The Hon Luke Donnellan MP

Minister for Child Protection  
Minister for Disability, Ageing and Carers

Monday, 27 May 2019

GIVING CHILDREN AND OUR ELDERLY THE VERY BEST CARE

The Andrews Labor Government is making Victoria fairer and stronger by improving services for those who count on them – including children in care, people with disability and the elderly, and their carers.

The *Victorian Budget 2019/20* invests $476.8 million to protect kids in care, the elderly and Victorians living with a disability, including a state-of-the-art residential aged care facility, respite services for carers and extra support for children being looked after by relatives.

The Labor Government is investing $81.6 million in a new 120-bed public residential aged care service in Wantirna, including 60 high-care beds and 60 aged care mental health beds.

The development will create a healthcare hub for older residents in Melbourne’s East, ensuring they get the care and compassion they need late in life – as we promised.

Every child deserves to feel safe – and to be safe. That’s why $116 million has been committed to support children unable to live with their biological parents to be placed with family.

After funding an additional 450 child protection workers last year – representing the biggest ever expansion of this critical workforce – $30 million has been provided over four years for an extra 44 child protection workers to continue their work.

A further $36.6 million will continue our landmark reforms focused on early intervention so that more kids have the settled and stable lives that they deserve, including trials of innovative new models of out of home care and support for Aboriginal children to stay connected to their culture.

The Labor Government is also looking after our carers, with $49.5 million for an additional 100,000 hours of respite services annually over four years, improved public transport concessions and support to local carer groups.

Too many Victorians living with a disability are being let down by the Federal Government’s botched rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The Budget includes $33.2 million to accommodate children with complex disabilities, and $9.45 million to establish a new registration scheme for Victoria’s disability workforce.

Victorians finding it hard to put food on the table will also get a helping hand, with $10 million to establish regional fresh food distribution hubs and $2.5 million for the FareShare charity kitchen in Abbotsford.

**Quotes attributable to Minister for Child Protection and Disability, Ageing and Carers Luke Donnellan**

*“We’re standing with the Victorians who need our help the most, because a fairer Victoria is a stronger Victoria.”*

*“A key part of this spending will provide a new public sector residential aged care service for the eastern suburbs, as part of the ongoing revamp of public aged care services across metropolitan Melbourne.”*

*“We’re also supporting Victoria’s more than 700,000 carers with more respite services and better public transport concessions – giving our carers the help they need to help others.”*