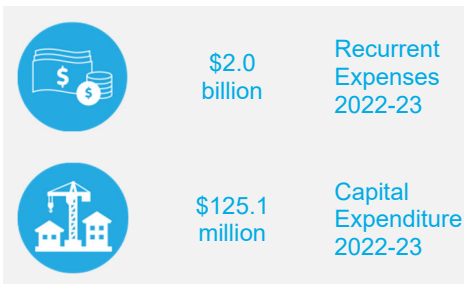
## 8.4 Outcome 2: Efficient and effective legal system

### State Outcome overview and 2022-23 investment

This Outcome focuses on the resolution of criminal and civil matters by funding legal services, the administration of courts and tribunals, and targeted services for victims and vulnerable people.

This Outcome includes services provided across the Department of Communities and Justice, Legal Aid NSW, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Crown Solicitor's Office, the Judicial Commission of New South Wales and NSW Trustee and Guardian.

The long-term increase in the number and complexity of criminal lodgements is the primary challenge facing this Outcome. Investments in 2022-23 will minimise the impact of the deferral of defended matters and postponement of jury trials due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



### 2022-23 State Outcome Budget highlights

In 2022-23, the Stronger Communities cluster will invest \$2.2 billion (\$2.0 billion recurrent expenses and \$125.1 million capital expenditure) in this Outcome, including:

- \$813.9 million to support courts and tribunals in New South Wales, including \$1.2 million to continue an additional two Land and Environment Court Commissioners in 2023-24
- \$481.1 million to support Legal Aid NSW in providing legal services to disadvantaged clients in most areas of criminal, civil and family law. This includes \$5.2 million (\$15.6 million over three years) to continue the Community Legal Centres program from 2022-23
- \$215.1 million to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions in New South Wales supporting the operations of the State's independent prosecutor in the NSW Children's, Local, District and Supreme courts
- \$175.5 million to support Victims Services which includes an additional \$45.1 million in 2022-23 (\$322.9 million over four years) to meet increased demand for the Victims Support Scheme
- \$75.9 million for Crown Solicitor's Office, including \$3.0 million for the Crown Solicitor's engagement on the Special Commission of Inquiry into LGBTIQ hate crimes
- \$1.4 million (\$6.0 million over four years) and \$20.0 million capital expenditure, as part of the Budget's focus on investing in women including:
  - \$18.0 million capital expenditure for the expansion of Audio-Visual Link facilities to 53 additional courts and tribunals, to enable court participants to appear remotely
  - \$1.4 million (\$6.0 million over four years) and \$2.0 million in capital expenditure for Court Appointed Questioners to ensure domestic violence complainants are not directly questioned by a self-represented defendant
- \$13.8 million (as part of a \$16.5 million package) to support three additional District Court judges to address court backlog arising from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on court operations



- \$7.9 million (\$28.2 million over four years) to support the NSW Government's commitment to meet the outcomes the Cluster has responsibility for, under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, including:
  - \$2.6 million (\$10.0 million over four years) to pilot bail advocacy and support services for Aboriginal youth and Aboriginal women in Newcastle and Sydney
  - \$2.4 million (\$9.8 million over four years) to pilot the Aboriginal Legal Service Child and Family Advocacy and Support program
  - \$1.8 million (\$7.3 million over four years) to support equal and genuine partnerships between Aboriginal communities and the NSW Government to improve justice outcomes, and family and community safety
  - \$1.1 million to support a partnership between the Department of Communities and Justice and the Aboriginal Legal Service, aimed at reducing Aboriginal children's interactions with the criminal justice system.

## Key performance insights

This section provides analysis and insights on key Outcome Indicators for this State Outcome.

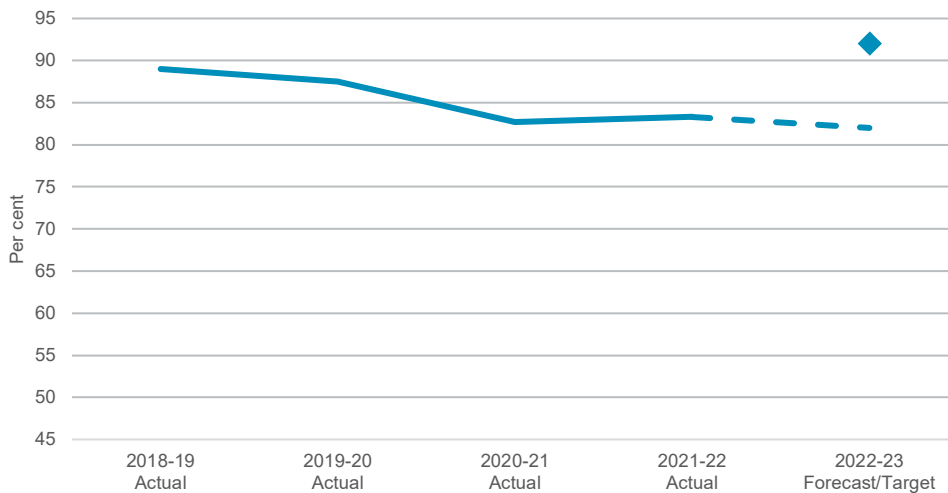
### Percentage of Local Court criminal cases finalised within six months

Performance against this indicator remains challenging, exacerbated by the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing criminal caseloads.

The recent Delta and Omicron outbreaks led to the deferral of defended hearings in the Local Court. The court's productivity remained high during this period, due in part to increased use of technology. The Local Court is making considerable effort to reduce backlogs and is considering appropriate measures in consultation with partner agencies and stakeholders.

Following funding in the 2020-21 Budget, additional magistrates have been appointed, which will increase the capacity of the court. Further ongoing investment in court digitisation is expected to continue to deliver productivity gains that will assist in offsetting growing caseloads, improving performance against this indicator.

Chart 8.6: Percentage of Local Court criminal cases finalised within 6 months

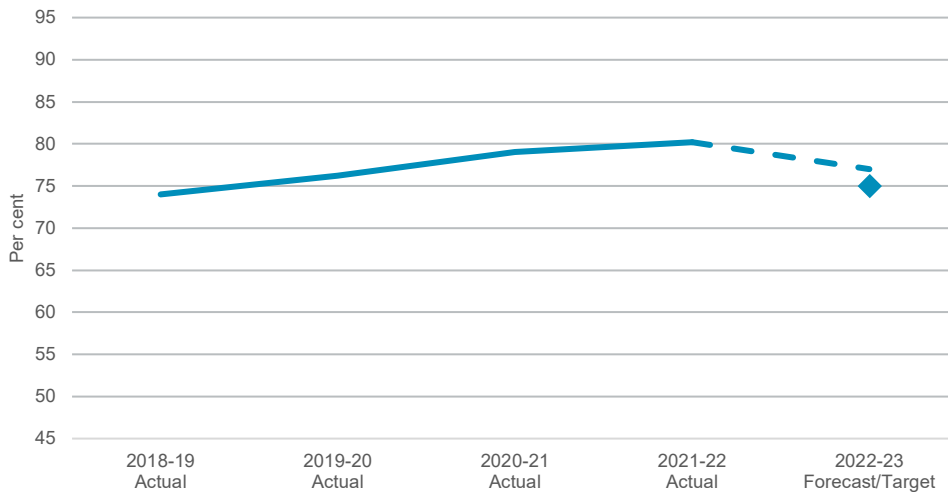


### Percentage of District Court criminal cases finalised within 12 months

The District Court is meeting its performance target and is expected to continue to do so for 2022-23. Performance against this indicator is improving, in part due to the reduction of serious crime during lockdown, as well as measures previously implemented to improve the efficiency of the Court and encourage early appropriate guilty pleas.

The District Court maintained high levels of activity during the recent Delta and Omicron COVID-19 outbreaks, driven by greater use of technology, however the pending criminal trial caseload has increased.

Chart 8.7: Percentage of District Court criminal cases finalised within 12 months



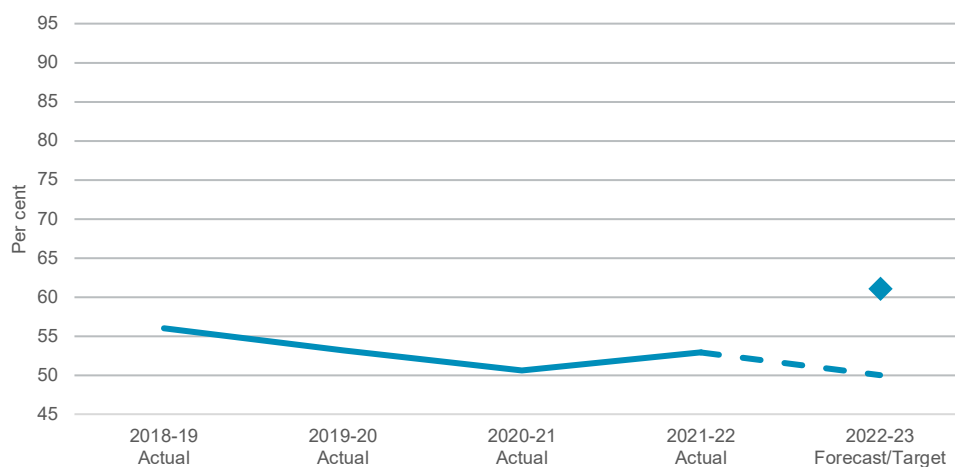
### Percentage of domestic and family violence related offences resolved in the Local Court within three months

Increasing criminal caseloads and the need to defer matters due to COVID-19 have resulted in fewer matters resolved within three months.

Performance against this indicator has also been impacted by the deferral of all defended hearings in the Local Court due to the operational impacts of the Omicron COVID-19 outbreak. The Local Court has now resumed defended hearings in the majority of matters, where it is safe to do so.

Additional magistrates have been appointed following investment in the 2020-21 Budget, which will increase the capacity of the court.

**Chart 8.8:** *Percentage of domestic violence related criminal offences finalised in the Local Court within 3 months of the first court appearance*



## Performance indicators for this Outcome

Outcome Indicators	Units	2021-22 Actual <sup>(a)</sup>	2022-23 Forecast <sup>(b)</sup>
Percentage of Local Court criminal cases finalised within 6 months	%	83.3	82.0
Percentage of District Court criminal cases finalised within 12 months	%	80.2	77.0
Percentage of domestic violence related criminal offences finalised in the Local Court within 3 months of the first court appearance	%	52.9	50.0
Percentage of District Court criminal cases finalised within 24 months	%	95.4	95.0
Percentage of Local Court criminal cases finalised within 12 months	%	95.4	95.0
Percentage of New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) cases finalised within 6 months	%	95.4	95.0

**Notes:**

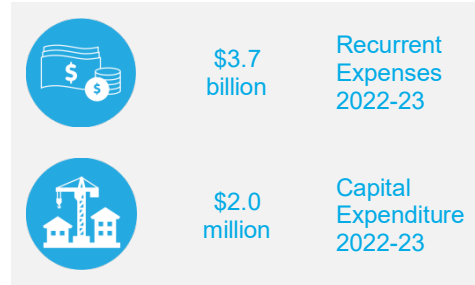
- (a) Current year actuals presented as 12 months to March 2022.
- (b) Forecasted data presented as 12 month forecast to March 2023.

## 8.5 Outcome 3: Inclusive communities

### State Outcome overview and 2022-23 investment

This Outcome captures the range of programs and support services that aim to promote community harmony, social inclusion and cohesion, particularly for participants in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Services are delivered under this Outcome by the Department of Communities and Justice (including Office of Veterans Affairs), Multicultural NSW and the Office of the Ageing and Disability Commissioner.



### 2022-23 State Outcome Budget highlights

In 2022-23, the Stronger Communities Cluster will invest \$3.7 billion (\$3.7 billion recurrent expenses and \$2.0 million capital expenditure) in this Outcome, including:

- \$3.4 billion in 2022-23 for cash and \$0.4 billion for in-kind contributions for individual packages and other flexible supports under the NDIS to support people with disability, their families and carers to achieve their goals and participate fully in the community
- \$14.0 million recurrent expenditure (\$28.0 million over two years) for Multicultural NSW to support and celebrate our multicultural community through greater investment in translation and interpreting services, enhanced community engagement and delivery of major festivals and events
- \$13.3 million recurrent expenditure over two years, as part of the NSW Government's response to the February and March 2022 storms and floods, to administer a community volunteer and Non-Government Organisation (NGO) financial support program in the seven highly impacted Northern Rivers Local Government Areas (Richmond Valley, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Tweed, Ballina and Byron) including:
  - \$7.6 million for community and volunteer-based NGOs for the continuing provision of on the ground flood recovery services
  - \$5.0 million to support severely affected community service providers, to provide essential community services in the Northern Rivers region
  - \$700,000 for program delivery and monitoring.
- \$5.8 million recurrent expenditure (\$34.2 million recurrent expenditure over four years) and \$64.5 million capital expenditure over three years to continue and expand all nine existing Aboriginal Child and Family Centres and to build an additional six sites across New South Wales. This initiative is part of the 'Brighter Beginnings' initiative and the NSW Government's *Women's Opportunities Statement*.

## Key performance insights

This section provides analysis and insights on the key Outcome Indicators for this State Outcome.

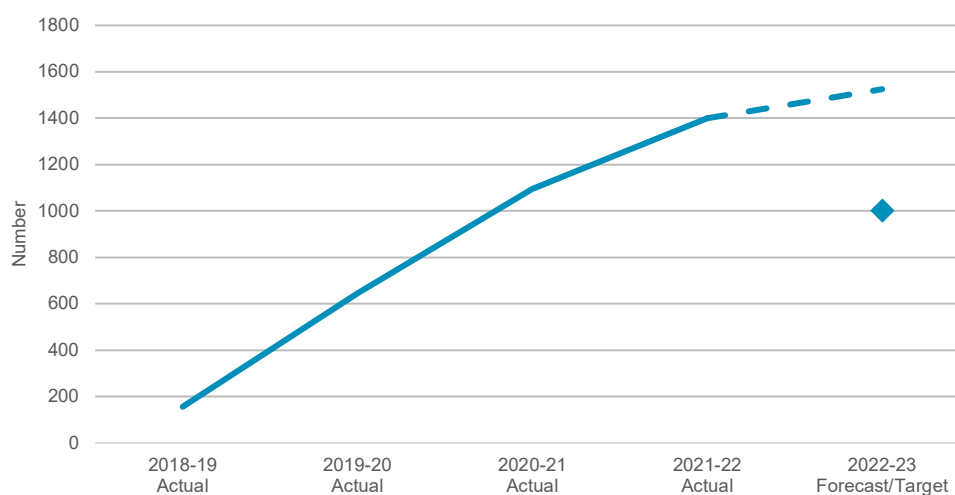
### Number of veterans gaining employment in the New South Wales public sector

The Veterans Employment Program (VEP) continues to be a national leader in veterans' employment initiatives.

The target set by the Premier in November 2018 to employ 1,000 veterans into the NSW public sector by December 2022 was achieved in 2020-21. Performance against this indicator continues to be positive, with 1,400 veterans employed into NSW public sector roles from November 2018 to March 2022.

The VEP continues to develop new initiatives including the delivery of a veterans mentoring pilot program, in partnership with Corrective Services NSW, and the ongoing delivery of workshops four times per year to assist veterans to find roles in the New South Wales public sector.

Chart 8.9: Number of veterans gaining employment in the New South Wales public sector



### Performance indicator for this Outcome

Outcome Indicator	Units	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Forecast
Number of veterans gaining employment in the New South Wales public sector	no.	1,400 <sup>(a)</sup>	1,525

Notes:

(a) Cumulative total since the target was announced in November 2018 to 31 March 2022.

## 8.6 Outcome 4: People have a safe and affordable place to live

### State Outcome overview and 2022-23 investment

This Outcome captures the assistance provided to people who are unable to access or maintain appropriate housing. This assistance allows those in need of assistance to live independently within society.

The services supporting this Outcome are delivered by the Department of Communities and Justice and include homelessness services and social housing.



\$1.2  
billion

Recurrent  
Expenses  
2022-23



\$8.0  
million

Capital  
Expenditure  
2022-23

### 2022-23 State Outcome Budget highlights

In 2022-23, the Stronger Communities Cluster will invest \$1.2 billion (\$1.2 billion in recurrent expenses and \$8.0 million in capital expenditure) in this Outcome, including:

- \$773.9 million for social housing, supporting secure and affordable housing for people on low incomes. This includes:
  - \$55.4 million over two years, including \$37.0 million to support construction of 120 new dwellings in partnership with Community Housing Providers and \$18.4 million to extend leasing packages and associated support as part of the Together Home program
  - \$20.0 million in 2022-23 as part of the \$50 million commitment under the NSW Government's *Economic Recovery Strategy* to deliver 290 new dwellings in partnership with Community Housing Providers.
- \$394.8 million to deliver a range of homelessness services across New South Wales, including:
  - An additional \$8.6 million (\$13.1 million over two years) to continue support provided during the COVID-19 pandemic for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness to secure stable accommodation in the private rental market
  - \$1.5 million in 2022-23 (as part of a \$17.2 million package) to continue temporary accommodation support in response to the February and March 2022 storms and floods.

## Key performance insights

This section provides analysis and insights on key Outcome Indicators for this State Outcome.

### Number of homeless persons in New South Wales living in improvised dwellings, tents, or sleeping out

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health orders put in place, the NSW Government increased temporary accommodation funding. During the COVID-19 outbreak people sleeping rough were actively supported to access temporary accommodation by assertive outreach services and there was a 37 per cent increase in the number of assertive outreach patrols during that time.

Since 1 July 2021, the NSW Government has supported 22,416 households by way of temporary accommodation, including support for 4,517 rough sleeping households. Of the rough sleeping households, 1,256 were supported into temporary accommodation by assertive outreach services. Over this same period, assertive outreach services housed 384 people who were sleeping rough and undertook 4,260 assertive outreach patrols.

The NSW Government has also initiated programs to improve the performance of this Outcome indicator. This includes the Transition-2-Home program, which will provide facilitation and financial assistance for some clients who were in temporary accommodation during any of the NSW COVID-19 public health stay-at-home orders that commenced in June 2021. This assistance will be provided in the form of a rental subsidy for up to 12 months to support securing and sustaining private rental accommodation.

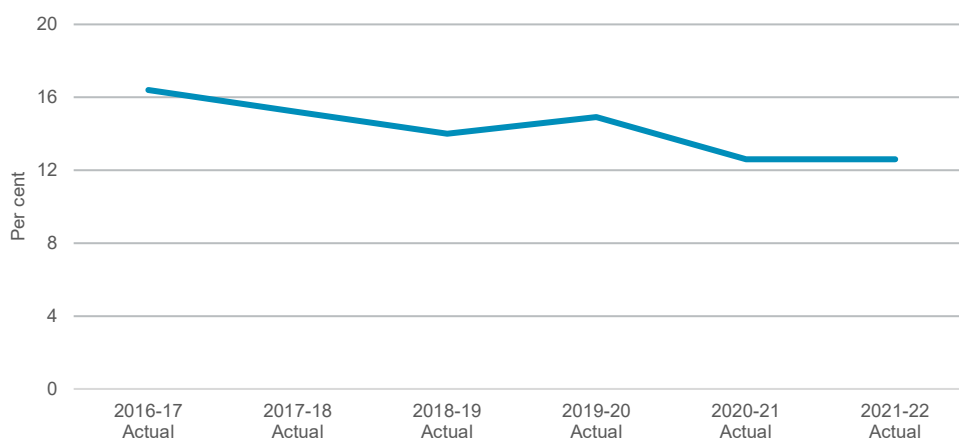
Further, a record investment in October 2021 of over \$420 million over four years was invested to expand the Core and Cluster program, to deliver and operate around 75 extra women's refuges to support women and children escaping domestic and family violence.

### Proportion of tenants successfully transitioning out of social housing annually

The proportion of tenants successfully transitioning out of social housing annually has fallen in 2020-21.

Performance against this indicator is impacted by insufficient affordable housing supply and broader economic conditions. Housing affordability remains an issue across New South Wales with low vacancy rates in the low end of the private rental market.

Chart 8.10: Proportion of tenants successfully transitioning out of social housing annually

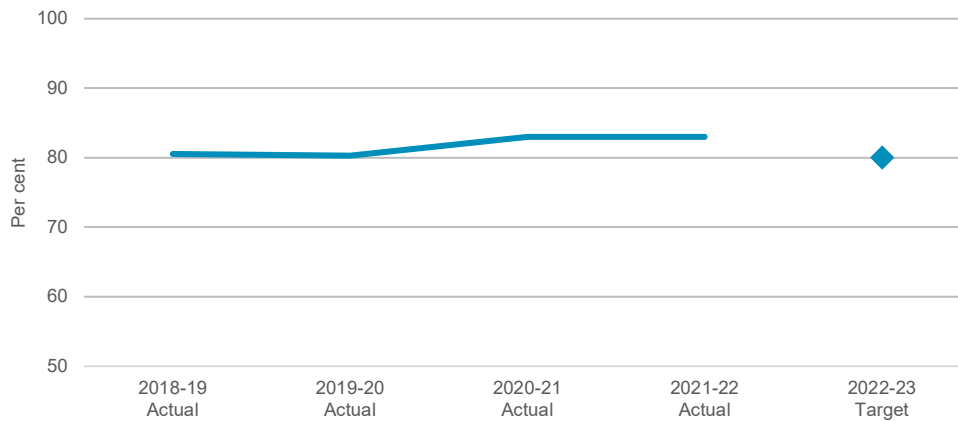




## Proportion of social housing applicants each year who are diverted from social housing to the private rental market, not returning for further assistance 12 months later

Performance against this indicator continues to exceed the performance target. While the rate of people receiving payments or subsidies not needing support for 12 months remains high, the rate of uptake of Rent Choice subsidies has dropped during 2020-21.

Chart 8.11: Proportion of social housing applicants each year who are diverted from social housing to the private rental market not returning for further assistance 12 months later



## Performance indicators for this Outcome

Outcome Indicators	Units	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Forecast <sup>(a)</sup>
Number of homeless persons in New South Wales living in improvised dwellings, tents, or sleeping out	no.	2,588 <sup>(b)</sup>	N/A
Proportion of social housing applicants each year who are diverted from social housing to the private rental market not returning for further assistance 12 months later	%	83.0 <sup>(c)</sup>	N/A
Proportion of tenants successfully transitioning out of social housing annually	%	12.6 <sup>(c)</sup>	N/A
Median wait time of newly housed priority applicants	months	2.2 <sup>(c)</sup>	N/A

### Notes:

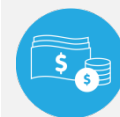
- (a) Forecast data not currently available.
- (b) Census data as at August 2016.
- (c) Latest information available as at June 2021.

## 8.7 Outcome 5: Prepared for disasters and emergencies

### State Outcome overview and 2022-23 investment

This Outcome focuses on the duties and responsibilities of the emergency services, including co-ordination of emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery operations.

It is comprised of the operations under Resilience NSW, Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW), the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS), and the NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES). Significant activity in 2022-23 will relate to supporting communities across New South Wales impacted by the severe weather, storms and flooding in February and March 2022.



\$3.9  
billion

Recurrent  
Expenses  
2022-23



\$255.8  
million

Capital  
Expenditure  
2022-23

### 2022-23 State Outcome Budget highlights

In 2022-23, the Stronger Communities Cluster will invest \$4.2 billion (\$3.9 billion recurrent expenses and \$255.8 million capital expenditure) in this Outcome, including:

- \$1.4 billion (\$2.1 billion over three years) for Resilience NSW, to support the NSW Government's response to the February and March 2022 storms and floods, with funding to be provided to various Government agencies to:
  - support disaster clean up
  - deliver State and Local government transport infrastructure resilience improvements and upgrades in the Northern Rivers
  - provide temporary housing assistance packages
  - provide an extension of recovery grants to primary producers and small businesses and not-for-profit organisations
  - deliver critical infrastructure and housing priorities
- \$215.1 million and \$4.1 million capital expenditure (\$370.8 million and \$29.5 million in capital expenditure over four years) in response to the March and November 2021 flood events, and recommendations made in the New South Wales Bushfire Inquiry into the 2019-20 bushfires, including:
  - \$200.3 million for Resilience NSW, for Disaster Relief Account Supplementation to meet the expenditure requirements of existing disaster recovery programs. This relates to restoration of local government essential public asset infrastructure and other issues from the March and November 2021 flood events
  - \$14.8 million and \$1.1 million capital expenditure (\$170.3 million over four years and \$20.5 million capital expenditure) for RFS NSW
  - \$3.0 million capital expenditure (\$9.0 million over three years) for FRNSW for the replacement of bushfire firefighting tankers to boost critical bushfire fighting capabilities and improve firefighter safety
- \$14.8 million and \$1.2 million capital expenditure (\$114.6 million and \$18.1 million capital expenditure over four years) in response to the March and November 2021 flood events and the 2021 Flood Events and Facilities Review, to enable the NSW SES to better respond to, understand, plan and prepare for flood and storm events
- \$6.0 million in capital expenditure (\$21.0 million over four years) for FRNSW to increase women's participation in the FRNSW workforce and enhance workplace safety.

## Key performance insights

This section provides analysis and insights on key Outcome Indicators for this State Outcome.

### Number of dwellings that have sustained damage or were destroyed by fire

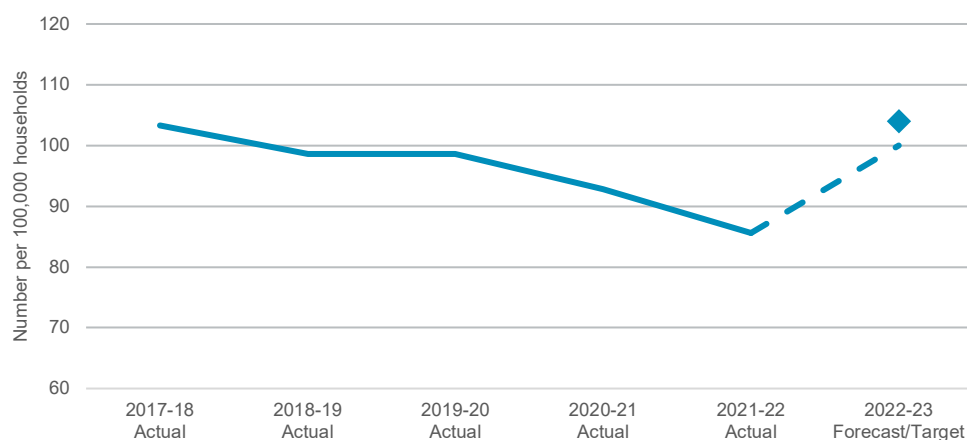
Performance against this indicator continues to improve, with a downward trend in the number of accidental residential structure fires per 100,000 households each year since 2018-19.

The low rate of fires in 2021-22 could reflect the relatively mild and wet conditions that were experienced during this period. The high levels of rainfall also resulted in a significant decline in bushfire activity and subsequently fewer structure fires related to bush and grass fires.

Another driver in improving performance is the long-term impacts of the delivery of fire safety education, prevention and preparedness programs to create a safer environment and build resilience. FRNSW continues to focus effort on the Safety Visits program for at-risk groups, as well as delivering educational presentations to pre-school and primary school children, educational programs to older adults, and community safety activities across New South Wales to Indigenous Australians. The NSW RFS continues to deliver the Home Fire Safety program to local communities including schools, encouraging homeowners in rural areas to be home fire safe.

FRNSW continues to monitor areas of emerging risk, for example, increased use of batteries for power storage and in electric vehicles. This is being monitored closely and FRNSW is engaging with users to learn about any new risks and mitigations.

Chart 8.12: Number of dwellings that have sustained damage or were destroyed by fire



### Average response time to emergency incidents

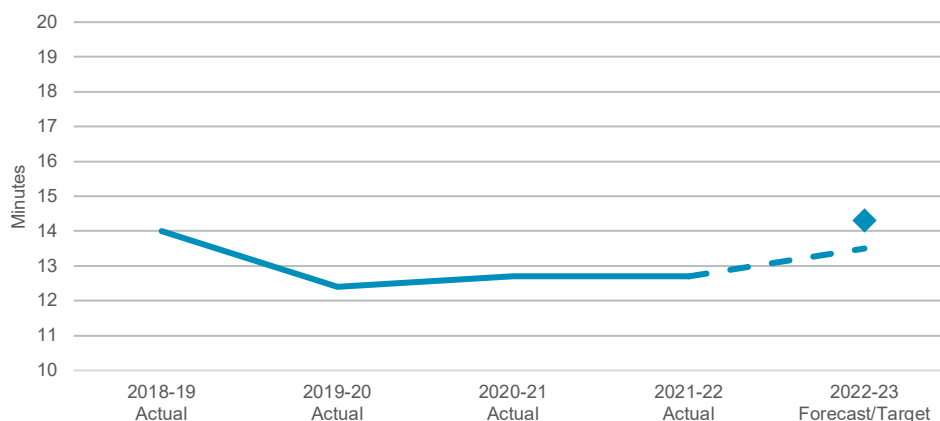
Average response times, measured by the time taken to attend structure fires, remain consistent.

Fewer incidents place less demand on fire services and individual stations, so that readiness to respond improves. During the three months to 31 March 2022, many strike teams were deployed to the areas of northern and other parts of New South Wales affected by storms and floods, with an expectation that average response times may be affected. FRNSW has a focus on response in urban areas, which is reflected in this data, compared to NSW RFS, who deal predominantly with a more widely distributed community and associated response times.

A range of factors could impact performance in the future. For example, crew availability has been tested by the Omicron COVID-19 outbreak, which caused firefighters to be absent from work from either direct infection or under close contact rules.

The NSW RFS is implementing a new Computer Aided Dispatch system across our rural fire districts which will facilitate improved response by rural fire brigades.

Chart 8.13: Average response time to emergency incidents



## Percentage of emergency management training participants that are satisfied or very satisfied

Feedback from students remains positive with overall satisfaction with New South Wales Emergency Management Program (eLearning) achieving targets.

While targets are being achieved and student satisfaction remains high, Resilience NSW is still working to improve its training programs, with modifications to four training modules underway to provide greater clarity around emergency management arrangements and assessment questions.

## Performance indicators for this Outcome

Outcome Indicators	Units	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Forecast <sup>(c)</sup>
Average response times to emergency incidents	mins	12.7 <sup>(b)</sup>	<13.5
Number of dwellings that have sustained damage or were destroyed by fire as a result of an emergency or disaster event	no. <sup>(a)</sup>	85.6	<100.0
Councils with up-to-date emergency management plans	%	100.0	100.0
Emergency management training participants that are satisfied	%	95.0	95.0
All natural disaster declarations within the three-month deadline	%	100.0	100.0

### Notes:

(a) Number of dwellings per 100,000 households.

(b) Current year data presented from July 2021 to March 2022.

(c) Forecast presented is to June 2023.

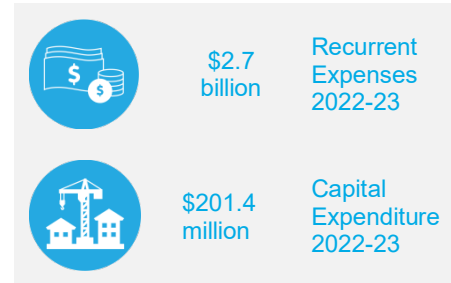
## 8.8 Outcome 6: Reduce reoffending

### State Outcome overview and 2022-23 investment

This Outcome relates to the State's corrections system, including support for, and management of, adult and youth offenders in correctional centres and the community.

The Cluster works to achieve this Outcome through focusing on the following strategic priorities:

- reducing adult and youth reoffending
- reducing domestic and family violence reoffending in both adults and youths
- addressing Aboriginal over-representation in both adult and youth justice systems
- addressing the needs of women and young female offenders
- countering terrorism and violent extremism.



### 2022-23 State Outcome Budget highlights

In 2022-23, the Stronger Communities Cluster will invest \$2.9 billion (\$2.7 billion recurrent expenses and \$201.4 million capital expenditure) in this Outcome, including:

- \$2.5 billion in recurrent expenses and \$189.0 million in capital expenditure, for the management of adult offenders in custody and in the community, through programs to reduce reoffending and to support integration, including:
  - \$29.6 million capital expenditure (under the \$40.4 million investment from the Digital Restart Fund) to continue to transform prisoner rehabilitation by providing inmates access to digital rehabilitation programs and services such as the inmate learning portal, library and mental health services
  - \$6.0 million capital expenditure to refurbish cells to improve safety for inmates and staff.
  - \$4.9 million (\$20.2 million over four years) to increase supervision of medium and above risk adult offenders when exiting correctional facilities, which will result in improvements in recidivism rates
  - \$600,000 (as part of a \$1.2 million package) to support the NSW Government's commitment to meet the outcomes the Cluster has responsibility for, under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap to increase culturally strong pre- and post-release supports and reduce re-incarceration for Aboriginal people in New South Wales through the Aboriginal Throughcare Strategy
- \$249.8 million in recurrent expenses and \$12.4 million capital expenditure to support the management of youth offenders in custody and in the community in New South Wales.

## Key performance insights

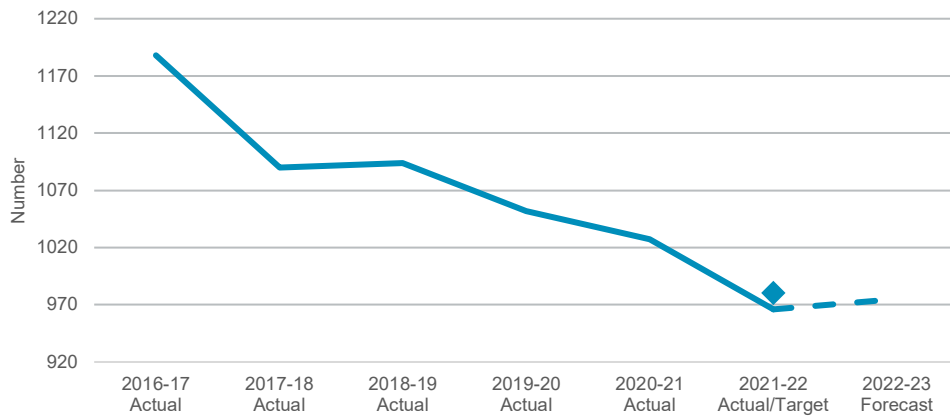
This section provides analysis and insights on key Outcome Indicators for this State Outcome.

### Number of young people each year who reoffend within 12 months of participation in a Youth Justice Conference or completion of a custodial order or sentence to a supervision order

Performance against this indicator is on track to exceed the target. While the number of young people charged has slightly increased since September 2021, this is likely a result of fewer charges being made while COVID-19 public health restrictions were in place.

Custodial reforms initiated at the end of 2020 are providing a greater focus on therapeutic service delivery models especially for those in medium and high-risk cohorts. This will deliver further improvements to the reoffending rate across the medium and long-term.

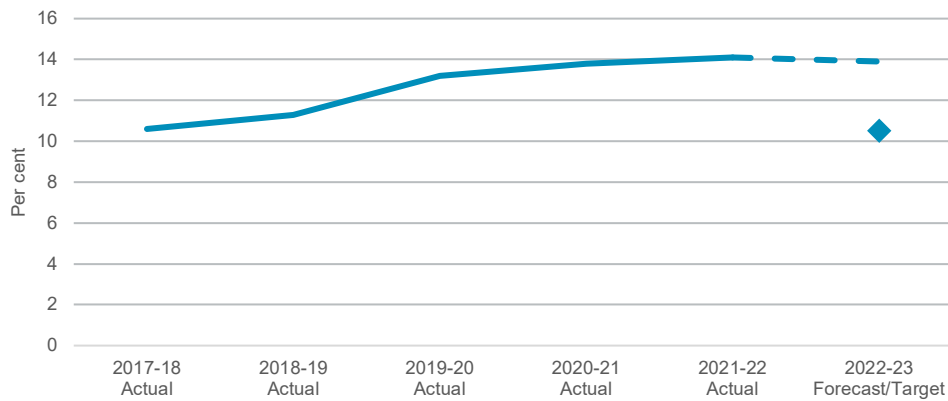
*Chart 8.14: Number of young people each year who reoffend within 12 months of participation in a Youth Justice Conference or completion of a custodial order or sentence to a supervision order*



### Proportion of adult offenders receiving a supervised community sentence who have a new proven personal, property or serious drug offence within 12 months of sentence

Performance against this indicator remains challenging. However, rehabilitation services and support for this cohort have been identified as effective in reducing the likelihood of reoffending. The Remote Service Delivery Team continue to support offices with workloads, and the new Risk Assessment Tool remains in operation. Reoffending data suggests there is a changing cohort of offenders on community-based orders.

Chart 8.15: *Proportion of adult offenders receiving a supervised community sentence who have a new proven personal, property or serious drug offence within 12 months of sentence*



**Proportion of adult offenders released from custody who have a new proven personal, property or serious drug offence in the 12 months following release**

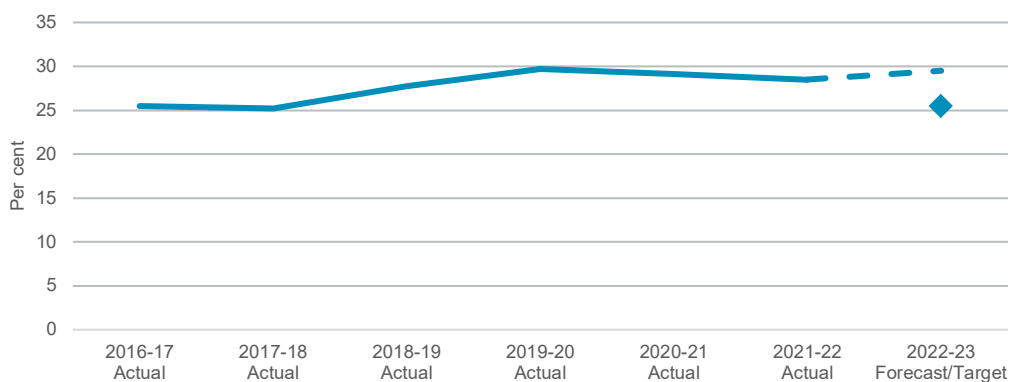
The annual average reoffending rate has fallen in six consecutive quarters. However, there continues to be an impact on operations due to COVID-19 including capacity to deliver treatment to higher risk offenders as well as offenders' ability to resettle into the community due to disruptions with community services and support. As such, performance against this indicator remains challenging.

There is a significant association between traineeship participation in prison and reductions in reoffending (as at May 2021). The number of people participating in traineeships since 2020-21 has increased significantly and participation in traineeships has been prioritised this year.

Digital technology has been rolled out to 13 prisons and funding has been approved to expand digital technology to 17 additional prisons over the next two years. Access to digital technology has helped to alleviate the COVID-19 pandemic impacts in prisons and will increase inmates' access to rehabilitative supports and services.

Interim measures such as in-cell activities and individual treatment options have mitigated the risks of non, or insufficient, participation and programs previously paused due to COVID-19 are all being rescheduled.

Chart 8.16: *Proportion of adult offenders released from custody who have a new proven personal, property or serious drug offence in the 12 months following release*



### Performance indicators for this Outcome

Outcome Indicators	Units	2021-22 Actual <sup>(a)</sup>	2022-23 Forecast
Number of young people each year who reoffend within 12 months of participation in a Youth Justice Conference or completion of a custodial order or sentence to a supervision order	no.	966	975
Proportion of adult offenders receiving a supervised community sentence who have a new proven personal, property or serious drug offence within 12 months of sentence	%	14.1	13.9
Proportion of adult offenders released from custody who have a new proven personal, property or serious drug offence in the 12 months following release	%	28.5	29.5

Notes:

(a) Current year actuals are presented based on the September 2020 cohort, as annual average reoffending data is to September 2021.



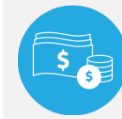
## 8.9 Outcome 7: Safer communities

### State Outcome overview and 2022-23 investment

This Outcome captures activities relating to preventing, detecting and investigating crime, maintaining social order and community safety, promoting road safety, and supporting emergency management.

This Outcome is delivered by the NSW Police Force and the NSW Crime Commission, who focus on:

- preventing, disrupting and responding to crime, including serious and organised criminal activities
- monitoring and promoting road safety
- maintaining social order
- performing and coordinating emergency and rescue operations
- confiscating the proceeds of crime.



\$5.0  
billion

Recurrent  
Expenses  
2022-23



\$507.7  
million

Capital  
Expenditure  
2022-23

### 2022-23 State Outcome Budget highlights

In 2022-23, the Stronger Communities Cluster will invest \$5.5 billion (\$5.0 billion recurrent expenses and \$507.7 million capital expenditure) in this Outcome, including:

- \$5.0 billion for the NSW Police Force, which includes \$95.9 million for 550 additional police, as part of the State's commitment to deliver 1,500 new police over four years to enhance the State's crime fighting capability and keep the community safe
- \$507.0 million capital expenditure for the NSW Police Force, which includes:
  - \$18.8 million (\$96.3 million over five years) for the maintenance and improvement of in-car digital systems, connectivity between body-worn video and Glock pistols and tasers
  - \$12.9 million (\$48.7 million over four years) to establish an ongoing refresh program for major Information and Communication Technology infrastructure, under the Technology Asset Refresh Program
  - \$400,000 (\$52.7 million over five years) for the construction of new regional police stations to maximise productivity and meet the current and future needs of the NSW Police Force and community at Port Macquarie and Byron Bay
  - \$2.6 million (\$18.6 million over four years) for the replacement of various specialised vehicles allocated to a broad range of commands, including Command and Control Vehicles, Search and Rescue Vehicles, and Operational Support Vehicles
  - \$2.6 million (\$13.8 million over four years) for the Integrated Biometric Platform to deliver a multi-modal biometric capture platform to provide a comprehensive profile of an offender, including DNA, fingerprints and imagery
  - \$1.8 million (\$9.5 million over four years) to upgrade the Police Driver Training facilities and the gym and recreational centre at the Goulburn Police Academy.
- \$31.3 million and \$700,000 capital expenditure to support the NSW Crime Commission in reducing the incidence of organised and other serious crime across the State.

## Key performance insights

This section provides analysis and insights on key Outcome Indicators for this State Outcome.

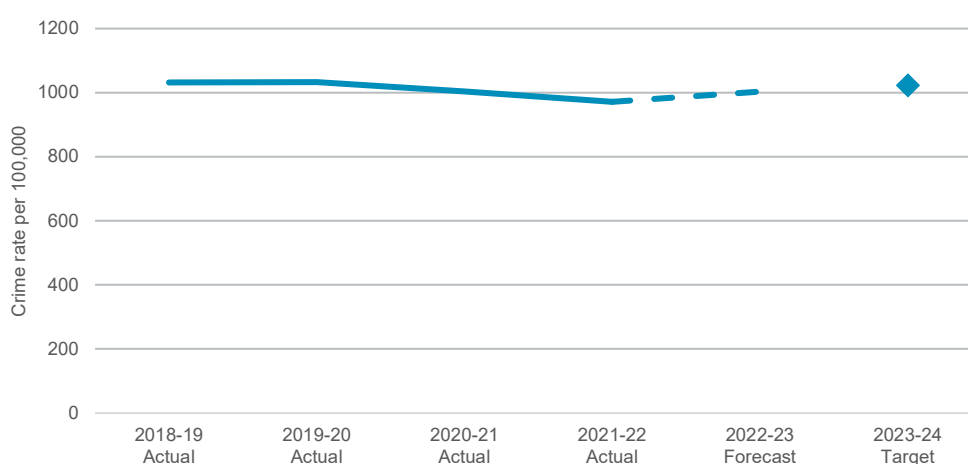
### Rate of violent crime in New South Wales per 100,000 population

Performance against this indicator has been trending down over the past five years and is forecast to remain below target based on the three-year average.

The most recent New South Wales Recorded Crime Statistics released by the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) indicated that for the 24 months to December 2021, murder and robbery were down. The remaining violence offence categories are stable.

Many crimes fell sharply as a result of the second COVID-19 lockdown and while violent crime returned to pre-pandemic levels by June 2021, since July 2021 violent offences declined following the introduction of COVID-19 containment measures.

Chart 8.17: Rate of violent crime in New South Wales per 100,000 population



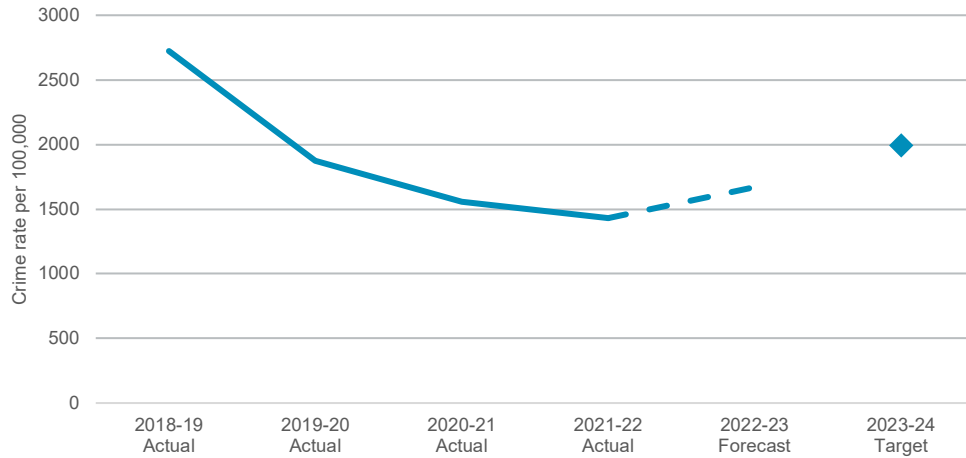
### Rate of property crime in New South Wales per 100,000 population

Property crime continues to trend downwards, with forecast performance to remain below target based on current trends. Property crime has fallen in line with the measures to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic since April 2020 and is yet to return to pre-pandemic levels.

The most recent New South Wales Recorded Crime Statistics released by the New South Wales Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) indicated that for the 24 months to December 2021, the major property offence, motor vehicle theft, is trending down.

The following major property offence categories were stable: break and enter dwelling, break and enter non-dwelling, steal from retail store, malicious damage to property, steal from motor vehicle, and other stealing offences. In line with the second COVID-19 lockdown, property crime has fallen and the level of property crime in New South Wales is currently at the lowest level on record.

Chart 8.18: Rate of property crime in NSW per 100,000 population

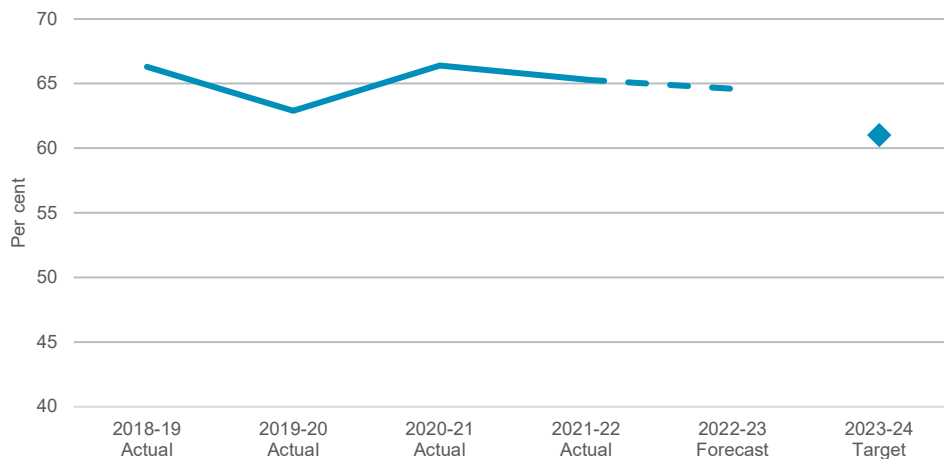


### Percentage of people who feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood at night

Performance against this indicator has remained stable over the past five years. Survey data has been consistently above target each year since 2018 and is forecast to remain above target.

Community perceptions of safety are influenced by a range of factors, including media reporting of crime and antisocial behaviour.

Chart 8.19: Percentage of people who feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood at night



## Performance indicators for this Outcome

Outcome Indicators	Units	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 Forecast
Percentage of people who feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood at night	%	65.3 <sup>(a)</sup>	64.6 <sup>(b)</sup>
Rate of domestic violence related assault incidents recorded by police involving grievous bodily harm	no.	4.5 <sup>(c)</sup>	4.6 <sup>(d)</sup>
Rate of property crime in NSW per 100,000 population	no.	1,430.7 <sup>(c)</sup>	1,670.1 <sup>(d)</sup>
Rate of recorded incidents of fraud in NSW per 100,000 population	no.	549.7 <sup>(c)</sup>	607.6 <sup>(d)</sup>
Rate of violent crime in NSW per 100,000 population	no.	971.5 <sup>(c)</sup>	1,003.4 <sup>(d)</sup>

Notes:

- (a) Current year actuals presented for April 2021 to March 2022.
- (b) Data is forecasted to March 2023.
- (c) Current year actuals presented for January to December 2021.
- (d) Data is forecasted to December 2022.