



Robyn Preston MP

Member for Hawkesbury

MEDIA RELEASE

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2022-23 NSW BUDGET DELIVERS BRIGHTER BEGINNINGS FOR FAMILIES

The NSW Government is setting the stage for the State's prosperity, delivering a transformational Budget that will secure a brighter future for Hawkesbury by offering steadfast support for families, women and those most vulnerable in our community.

Member for Hawkesbury, Robyn Preston MP, welcomed the 2022-23 NSW Budget's blueprint for reform to create opportunity and help our people prosper.

"This Budget has focused on the health and safety of women, creating opportunities for women to have the choice to be more active in the workforce, education and boosting family budgets".

"By prioritising women, children and families the NSW Liberal Government has delivered a Budget that will build a stronger and brighter future for the people of Hawkesbury," Ms Preston said.

Women's health and safety is a priority of the NSW Government and this Budget is investing in programs and services to ensure that women in all stages of life feel safe and supported.

Some of these investments throughout NSW include:

- \$43.6 million to expand the Safer Pathway program to support victim-survivors of domestic and family violence
- \$30 million allocated to create the Safer Cities program, an initiative to upgrade public places across NSW by delivering improved lighting and infrastructure designed to better meet the safety needs of women and girls
- \$80 million over four years to extend and expand the Affordable IVF Program to assist families with the high costs associated with pre-IVF fertility testing, fertility treatments and preservation
- \$40 million to ensure women struggling with menopause have access to a network of dedicated health services

This Budget is investing \$16.5 billion over 10 years to create more avenues of opportunity for women and help give our children the best start in life.

By investing in affordable and accessible childcare, more women will have the choice to enter the workforce or take on more hours which will increase female workforce participation and close the gender pay gap.

Investing in the education of the next generation is an important step towards the success of our State's future which is why NSW will launch one of the biggest education reforms in a generation, starting with the introduction of a universal pre-Kindergarten year of education.

The 2022/23 NSW Budget will set aside more than \$5.8 billion over 10 years to introduce universal pre-Kindergarten for all children in NSW by 2030.

Ms Preston welcomed the announcement of \$37.1 million for the building of the Hawkesbury Centre of Excellence for Agricultural Education in the 2022-23 NSW Budget.

"The key to the success of this State's future is in education and I'm pleased to see the \$37.1 million commitment from the NSW Government for the building of the Centre of Excellence," Ms Preston said.

Parents will also receive help to pay for school supplies thanks to Premier Dominic Perrottet's new \$193 million Back to School program which will provide families with a \$150 subsidy for each child who attends a primary or secondary school in NSW in 2023.

"We want to give our children the best start to the school year while also taking the pressure off the family budget, leaving more money in your pocket at the end of the week," Mr Perrottet said.

NSW Treasurer Matt Kean said that the 2022/23 Budget coming off the back of an unemployment rate of 4 per cent and record high workforce participation means NSW can look to the future with confidence.

"There is no better investment that we can make for the people of this State, than investing in the people of this State themselves," Mr Kean said.

This Budget is also supporting the most vulnerable in our community by investing \$743 million over five years to ensure NSW residents have access to the highest quality care and pain management services for end-of-life care.

Mr Perrottet said: "With this budget, the NSW Government sets out a transformational roadmap for the decade ahead, delivering not just for our people today but for generations to come."

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