



Meeting emergency and crisis child protection needs

The Victorian Government has committed to provide funding of \$14.65 million over four years for child protection emergency and crisis response services to address the rising demand for after-hours emergency and crisis response services for children in need of protection or who are at risk of exploitation.

This funding will support after-hours child protection and youth justice services. It will:

- improve response times for after-hours emergency calls to child protection services
- enhance the capacity of the after hours child protection service to provide an outreach response to those children who require immediate protective attention
- address the significant increase in demand for after-hours assessment of young people for bail, to ensure appropriate diversion from remand
- expand the operation of the Streetworks Outreach Service.

The Streetworks Outreach Service is an after-hours service staffed by child protection officers that identifies, intervenes and protects vulnerable children including child protection clients and other vulnerable children, in the Melbourne Central Business District and St Kilda. This expansion will extend the service operating hours in order to address the needs of young people vulnerable to street based sexual and drug related exploitation.