

# Media Release

**The Hon Nick Staikos MP**  
Minister for Consumer Affairs  
Minister for Local Government



Wednesday, 11 March 2026

## SUPPORT AVAILABLE NOW FOR MORTGAGE STRESS IN VICTORIA

With possible increases to the cash-rate front of mind for Victorians, Labor is delivering support here and now.

Minister Staikos visited *Mortgage Stress Victoria* today – Australia’s only free service exclusively dedicated to supporting people in mortgage stress to maintain secure housing.

The service – which received \$4 million in the *Victorian Budget 2025/26* – hosts a team of lawyers, social workers and financial counsellors who provide free advice to Victorians experiencing mortgage stress.

The Labor Government's investment will expand Mortgage Stress Victoria’s free services from 1 May.

The changes mean households with an income of up to \$90,000 will be able to access the free legal and financial support – up from \$75,000 currently.

Mortgage Stress Victoria can help at any stage of mortgage stress, from situations in which payments are up to date to those in which there are court orders for repossession of a home.

The service started as a pilot in Melbourne’s western suburbs and before being expanded statewide in 2022.

As well as direct mortgage stress support, the Labor Government is providing real support where it's needed most while investing in the frontline services families rely on.

We know the cost of living is hitting families, which is why we launched free public transport for kids across the state this year, saving families more than \$700 per child.

We're also providing support at school, including our School Breakfast Clubs, Affordable School Uniforms, Glasses for Kids, the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund, free dental checkups and free swimming lessons in government schools.

For more information call 1800 572 292 or visit [mortgagestress.org.au](https://mortgagestress.org.au).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Consumer Affairs Nick Staikos

*"With the RBA's cash rate decisions putting pressure on household budgets, services like this have never been more important for Victorian families."*

*"Mortgage Stress Victoria provides a vital role in helping Victorians stay in their homes and avoid the devastating impact of mortgage stress."*

*"We will always be in the corner of Victorians doing it tough - which is why we launched free public transport for kids across the state this year, the \$100 power saving bonus, and capped fuel price increases."*