

# Media Release

**The Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP**

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Children

Minister for Disability



Friday, 22 November 2024

## LISTENING TO PARENTS AND CARERS

The Allan Labor Government is inviting parents and carers to help shape services for children and their families into the future.

Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn today announced that a new survey is open – encouraging parents and carers of children 12 and under to offer their insights as part of the ongoing improvement of the Government's services.

The survey includes questions about how Victorians find parenting information, what services they use, which services are most useful, what barriers exist to accessing services, and how services may be further improved.

The survey complements a series of roundtables taking place across Victoria designed to make it easier to access services for children. The roundtables are taking place in Melbourne and rural and regional Victoria – to talk about families experiences of moving between services as their children grow and their needs change.

Roundtable discussions, as well as feedback from the survey, will inform policies, programs and initiatives that impact children up to 12 years of age. The series of 18 roundtables that began in May finishes next month.

The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, in partnership with the Department of Health and Department of Education, is delivering the series of roundtables. Topics of discussion have included maternal and child health, early childhood education and care, early parenting centres, kindergartens and family services.

Families don't work in siloes – that's why the Labor Government is bringing together key child and family services across the state.

The Labor Government is helping families access the right supports at the right time so that children thrive, and parents are supported – regardless of where they live, household income and other factors including disadvantage – creating generational reform that will offer our youngest Victorians the absolute best start in life.

The survey is open until Sunday, 15 December at: [engage.vic.gov.au/project/Children-in-Victoria-Survey](https://engage.vic.gov.au/project/Children-in-Victoria-Survey).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn

*"Our survey is the perfect opportunity for mums, dads and carers to give us their unique experience with the services we provide across Victoria – and improve them for every child going forward."*

*"We know there will always be opportunities for improvement, which is why we want as many parents and carers as possible to take the survey so we can capture the advice directly from people who know the services best."*