

STATE BUDGET

2021-22

DEPUTY PREMIER HON VICKIE CHAPMAN MP
ATTORNEY-GENERAL
MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MEDIA RELEASE

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Justice System boost in State Budget 2021-22

Vulnerable and at-risk young people within South Australia's care and protection system will benefit from an additional \$339,000 committed to addressing increased workloads in the Youth Court.

The funding is part of an almost \$2 million funding boost to our Courts, which will be used for additional resources, support staff and an investigation into future Court requirements.

Attorney-General Vickie Chapman said it will provide for six new roles, two of which will be dedicated to the Youth Court.

"It is crucial we provide sufficient resources to care for and protect young people when they enter the Court system," Attorney-General Chapman said.

"Early care and protection makes a big difference and is particularly important when we are dealing with vulnerable victims and offenders."

\$939,000 will be provided to the Coroner's Court for an additional Deputy Coroner and associated staff for a 12-month period, helping to address case backlogs.

A \$624,000 court's service and needs analysis will also be undertaken, to help inform the future operational requirements and service needs of the Supreme Court, District Court and Environment, Resources and Development Court.

Vulnerable South Australians living under guardianship in aged care and disability accommodation will be better off too, with more than \$8 million over four years allocated to the Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) and the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT).

"This funding will help South Australia deal with the increasing number of guardianship orders associated with NDIS safeguarding requirements," Attorney-General Chapman said.

"It also means that strict protocols surrounding the use of restrictive practices will be adhered to, and that such practices are only used when absolutely necessary."

For the first time, South Australian voters living with disability or voters living overseas for next year's election will be able to cast their vote over the phone, with \$150,000 set aside in this year's budget to implement telephone voting.

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“Telephone voting is already available for vision impaired electors at federal elections and in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. It is time South Australia joined that list,” Attorney-General Chapman said.

“We want to empower and support South Australians living with a disability to have their say and remove barriers they may face come election time.”

As Minister for Planning and Local Government, Ms Chapman will ensure the Marshall Liberal Government continues to build what matters, with \$22.4 million committed to council-led projects under the Open Spaces and Places for People grants program in 2020-21.

“Twenty-seven priority projects have received grant funding in this round, including playgrounds, walking trails and recreation hubs.

“I have also fast-tracked the 2021-22 round of grants, with councils able to lodge applications from next month.

“This means councils will be advised if they are successful or not by December this year, and therefore able to include the grant money in their draft business plans,” she said.

A further \$14.7 million has been allocated from the Planning and Development Fund in 2021-22 for Open Space grants.