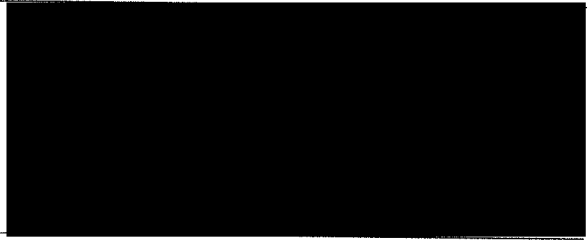


**IN THE MATTER OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION
INTO FAMILY VIOLENCE**

ATTACHMENT 'MS-6' TO STATEMENT OF MELISSA SKILBECK

Date of Document: 12 October 2015
Filed on behalf of: State of Victoria
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This is attachment **'MS-6'** produced and shown to **MELISSA SKILBECK** at the time of signing her statement on 12 October 2015.

Attachment MS-6

CHAPTER 1 – OUTPUT, ASSET INVESTMENT, SAVINGS AND REVENUE INITIATIVES

Budget Paper No. 3 *Service Delivery* outlines the Government's priorities for the goods and services it provides to Victorians, and details the budget decisions the Government has taken to implement its agenda.

The *2015-16 Budget* provides funding of \$9.17 billion in output initiatives and up to \$22.03 billion in new capital investment. This will ensure services are delivered more equitably and help improve the long term liveability and productivity of Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Budget Paper No. 3 *Service Delivery* provides information on how the Government is meeting its performance targets for delivering outputs to the community, and how these outputs contribute to key objectives.

This budget paper outlines initiatives that are being funded in this budget, including commitments made to deliver on the Government's election commitments as published in Labor's Financial Statement 2014.

Refocusing on core service delivery

To ensure that all Victorians continue to enjoy high quality economic and social infrastructure, this budget restores funding to critical core services, including health and education.

The Government's service delivery program places priority on supporting the most vulnerable, including people experiencing family violence and those affected by the increasing harm caused by ice addiction. Action taken in this budget to address these issues and make our communities safer includes:

- \$81 million to support the Royal Commission into Family Violence and to provide funding in the interim across a range of portfolios to strengthen services' response capacity and capabilities, as well as improve support to survivors of family violence;
- \$250 million to strengthen the child protection and family services systems, including additional child protection and family services workers, as well as further support to meet demand for out of home care; and
- \$45 million to implement Victoria's Ice Action Plan to reduce the supply, demand and harmful outcomes associated with the use of ice.

The Government is committed to establishing Victoria as a world leader in education and training, lifting the quality and condition of learning environments for all Victorians, and developing a strong and responsive training system that can meet the needs of our changing economy. This budget makes the largest investment in education in the state's history, including:

- over \$2.9 billion to lift funding levels of schools, meet increased enrolment and begin the work to make Victoria the Education State;
- \$688 million in additional funding from 2015-16 for schools capital investment, to build new schools and modernise and regenerate school facilities across Victoria;
- \$300 million for the TAFE Rescue Fund to reopen closed TAFE campuses, upgrade buildings, workshops, labs and classrooms, and support institutes under financial stress; and
- \$50 million to establish the TAFE Back to Work Fund to ensure TAFEs better meet the training needs of businesses that hire unemployed youth, the long term unemployed and retrenched workers.

High quality and accessible health services are critical to Victorians enjoying a better quality of life and increased productivity. The Government is modernising Victoria's hospitals, particularly in our growing suburbs, and investing in rural and regional health care to address inequalities in health outcomes. Investment in health services is increased through this Budget including:

- over \$1.2 billion to meet increasing hospital demand growth;
- over \$560 million to modernise Victorian hospitals and increase the capacity of public hospital infrastructure;
- over \$150 million to provide up to 830 additional individual support packages to provide care and support for people with a disability, their families and carers; and
- more than \$100 million over 4 years for mental health to meet demand growth and fund new services.

Reflecting the importance of the State's emergency services, funding is being provided to ensure responsiveness and better outcomes for all Victorians and support more resources for police and emergency services through:

- \$99 million to meet demand for ambulance services, assist with the timely transfer of ambulance patients to emergency departments, and upgrade ambulance stations and equipment;
- \$30 million to implement all recommendations of the Hazelwood Coal Mine Fire Inquiry
- \$148.6 million for new custody offices at police stations – allowing 400 police officers to return to the front line; and
- \$46 million to upgrade and replace firefighting equipment and stations for the Country Fire Authority.

Growing jobs and the economy

The Government is supporting job creation and economic growth by building on Victoria's strengths, including our skilled workforce, diverse industry base and strong transport links.

Victoria needs to have an accessible, efficient and reliable transport system that links people and jobs across the state. The Government's major projects agenda will deliver a well-planned and integrated transport network, and provide a sustainable pipeline of productive, appropriate and economically justifiable works that will create jobs and increase productivity, including:

- \$9 billion to \$11 billion to deliver the Melbourne Metro Rail Project, including \$1.5 billion over the forward estimates to complete the planning and design of the project and to commence construction by 2018;
- \$5 billion to \$6 billion in total capital investment, including \$2 billion to \$2.4 billion over the forward estimates, to implement the Government's commitment to remove 50 level crossings over eight years to reduce congestion and improve safety for cars and trains;
- \$1.3 billion to procure 37 high capacity metro trains for deployment on the Cranbourne-Pakenham rail corridor, and construct a new maintenance depot and associated infrastructure upgrade. This will upgrade and transform Melbourne's busiest train line, and free up existing trains to meet demand on other lines; and
- \$445 million to invest in new E-Class trams, provide 24 hour public transport services on weekends and improve Victoria's bus networks in Melbourne's growth areas.

The budget actively supports Victoria's competitive advantages through initiatives that leverage our world class education and research institutions and liveable cities and regions, and supports our position as a high-skill, high-wage economy.

Key investments include:

- establishing a partnership between Government and industry through the Premier's Jobs and Investment Fund to implement investments of \$508 million to improve business conditions, remove impediments to growth, and connect with overseas markets;
- leveraging local government and business investment in job creation projects in rural and regional Victoria through the creation of a \$500 million Regional Jobs and Infrastructure Fund; and
- investing \$200 million into the Future Industries Fund to support development in sectors which have strong growth potential, including medical technology and pharmaceuticals, new energy technology, food and fibre processing and transport, defence and construction technology, international education and professional services.

WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT – FAMILY VIOLENCE

There is no commitment of greater importance to the Government than addressing the issue of family violence. It is the leading contributor to death, injury and disability in Victorian women aged 15 to 44 years, and is the greatest community safety issue that confronts Victorians.

In December 2014, Victoria announced the appointment of its first Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence. In February this year, the Victorian Government established Australia's first Royal Commission into Family Violence. Chaired by Justice Marcia Neave AO, the Commission is due to deliver its recommendations by 29 February 2016.

The Royal Commission delivers on the Government's election commitment and will inform the way we respond to family violence in the future and prevent it from occurring in the first place.

In Victoria, the most recent Victorian crime statistics show that there were more than 68 000 incidents of family violence reported to Victoria Police in 2014 – an increase of more than 70 per cent from 2010. The attention of the community gathered by the Royal Commission also has the effect of placing further pressure on services.

The *2015-16 Budget* responds to the increasing demand for family violence services. This includes targeting the needs of people who are particularly vulnerable to experiencing family violence, such as Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Many initiatives are funded for one year with the expectation that the 2016-17 budget will respond to the Royal Commission's recommendations.

Funding is provided that delivers on the Government's election commitments in full.

Output initiatives

Table 1.1: Output initiatives – Family Violence

	(\$ million)				
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Boost to Domestic Violence Victoria	..	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Child protection flexible responses	..	3.9	..	..	..
Community Legal Centre assistance fund	..	1.0	1.0	..	..
Coroners Court Death Review Unit	..	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Counselling services for women and children	..	2.5	..	..	..
Crisis support and transport for women and children	..	2.5	..	..	..
Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) family violence response	..	1.0	1.0	..	..
Family violence duty lawyers at community legal centres	..	1.2	..	..	..
Family Violence Fund ^(a)	2.0	14.0	..	..	..
Family Violence legal assistance	..	2.1	..	..	..
Family Violence Royal Commission engagement	..	1.2	..	..	..
Men's behaviour change programs – Corrections Victoria	..	1.0	1.0	..	..
Men's behaviour change programs – Courts	..	0.5	..	..	..
Men's family violence services	..	1.0	..	..	..
Personal safety	..	0.9	..	..	..
Pet welfare ^(b)	..	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Prevention of violence against women and children	..	2.0	..	..	..
Reducing Aboriginal family violence	..	1.3	..	..	..
Responses for Aboriginal people	..	0.6	..	..	..
Royal Commission into Family Violence ^(c)	16.0	20.0	..	..	..
Sexual assault services demand	..	0.3	..	..	..
Support for Ballarat Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA)	..	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Victorian Court safety audit	..	0.1	..	..	..
Total output initiatives ^(d)	18.0	57.9	3.8	0.8	0.8

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance

Notes:

(a) Components of the Family Violence Fund are outlined below. This includes funding previously allocated to commence in 2014-15 and later re-phased to commence in 2015-16.

(b) Funding is represented as \$0.0 due to rounding. \$100 000 over four years is allocated to Pet welfare.

(c) This is the funding provided directly to the Royal Commission with the balance of the \$40 million announced in the 2014-15 Budget Update (\$4 million) provided for initiatives funded through the Family Violence Fund.

(d) Tables may not add due to rounding.

Family Violence Fund

Through its activities, the Royal Commission will uncover urgent need for funding or unforeseen demand on services. The Family Violence Fund has been created to respond to these matters. The Fund includes \$4 million for services announced at the time of the Royal Commission's establishment, and a further investment of \$6 million for 2015-16. Allocation of the funds will be made over the life of the Royal Commission.

Components of the Family Violence Fund

	(\$million)					
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Total
Crisis support and transport for women and children	1.00	..	..	..	..	1.00
Counselling services for children and women	1.00	..	..	..	..	1.00
Family violence access workers	..	2.00	..	..	..	2.00
Other family violence activities across Government	..	6.00	..	..	..	6.00
Family Violence Fund (remaining)	..	6.00	..	..	..	6.00
Total	2.00	14.00	..	..	..	16.00

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance

Other new and existing initiatives

In addition to the new family violence package, there are a number of initiatives funded in the 2015-16 Budget for the Department of Health and Human Services that will also contribute to the Government's response to family violence. In particular, the following initiatives include a direct response to victims of family violence:

- Homelessness Innovation Action Projects (\$40.3 million over four years and ongoing) which will continue a number of projects to provide innovative early intervention approaches for people experiencing, or at risk, of homelessness, including women escaping family violence and their children; and
- Child FIRST and Family Services (\$48.1 million over four years and ongoing) which will strengthen the system's capacity to assist vulnerable families, including those experiencing family violence.

New funding included in the 2015-16 Budget will build on the Government's existing investment across portfolios to address family violence. In 2015-16 this includes funding for other specialist initiatives that will commence in this year, including:

- Court Integrated Services Program expansion (\$7.1 million over three years);
- Specialist family violence courts program expansion (\$12 million over four years); and
- Information sharing and risk monitoring pilot (\$2.5 million over two years).

Under the Government, total new expenditure directed at family violence in 2015-16 is around \$71 million inclusive of the new \$57.9 million family violence package.

2015-16 Budget *Family Violence package – output initiatives*

Boost to Domestic Violence Victoria

Additional staff will increase the capacity of Domestic Violence Victoria to provide advocacy on family violence issues and develop best practice guidance for the family violence service sector.

This initiative delivers on the Government's election commitment as published in Labor's Financial Statement 2014.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Housing Assistance output.

Child protection flexible responses

Additional child protection and family violence support workers will provide assistance to women and children experiencing family violence. Family violence specialist workers will be co-located in child protection offices to support comprehensive assessment and response.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection and Family Services output.

Community Legal Centre assistance fund

A Community Legal Centre assistance fund will provide a range of supports for Community Legal Centres to deliver general programs and services such as family violence co-ordinators and lawyers, and online services for rural and regional youth.

This initiative delivers on the Government's election commitment as published in Labor's Financial Statement 2014.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Justice and Regulation's Access to Justice and Support Services output.

Coroners Court Death Review Unit

The Victorian Systemic Review of Family Violence Deaths will be re-established within the Coroners Court Death Review Unit. This review will undertake specialist investigative analysis into family violence related deaths, identifying individual and systemic determinants to inform future policy development.

This initiative delivers on the Government's election commitment as published in Labor's Financial Statement 2014.

This initiative contributes to the Courts output.

Counselling services for women and children

Additional counselling and support will be provided to women and children experiencing or recovering from family violence.

This initiative delivers on the Government's election commitment as published in Labor's Financial Statement 2014.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection and Family Services output.

Crisis support and transport for women and children

Crisis response services will be increased to better assist women and children experiencing family violence. This initiative will fund an additional 15 000 nights of accommodation as well as more workers to support women and children seeking assistance.

This initiative delivers on the Government's election commitment as published in Labor's Financial Statement 2014.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Housing Assistance output.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) family violence response

Services that respond to women and children experiencing family violence will be provided additional funding to ensure that they can provide assistance in a culturally appropriate manner. Support will also be provided to CALD communities to encourage access to family violence support services.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Multicultural Affairs Policy and Programs output.

Family violence access workers

An additional 15 family violence workers will respond to referrals from Victoria Police following attendance at family violence incidents. This will enable more women and children experiencing family violence to be assisted.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Housing Assistance output.

Family violence duty lawyers at community legal centres

Additional family violence duty lawyers will be provided to support victims, particularly women and children, in the Magistrates' Court.

This initiative delivers on the Government's election commitment as published in Labor's Financial Statement 2014.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Justice and Regulation's Access to Justice and Support Services output.

Family Violence legal assistance

Free family violence legal advice and support services will be continued to ensure proper representation for family violence related matters.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Justice and Regulation's Access to Justice and Support Services output.

Family Violence Royal Commission engagement

Additional staff will be employed to coordinate the work of agencies preparing to engage and respond to the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Women and Equality Policy and Programs output.

Men's behaviour change programs – Corrections Victoria

Corrections Victoria will expand their services to provide 64 men's behaviour change programs and assessment screenings for up to 516 offenders on mandated Community Corrections Orders.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Justice and Regulation's Prisoner Supervision and Support and Community-Based Offender Supervision outputs.

Men's behaviour change programs – Courts

The Magistrates' Court will expand men's behaviour change programs for perpetrators of family violence.

This initiative delivers on the Government's election commitment as published in Labor's Financial Statement 2014.

This initiative contributes to the Courts output.

Men's family violence services

Men's family violence services will be expanded to provide additional telephone counselling and intake services and an additional 300 voluntary places in behaviour change programs.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection and Family Services output.

Personal safety

A one-year pilot will be funded in four locations to assist women whose safety is at risk due to family violence to remain safely in their homes through the use of CCTV and an emergency alarm duress card. This initiative will include a safety audit of the home, CCTV and personal alarm monitoring as well as a statewide coordinator.

This initiative delivers on the Government's election commitment as published in Labor's Financial Statement 2014.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection and Family Services output.

Pet welfare

Harm to pets is a high-risk factor for family violence and women may delay reporting abuse because of safety concerns for pets. This funding is allocated to provide women and children escaping violence with access to pet foster care or rehoming programs at animal shelters.

This initiative delivers on the Government's election commitment as published in Labor's Financial Statement 2014.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection and Family Services output.

Prevention of family violence against women and children

Three evidence-based projects for preventing family violence against women and children will be extended. These projects target key settings (workplaces and local governments) and populations (women with disabilities), and will maintain Victoria's momentum in the area of prevention, pending the findings of the Family Violence Royal Commission.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Women and Equality Policy and Programs output.

Reducing Aboriginal family violence

Projects will commence to improve Victoria's immediate response to Aboriginal family violence, particularly in high risk communities. Projects will include targeted statewide and regional education and awareness campaigns, and evaluation projects will build the strategic monitoring and evaluation capability to ensure responses to Aboriginal family violence are informed by a robust evidence base.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Aboriginal Policy, Strengthening Aboriginal Cultural Heritage and Communities output.

Responses for Aboriginal people

Funding is provided to Aboriginal controlled community organisations to support Aboriginal people experiencing or recovering from family violence through the provision of support services.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Housing Assistance output.

Royal Commission into Family Violence

The Royal Commission into Family Violence will report by early 2016. The Royal Commission will investigate the system, including criminal law corrections, court, community services, alcohol and drug services, health services, housing, education and the tools available to Victoria Police.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Government-wide Leadership, Reform and Implementation output.

Sexual assault services demand

Two additional workers will be funded to provide a further 600 episodes of assistance for victims of sexual assault over the next four years in the west of Melbourne.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection and Family Services output.

Support for Ballarat Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA)

One additional worker will be funded at the Ballarat CASA to provide an additional 75 episodes of support each year to victims and survivors of sexual assault.

This initiative delivers on the Government's election commitment as published in Labor's Financial Statement 2014.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health and Human Services' Child Protection and Family Services output.

Victorian Court safety audit

A safety audit will be conducted to assess the physical structure and operation of the Magistrates' Court to ensure victims of family violence are safe and are not intimidated while attending court.

This initiative delivers on the Government's election commitment as published in Labor's Financial Statement 2014.

This initiative contributes to the Courts output.