



## Sexual assault counselling services for children

The 2009-10 State Budget allocates \$10.45 million over four years (\$2.2 million in 2009-10) to provide improved access to sexual assault counselling services for an additional 1,330 children each year.

Access to sensitive, timely counselling and therapeutic support is essential to minimise the long term effects of sexual assault.

The additional \$1.35 million in recurrent funding will enable an extra 770 children to receive specialised sexual assault counselling services each year and will continue the improvement in overall waiting times for this service throughout Victoria.

This funding makes recurrent the commitment of \$850,000 provided in 2007-08 and 2008-09 to deliver sexual assault counselling services to an additional 560 children on waiting lists.

This funding will be directly allocated to existing non government organisations providing sexual assault counselling to children.