



Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Annual Report

2025–26

The department proudly acknowledges Victoria’s Aboriginal communities and their rich culture and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as Australia’s First Peoples and as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and water on which we rely.

We recognise and value the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal people and communities to Victorian life and how this enriches us.

We embrace the spirit of reconciliation, working towards the equality of outcomes and ensuring an equal voice.

Contact us to receive this document in another format. Please email DFFHcorporate.reporting@dffh.vic.gov.au

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In this document, ‘Aboriginal’ refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. ‘Indigenous’ or ‘Koori/Koorie’ is retained when part of the title of a report, program or quotation.

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² www.dffh.vic.gov.au/publications/annual-reports-department-families-fairness-housing

Responsible body's declaration

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, I am pleased to present the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing annual report for the year ending 30 June 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. McCammon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peta McCammon PSM

Secretary

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

9 October 2026

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Section 1: About the department



Secretary's foreword

I acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands across Victoria and pay my respects to all First Peoples, including their Elders past and present.

On behalf of the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, I am proud to present the 2025–26 annual report.

Our department's vision is for safe and supported children and families in stable homes and strong communities.

We work towards this by standing up for inclusion, supporting human rights and equity, keeping children and families connected and safe, working to prevent and respond to family violence, supporting people with disability, and delivering social and affordable housing and support to Victorians who need it.

We provide crucial real-world supports that improve Victorians' lives, while also addressing the systems and policies that underpin inequality.

This includes recognising and addressing the systems and structures that have negatively affected our First Nations communities over many years and continuing to embed Aboriginal self-determination into our work.

Our Aboriginal Self-Determination and Outcomes Division continues to lead this effort, always with the understanding that First Peoples are best placed to make decisions over matters that affect their lives.

Our people are one of the department's greatest assets. I am proud of our workforce, which is dedicated to making Victoria our state safer, fairer and more inclusive for every Victorian – regardless of who they are or where they live.

The department continues to improve the lives of at-risk people across the state. This report highlights many examples of our progress, including many Australian-first initiatives.

In 2025–26, the department:

Supported Aboriginal self-determination, truth-telling and Treaty

- > commenced work to ensure all staff are prepared for and familiar with the commitments under the Statewide Treaty which was signed by the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and the State.
- > continued support for the Aboriginal Children's Forum including the development of a refreshed four-year *Wungurilwil Gapgapduir strategic action plan* to advance an Aboriginal-led child and family services system
- > funded *Korin Korin Balit-Djak* (KKBD) to support Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCO) and community-led initiatives that strengthened Aboriginal governance, self-determination, cultural safety and community wellbeing
- > further expanded the Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care (ACAC) program to six (6) teams across the state, providing services to an additional 137 children, increasing the total number of authorised Aboriginal children and young people to 586.

Delivered for the community

- > began work on the next state disability plan. This included public consultation between April and July 2026
- > funded organisations to assist an extra 800 Victorians to access disability advocacy
- > progressed changes to Part 12A of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* to help protect the rights of people with disability in specialist disability accommodation (SDA)
- > completed new innovative SDA homes, including an award-winning home for residents with complex disabilities

- > provided funding to 6 Community Support Groups (CSGs) to support more than 2,500 South Sudanese, Somali, Afghan and Pasifika young people and their families
- > delivered Youth Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) outreach support – enabling multicultural young people in Melbourne’s west and south-east to access over 200 individual episodes of care per annum through the Youth Support and Advocacy Service.
- > delivered 2,388 new social and affordable homes of which 1,196 were in regional Victoria. Major projects completed during the year include East Geelong (54 social homes), Geelong (117 social homes), Northcote (99 social homes), Carnegie (97 social homes) and Rosanna Station (45 social and affordable homes)
- > delivered 416 new social homes for First Peoples, exceeding the target of 300
- > continued construction of the second Ground Lease Model to deliver 1,370 new homes in Prahran, South Yarra, Hampton East and Port Melbourne. These will be completed by the end of 2026.
- > continued redevelopment of Melbourne’s 44 older-style social housing high-rise towers, with work now active at 11 sites
- > assisted more than 103,300 people to address and prevent homelessness
- > launched the First Peoples Home Ownership Program, with 41 First Peoples receiving grant packages to purchase their own home
- > supported the Victorian Men’s Shed Association and 31 men’s sheds across the state with grants of up to \$100,000
- > supported Foodbank Victoria’s innovative GROW Program to divert surplus farm produce
- > opened a Good Money shop front in Craigieburn and expanded access to no-interest loans across Victoria
- > hosted the 43rd Victorian Seniors Festival, attended by 163,900 people
- > delivered the Victorian Seniors Card program, which now exceeds 1.5 million Seniors Card holders across the state
- > released the *Victorian Carer Strategy 2025–2035*
- > supported more than 30,000 carers through more than 400,000 hours of carer respite and support
- > released Victoria’s first dedicated primary prevention resource for professionals responding to elder abuse
- > continued delivering the Free Pads and Tampons in Public Places program across the state. Vending machines now operate in every local government area in Victoria
- > proudly supported hosting the Women Deliver conference in Melbourne in April 2026. This is one of the largest gender equality conferences in the world. It drew more than 6,000 delegates from over 180 countries
- > supported the largest ever Victoria’s Pride Street Party in Fitzroy in February 2026, with an estimated 65,448 people attending
- > continued to deliver the digital Veterans Card – Victoria, in partnership with Service Victoria, recognising the service and sacrifice of Victorians veterans
- > supported over 1,000 young people aged between 12 and 17 years through therapeutic interventions to address their use of family violence in the home and to build healthy family relationships
- > provided access to therapeutic supports for all children and young people in residential care
- > introduced 200 new therapeutic foster care placements to provide children and young people in foster care with access to therapeutic supports

Invested in the community services sector

- > funded 21 disability agencies, including 2 resource units under the Victorian Disability Advocacy Program
- > continued specialist disability Family Services programs and expanded the Disability Practice Advisor workforce
- > delivered targeted recruitment and retention campaigns for the child protection workforce, with 90 participants gaining ongoing employment through the Child Protection Employment Program
- > provided student placements to 222 tertiary students through the Child Protection Student Placement Program
- > delivered the targeted Go Where You’re Needed recruitment campaign to attract more child protection practitioners to regional Victoria

Strengthened links between government and community

- > established The Orange Door Statewide Partnership Group in November 2025. Members include community services, ACCO and Aboriginal community-controlled health organisation (ACCHO) partners, peak body and departmental representatives. The group is a dedicated, statewide decision-making body focused on shared problem-solving and strong network governance
- > launched the Mallee Aboriginal Access Point in September 2025, providing culturally safe, Aboriginal-led support to people experiencing or at risk of family violence

Improved systems and processes

- > led the development and implementation of the Supporting Stable and Strong Families Scheme. The Scheme establishes responsibilities for all Victorian Ministers and departments to improve outcomes for at-risk children, young people, care leavers, and their families
- > reformed Victoria's key child safeguarding and regulatory frameworks following the 2025 *Rapid Child Safety Review*, through the *Social Services Regulation Amendment (Complaints and Worker Regulation) Act 2025*
- > introduced a new service model for 10- and 11-year-old children exhibiting high-harm behaviours
- > implemented a new After-Hours Child Protection Service (AHGPS) statewide stand-up rostered model, to create a more responsive, timely, integrated, targeted response, and more proactive intervention

- > completed 158,819 risk assessments and safety plans, including 13,008 plans for people to stop their use of violence and abuse
- > launched the Professional Supervision for Child Protection Practice model to better meet practitioner and supervisor needs
- > modernised the Family Services platform to a more sustainable, evidence-based and targeted system of support and upskilled a further 363 practitioners in foundational evidence-based Restoring Families practice approaches, with 1,362 practitioners currently accessing our eLearning system.
- > launched a new maintenance portal to enable public housing renters to raise electronic maintenance requests, attach photographs and track the progress of their requests. This will allow contractors to complete more jobs on the first visit and give renters certainty about the timing of work.

We are proud of the support we give to so many Victorians. We also recognise there is still more to do to make Victoria fair and inclusive for all.

We remain focused on the work ahead. We engage closely with the communities we serve, and we are open about where we can improve.

We commit to growing and strengthening partnerships in every sector and across government. We will work together to create a fairer and safer Victoria for everyone in the year ahead.



Peta McCammon PSM

Secretary

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

Acknowledgement of First Peoples

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters on which we live, work and play. We acknowledge all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the state. We pay respect to and recognise the contributions of their Elders past and present, and other First Peoples, who have fought tirelessly for the rights of their communities.

The sovereignty of First Peoples has never been ceded. Their strength and resilience as the world's oldest living culture is enduring.

Commitment to self-determination

The Victorian Government's *Victorian Aboriginal affairs framework* commits us to self-determination. It also keeps us accountable for our progress.

We know that First Peoples' self-determination works. It is what community wants, and it is a human right.

We aim to achieve real and tangible outcomes for First Peoples. We do this through our contributions to Closing the Gap, Truth and Treaty. This is embedded across our portfolios' work.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples sets out certain rights for First Peoples. These include the rights to freely determine their political status and pursue social, cultural and economic development based on their values and ways of life.

To achieve meaningful and lasting change, we must listen to First Peoples when they tell us what they need.

We acknowledge the strong and ongoing advocacy of First Peoples, and the significant impact this has on our work. When First Peoples make decisions for Aboriginal families and communities, we see better results.

The Victorian Government has signed a Statewide Treaty with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria. In Victoria, we have been on the Truth and Treaty path for nearly 10 years. This work has laid a strong foundation. The *Statewide Treaty Act 2025* establishes a new entity, Gellung Warl, evolved from Victoria's successful First Peoples' Assembly, to operate as an ongoing democratic, representative and deliberative body for First Peoples in Victoria.

Treaty is about ensuring First Peoples have a say over the policies that affect them and their families. Australia's first formal truth-telling process, the Yoorrook Justice Commission, helps us understand our history from the perspective of Aboriginal people. This includes how colonisation continues to affect Aboriginal people, what we can do now, and how we can use Treaty to effect practical changes and solutions.

We commit to working proactively to support the aspirations of the First Peoples' Assembly of Gellung Warl.

In this document, we use the term 'Aboriginal' to refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Our vision

Safe and supported children and families, in stable homes and strong communities.

How we will achieve it

Standing up for inclusion and equality, preventing harm and discrimination, and delivering social and housing support to Victorians who need it.

Our objectives

- > Aboriginal voice, knowledge and cultural leadership drive Aboriginal policy, legislation and system reform.
- > Children, young people and families are safe, strong and supported.
- > Victorian communities are safe, fair, inclusive and resilient.
- > All Victorians have stable, affordable and appropriate housing.
- > Our social services system is integrated, effective, person-centred and sustainable.

Our values

Our values describe what we stand for as a department, how we want to make decisions and how we expect each other to behave.



We are responsive

- > We provide frank, impartial and timely advice to the Victorian Government.
- > We provide high-quality services to the Victorian community.
- > We identify and promote best practice.



We have integrity

- > We are honest, open and transparent in our dealings.
- > We use powers responsibly.
- > We report improper conduct.
- > We avoid any real or apparent conflicts of interest.
- > We strive to earn and sustain public trust.



We are impartial

- > We make decisions and provide advice on merit and without bias, caprice, favouritism or self-interest.
- > We act fairly by objectively considering all relevant facts and fair criteria.
- > We implement Victorian Government policies and programs equitably.



We show respect

- > We show respect for colleagues, other public officials and members of the Victorian community.
- > We treat our colleagues, other public officials and members of the Victorian community fairly and objectively.
- > We ensure freedom from discrimination, harassment and bullying.
- > We use the views of colleagues, other public officials and members of the Victorian community to improve outcomes on an ongoing basis.



We are accountable

- > We work towards clear objectives in a transparent manner.
- > We accept responsibility for our decisions and actions.
- > We seek to achieve the best use of resources.
- > We submit ourselves to appropriate scrutiny.



We lead

- > We actively implement, promote and support these values.



We respect human rights

- > We respect and promote the human rights set out in the Victorian *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.
- > We make decisions and provide advice consistent with human rights.
- > We actively implement, promote and support human rights.

Purpose and functions

Our purpose

The department looks after child protection and family services, prevention of family violence, housing and homelessness, disability, seniors, carers and volunteers, LGBTIQ+ equality, veterans, women and youth.

Ageing

The department supports older Victorians to live healthy, active and purposeful lives. We provide policy advice on priority issues affecting older people. We fund non-government organisations that work with, and for, older people. These organisations help us to deliver work aligned with government priorities for older people.

The department also leads policy and programs that prevent and respond to elder abuse. We support local place-based primary prevention action to raise awareness of elder abuse and stop it from happening.

We deliver the Victorian Seniors Card, Companion Card and Carer Card programs.

Each year, we deliver the Victorian Seniors Festival. We do this in partnership with Victoria's 79 local councils. In October 2025, the Seniors Festival held more than 4,700 events across the state.

As part of the Seniors Festival, the department delivers the Victorian Senior of the Year Awards. These awards celebrate the contributions and achievements of older Victorians.

The department works across government to implement Victoria's *Ageing well action plan 2022–2026*. The plan encourages an 'ageing well' lens for policies and programs that affect older people.

Carers and Volunteers

The department helps Victorians feel included in their communities. We do this by encouraging people to get involved in volunteering. This includes being part of community places like neighbourhood houses and men's sheds.

Our programs provide support for people experiencing economic exclusion and hardship. They also build financial capability.

We help to strengthen food security so more people can put food on the table. We do this in partnership with organisations across the state. This includes working with Foodbank Victoria, SecondBite/FareShare, the state's 6 regional foodshares and local community organisations.

Under the *Victorian Carer Strategy 2025–2035*, the department supports people who have unpaid care roles. This includes making sure they are valued, recognised, and have better physical, social and mental health, and wellbeing. We do this through the Victorian Support for Carers Program, Additional Respite for Carers initiative, and benefits provided to Victorian Carer Card holders.

Children

The department supports the broader Children portfolio to improve equity, access and outcomes for Victorian children and families. This includes the policy, design, funding and delivery of statutory child protection services. It also includes family support and parenting services, care services and specialist support services, including for young people leaving care. The department also leads initiatives that support Aboriginal children and families. In addition, we deliver redress and restorative services for people who experienced abuse or neglect in Victorian institutional care settings.

The department is leading the government's child safeguarding reforms by supporting the transition of key child safety regulation functions into a strengthened Social Services Regulator and the enhancement of the Working with Children Check scheme to more quickly identify and take action in response to individuals who pose a risk to child safety. The department is also working collaboratively with the Commonwealth, other states and territories through the Standing Council of Attorneys-General (SCAG) to progress national reforms intended to support mutual recognition of Working with Children clearances across jurisdictions. This work seeks to deliver on six priority actions agreed by SCAG in November 2025, providing an agreed pathway and timing to strengthen and improve consistency for a national approach to working with children checks.

The department advances self-determined, Aboriginal-led child and family services. This includes enabling authorised ACCOs to undertake specific statutory functions and assume greater responsibility for Aboriginal children in the child protection and care system.

These services form part of the Children portfolio, which includes early years services supported by the Department of Education and the Department of Health.

We work with communities, the child and family services sector, people with lived experience and across government to achieve real change.

We have 5 main goals:

- > advancing Aboriginal self-determination and self-management. This includes reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal children and families in child protection and care services
- > improving outcomes for children and young people in care
- > shifting the focus to earlier intervention to address family needs and risks sooner
- > developing deeper partnerships across government, systems and community to intervene earlier
- > transforming digital capability through modern, integrated client centred service systems.

We continually build evidence and data to support these priorities.

We continue to actively embed the Statement of Recognition and binding Recognition Principles into policy, practice and governance frameworks. This ensures all decision-makers meet their statutory obligations to recognise, respect and support the right of Aboriginal children and families to self-determination. Embedding these principles affirms our responsibility to uphold Aboriginal cultural rights, strengthen Aboriginal-led decision making and enable responsive and equitable service delivery.

We work with Aboriginal communities and ACCOs to implement *Wungurilwil Gapgapduir: Aboriginal Children and Families Agreement*. This includes a refreshed 4-year strategic action plan.

The strategic action plan focuses on early intervention and prevention. It also includes ACCO-led responses to child safety. Actions emphasise Aboriginal-led knowledge, evidence and investment.

We also continue to implement the recommendations of the *Yoorrook for justice* report. These aim to progress a more self-determined Aboriginal child and family service system. This will allow Aboriginal children to thrive in strong and culturally rich Aboriginal families and communities.

Concessions

The department delivers the Victorian Concessions Program. This provides support to Victorians on low incomes or who are experiencing financial hardship. It helps these people meet the rising cost of living. The program also provides concessions for eligible households for energy, water and municipal rates concessions.

Disability

The department works closely with people with disability, their families and carers. We collaborate with the Victorian Disability Advisory Council and other groups. Together, we ensure government policies, programs and services include everyone.

We are responsible for implementing *Inclusive Victoria: state disability plan 2022–2026*. We developed this plan together with people with disability. This included the Victorian Disability Advisory Council. In 2025, the plan was extended for one year to 2027 to enable the next plan to respond to ongoing national disability reforms.

The plan sets out 6 systemic reforms and 175 actions. The reform areas and actions aim to improve life for people with disability. This includes focusing on health, mental health and wellbeing, housing, community and online participation, education, employment and safety.

We also lead the whole-of-government work on the actions in the *Victorian autism plan*. A refreshed plan was released in October 2023. A report on progress up to December 2024 was released in September 2025. In 2025 the plan was extended for one year to 2027.

We deliver the Victorian Disability Advocacy Program. This program helps people with disability advocate for themselves. It also provides individual advocacy and advocates for systemic change. In addition, we support Victoria's co-governance of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

We provide services to people with complex needs. This includes people with cognitive impairment or those who are involved in the criminal justice system.

We fund and deliver programs for this cohort. This includes forensic disability services, as well as other programs often referred to as complex needs services.

We operate Victoria's largest portfolio of specialist disability accommodation, providing safe and secure homes for more than 2,000 Victorians with disability.

The Senior Practitioner is established under the *Disability Act 2006*. They are responsible for protecting the rights of people with disability who are subject to restrictive practices and compulsory treatment. They also aim to reduce and eliminate restrictive practices. The Senior Practitioner safeguards the rights of people with disability. They provide training, advice and resources for the disability sector. This work improves knowledge and skills about the best way to support people with disability.

Emergency management

The department works to lessen the impact of emergencies on the health and wellbeing of Victorians, especially those who face greater risk before, during and after emergencies.

Under the *State emergency management plan*, we provide emergency relief payments and emergency re-establishment assistance payments and coordinate psychosocial supports. This includes delivering emergency and temporary accommodation and the Emergency Recovery Support Program.

Housing

The department supports Victorians to access safe and affordable housing. We work with people with lived experience, the community, industry and the housing and homelessness sectors.

In 2025–26, we focused on 4 objectives:

- > reducing homelessness through housing and support
- > enabling Aboriginal self-determination
- > delivering more social and affordable housing
- > delivering better and more comfortable public housing.

This work includes:

- > stewarding, partnering and funding the social housing and homelessness systems to deliver housing and support for generations to come
- > delivering more than 16,000 social and affordable homes as part of the government's \$8 billion investment in housing projects, including the Big Housing Build and Regional Housing Fund
- > managing and maintaining over 64,000 public housing assets, including delivering upgraded housing to be more comfortable for residents
- > funding and overseeing the homelessness service system, with a focus on reducing rough sleeping and stopping people becoming homeless in the first place
- > delivering dedicated housing and services for First Peoples in line with *Mana-na woorn-tyeen maar-takoort*,³ the Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework
- > redeveloping 44 older-style social housing high-rise towers across Melbourne and supporting the relocation of residents in line with their needs, preferences and departmental policies
- > undertaking meaningful engagement with residents, people with lived experience of homelessness and the community to deliver housing options that meet the diverse needs of Victorians
- > managing the operations of the Victorian Housing Register.

LGBTIQA+ equality

Through *Pride in our future: Victoria's LGBTIQA+ strategy 2022–2032*, the department adopts a holistic, coordinated approach to driving LGBTIQA+ equality across government. The strategy provides the vision and pathway to drive long-term and systemic change so all LGBTIQA+ Victorians are safe, healthy, have equal human rights and can live wholly and freely.

We do this by listening to LGBTIQA+ communities across Victoria to understand the issues that matter to them and inform government policies, programs and services.

We also deliver programs and services to celebrate LGBTIQA+ communities, boost the capacity of LGBTIQA+ sector organisations, and improve protective health and wellbeing factors, including social connection and belonging.

3 <https://vahhf.org.au/resources/ahhf-publications/>

Preventing family violence

The department is leading efforts to create a Victoria free from family and sexual violence as set out in *Ending family violence: Victoria's 10-year plan for change*. We work in partnership with a highly committed sector and with jurisdictions across the Victorian, Commonwealth and state and territory governments to prevent and respond to family and sexual violence.

We put victim survivors' voices and lived experience at the centre of our work, including through the Victim Survivors Advisory Council. Their views shape policies, programs and system reform.

Self-determination remains central to how we work. Through the *Dhelk Dja: Safe Our Way* agreement, we partner with Aboriginal Victorians and ACCOs to deliver culturally safe family and sexual violence initiatives.

We work with Respect Victoria to prevent family violence and violence against women through initiatives in the places where Victorians live, work, learn and socialise. We continue to strengthen the evidence of what works to prevent family violence by addressing gender inequality and discrimination to achieve lasting change in community attitudes and behaviours.

The department delivers, funds and stewards Victoria's family violence and sexual assault service system to ensure people can access timely and effective services. This includes family violence response services, sexual assault services, crisis accommodation, case management, therapeutic interventions and flexible support. We work in close partnership with specialist family violence and sexual assault services, children's and family services and community organisations.

We continue to strengthen the Multi Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework and information-sharing reforms. These enable professionals across health, education, justice and community sectors to identify family violence, assess risk and coordinate action to keep victim survivors safe.

We lead the statewide operations of The Orange Door, which provides a visible and accessible entry point for people experiencing or using family violence and for families with child wellbeing concerns. The Orange Door delivers risk assessment, safety planning, crisis intervention, case management and referrals to specialist and other relevant services.

And we operate the Central Information Point, which enables agencies to share timely and coordinated information to support risk assessment and safety planning.

Together with justice and service system partners we keep perpetrators accountable, connected and responsible for stopping their violence. Our work is continually evolving to support behaviour change, reduce reoffending and challenge the attitudes, beliefs, systems and structures that enable violence to continue.

Veterans

Victoria proudly honours the sacrifice and enduring legacy of our veterans. The department ensures those who have served our nation are recognised, supported and celebrated.

We partner with the Shrine of Remembrance and ex-service organisations to deliver major events. We also run grant programs that empower local organisations. Grants are used for capital works, restoring war memorials and delivering meaningful initiatives that support veterans and their families.

Our commitment extends across portfolios and jurisdictions. We collaborate with the Commonwealth and other states and territories to coordinate Victoria's state-relevant responses to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. We ensure policies and programs respond to veterans' needs. This includes initiatives such as the Veterans Card – Victoria.

We also support the Victorian Veterans Council. The council shapes and guides Victoria's efforts to honour and assist veterans.

Women and Girls

The department works to improve outcomes for women and girls and advance gender equality. Gender equality gives everyone more choices and opportunities. It helps Victorians to reach their potential and live safe, prosperous, equal and fulfilled lives.

The department leads the Victorian Government's gender equality strategy, *Our equal state: Victoria's gender equality strategy and action plan*. This strategy is the roadmap for action on gender equality from 2023 to 2027. We engage collaboratively across government and with external stakeholders to support this work.

The department:

- > leads policy to improve the lives of women and girls, including coordinating gender equality efforts across government. It also includes monitoring implementation of 110 whole-of-government actions under *Our equal state*. As part of this work, we monitor 4 public sector workforce targets. These are to halve the gender pay gap, reach parity in public sector senior leadership and CEO roles, and increase men's uptake of paid parental leave
- > delivers initiatives to improve access, opportunities and participation of women and girls. This includes the Free Pads and Tampons in Public Places program and the Safe Workplaces for Women Initiative.
- > elevates and celebrates the significant contributions of Victorian women. This includes the Honour Roll of Women and the Women's Public Art Program.

We work closely with the Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner. The Commissioner is an independent statutory office that oversees the implementation of the *Gender Equality Act 2020* (Act). The Commissioner provides education, support and data insights to support approximately 300 public sector organisations that have obligations under the Act. They also promote gender equality in the Victorian community more broadly, including by supporting duty-holder organisations to undertake gender impact assessments of public-facing policies, programs and services.

Youth

The department shapes policies, programs and services for young Victorians aged 12–25. We aim to give them a say about the things that matter for their futures.

We work closely with other portfolios to:

- > improve young people's health and wellbeing, education, training, skills development and career pathways
- > boost young people's participation in community and civic life
- > address youth disengagement from family, education and training, employment and community.

Our work with young people is designed with and led by young people, including the Victorian Youth Congress. This includes universal programs to empower and protect young people. It also includes targeted programs for young people experiencing disengagement or disadvantage.

Guided by *Our promise, your future: Victoria's youth strategy 2022–2027*, we influence policy, program and service delivery and investment in the things that are important for young people.

The department's ministers

In 2025–26, the department supported the following ministers and portfolios:

Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP

Coordinating Minister for the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
Minister for Children
Minister for Disability

Hon Lizzie Blandthorn MP has held the positions of Minister for Children and Minister for Disability since October 2023. Prior to this, Minister Blandthorn held the former portfolios of Child Protection and Family Services and the combined portfolios of Disability, Ageing and Carers from December 2022 to October 2023.

The Hon Melissa Horne MP

Minister for Prevention of Family Violence

The Hon Melissa Horne MP was appointed Minister for Prevention of Family Violence in April 2026.

The Prevention of Family Violence portfolio was previously held by The Hon Natalie Hutchins until December 2025 and The Hon Ingrid Stitt from December 2025 to April 2026.

Gabrielle Williams MP

Minister for Women and Girls

Minister Williams was appointed Minister for Women and Girls in April 2026.

The Women portfolio was previously held by The Hon Natalie Hutchins until December 2025 and The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas from December 2025 to April 2026.

The Hon Nick Staikos MP

Minister for Housing and Building

The Hon Nick Staikos MP was appointed Minister for Housing and Building in April 2026.

The Housing and Building portfolio was previously held by The Hon Harriet Shing MP until April 2026.

Hon. Luba Grigorovitch MP

Minister for Youth
Minister for Carers and Volunteers

Hon. Luba Grigorovitch was appointed Minister for Youth and Minister for Carers and Volunteers in April 2026.

The Youth portfolio was previously held by The Hon Natalie Suleyman until April 2026.

The Carers and Volunteers portfolio was previously held by The Hon Ros Spence until April 2026.

Ingrid Stitt MP

Minister for Ageing

Ingrid Stitt MP was appointed Minister for Ageing in October 2023.

Vicki Ward MP

Minister for Equality

Vicki Ward MP was appointed Minister for Equality in December 2024.

The Hon Natalie Suleyman MP

Minister for Veterans

Minister Suleyman was appointed Minister for Veterans in December 2022.

Government portfolio changes:

On 15 April 2026, the Hon Jacinta Allan MP, Premier of Victoria, announced changes to the Victorian Cabinet. The following changes were made to Cabinet:

- > The Hon Nick Staikos MP became the Minister for Housing and Building.
- > The Hon Melissa Horne MP became the Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence.
- > Gabrielle Williams MP became the Minister for Women and Girls.
- > Hon Luba Grigorovitch MP became the Minister for Carers and Volunteers and Youth.

Subsequent events

On 28 July 2026, the Hon Ben Carroll MP was sworn in as Premier of Victoria. Following the appointment, changes to the Victorian Cabinet were made on 4 August that are outside the period of this annual report:

- > The Hon. Nick Staikos was appointed as Minister for Seniors.
- > The Hon. Sonya Kilkenny MP was appointed as Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence.
- > Mr Steve Dimopoulos was appointed as Minister for Equality.
- > The Women and Girls portfolio was changed to Women and Gender Equality.
- > The Ageing portfolio was changed to Seniors.
- > The Housing and Building portfolio was changed to Housing, Building and Precincts.
- > The Homelessness portfolio was created with the Hon. Nick Staikos as Minister.

The department's senior executives

Peta McCammon PSM

Secretary

Peta has been Secretary of the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing since March 2023. Peta has built a successful career over the past 25 years in the Victorian Public Service. Before taking the role of Secretary at the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Peta was Associate Secretary at the Department of Justice and Community Safety. This included policy areas such as Youth Justice and service delivery reform, as well as other key internal functions.

Previous to this, Peta was Deputy Secretary of Service Delivery Reform, Coordination and Workplace Safety Division. Her Victorian Public Service career has also included senior roles at the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Department of Treasury and Finance and the then Department of Human Services.

Peta is committed to social policy reform and has led reforms in family violence and the implementation of the 227 Royal Commission recommendations, mental health, and the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Raylene Harradine PSM

Deputy Secretary – Aboriginal Self-determination and Outcomes

Raylene is the Deputy Secretary of the Aboriginal Self-determination and Outcomes Division (ASDO). Raylene is a proud Wotjabulluk, Latje Latje and Djaara woman who has worked in senior leadership positions within Aboriginal communities for over 20 years.

Prior to joining ASDO in late 2022, Raylene came from the Bendigo & District Aboriginal Cooperative, as the Chief Executive Officer. Her previous roles include positions in the Department of Justice and Regulation, as well as the health and education sectors.

Raylene played a key role in the first rural Victorian authorisation of children in out-of-home care under s. 18 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*.

In 2006, she received the Public Service Medal for her outstanding work with Aboriginal communities.

Raylene was an active member of the First Peoples' Assembly Victoria and working towards culturally inclusive practices and equity for all.

Annette Lancy

Deputy Secretary – Children, Families and Safeguarding

Annette has served as Deputy Secretary, Children, Families and Safeguarding since 2023. Annette previously led design and implementation of family violence system reform at Family Safety Victoria before leading the department's COVID-19 preparedness and response work for the community services sector.

Annette holds a B.Com (Hons) and LLB (Hons) and has over 20 years' experience working in public policy and system reform across the private sector as well as in multiple federal and state government departments.

Danny O'Kelly PSM

Deputy Secretary – Community Operations and Practice Leadership

Danny was appointed Deputy Secretary, Community Operations and Practice Leadership in July 2022. Danny has extensive senior leadership experience spanning 30 years in the public sector across Disability, Primary Health, Drug and Alcohol and Family and Community Services. His experience includes roles across rural, metropolitan and statewide service delivery as well as policy functions across a number of program areas.

Danny oversees the delivery of critical services for the Victorian community including child protection, public housing and forensic disability services; and stewards the funded services sector. Danny also provides leadership and oversight for complex change management processes. This includes large systems reform programs and redevelopment initiatives for statewide operational programs.

Kathleen Alonso

Deputy Secretary – South Division

Kathleen was appointed Deputy Secretary South Division in November 2022, following 7 years as an executive director of an operational area. Kathleen has held senior executive roles in operational service delivery and policy across government and the community services sector.

Kathleen oversees the service delivery across 4 diverse areas in the South Division (Bayside Peninsula, Southern Melbourne, Inner Gippsland and Outer Gippsland) and stewardship for the broader funded community services sector. Kathleen is deeply passionate about driving meaningful change and delivering better, lasting outcomes for the most vulnerable members of our community.

Jen Litsas

Deputy Secretary – North Division

Jen was appointed Deputy Secretary East Division in November 2022, before moving into the Deputy Secretary North Division position in September 2025. Jen has held a number of senior executive roles across the department, including 10 years as an executive director overseeing operational areas. This includes roles in housing and homelessness programs and leading significant reform.

Jen oversees 4 diverse areas in the North Division (North East Melbourne, Hume–Merri-bek, Loddon and Mallee) that deliver child protection, housing and other services. The division also provides stewardship for the broader funded community services sector.

Kelly Stanton PSM

Deputy Secretary – West Division

Kelly was appointed Deputy Secretary, West Division, in January 2024. Prior to this, Kelly had held senior executive roles in operational service delivery and policy and program development both in government and the community services sector.

Kelly oversees the service delivery across 5 diverse areas in the West Division (Central Highlands, Western Melbourne, Barwon, Brimbank Melton, Wimmera South West), providing services including child protection, housing and care services, and stewardship for the broader funded community services sector.

Penelope Steuart

Deputy Secretary – East Division

Penelope commenced as Deputy Secretary, East Division on 1 September 2025. This appointment followed 8 years as an executive director of an operational area, and over 30 years in the department mainly in operational service delivery. Penelope has also worked in policy and program development focused on place-based renewal.

Penelope oversees 4 areas in the East Division (Inner Eastern Melbourne, Outer Eastern Melbourne, Goulburn and Ovens Murray). These provide services including child protection, housing and care services. The division also provides stewardship for the broader funded community services sector across the areas

Argiri Alisandratos PSM

Deputy Secretary – Disability, Fairness and Emergency Management

Argiri is the Deputy Secretary Disability, Fairness and Emergency Management (DFEM) Division. Argiri has held numerous senior leadership roles over his long career with the department and the Victorian Public Service. This includes significant social service delivery operations, policy and system reform across many portfolio areas.

In leading DFEM, Argiri and the divisional leadership team support 6 Ministers across 7 ministerial portfolios. These focus on policy, programs and resourcing many community-based service and support infrastructures. This work focuses on inclusion, equity and resilience.

The division spans disability policy, reform and accommodation, complex needs support, women's and gender equality policy, carers and volunteers, senior Victorians and LGBTIQ+ communities, as well as youth and veterans policy and programs.

Dr Melanie Heenan

Deputy Secretary – Family Safety Victoria

Melanie is an established leader with extensive experience in family violence and sexual assault research, policy, program and system reform. This includes leadership roles with the Australian Institute of Family Studies and the Victorian Law Reform Commission. She commenced as Deputy Secretary in September 2023.

Melanie is a Director on the Board of Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS), as the Victorian jurisdictional representative. She has previously held executive roles with the Department of Justice and Community Safety and Court Network.

Melanie has also played a lead role in pioneering primary prevention initiatives in collaboration with local councils, sporting clubs, workplaces, and schools to address the underlying causes of gender-based violence.

Simon Newport

Chief Executive Officer, Homes Victoria

Simon has served as CEO of Homes Victoria since July 2023. He leads Homes Victoria to deliver on its vision of 'more and better homes for Victorians'.

In his statutory role, Simon is responsible for the stewardship and funding of Victoria's social housing and homelessness system. This includes the growth, delivery and maintenance of the government's social and affordable housing assets, and the policy and program settings for social housing and homelessness support services.

Simon has had an extensive executive career across government and private sectors in housing, construction and manufacturing, including leading Australia's largest social housing portfolio in New South Wales.

Dannii de Kretser

Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Homes Victoria

Dannii served as Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Homes Victoria from July 2023 to October 2025. This role supported the CEO to deliver Homes Victoria's priorities including policy settings for public housing, homelessness services and the growth and stewardship of community housing

The vacant Deputy CEO role was removed as part of the department's organisational restructure with effect from 1 July 2026.

Drew Warne-Smith

Deputy Secretary – Corporate and Delivery Services

Drew has been in the role of Deputy Secretary, Corporate and Delivery Services since August 2025. In this role he oversees the delivery of key corporate and enabling services across the department and in support of ministerial offices. This includes finance, people and culture, legal services, information technology, shared services, accommodation, Cabinet and executive services.

A former journalist with broad experience across the public and private sectors, Drew is practised in corporate affairs, public policy, service design and operations, budget and reform strategy, stakeholder engagement and media and communications.

Prior to August 2025, Nicola Quin was Deputy Secretary of Corporate and Delivery Services.

Ben Richardson

Acting Deputy Secretary – System Reform, Workforce and Engagement

Ben Richardson acted as Deputy Secretary for the System Reform, Workforce and Engagement (SRWE) division from July 2025.

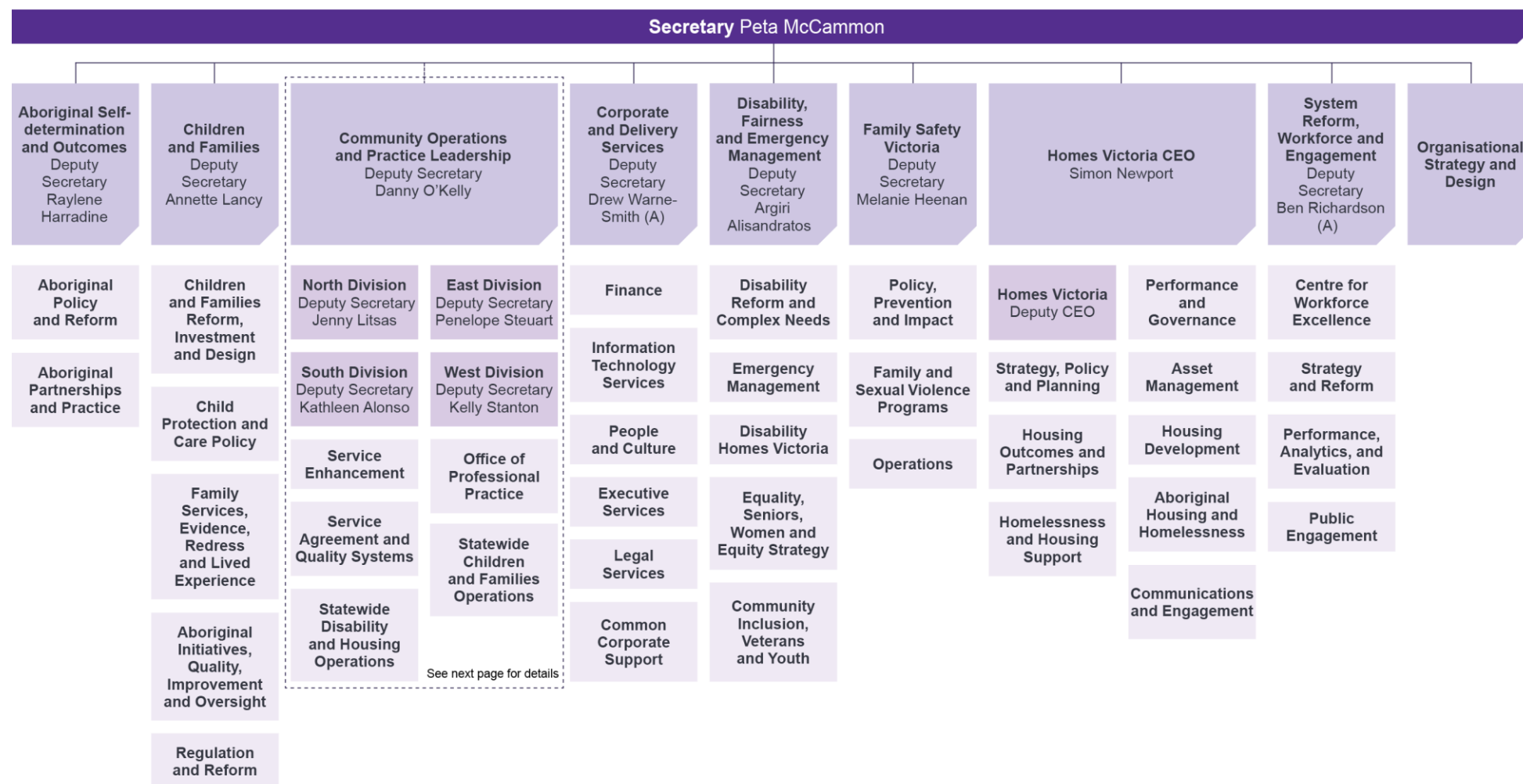
The division brought together cross-cutting functions to drive system improvements.

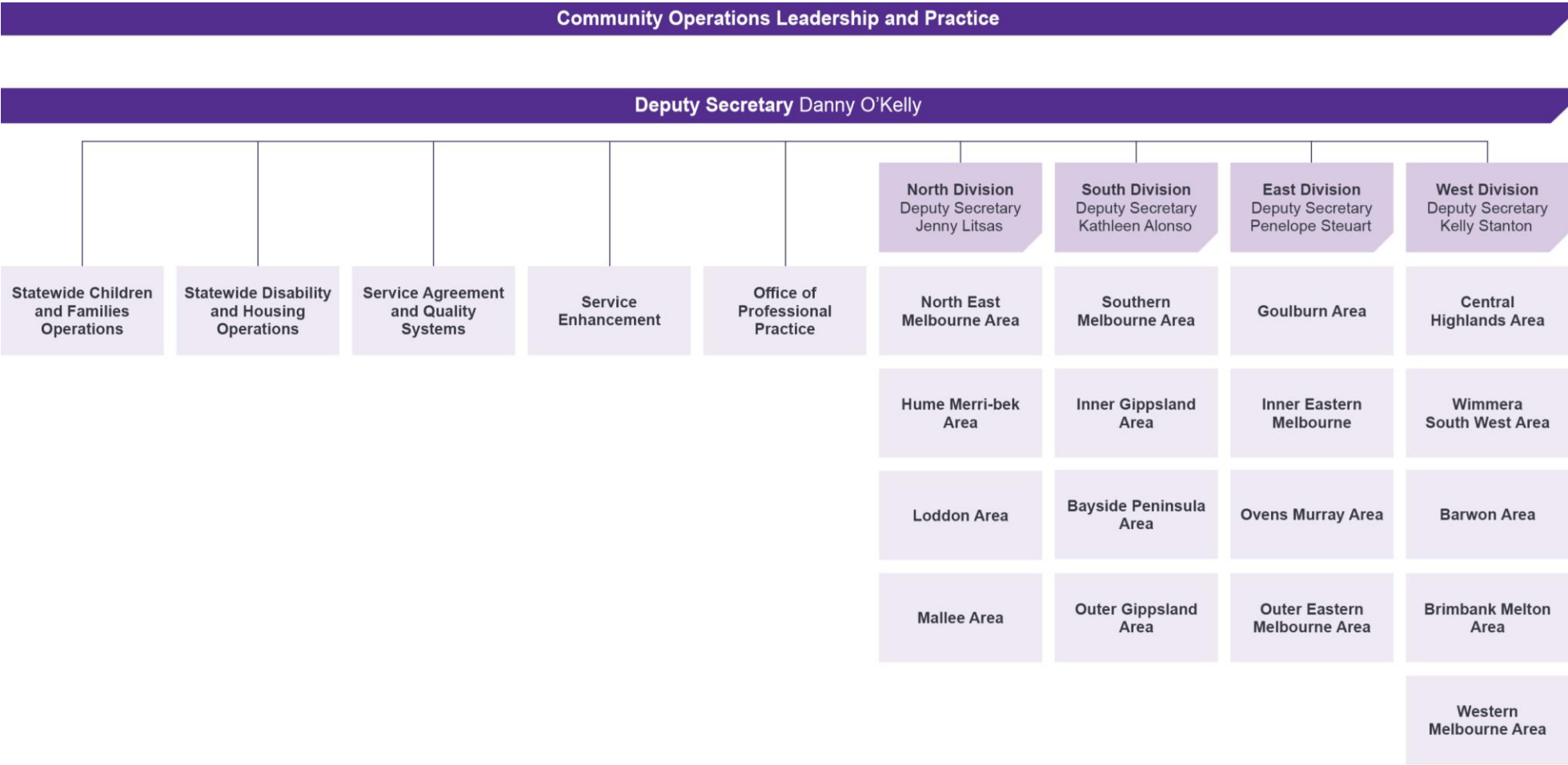
Under Ben's leadership, the division led work on cross-portfolio reform and program design, undertook performance monitoring, analytic services and evaluations and progressed regulatory reform.

The division strengthened the supply, retention and development of community sector workforces and delivered communication services as the custodian of the department's story, brand and reputation.

The division was dissolved on 1 July 2026 as part of a new organisational structure, with a range of SRWE functions transferred to other areas of the department.

Organisational structure as at 30 June 2026





This chart reflects the functions that report to a deputy secretary only and excludes commissions.

Committee structure

Executive Directions Board

The Executive Directions Board supports the Secretary in providing whole-of-department oversight and direction on the department's strategy. This includes forward planning and priority-setting for policy, program and service delivery, culture and workforce management, budget strategy and prioritisation, integration of Aboriginal agency, control and self-governance, and stewardship of the department's brand and integrity.

The Executive Board comprises the Secretary, all Deputy Secretaries, Homes Victoria Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Practitioner.

Board of Management

The Board of Management supports the Secretary in providing whole-of-department oversight and direction on the department's governance, people and culture, budget and financial management, performance monitoring, critical risk management and compliance, including relating to financial, legislative and regulatory obligations.

The Board of Management comprises the Secretary, Deputy Secretaries and Chief Executive Officer Homes Victoria. The Board is supported by a range of committees to drive the organisation's governance and strategic direction.

Subcommittees

First People's Self-determination and Oversight Committee

This committee provides oversight, strategic direction, and advice on the department's responses to the Yoorrook Justice Commission, Closing the Gap and work to support the Treaty process.

Budget and Financial Management

This committee provides oversight, direction and advice on the department's budget and financial management and reporting, strategic allocation of financial resources, and strategies to improve financial sustainability, to ensure the department complies with financial accountability requirements.

Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

Provides oversight, direction and advice on the department's technology strategy, investment, performance and risks.

Operational Strategy and Performance

This committee provides oversight, direction and advice on the department's operational strategy, workforce and operating models, and performance and delivery against critical objectives and targets. This includes meeting service delivery requirements and regulations, improving service and system integration, and addressing recommendations from oversight bodies.

Statutory committees

Audit and Risk Management

The Audit and Risk Management Committee consists of the following members:

L. Gardiner	Independent member
K. Peach	Independent member
J. Holt	Independent member
M. Tieppo	Independent member

The Audit and Risk Management Committee is an independent advisory committee established in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* and the Standing Directions 2018 issued by the Minister for Finance.

Accountable to the Secretary, the main responsibilities of the Audit and Risk Management Committee are to provide independent oversight, direction and advice on the department's governance, risk, control and compliance frameworks, including on internal and external audit activities, financial and performance reporting, risk management, integrity, fraud and corruption controls, legislation and policy.

Executive Remuneration

This committee provides oversight, direction and advice to ensure a consistent and rigorous approach to creating and advertising executive roles, appointing to roles, and setting remuneration levels for executive staff.

People and Culture

This committee provides oversight, direction and advice on the department's health, safety and wellbeing risks, compliance and prevention strategies, industrial relations, integrity, culture, diversity and inclusion.

Section 2: Year in review

Progress towards achieving departmental objectives

The department works to create a more inclusive society. We aim to create a Victoria where people feel safe. We want everyone to take part equally.

This section sets out the results of our progress based on our objectives and indicators. It outlines just some of the key initiatives and projects for the year.

Direct costs attributable to machinery of government changes

On 29 August 2025, the Secretaries of Department of Justice and Community Safety and Department of Families, Fairness and Housing entered into an interdepartmental agreement to transfer duties and functions under the *Worker Screening Act 2020* from the Department of Justice and Community Safety to the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

There are no direct costs that can be attributed solely to the change that are incurred.

Departmental objectives, indicators and outputs

The department’s objectives (or outcomes) and indicators are set out in the *2025–26 Budget Paper No. 3 – Service Delivery* along with outputs relating to each objective.⁴

Departmental objectives	Indicators	Outputs
Aboriginal voice, knowledge and cultural leadership drive Aboriginal policy, legislation and system reform	Increase the transfer of decision-making power and resources to Aboriginal organisations Increase the use of Aboriginal knowledge and evidence in policy, program and service planning, design, delivery and evaluation, under Aboriginal leadership Increase investment in the Aboriginal workforce to support the Aboriginal community-controlled organisations to excel in practice, partnership and service delivery Increase the cultural competence of the non-Aboriginal workforce across all service functions to embed practices and processes that respect Aboriginal ways of working, knowledge and evidence Improve flexible funding practices to empower Aboriginal organisations to meet the diverse needs of the community Increase the protection and promotion of Aboriginal knowledge and Aboriginal intellectual property	All departmental outputs

⁴ Department of Treasury and Finance (2025) *2025-26 Budget Paper No. 3 – Service delivery*, State of Victoria, Melbourne.

Departmental objectives	Indicators	Outputs
Children, young people and families are safe, strong and supported	Reduce abuse and neglect of children and young people Increase safe, respectful family relationships Improve development and wellbeing for children and young people Increase the stability of care services placements Increase connections to culture, family and kinship systems for Aboriginal families including for Aboriginal children in care Reduce over-representation of Aboriginal children and young people in care services Reduce the incidence and impact of family violence including over-represented cohorts of women and children Increase safety for victim survivors of family violence	Child protection and family services Family violence service delivery Primary prevention of family violence
Victorian communities are safe, fair, inclusive and resilient	Increase economic inclusion and participation Increase community participation, inclusion and connectedness Decrease experiences of discrimination Increase safety where people live, work, learn and play Increase wellbeing for Aboriginal Victorians, including safety to connect with and express culture Increase capacity for senior Victorians to age well Improve supports for people with complex needs Increase community resilience Improve social recovery following emergencies Reduce sexual violence	Community participation Disability programs and services Office for Disability Seniors programs and participation Support to veterans in Victoria LGBTIQA+ equality policy and programs Women's policy Youth
All Victorians have stable, affordable and appropriate housing	Increase the supply and availability of quality housing within people's means Improve the quality, environmental sustainability, appropriateness and accessibility of social housing Increase housing stability for people experiencing or at risk of rough sleeping, homelessness, and other insecure housing arrangements Increase financial ability to access and maintain housing and utility services Increase Aboriginal residents' connection to community, culture and place Increase the proportion of Aboriginal people living in appropriately sized (not overcrowded) housing Improve transitions to independent living arrangements	Concessions to pensioners and beneficiaries Housing assistance

Departmental objectives	Indicators	Outputs
Our social services system is integrated, effective, person-centred and sustainable	Improve the quality, safety and effectiveness of service delivery Increase responsiveness of services to diversity and intersectionality Improve access to services Increase the voice of clients, people with lived experience and diverse communities in the design, delivery and evaluation of policies and services Increase effective organisational oversight and financial management Increase system agility, responsiveness and resilience Increase effectiveness, appropriateness and integration of technology, IT systems and information management Improve workforce health, safety, wellbeing, capability and diversity Increase use of evidence, analytics, evaluation, outcome measurement and data to inform planning, investment, practice and policy design	All departmental outputs

Changes to the department during 2025–26

The department has made changes to its output structure for 2025–26 as shown in the table below.

2024–25 outputs	2025–26 outputs	Reason
Office for Disability	Disability Programs and Services	The 2024–25 output Office for Disability has been consolidated into the new Disability Programs and Services output, to align output activities to the State's role following completion of the NDIS transition. Performance measures continue to be reported under the consolidated output.
Disability Services	Disability Programs and Services	The 2024–25 output Disability Services has been expanded into the new Disability Programs and Services output and incorporates the Office for Disability output, to align output activities to the State's role following completion of the NDIS transition. Performance measures continue to be reported under the consolidated output.

In 2025–26, the department was required to deliver savings in response to government's directions from the Silver Review recommendations, as well as annual savings requirements. Savings were primarily achieved through reducing the number of staff employed in non-frontline roles. Changes were made in line with the recommendations of the Silver review, including by reducing more senior positions and expanding spans of control for executives.

The change process was conducted consistent with clause 11 of the Victorian Public Service Enterprise Agreement. The new structure commenced 1 July 2026. The overall net reduction was 26 executive positions (including SES and STS classifications) and 140 VPS1-6 positions.

Subsequent events

The consolidation of several branches and units across the department resulted in a shift in the way work is done. This was particularly evident with the disbanding of the System Reform, Workforce and Engagement (SRWE) division. Teams and units from SRWE that remain are now in other areas of the department.

Departmental objectives, indicators and outputs

Objective: Children, young people and families are safe, strong and supported

This objective aims to ensure that Victorian families, carers and individuals have respectful relationships and are safe from harm, fear and neglect in their homes. This includes:

- > addressing the compounding effects of abuse and violence
- > improving support and recovery for both victim survivors and perpetrators
- > ensuring the wellbeing of children and young people in care.

Indicator results

	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Reports to child protection services about the wellbeing and safety of children	128,705	139,612	151,587	154,227
Daily average number of children in care placements	9,366	9,316	9,288	9,145
Children and young people in care who have had two or less placements in the past 12 months (not including time at home in parental care)	93.1%	94%	94%	94.2%
Children and young people who were the subject of a substantiated report within 12 months of the closure of a previous substantiated report	16.1%	19.3%	19.7%	21.9%
Total assessments undertaken at the Support and Safety Hubs	122,229	176,012	186,524	206,350
Total assessments undertaken for children in the Support and Safety Hubs / The Orange Door	91,067	99,722	106,116	107,313
Number of family violence victim survivors who receive a refuge response	943	969	889	955
Number of men participating in the Men's Behaviour Change program	2,906	3110	5,337	5,307
Number of case management responses provided to perpetrators of family violence including those that require individualised support	1,748	2,849	3,328	3,606
Prevention of family violence projects and programs delivered on time	100%	100%	95.8%	95.8%

Key initiatives and projects

Supporting multicultural and faith communities to prevent and respond to family violence

Since 2020, more than 52,000 people from 80 culturally diverse and faith communities have participated in initiatives to prevent family and sexual violence through the *Supporting Multicultural and Faith Communities to Prevent Family Violence* program

Specialist organisations such as InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence, Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights and Wellsprings for Women provide culturally responsive case management services to support victim survivors to stay safe. Interpreters work across all services to improve accessibility.

The *Working Together: Strengthening Family and Sexual Violence Support with Multicultural Communities* program supports 17 partnerships between multicultural and family and sexual violence services. This work is jointly funded by the Victorian and Commonwealth governments. These projects are facilitating improved access to, and building cultural responsiveness of, services for victim survivors from migrant and refugee backgrounds.

Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework and the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme (FVISS)

The Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework continues to strengthen Victoria's system-wide response to family violence. MARAM and FVISS cover more than 8,470 prescribed organisations across health, education, justice and community services, with 598,500 workers now equipped to identify and manage family violence risk.

Statewide, more than 84,712 professionals were trained in MARAM and Information Sharing in 2025–26. Of these, more than 1,600 professionals received training in the Adults Using Family Violence Tools.

In 2025–26, 158,819 risk assessments and safety plans were completed. This included 13,008 plans for people using violence to stop their use of violence and abuse.

The FVISS supported more than 65,934 information sharing requests to enable information to be shared for the purposes of keeping adult and child victim survivors safe and people using violence in view.

We are also implementing recommendations from the MARAM, FVISS and CIP 5-Year Legislative Review and the MARAM 5-Year Evidence Review. This work will improve information sharing and system collaboration. It will ensure we identify children and young people's risk and respond to their safety and wellbeing needs.

Strengthening The Orange Door network governance and accountability arrangement

The department undertook a governance and accountability review of The Orange Door in 2024. Recommendations from the review will improve governance, risk management and partnership roles and responsibilities in The Orange Door. The establishment of a statewide governance group was identified as a priority in the review, with The Orange Door Statewide Partnership Group (SPG) commencing in November 2025. Members include community service and ACCO/ACCHO partners, peak body and departmental representatives. The SPG is facilitated by an external Chair. It serves as a dedicated, statewide decision-making body focused on shared problem-solving and strong network governance.

The SPG has an ambitious program of work. Key achievements in 2026 include finalising the *Integrated practice in The Orange Door summary guide*, a risk escalation protocol and statewide risk register, core terms of a workplace charter, an interagency HR issue-resolution procedure and an OHS guide to developing a record of partnership responsibilities.

Work on a statewide governance framework and a standard set of key performance indicators is currently underway.

Justice Navigators

The Justice Navigator pilot will support victim survivors of sexual violence to navigate their support and recovery options. The roles will be in specialist sexual assault services and provide independent specialist support to victim survivors of sexual violence to help them understand and access their rights across systems. These roles will assist victim survivors to navigate justice and recovery options, including those available through the justice system.

In 2025–26, in partnership with Sexual Assault Services Victoria, the department co-designed the service model with victim survivors and key stakeholders. Through an invited call-for-submissions process, Mallee Sexual Assault Unit and South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault were selected to deliver the pilot over 2 years.

Adolescent Family Violence Program

The Adolescent Family Violence in the Home (AFVITH) program provides trauma informed whole of family responses to increase safety and strengthen recovery. In 2025–26, the program supported over 1,000 young people aged between 12 and 17 years to rebuild healthy family relationships, and address trauma through integrated therapeutic family violence interventions.

The 2025–26 State Budget provided ongoing funding to AFVITH service providers across the state. An AFVITH service targeted to the unique needs of multicultural and multifaith communities is being trialled in the Western Melbourne Area, and an ACCO led AFVITH intervention is available in 9 DFFH Areas for Aboriginal families to access.

The department undertook an evaluation of the state-wide AFVITH program in 2023–24. The evaluation found that the program fills a critical service gap, delivering essential supports to young people and their families, with flow-on benefits for the Victorian community more broadly. Findings have been shared with funded service providers and peak bodies and will guide sector practice, program design and service improvement.

Mallee Aboriginal Access Point

The Mallee Aboriginal Access Point was launched in September 2025 and provides culturally safe, Aboriginal-led support for people experiencing or at risk of family violence. This is the third Aboriginal Access Point established in Victoria.

The service supports community members to improve housing stability, strengthen financial wellbeing and maintain connections to family, community and culture through flexible case management and brokerage.

Journey Walkers provide advocacy across housing, child protection, health and justice systems. They also support community members during Sorry Business to maintain important cultural and family connections.

Ongoing engagement with local services and community strengthened awareness of the program, contributing to increased self-referrals.

Changing Ways

The Changing Ways pilot program is a community-based intervention that works intensively with adults who use family violence to reduce and manage serious risk behaviour. It also works with victim survivors on safety planning and wellbeing. The pilot was initially funded in 2022–23 for 2 years. Further funding provided in 2025–26 allows the pilot to continue until June 2027. The program has been evaluated by the Centre for Innovative Justice, in partnership with Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS). Key findings demonstrate that the program supports sustained and flexible engagement with victim survivors. It also engages with serious-risk adults using violence to disrupt pathways towards severe harm.

Findings from the evaluation support continuous improvement opportunities for the pilot program, other serious-risk perpetrator interventions, the broader service system, and workforce and system capability.

Embedding self-determination for Aboriginal children, young people and families

In the Children portfolio, we are advancing self-determination by implementing the *Children and Health Legislation Amendment (Statement of Recognition, Aboriginal Self-determination and Other Matters) Act 2023*.

- > The Act came into effect on 1 July 2024. As part of our work to implement the act, we continue to implement and embed Aboriginal self-determination in the legislative framework for children and family services. This includes binding principles for decision-makers and measuring impact through development of the monitoring and evaluation framework for the Act.

Wungurilwil Gapgapduir and Aboriginal Children's Forum

The *Wungurilwil Gapgapduir: Aboriginal Children and Families Agreement* offers a systemic approach to improving outcomes for Aboriginal children, young people and families. It sets out our collective responsibility to develop a strong service system.

The Aboriginal Children's Forum (ACF) has developed a refreshed 4-year *Wungurilwil Gapgapduir strategic action plan*. Actions will advance an Aboriginal-led child and family services system.

As part of the refresh, ACCOs have led the process to set the ACF agenda. The Victorian Aboriginal Children and Young People's Alliance (VACYPA), alongside the Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency (VACCA), co-chair the ACF. They play a pivotal role in the oversight and delivery of more self-determined Aboriginal child and family services.

In collaboration with the ACF, the department has continued significant work to expand Aboriginal-led child and family services. This includes new policies to facilitate the transfer of funding and resources for care and case management of Aboriginal children in care from mainstream community services organisations to ACCOs.

The ACF has also fostered collaboration with Department of Education and Department of Health to focus efforts for prevention and early intervention to reduce the entry of Aboriginal children into child protection and out-of-home care. The ACF has partnered with the Aboriginal Justice Forum and the Department of Justice and Community Safety to explore intersections in child protection and justice systems for Aboriginal children. This included child sexual and criminal exploitation and joint accountabilities for Aboriginal children in both systems.

Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care and Community Protecting Boorais

Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care (ACAC) is a program for Aboriginal children and families involved with the child protection system. Under the program, authorised ACCOs provide child safety services. They do this instead of the department.

Under s. 18 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*, authorised ACCOs have legal responsibility for Aboriginal children or young people who have been placed on a Children's Court protection order or relevant order.

In 2025–26, the ACAC program has:

- > allocated an additional 6 teams across the state. This allowed us to provide services to an additional 137 children, and is now operating in 13 of 17 DFFH Areas. The Australian-first Community Protecting Boorais (CPB) program continued and expanded during 2025–26. The program expands the scope of the ACAC program. This includes allowing ACCOs to respond to child protection reports. This enables an earlier ACCO-led response to child safety. In 2025–26 the program grew and 245 child protection reports were responded to directly by authorised ACCOs.

Supporting children, young people and families through ongoing system reform

In 2023, Victoria established the Children portfolio. The portfolio improves equity, access and outcomes for Victorian children and families. It brings together Maternal and Child Health, Early Childhood Education and statutory and non-statutory Child and Family Services.

The portfolio supports children, young people and families. It works with communities, the child protection and family services sector, and people with lived experience.

The department led the development and implementation of the Supporting Stable and Strong Families Scheme, which was passed by Parliament in March 2026. The scheme establishes responsibilities for all Victorian ministers and departments to improve outcomes for at-risk children, young people, care leavers, and their families.

The scheme complements reforms that support family reunification via the *Children, Youth and Families (Stability) Act 2026*, which commenced in May 2026. The reform removed strict time limits for family reunification orders, providing families additional time to access support and make changes to support children returned to their care, when it is safe to do so and in the best interests of the child.

Family Services platform enhancements

Family Services aims to support families before challenges escalate and to divert families from more intensive and statutory interventions. Each year, Family Services supports approximately 40,000 families.

In 2025–26, the department modernised the Family Services platform to a more sustainable, evidence-based and targeted system of support.

Family Services platform enhancements include:

- > moving to 3 simplified and flexible service streams – Connecting Families, Strengthening Families and Restoring Families
- > creating capacity to support families experiencing complexity effectively and earlier
- > integrating learnings from previous trials to provide a statewide response for families engaged in the justice system
- > introducing new area-based resources to support service coordination and family-led decision-making.

A new service model for 10- and 11-year-old children with high-harm behaviours also commenced in 2025–26. This model leverages the Family Services platform by combining intensive whole-of-family support with child-focused behavioural, forensic disability and mental health supports to meet young person's needs and enhance community safety.

Victorian Redress for Historical Institutional Abuse and National Redress

Applications for Redress for Historical Institutional Abuse (Redress) opened on 10 December 2024 and will close on 31 December 2026. All eligible applications made before the program closure date will be funded. The program is for people who were physically, psychologically or emotionally abused or neglected as children in institutional settings before 1990.

Applicants who apply and are found eligible may be offered: payments of up to \$20,000, a personal acknowledgment and apology, and access to counselling.

The department also provides the statewide Counselling and Psychological Care Service Victoria and the Direct Personal Response Program. These are for people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse. This is part of National Redress.

Improving outcomes for children and young people in care

Education support for children in care

In 2023–24, the government invested \$10.7 million to support 500 children and young people in care with their education. Education Supports for Children in Care provides one-on-one tutoring from a qualified teacher. It is for children and young people in care who are disengaged or at risk of disengaging from education.

The program started in late 2024. In June 2026, it supported 413 children and young people across the 4 pilot locations. These are Central Highlands, North Eastern Melbourne, Outer Eastern Melbourne and Inner Gippsland.

An ACCO works in 3 of the 4 pilot areas.

Funding for the pilots in all 4 areas has been extended to December 2027.

This initiative is being delivered in collaboration with the Department of Education.

Pathways to Good Health

The *2023–24 State Budget* invested \$37.8 million over 4 years in the Pathway to Good Health program. The Department of Health leads this work.

The program gives children who enter or re-enter statutory care an automatic referral for health screening. This supports practitioners to provide health and disability supports.

The program has been implemented in all 17 department areas since December 2025 after a phased implementation. This initiative is being delivered in collaboration with the Department of Health.

Therapeutic supports for all young people in residential care

The *2023–24 State Budget* provided \$548 million to improve outcomes for young people in residential care, including to provide young people in residential care with access to therapeutic supports.

As of 1 July 2025, all children and young people living in residential care have access to therapeutic supports which includes a therapeutic specialist who:

- > undertakes assessments and planning to ensure young people receive tailored care and support

- > supports residential carers to deliver a therapeutic model of care and provide a trauma-informed response to complex behaviours, ensuring young people receive the care they need to promote healing from trauma and support their wellbeing.

The *2023–24 State Budget* also included ongoing funding to continue to expand 2- and 3-bed therapeutic residential care for 25 homes. These homes are all operational. They include specialised education, vocational and therapeutic supports.

Strengthening supports for foster and kinship carers

A pilot of 20 carer support networks commenced in 2025–26 for 120 to 200 foster and kinship carers. Carer support networks are groups of between 6–10 foster and kinship carers each supported by one experienced carer. These networks strengthen and enable localised peer-based support, social activities and informal advice between foster and kinship carers.

Expansion of therapeutic supports for children and young people in foster care

In 2025–26, 200 new therapeutic foster care placements were introduced to provide children and young people in foster care with access to therapeutic supports. These placements also include additional training and support for foster carers.

This is an important step in strengthening and modernising foster care in Victoria.

Supports for young people leaving care

The department continued to provide supports for young people leaving care through the Better Futures and Home Stretch programs. In addition, the department continues to implement the *2023–24 State Budget* investment of \$40.4 million in the Housing First for Young People Leaving Residential Care Initiative (Housing First). This initiative will support 225 young people leaving residential care and other care settings. It provides at least 2 years of housing and 3 years of wrap-around support. Housing First builds on existing leaving care supports like Better Futures and Home Stretch. It provides young people with a gradual and supported transition from care.

The department also supported the continued opportunity for young people who have left care to provide advice and input into future system improvements. The Ministerial Youth Advisory Group (MYAG) met 4 times in 2025–26. The Youth Expert Advisory Group (YEAG) met 12 times in 2025–26.

Key focus areas for the YEAG included developing a video resource for young people regarding the work of the YEAG, along with the *Better futures guide* (the guide) for young people to help them understand the supports available through the Better Futures and Home Stretch programs.

YEAG members will deliver information sessions to promote the guide in 2026–27.

Key focus areas for the MYAG included providing advice to the Minister for Children on the development and implementation of the Supporting Stable and Strong Families legislation, experiences of education and mental health.

Understanding what works for children and families – Menu of Evidence for Children and Families

In March 2023, the department launched the [Menu of Evidence for Children and Families](https://menu.dffh.vic.gov.au/).⁵ This searchable online database showcases the best available evidence of what works for children and families.

Since its release, the Menu has attracted more than 22,000 users. The Menu supports safe and effective Family Services. It sits alongside other sources, such as Aboriginal knowledge and client voice.

Growing evidence through collaboration – the Outcomes, Practice and Evidence Network

The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare coordinates the Outcomes, Practice and Evidence Network (OPEN). OPEN fosters a collaborative approach to evidence-informed services for children and families.

OPEN has more than 6,100 practitioners, policy makers and researchers. It champions practice-based research and contributes to building a robust Victorian evidence base. OPEN uses a calendar of annual learning events, training and communities of practice. This enables professional development, knowledge sharing, best practice and innovation.

5 <https://menu.dffh.vic.gov.au/>

Mobilising evidence for better outcomes

The Family Services platform uses an evidence approach. This embeds evidence at all stages of design, implementation and scaling.

It includes integrating the best available evidence with Aboriginal cultural practice. This ensures families receive support that provides the best chance of improved outcomes for children.

The evidence approach is flexible and inclusive. It accommodates different workforce skills and qualifications. It can be adapted to different contexts. It can also be tailored to families' needs.

The department provides coordinated implementation support. This helps practitioners apply proven methods in their work. It strengthens Family Services, making them consistent and effective.

Evaluations show positive outcomes for intensive family preservation and reunification support using the evidence approach. Children and young people from families supported in this way are less likely to enter Care Services.

Providing an enriched early career experience for community services graduates

The Community and Social Services Graduate Program gives new community services practitioners 12 months of professional development, improving their job-readiness and retention. Through cross-sector development activities and professional networking, graduates build their skills and confidence as they move from study to work.

The program is being delivered over 6 rounds from 2024 to 2028. So far:

- > 308 graduates from 48 employers have taken part
- > the fifth round will begin in November 2026
- > 29% of participating graduates are working within the department including in Child Protection, Secure Care and Forensic Disability
- > some participants were existing staff who had recently gained an eligible qualification, while others were hired through the program across a range of specialisms

In 2025, the Graduate Program introduced increased financial support for regional participants, who can receive up to \$5,000 to help with relocation, establishment and access to learning and development opportunities.

Reducing barriers to course completion

The Regional Disability Worker Scholarships initiative aims to attract and upskill disability workers in rural and regional areas.

The scholarship is for \$3,500. In the first round, 30 scholarships were awarded. The second round opened in July 2025 and 185 scholarships were awarded. The third and final round opened for applications in July 2026.

Supporting the Aboriginal sector workforce to deliver for Aboriginal communities

In 2024, the Aboriginal Strategic Governance Forum (ASGF) established a dedicated working group made up of Aboriginal sector leaders. The ASGF leads the development of a 10-year Aboriginal community-controlled workforce strategy to build a strong and sustainable Aboriginal sector workforce. The strategy covers Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal workforces in Aboriginal organisations. This includes those working in children and families, family violence and sexual assault, and housing and homelessness.

The strategy supports Closing the Gap's priority reform 2: strengthening the community-controlled sector. It is expected to be endorsed by the ASGF in 2026.

After Hours Child Protection Service

In 2025–26, the department implemented a new After Hours Child Protection Service (AHCPS) statewide stand-up rostered model. This followed the refreshed child protection operating model in 2024–25.

AHCPS offers a responsive, timely, integrated, targeted response. It provides opportunities for proactive intervention and outreach through consistent statewide AHCPS service coverage. Having consistent staff coverage across the state improves responsiveness and collaboration with stakeholders. It strengthens safety and support for children and families.

The new model receives reports for children needing urgent child protection intervention, as well as concerns for existing child protection clients requiring after-hours service response. The AHCPS operates outside usual business hours, between 5 pm to 9 am weekdays and 24 hours a day on weekends and public holidays.

Key benefits of the AHCPs statewide stand-up rostered model include:

- > statewide coverage and timely service response to vulnerable children and their families
- > consistent after-hours operational hours and flexible use of resources to support client need across metropolitan and rural areas, enabling greater service coverage statewide
- > greater oversight, integrated, targeted outreach and intervention for children most at risk
- > ability to undertake planned and proactive work after hours across the state
- > senior manager resourcing across all hours of operation to support decision-making, issue resolution, stakeholder collaboration and practitioner support
- > roster resourcing aligned to peak demand to improve responsiveness and reduce workload pressures
- > improved practitioner mobilisation, response and handover times and processes, better aligning service with client needs.

Strengthening the child protection workforce through targeted recruitment and retention

The department continued targeted recruitment and retention efforts in 2025–26. This included:

- > 90 participants in the Child Protection Employment Program successful in attaining ongoing employment
- > 222 tertiary students commencing a student placement as part of the Child Protection Student Placement Program
- > the Switch to Child Protection program employing 18 Advanced Child Protection Practitioners. The program recognises transferable skills and offers a supported learning pathway through the Graduate Certificate in Child Protection
- > nominating 28 sponsored employees for permanent residency who were recruited through the International Recruitment Strategy. This supports qualified and experienced practitioners to remain employed in their child protection roles and permanently remain in Victoria
- > implementing the Onshore Recruitment strategy to attract CPP4 and CPP5 suitably qualified and experienced candidates who are in Australia on their own visa who can then be sponsored for employment on a 'skills in demand' visa

- > implementing the New Zealand attraction strategy to attract CPP4 and CPP5 suitably qualified and experienced candidates to relocate to Victoria
- > delivering the targeted Go Where You're Needed recruitment campaign. This focused on attracting child protection practitioners to regional Victoria. More than 100 new practitioners were recruited to child protection following the campaign.
- > providing a retention allowance of up to \$15,000 over 3 years to eligible child protection employees in nominated regional locations. This was part of the Victorian Public Sector Enterprise Agreement 2024.

New Professional Supervision for Child Protection Practice

In March 2026, the department launched the Professional Supervision in Child Protection model to better meet practitioner and supervisor needs through additional and practical modes of supervision.

The model consists of 3 complementary supervision modes:

- > individual supervision
- > reflective group supervision (team based)
- > live supervision.

This consistent statewide supervision model is supported by a range of tools and training. It also includes a simpler set of reporting requirements that increase flexibility for achieving compliance and focus more on practitioner need.

A new bespoke training program for supervisors was developed by the Australian Childhood Foundation to support the implementation of the model. Delivery of the training program commenced in April 2026.

As of the end of June 2026, 350 child protection supervisors have completed the 2-day training program. Further training sessions for supervisors and child protection leaders are scheduled until February 2027.

Culturally Safe Practice (Cultural Elements) training for Child Protection Practitioners

The Yoorrook Justice Commission made several recommendations relating to training provided to the child protection workforce, including to substantially upscale capability, competence and support in relation to human and Aboriginal cultural rights and a review all relevant training programs.

After the success of a pilot program in 2024–25, in 2025–26 the Culturally Safe Practice (Cultural Elements) training program for child protection practitioners delivered face-to-face training to 331 child protection practitioners, managers and practice leaders across Victoria.

Preventing child sexual exploitation

In 2025–26, the Child Exploitation Response Team produced and launched a suite of resources, titled *"Understanding and responding to child sexual and criminal exploitation"*, which consisted of a Practice Guide, Literature Review, and Practitioner Toolkit. The Literature Review provides the knowledge

foundation for the Practice Guide and toolkit.

The Practice Guide equips practitioners across the sector with a shared understanding of exploitation risk, strengthens professional judgement, promoting consistent and effective responses and the toolkit provides practitioners with immediate direction and support to respond to child exploitation in practice. The resources were launched across the state of Victoria with representatives from child protection, aboriginal community-controlled organisations, community services organisations and other key stakeholders from across the child, youth and family sector.

Also during 2025–26, the Child Exploitation Response Team successfully established and embedded an Intelligence Strategy and Framework. This promotes intelligence that is consistent, co-ordinated and proactive, supporting sound operational decision making by internal and external stakeholders.

Objective: Safe, fair, inclusive and resilient Victorian communities

This objective aims to ensure Victorians are socially connected to their community in a way that enhances their safety and wellbeing. Strong communities are critical in fostering social inclusion and participation, and ensuring that Victorians from intersectional communities can safely identify with their culture, express their identity and build support networks with people they trust.

Indicator results

	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Hours of coordination funding provided to Neighbourhood Houses	561,320	561,106	560,351	561,058
Number of Disability Advocacy clients	2,782	2,821	2,812	2,788
Forensic disability residents participating in community reintegration activities	86%	97%	97%	99%
Senior satisfaction with Victorian Seniors Festival events	96%	90%	90%	86.3%
Community engagement – Shrine ceremonial activities, public and student education programs, tours and general visitation	1,201,664	1,777,590	1,711,320	2,050,972
Proportion of LGBTIQ+ grant program recipients located in regional and rural areas	52%	39.7%	25.4%	30.3%
Participation by young people in programs that provide opportunities to be involved in social and economic life in their communities	305,608	389,619	260,780	209,390
Participation by young people in programs that support young people to be involved in decision making in their community	3,631	4,449	3,732	2,648
Percentage of women on Victorian Government boards	53%	53%	53%	54%

Key initiatives and projects

Supporting wellbeing and engagement for culturally diverse young people

The department continued to provide services to young people from multicultural communities. This work recognises young people's individual strengths and the significant contributions they make to their communities and broader society. People from these communities can experience additional barriers to achieving positive social, education and economic outcomes. These additional barriers include systemic racism and cultural bias. Collectively, these compound structural disadvantage.

The 2023–24 *State Budget* provided \$23.4 million over 4 years for the Investing Early Where It Matters package. This included prevention and early intervention initiatives. These supported South Sudanese, Somali, Afghan and Pasifika young people and their families. Highlights for 2025–26 included:

- > providing 6 Community Support Groups that support more than 2,500 young people and their families. This includes support and referrals for education and training, mental health and employment. It also includes cultural and community activities that foster engagement and participation
- > the Le Mana Pasifika Project. The project provides targeted supports for at-risk Pasifika young people. This includes connecting them with education, employment, their families, community and support services. The project supported more than 1,000 Pasifika young people in 2025–26. It provided in-school programs, cultural capacity building, employment support and programs fostering family and community connection

- > youth alcohol and other drugs (AOD) outreach support – complementing Community Support Groups and Le Mana to provide multicultural young people with more than 200 individualised AOD episodes of care a year. This includes building resilience, pro-social connections and case management to support harm minimisation through the Youth Support and Advocacy Service.

A one-off \$750,000 boost in 2025–26 was also provided to support 3 South Sudanese Community Support Groups. This funding meets increased demand following recent tragic incidents that have deeply affected these communities.

Supporting engagement in education for young people with mental health challenges

The department continued to support youth engagement through the Living Learning program. The program supports young people who experience mental health conditions. In 2025–26, Living Learning supported 72 young people to re-engage with education, employment or training and to stabilise their mental health.

The program is delivered by Melbourne City Mission at its independent school the Hester Hornbrook Academy. The program provides wrap-around mental health and specialist supports, including counselling, occupational therapy, and family therapy.

Evaluations show the program improves young people's mental and physical health, confidence, self-efficacy and engagement in education, employment and training.

Delivering the state disability plan to improve access and inclusion for Victorians with disability

The department is implementing *Inclusive Victoria: state disability plan 2022–2026* (state disability plan), which was released in March 2022. The state disability plan and the Victorian autism plan were extended to 2027. This enables the next plans to respond to national disability reforms. During 2025–26, we continued to invest in the state disability plan to improve access, inclusion and outcomes for people with disability.

During the reporting period, the department began work on the next state disability plan and Victorian autism plan. This includes public consultation about the 2 plans between April 2026 and July 2026. We sought feedback from people with disability, their families and carers, friends and allies, disability and community organisations, and service providers. Consultation occurred in 3 ways:

- > online engagement through the Engage Victoria platform, where people could complete a survey or upload a written submission or video
- > targeted engagement by funded organisations to reach underrepresented communities and people who may face barriers to participating in government consultations
- > in-person and online forums co-facilitated by members of the Victorian Disability Advisory Council.

Lived experience advisory groups shape the next plans. Their input ensures consultation is accessible, inclusive and focused on the experiences of people with disability.

Feedback from the consultation will inform the development of the next plans. The plans will outline the Victorian Government's priorities to improve access, inclusion and outcomes for Victorians with disability and people with autism.

Changes to the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*

The department progressed changes to Part 12A of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*. The changes will help to ensure the rights of people with disability in specialist disability accommodation (SDA) are upheld. The changes will also ensure that the Part 12A agreements operate as intended. The changes:

- > validate certain SDA residency agreements that were made during the transition to the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*
- > gave VCAT new powers to help resolve SDA residency agreement validity issues
- > streamlined SDA residential notice requirements.

The changes came into force on 1 July 2026.

Supporting organisations through the Victorian Disability Advocacy Program

Victoria's disability advocacy organisations help create a safer and fairer Victoria through individual, self and systemic advocacy.

The Victorian Disability Advocacy Program provides funding for systemic and individual advocacy. Under the Victorian Disability Advocacy Program, the department funds 21 disability advocacy agencies, including 2 resource units. In 2025–26, additional funding enabled organisations to continue to assist an additional 800 Victorians with disability. This was on top of the base target of 1,700 clients a year. In 2025–26, funded organisations exceeded the annual target of assisting 2,500 people. The program assisted a total of 2,788 people during the 2025–26 financial year.

Building the capacity of mainstream services to support people with complex disability needs

The Victorian Government allocated \$0.68 million in the *2025–26 State Budget* to support building the capability of mainstream services to work with the NDIS. This includes supporting people with complex disability needs. We developed training for Complex Needs Coordinators in the department, and Community Corrections Services staff in the Department of Justice and Community Safety. This training builds workforce skills to work more effectively with the NDIS and support service users to access and maximise the benefits of the NDIS.

Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability

The Victorian Government published its response to the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (Disability Royal Commission) on 31 July 2024. The Commonwealth also published a joint response to the 85 joint Commonwealth, state and territory recommendations on the same date. Victoria's response builds on the joint response.

We continue to work collaboratively with Victorian Government departments and other jurisdictions to implement the recommendations. The Victorian Government reports on the 130 recommendations within its remit. This includes providing reporting to the Disability Reform Ministerial Council. This council oversees the implementation of the recommendations.

NDIS review and foundational supports

As an initial response to the NDIS Review, National Cabinet agreed to jointly design Foundational Supports. Thriving Kids is the first cohort of Foundational Supports. It supports children aged 8

and under who have developmental delay or autism with low to moderate support needs. The department supports the Department of Education as the lead for Thriving Kids implementation in Victoria.

Delivering contemporary and innovative specialist disability accommodation

The department expanded the Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) Capital Pilot Program, investing \$27.5 million to build new and innovative SDA. These new homes are an alternative to the group home model. They are delivered in partnership with residents, their supports and supported independent living providers.

In 2025–26, we completed new homes for 14 residents. In recognition of its quality design, one of the homes completed in 2025–26 received an award in the Australian Institute of Architecture Victorian Architecture Awards. Across the program, we have completed new homes for 39 residents. The *2026–2027 State Budget* allocated \$18.7 million to extend the new build SDA program.

The *2025–26 State Budget* allocated \$19.2 million to replace fire panels in SDA. The fire panel replacement program proactively invests in the safety of residents living in department-owned SDA homes.

Providing relief and social recovery programs after emergencies

The department mitigates the impact of emergencies on communities and individuals. We focus on Victorians who face greater risk in emergencies.

Following the Western Victoria Bushfires in December 2024 and January 2025, the department:

- > worked with councils to identify relevant psychosocial supports for affected communities. Specialists from the Psychosocial Services Panel delivered customised support for people affected by the fires
- > worked with the Department of Health and Agriculture Victoria to develop and distribute communications packs to councils. These packs focused on mental health and wellbeing supports
- > provided 1,286 emergency relief payments totalling \$1,419,620 for eligible residents.

Delivery of an integrated child and family services response for the most vulnerable children with disability

The *2025–26 State Budget* provided \$24.1 million for one year to continue specialist disability Family Services programs and an expanded Disability Practice Advisor (DPA) workforce. The Family Services programs support families where children or parents have disability with direct support and system navigation so that children can thrive. DPAs provide advice and support to the child protection workforce to better support children and families with disability and maintain capacity to identify and provide early intervention to families of children with complex disability to prevent the need for out of home accommodation.

Delivering a Complex Needs and Forensic Disability Aboriginal Self-determination Strategy

The *2023–24 State Budget* provided \$1 million over 2 years to develop and implement an Aboriginal self-determination strategy for people with complex needs. This includes people with cognitive disability.

In 2024–25, we supported developing the strategy to support Aboriginal Victorians with cognitive impairment and complex needs. It ensures that Aboriginal people receive culturally appropriate services. The strategy strengthens self-determination. It aims to empower Aboriginal communities and improve outcomes for people. The work was undertaken by an Aboriginal owned consultancy group. In 2025–26, the department is working with local ACCOs to implement the strategy. This work focuses on tangible benefits for clients and improved collective understanding from providers and staff.

Delivering the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program and Men's Shed Funding Program

In 2025–26, the department continued to deliver the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program. The program receives more than \$46 million annually. This includes funding for around 400 neighbourhood houses, 16 networks and the peak body, Neighbourhood Houses Victoria.

Neighbourhood houses support social inclusion and community connection. They are led by communities and respond to local needs. They provide childcare, employment, education, social and volunteering opportunities.

In 2025, neighbourhood houses across Victoria reported over 9.8 million visits and 438,000 activity sessions.

The department also continued to deliver the Men's Shed Funding Program in 2025–26. This supported the Victorian Men's Shed Association and provided 31 grants of up to \$100,000 for men's sheds across the state. Grants can be used to upgrade or build new facilities or purchase new equipment.

These social infrastructure programs support better health, wellbeing and social connection for Victorians.

Delivering more food relief to Victorians

The *2025–26 State Budget* allocated \$18 million over 3 years to deliver more food relief to where it is needed most.

It included \$6 million over 2 years to continue supporting operations of the state's 6 regional foodshares – in Albury–Wodonga, Bendigo, Geelong, Mildura, Shepparton and Warrnambool – and shared services delivered through the Regional Food Security Alliance. This promotes an efficient regional food relief system.

The investment also included \$3 million over 3 years for Foodbank Victoria's innovative GROW Program. The program will divert 4,000 tonnes of surplus farm produce over 3 years and redirect this to the food relief system to provide healthy, Victorian-grown produce to Victorians in need.

The *2025–26 State Budget* also allocated \$9 million for a second round of the Community Food Relief Program. This program provides grants to strengthen local, regional and statewide food relief models as well as \$500,000 over 2 years for Foodbank Victoria to boost charity freight to regional Victoria.

The Local Grants stream of the program provided 126 grants across 60 local government areas. This work bolstered local food relief supply and capacity. For example, North Melbourne Chinese Association Inc. received \$19,000 to support Chinese-speaking seniors living in public housing with culturally appropriate food deliveries for a year, and Wathaurong Booln Booln Cultural Centre in Geelong received \$97,000 to deliver quarterly community meals and bush-tucker workshops for First Nations families, and to support their community garden.

The Coordination Grants stream of the program delivered 7 grants to regional and statewide food relief providers. This will improve food relief supply and distribution across Victoria. For example, Geelong Foodshare received \$250,000 to improve food relief efficiency and sustainability through shared logistics and supplier relationships, to expand access to healthy, culturally appropriate food, including in Colac Otway and Golden Plains.

A further \$5 million was allocated in 2025–26 to expand SecondBite's Derrimut warehouse. Once complete, this project will triple food relief volume and double support to regional Victoria and Melbourne's north over the next 10 years.

These programs are just some of the initiatives to address food insecurity. In addition, the department provides more than \$3.3 million each year in recurrent funding to support Foodbank Victoria's operations, and a further \$2.7 million immediate food relief package in 2025–26 supported food relief providers to manage rising operational costs including in response to fuel supply challenges.

Delivering the Good Money Program and No-Interest Loans Scheme

The department continued to support the Good Money Program in 2025–26. The program provides Victorians facing financial stress with access to no-interest loans, budgeting advice and referrals to other supports.

Good Money is delivered by Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand. It has 5 shop fronts in Dandenong, Collingwood, Craigieburn, Morwell and Geelong. It also has phone and digital services. In 2025–26, Good Money received 17,882 enquiries and approved 2,415 no-interest loans.

Clients can use loans to purchase essential goods and services and for other health and education-related expenses. The *2021–22 State Budget* allocated \$14.6 million over 4 years, including \$3.1 million to deliver phone and digital services, and \$3.8 million a year from 2025–26.

The *2025–26 State Budget* allocated an additional \$5 million over 4 years to expand the program, including the new Good Money shop front in Craigieburn which opened in February 2026, expansion of the community providers network, and promotion of the no-interest loans digital platform.

In 2025–26, the department also provided \$500,000 to Good Shepherd to increase accessibility of no-interest loans across Victoria. It does this via a network of community providers. During this period, the community providers' network received 5,458 enquiries and approved 4,359 no-interest loans (10% above target).

Celebrating older Victorians through the 43rd Victorian Seniors Festival

In 2025–26, the department hosted the 43rd Victorian Seniors Festival. Across October 2025, 163,900 people attended over 4,700 free or low-cost events across the state. The festival included events hosted by the department, community organisations and local councils.

Local councils offered or supported 3,692 events, representing 78.5% of all events offered. These were attended by 114,962 people. The festival opened on Celebration Day at Federation Square with more than 17,000 people in attendance. Seniors Card holders received 8 days of free public transport during the festival. As part of bringing the festival to regional Victoria, 26 country concerts were held attended by 7,633 people. The Victorian Seniors Festival Aged Care Tour also delivered magic, music and entertainment to more than 1,548 senior Victorians living in 36 aged care facilities across the state.

The 2025 Victorian Senior of the Year Awards recognised 17 senior Victorians at an event hosted by Her Excellency the Honourable Professor Margaret Gardner AC, Governor of Victoria. The awards recognise and celebrate older Victorians who contribute to their community through volunteering.

Supporting more older people to save through the Victorian Seniors Card

In 2025–26, the Victorian Seniors Card program reached a significant milestone, exceeding 1.5 million Seniors Card holders across the state.

The department worked in partnership with the Department of Transport and Planning, to deliver more savings for older people with the expansion of free weekend travel for all Seniors myki holders from 1 January 2026.

Supporting unpaid primary carers through the Victorian Carer Card

The department launched changes to proof of eligibility requirements to make it easier for all carers, particularly young, foster and kinship carers to apply for the Victorian Carer Card. School staff are now authorised to confirm a young carer's status. In addition, statutory declarations and letters from foster agencies can now be used to confirm a person's unpaid primary carer status. Since the introduction of these changes, cardholder numbers have increased from 29,000 to over 33,000 unpaid primary carers benefiting from the card.

As part of these eligibility changes, the department also refreshed the Victorian Carer Card website to make it easier for carers to find information on who is eligible, how to apply, discounts and benefits, and support and services available to them.

In addition, the department worked in partnership with the Department of Transport and Planning, to deliver more savings for carers with the expansion of free weekend public transport to all Victorian Carer Card holders from 1 January 2026.

Supporting unpaid carers through the Victorian Carer Strategy

In 2025–26, the department released the *Victorian Carer Strategy 2025–2035*. The updated strategy focuses on 4 key areas to help guide how we support carers:

- > awareness, recognition and respect
- > quality services in the right place, at the right time
- > participation, connection and opportunity
- > recognise and support First Nations care relationships.

The goal of the whole-of-government strategy is to improve carer health and wellbeing.

The department continued to provide Carers Victoria with \$2.5 million annually. This peak body supports carers across the state. It provides access information, advocacy and help with navigating services. Carers Victoria also delivers education and training for the sector and provides advice to government on matters of importance for Victoria's carers.

The department also funded Carers Victoria and the Victorian Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO) \$760,000 to deliver another round of the Connecting Carers in their Community grants in 2025–26. A total of 34 organisations are delivering projects helping carers to access local support and create valuable social networks. This includes supporting 7 First-Peoples-led carer groups and yarning circles and projects supporting carers from diverse backgrounds, First Nations communities and those living in rural and regional areas.

Delivering support and respite for carers

The department continued to administer the Victorian Support for Carers Program, with \$22.4 million plus indexation invested annually.

The program operates through 58 providers across the state. It offers one-to-one support, counselling, support groups, information and respite options. These are tailored to the needs of Victoria's unpaid carers.

The *2022–23 State Budget* invested \$38 million over 4 years to provide additional respite for carers. This enables 5,000 more Victorian carers to access an additional 100,000 hours of respite each year to 2026–27. It includes carers in regional and rural Victoria and carers from diverse communities.

In 2025–26, the combined Support for Carers Program and additional respite funding exceeded targets. The program supported more than 30,000 carers through more than 400,000 hours of carer respite and support. This includes through flexible online engagement.

Continuing elder abuse initiatives to address family violence for older people

In 2025–26, the department continued to deliver initiatives that address elder abuse. This included awareness raising, primary prevention, early intervention and response.

These initiatives included:

- > supporting a statewide elder abuse helpline. This provides information, referrals, legal casework, education and advocacy
- > Elder Abuse Prevention Networks. These deliver local action to raise awareness and stop abuse from occurring, using a primary prevention approach. This includes addressing ageism and gender inequality for older women

- > a counselling and mediation service interfacing with select The Orange Door locations. The service provides therapeutic options for older people seeking assistance
- > a targeted project with ethnic communities. The project raises awareness of elder abuse and how to access support services
- > an Elder Abuse Learning Hub for professionals working with older people. This helps professionals to understand, identify and respond to elder abuse.

In 2025–26, Victoria's first dedicated primary prevention resource for professionals responding to elder abuse was released, *Respecting and valuing older people: Victoria's primary prevention of elder abuse framework*. The Elder Abuse Prevention Networks are embedding the framework into their work to support effective primary prevention action.

Senior Victorians Advisory Committee

The Senior Victorians Advisory Committee provides a voice to the government on the lived experiences of older Victorians. The department works with the committee to inform related government policy and programs. This includes implementing the *Ageing well action plan 2022–2026*. The committee comprises 8 community members, including the chairperson, and 4 sector members. Committee members reflect the diversity and lived experience of older Victorians.

The committee met 3 times during 2025–26. Matters considered include social isolation and loneliness, elder abuse, support in regional and rural settings, aged care and ageing well at home, and digital literacy.

The committee is appointed for a 3-year term, which will expire at the end of 2027.

Delivering Victoria's gender equality strategy and action plan

The department continues to drive implementation of *Our equal state: Victoria's gender equality strategy and action plan 2023–2027*. The strategy includes 110 whole-of-government and portfolio-specific actions. These actions embed a shared responsibility for gender equality across government.

A reference group provides strategic advice on the implementation of *Our equal state*. The group comprises members with gender equality expertise and a deep understanding of intersectionality. The group's experience supports progress gender equality in Victoria.

In the third year of the strategy, we continued to drive significant progress on actions. We rolled out the Free Pads and Tampons in Public Places program in every local government area. Across government, the landmark Inquiry into Women's Pain was released to ensure women's pain is recognised, understood and properly treated. Legislation was also introduced in Victoria to restrict the use of non-disclosure agreements in workplace sexual harassment cases. This aims to dismantle the culture of secrecy that allows behaviours to continue.

Our equal state ensures government elevates and prioritises gender equality across all portfolios. It is part of real and meaningful change set out in the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

Advancing gender equality by implementing the Gender Equality Act 2020

The *Gender Equality Act 2020* requires Victorian public sector organisations, universities and councils with 50 or more employees to measure and improve gender equality.

In 2025–26, the Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner supported duty holders to comply with their obligations under the Act to prepare and submit progress reports and Gender Equality Action Plans based on workplace gender audit data. This includes:

- > publishing detailed templates, guides, compliance rubrics and how-to videos to support duty holders to prepare their reporting obligations
- > issuing compliance feedback to duty holders in relation to their workplace gender audit data
- > releasing a statement on the Commissioner's regulatory priorities and compliance approach for assessing these reporting obligations.

In 2025–26, the Commissioner launched 2 data insights reports on the gender pay gap and workplace sexual harassment. The Commissioner also published new industry-focused guides to support duty holders to undertake gender impact assessments on public-facing policies, programs and services.

Advancing women's leadership and representation

In 2025–26, the department continued to fund programs to increase leadership opportunities for Victorian women. This work also reduces the barriers women often encounter in leadership roles in workplaces and the community.

The department hosted the annual Victorian Honour Roll of Women in September 2025. This saw the outstanding contributions of 24 Victorian women elevated and celebrated.

The department supported delivery of co-designed leadership programs. This included the Women of Colour Executive Leadership Program, Elevating Connections Healing Ourselves (ECHO) First Nations Women's Leadership Program and the Joan Kirner Emerging Leaders Program. We also supported the delivery of a women's leadership alumni pilot program. This pilot brought together participants from past women's leadership programs for professional development, networking and mentoring to connect and empower local leaders.

The department also commissioned 6 new public artworks through the second round of the Victorian Women's Public Art Program. The program aims to address the underrepresentation of women and their contributions and achievements through enduring public artworks. The selection of artworks was informed by a public consultation process. Three of the artworks were launched in 2025–26.

The \$1.2 million grant program builds on the success of 6 artworks unveiled under the program in 2023. The program continues to pay tribute to the women who made a lasting impact on Victoria's culture, history and development – with selected sites across metro and regional areas.

Providing a dedicated space for women at the Queen Victoria Women's Centre

The Queen Victoria Women's Centre is an iconic venue in Melbourne's CBD that promotes gender equality, inclusion and diversity. It delivers cultural and arts activities that bring women together. It welcomed more than 80,000 visitors in 2025–26.

The centre also operates a retail space selling products by local women and non-binary artists and designers. It provides venue hire and office space to women's organisations, including Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA) House, Council of Single Mothers and their Children, She Shapes History and Ovarian Cancer Australia.

Supporting women's health and wellbeing through access to free period products

In 2025–26, the Free Pads and Tampons in Public Places program was rolled out across the state and is in every local government area. This \$23 million program improves access to essential health products, normalises periods and eases cost-of-living pressures for people who menstruate.

The program includes smart and battery-operated machines in 745 venues. This includes libraries, hospitals, TAFEs, staffed train stations, universities, community centres, community sports centres, neighbourhood houses and cultural institutions.

The roll-out started in November 2024. By 30 June 2026, more than 1,400 machines have been installed across Victoria and provided more than 975,000 packs of free period products to those who need them.

Safer workplaces for women

The Safe Workplaces for Women Initiative is changing culture and attitudes to women in the workplace. It also increases legal and other support available for gendered workplace issues including wage theft, sexual harassment and unfair dismissal.

The initiative is a partnership between organisations representing employees and employers through Victorian Trades Hall Council and the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It ensures workers understand their rights, employers meet their legal obligations and people can access support.

The initiative also enables more women to access in-depth employment law support and advice through the Working Women's Centre Victoria. The department funds the federally funded centre to expand its services in rural and regional areas across Victoria. This will ensure better access to legal and support services for every woman in Victoria who needs them.

Supporting local stakeholders to participate in the Women Deliver Global Conference in Melbourne

Women Deliver is one of the largest gender equality conferences in the world. In April 2026, more than 6,000 delegates from over 180 countries gathered at the conference hosted in Melbourne.

The conference aimed to have important conversations, break barriers and address gender equality challenges.

It was the first time a Women Deliver conference was held in the Oceanic Pacific region.

The department supported participation in the Women Deliver 2026 Conference through targeted scholarships for local stakeholders to attend, supporting First Nations women's representation. It also contributed to conference governance and programming, free venue hire for local events at the Queen Victoria Women's Centre and support for Victorian organisations to showcase their work in the conference exhibition space.

Championing equality by delivering Victoria's LGBTIQ+ strategy

The department delivers *Pride in our future: Victoria's LGBTIQ+ strategy 2022–32* (the strategy). This is the Victorian Government's long-term reform vision for LGBTIQ+ communities.

We work with LGBTIQ+ communities through the Ministerial LGBTIQ+ Taskforce, Justice and Health and Wellbeing Working Groups and the LGBTIQ+ Disability Inclusion Expert Advisory Group. The strategy is overseen by the Interdepartmental Steering Group.

In the strategy's fourth year of implementation, we championed equitable, inclusive and accessible policy and programs across government which saw Victoria establish health safeguards for people born with variations in sex characteristics. We also worked closely with other departments to address community safety concerns amid rising incidents of vilification, violence and hate targeting LGBTIQ+ Victorians.

Driving LGBTIQ+ inclusion in community and health organisations

The department funds Rainbow Health Australia to deliver the Rainbow Tick program which is supporting up to 160 health and community organisations to show they are safe and inclusive for LGBTIQ+ communities through training, tailored supports and Rainbow Tick accreditation.

Rainbow Tick is widely recognised as one of the most meaningful ways to measure and demonstrate LGBTIQ+ inclusion in organisational practices and service delivery.

In 2025–26, the Rainbow Tick program achieved a significant milestone, engaging 100 organisations across metropolitan, regional and rural Victoria since its launch in 2023. The strongest regional representation is in Hume, Loddon Mallee and Barwon South West.

Supporting older LGBTIQ+ Victorians

The 2023–24 *State Budget* invested \$4.5 million over 4 years for Switchboard to deliver the Pride in Ageing program. This peer-designed and locally delivered pilot program helps older LGBTIQ+ Victorians feel connected, safe and proud to live as their authentic selves.

It runs in key regional locations across Victoria including East Gippsland, North East Victoria (Wodonga), South West Victoria (Warrnambool) and Golden Plains Shire.

In 2025–26, Switchboard appointed 4 Regional Coordinators and continued to develop partnerships with existing services in regions to build their capacity to meet the needs of LGBTIQ+ older people. The program also held the first designated LGBTIQ+ event as part of the 2025 Victorian Seniors Festival.

Supporting LGBTIQ+ Victorians and strengthening the sector through grants

The department funds 3 competitive grant programs that enable community organisations to support and celebrate LGBTIQ+ communities:

- > Pride Events and Festivals Fund
- > LGBTIQ+ Organisational Development program
- > LGBTIQ+ Sector Strengthening program.

In 2025–26, these programs provided grants totalling \$1.6 million to 58 projects.

Funded projects include:

- > events that celebrate and strengthen LGBTIQ+ communities
- > projects that support the growth, capacity and sustainability of LGBTIQ+ organisations
- > critical service delivery projects that support resilience and empower LGBTIQ+ communities.

Progressing LGBTIQ+ inclusion in regional and rural communities

LGBTIQ+ people in regional and rural areas face compounding barriers to accessing services.

In 2025–26, more than 30% of projects funded through the Equality portfolio's 3 competitive grant programs were based in or directly supported rural and regional communities. This exceeds the department's performance measure target of 25%.

Funded projects included events for regional and rural LGBTIQ+ communities that combat social isolation like family-friendly festivals, sporting events and social gatherings.

Other funded projects supported regional and rural outreach for priority cohorts by LGBTIQ+ organisations and improving LGBTIQ+ inclusion across mainstream health and community organisations.

QHubs: Creating Safe Spaces for Western Victoria's LGBTIQ+ young people

In 2023–24, the department established a trial of Safe Spaces in Western Victoria. This place-based program increases access to mental health support and fosters social connection for LGBTIQ+ young people and their families. Two QHub sites are in full operation in Ballarat and Geelong. They provide outreach to the Surf Coast area and online.

A consortium of community organisations delivers QHubs. QHubs allow LGBTIQ+ young people up to the age of 25 to access affirming and inclusive care. They also promote peer-to-peer support and intergenerational connections with older members of the rainbow community.

Since 2023, the program has supported 199 regional clients and families. During the same period, it reached more than 12,874 people through community engagement, including school visits. This helped to strengthen inclusion across entire communities.

Celebrating LGBTIQ+ identity and culture through Victoria's Pride

The Victoria's Pride Street Party and Regional Activation Program increased in size and impact once again in 2025–26. LGBTIQ+ arts and cultural organisation Midsumma Festival delivered the Victoria's Pride statewide celebrations for the fifth time in 2025–26.

The department supported a range of Victoria's Pride events across the state, including 15 events in regional and rural areas funded by the Regional Activation Program. Almost 10,000 people participated across the series of events.

Victoria's Pride culminated in the biggest ever Victoria's Pride Street Party in Fitzroy on Sunday, 8 February 2026. An estimated 65,448 people attended the free street party, a 9% increase in attendance from the record set in 2025.

In total, approximately 75,000 people participated in Victoria's Pride in 2025–26.

Midsumma Festival also delivered the annual LGBTIQ+ Pride March which drew in 34,419 participants including over 11,419 marchers and 23,000 spectators.

Delivering peer-led supports for Victoria's trans and gender diverse communities

In the context of increasing transphobia and anti-trans vilification, trans and gender diverse communities continue to be supported through evidence-based peer-led support models funded by the department.

In 2025–26, we continued to partner with Transgender Victoria to deliver the Trans and Gender Diverse Peer Support Program. The program delivers a range of wellbeing supports to trans and gender diverse communities including individual Peer Navigation, social groups, art therapy and gender affirmation services. Services are delivered on-site in Brunswick East, via statewide outreach and online.

Outcomes of the program include improved wellbeing, social connection and access to services. In 2025–26, 435 trans and gender diverse Victorians accessed the Peer Support Program.

Delivering youth infrastructure projects

The department continued its longstanding partnership with Scouts Victoria, an organisation that has supported young people across the state for more than 100 years. Since 2018, this partnership has delivered 28 new and upgraded Scout halls with a further 4 projects underway. These facilities provide safe and welcoming spaces where young people can learn new skills, build friendships, strengthen community connections and support their mental and physical wellbeing.

The department also partnered with Wyndham City Council to develop a new and vibrant outdoor recreation space beside the Manor Lakes Community Centre. The space features sports courts, seating and public artwork to encourage young people to be active, connect with each other and participate in community programs.

Strengthening statewide youth participation and connection

The department continued to provide meaningful opportunities for young people to participate in their communities, develop new skills and confidence, and have a voice in decisions that affect them.

In 2025, the Engage! program supported 73 organisations to empower young people to co-design and deliver youth-friendly events and activities. More than 60,000 young people who took part in the program developed leadership and life skills through vocational training workshops, mentoring programs and youth advisory groups.

The Amplify program supported over 410 youth-led music, creative and cultural events across Victoria. These safe, inclusive and alcohol, drug and smoke-free events gave young people opportunities to develop leadership skills, express their creativity and connect with their communities. Amplify invests in the future of Victoria's music and creative industries by providing access to opportunities and career pathways for emerging musicians, artists and aspiring events management professionals.

Future Ready commenced its first year of implementation in 2025, supporting around 5,800 young people to build practical skills and prepare for future education and employment pathways. The program funds government secondary schools, community organisations and social enterprises to deliver mentoring, accredited training, work experience, community volunteering and leadership opportunities. Funded initiatives support secondary students to strengthen their confidence and connections and achieve their goals.

The Victorian Youth Congress continued to provide a platform for young people to identify and advocate to government on issues that matter to them. They help to embed a youth perspective and voice in policies, programs and decisions that affect Victorian young people. The congress continues to inform the implementation of *Our promise, your future: Victoria's youth strategy 2022–2027*.

Acknowledging veterans' service through the Veterans Card – Victoria

In 2025–26, the department continued to deliver the digital Veterans Card – Victoria, in partnership with Service Victoria.

The Veterans Card is a groundbreaking Australian first. It acknowledges and thanks our veterans for their service and sacrifice. It also provides a convenient pathway to access veteran-specific savings and services. This includes targeted employment programs and supports.

As of 30 June 2026, more than 26,100 Victorian veterans had signed up for the Veterans Card.

Supporting veterans transition to civilian life through employment and recognition of prior learning

Through the Public Sector Veteran Employment Strategy, the Victorian public sector has employed a further 155 veterans between July 2025 and June 2026. A total of 2026 veterans have been employed since the strategy commenced in July 2017. This work is part of Victoria's commitment to supporting veterans as they transition out of service. The strategy has been extended to June 2027.

The strategy provides targeted workshops to help veterans understand and navigate public sector recruitment processes, Veteran Employment Network and mentor program. The unique mentor program pairs current and former Australian Defence Force members with mentors to help with job applications and career advancement.

The department also funds a program to recognise prior learning for veterans. This is delivered by Wodonga TAFE. The program helps veterans leverage the skills and knowledge they gained during military service into skills that are nationally recognised in the equivalent civilian qualifications.

Delivering grant programs to support veterans' infrastructure and welfare

The department continued to provide grants to community organisations. This included grants for capital works, commemoration and education, war memorial restoration and programs that deliver welfare and wellbeing support for veterans and their families. The department delivers funding to the veteran and ex-service community through four annual grant programs. In 2025–26, the department allocated almost \$2.6 million across 80 projects:

- > the Veterans Capital Works grant program allocated funds to 18 ex service organisations to deliver building and facility improvements
- > the Anzac Day Proceeds Fund supported 20 veteran welfare and wellbeing initiatives
- > Victoria Remembers supported 27 commemorative and educational projects
- > Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour supported 15 critical projects to support respectful commemoration of veterans throughout Victoria.

Encouraging students to learn and appreciate our nation's Anzac spirit

The department delivers the annual Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize competition, which supports selected Victorian students enrolled in Years 9 to 12 to learn about Australia's wartime and peacekeeping history through a fully funded study tour.

The 12 student recipients of the 2025 prize travelled to Türkiye in September 2025. The 2026 competition closed in May 2026, and the recipients will travel to Vietnam in September 2026.

Building capability in the disability workforce

In 2025–2026, the department continued to partner with the University of Melbourne to deliver training to Victorian Authorised Program Officers working in the disability sector. For the first time, the University of Melbourne offered the Authorised Program Officer professional development course as a micro-credentialed course.

The new micro-credentialed course included an introduction to positive behaviour support tailored to Authorised Program Officers. It also covered how to work collaboratively with behaviour support practitioners, medical practitioners and other service providers to develop and implement behavioural support plans.

Authorised Program Officers play a key role in the authorisation and approval of regulated restrictive practices. In 2025–26, the course was delivered to 4 cohorts across the year to a total of 169 Authorised Program Officers.

In 2025–26, the department developed a role-specific Capability Framework and Learning Map to support the forensic disability services workforce. This sets out mandatory and professional development activities for this workforce.

Objective: All Victorians have stable, affordable and appropriate housing

This objective aims to ensure Victorians have safe homes that provide emotional and physical sanctuary, Victorians have security of tenure in housing that is appropriate to their needs, including that it is accessible, high quality, affordable and tailored to them. This outcome includes supports to address and reduce housing insecurity and homelessness, to enable suitable housing for all.

Indicator results

	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Number of clients assisted to address and prevent homelessness	98,333	101,804	102,449	103,373
Number of clients provided with accommodation	29,050	27,882	27,981	26,727
Number of bonds issued to low-income Victorians to assist access to the private rental market	7,011	6,932	8,841	8,608
Average waiting time for long-term social housing for those clients who have received priority access housing allocation or a priority transfer	18.1 months	19.8 months	17.2 months	19.4 months
Average waiting time for long-term social housing for those clients who have received a priority access housing allocation or priority transfer due to family violence	23.6 months	19.5 months	17.3 months	20.0 months

Key initiatives and projects

More social and affordable housing

The Victorian Government continues to invest to increase housing supply so that more Victorians have stable, affordable and appropriate homes.

At 30 June 2026, the department had commenced more than 16,700 new social and affordable homes. More than 11,300 of these have been completed.

Major social and affordable housing projects completed during 2025–26 include:

- > Ormond Road, East Geelong – 54 social homes
- > Walker Street, Northcote – 99 social homes
- > Myers Street, Geelong – 117 social homes
- > Egan Street, Carnegie – 97 social homes
- > Rosanna Station – 45 social and affordable homes.

Growing social housing through the Social Housing Growth Fund

The Social Housing Growth Fund (SHGF) continues to create a pipeline of new social housing. The SHGF partnership leverages debt and equity from community housing organisations and enables the community housing sector to use its experience and expertise to support renters once they move in.

Since 2018, the SHGF has delivered more than 4,000 social homes. Major builds completed in partnership with community housing organisations during 2025–26 include 92 homes in Footscray through VincentCare Community Housing and 73 homes in Bendigo through Uniting Housing (Vic) Ltd.

Delivering the second Ground Lease Model

The department is continuing to deliver on 2,740 homes with a mix of social, affordable, market rental and specialist disability accommodation homes through the innovative Ground Lease Model (GLM). This model allows Homes Victoria to retain ownership of land. Homes Victoria partners with not-for-profit groups that finance, plan, design, build and manage the homes. Homes Victoria retains ownership of the land and after 40 years, the dwellings are handed back to Homes Victoria.

Following the success of the first GLM that delivered 1,084 homes, construction continued in 2025–26 on the second GLM to deliver 1,370 new homes before the end of 2026. These homes are in Prahran, South Yarra, Hampton East and Port Melbourne. There will be a further 286 homes completed in Flemington as part of the second phase of GLM1, which will be completed by the end of 2026.

Partnering with the Commonwealth Government to get our share of housing funds

The department is working with the Commonwealth Government to deliver 797 social housing homes through the Social Housing Accelerator program. At June 2026, the Social Housing Accelerator Program has commenced all of these homes and completed more than 400 homes.

In addition, the state secured the largest dwelling allocation of any state or territory through the first 2 rounds of the Housing Australia Future Fund Facility (HAFFF). Under these rounds, Homes Victoria is supporting delivery of 1,614 social and affordable homes, of which 574 homes have commenced, and 176 of those are completed.

The Housing Support Program (HSP) More and Better Social Homes stream has delivered more than 120 of the 315 social homes target as at 30 June 2026. Enabling works under HSP have also commenced, which will unlock the future delivery of more than 850 homes.

Transforming housing through the Public Housing Renewal Program

The Public Housing Renewal Program continues to transform some of the oldest public housing estates in metropolitan Melbourne. The program will provide approximately 1,300 social and market homes. These homes are modern, accessible and energy efficient. In June 2026, more than 800 social and market homes have been completed across sites in Preston, Brunswick West, Northcote and North Melbourne. Once completed, the number of social homes at these locations will increase by more than 50%.

Redeveloping the 44 older high-rise social housing towers across Melbourne

The department is redeveloping the 44 older-style social housing high-rise towers to build new, modern and accessible homes to better meet the needs of the residents now and into the future. The program will improve the quality and liveability of social housing, create vibrant places for communities and provide more homes.

The department continues to work with relocating residents to understand their needs such as where they want to live and their social, cultural and practical connections. There are now active projects across 11 sites and over 800 households from 5 towers in Flemington, North Melbourne, Richmond and South Yarra have relocated in line with their preferences.

Construction has commenced on 248 new social homes to replace 196 older homes in Carlton. Plans have been released for over 800 new homes in Flemington including at least 400 social homes, and 131 new social homes in South Melbourne.

Continuing innovative delivery options through modern methods of construction

The department has established a Modern Methods of Construction Builders Panel, with a focus on building in regional Victoria. Through the Regional Housing Fund, the department will deliver 250 new homes using modern methods of construction. So far, 104 new homes have been commenced and 14 completed.

Homes Victoria also developed and implemented a 3D printing pilot project in Norlane that will provide two 3-bedroom homes in partnership with Geelong based builder Hamlan Homes. These homes are the first 3D-printed social housing homes in Victoria. This new way of building will save time during construction. Homes will be thermally efficient with a minimum 8.5 star NATHERS rating.

Homes Victoria has also refreshed its movable unit program and small second homes programs. Both use modern methods of construction to deliver additional one- and 2-bedroom homes in the backyard of existing properties.

Addressing affordability through new affordable housing supply

The Affordable Housing Rental Scheme, Affordable Housing Partnerships Program and Ground Lease Model provide affordable housing for low to moderate income households, including casual and essential workers experiencing rental stress.

These modern, energy efficient and affordable homes are close to shops, transport and workplaces, creating opportunities for people to connect and participate in their local communities.

As at 30 June 2026, Homes Victoria increased the number of affordable homes to 723, and implemented new settings for the Affordable Housing Rental Scheme, to ensure renters pay no more than 30% of household income or 74.99% of market rent. This change ensures rents remain affordable and brings the Scheme in line with other Victorian and Commonwealth Government funded affordable housing programs. Leases were extended from 3 to 5 years. Renters can exit their lease at any time without penalty, offering renters both security of tenure and flexibility.

Delivering safe and secure housing for victim survivors of family violence

The redevelopment of communal family violence refuges into the 'core and cluster' model is providing improved and expanded access to refuge and crisis accommodation for victim survivors. As at 30 June 2026, 17 of the 22 core and cluster refuges were operational. The 5 remaining sites will be completed by 2028.

McAuley Community Services for Women and Meli continue to deliver the Safe at Home Pilot in Geelong. This early intervention response shifts the focus of victim survivors needing to leave the family home, alongside comprehensive wrap around supports for all family members.

The Exit Pathways initiative has continued to support victim survivors to access private rental housing after exiting refuge or crisis accommodation through head-leasing arrangements or private rental brokerage for up to 18 months. The Victorian Government will implement the Improving Access To Crisis Accommodation Responses initiative to build on this work under the Federation Funding Agreement and Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses 2025–30.

Better and more comfortable public housing

The department is committed to ensuring public housing properties in a safe and suitable condition through regular maintenance activities. In 2025–26, we delivered cooling in high-rise towers and improved thermal comfort through the Energy Efficiency Social Housing Upgrades program.

Modernising public housing maintenance

The department is improving maintenance for renters as part of the Maintenance Modernisation program. These improvements support renters and contractors at key points in the maintenance process. In 2025–26, the department launched a portal to enable renters to raise electronic maintenance requests, attach photographs and track the progress of their requests. The system also gives contractors better information about the job before they arrive. This allows them to complete more jobs on the first visit and gives renters certainty about the timing of the work.

Delivering high-quality, safe and sustainable upgrades to public housing

The department undertakes more than 350,000 maintenance activities each year. This includes essential safety checks, planned vacant and responsive maintenance to all public and transitional housing. To ensure the facilities remain clean, safe and habitable, the department manages cleaning, gardening, playground repairs, waste removal and pest control.

In 2025–26, 1,908 public housing properties were upgraded and improved. This means more renters have a modern, safe, secure and energy-efficient home. These homes meet, at a minimum, condition standards set out in the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*.

Progressing the High-Rise Cooling Program and Energy Efficiency in Social Housing Program

The department has completed installation of cooling in 16 towers through the High-Rise Cooling program. Significant electrical infrastructure upgrades are planned across the remaining towers in the program to support the installation of air conditioners.

In addition, the Energy Efficiency in Social Housing Program continues to provide energy efficiency upgrades across Victoria. This program reduces energy bills for low-income households. The program will deliver more than 50,000 individual upgrades. At least 5,000 homes will be fully electrified.

Works include installing high-efficiency reverse-cycle air conditioners, hot water heat pumps, electric and induction cooktops, draught sealing, ceiling insulation and solar photovoltaic systems.

As at 30 June 2026, the department had delivered 36,000 energy-efficient upgrades and fully electrified more than 2,700 properties.

Reducing homelessness through housing and support

The department is committed to making homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring by working closely with the homelessness service system. This work will ensure people are connected to crisis accommodation, outreach and ongoing support. During the year, 103,373 homelessness services clients received assistance and 26,727 people were provided with accommodation.

The department administers more than \$300 million each year to respond to a broad spectrum of needs. This includes:

- > targeted prevention measures to avoid homelessness wherever possible through financial assistance and brokerage
- > a wide network of entry points for intake into specialist responses for those experiencing homelessness
- > short-term, crisis accommodation or medium-term housing options based on individual or household support and recovery need including specialist youth and family violence responses
- > longer-term housing with wrap around support for people who have experienced chronic or recurrent homelessness, including those who may be sleeping rough.

Aboriginal-specific services have expanded to prevention programs, entry points, and long-term housing responses with wrap-around services.

Delivering Housing First programs

Housing First programs sustain tenancies through the provision of dedicated support and long-term housing. The Homes First program, based on Housing First principles, is helping around 500 households that need intensive support services for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of sleeping rough.

The Journey to Social Inclusion program provides 3-year intensive wraparound services. It has supported 240 households, including more than 90 participants into long-term housing. In addition, the Arc Partnership Addressing Disadvantage program provided housing for approximately 70 people exiting prison.

In 2025–26 the department opened 2 new Supportive Housing sites: Madden House in St Kilda and Doug's Place Mildura. These provide onsite support services for up to 30 long-term housing places.

Funding the Rough Sleeping Action Plan

In 2025–26, the department renewed contracts for 8 assertive outreach teams operating across metropolitan and regional Victoria to continue critical work to support people experiencing rough sleeping to engage with housing and other social services supports. This included planning to modernise former case management programs to transition to Housing First program delivery to improve long term client outcomes.

Preventing youth homelessness

The department continued to fund targeted housing and support for young people, including opening a new special youth accommodation through Orly House and the Berry Street GOALS Program.

In addition, a new Education First Youth Foyer opened in Wodonga in April 2026. This Education First Youth Foyer supports 40 young people at a time with housing and onsite wraparound support.

Youth refuges and foyers accommodated more than 460 young people on any given night in 2025–26.

Delivering reform and improvements for the homelessness services system

The Homelessness Lived Experience Expert Advisory Panel considered priority actions to better structure and deliver homelessness services throughout 2025–26. Incorporating this advice and through its own deliberations, the Ministerial Homelessness Advisory Group also finalised its advice to the minister through the recommendation of 6 priority actions to reform homelessness services. This included the expansion of Assertive Outreach, which was funded through the *2025–26 State Budget*.

Supported Residential Services Outreach and Assistance Program

The Victorian Government provides more than \$15 million each year to funded agencies to support residents in Supported Residential Services (SRS). SRSs provide accommodation for people with daily living support needs, including people exiting health, justice and homelessness settings. Under the SRS Outreach and Assistance Program, health and community service professionals delivered support to all 69 pension-level SRSs in Victoria. These provide more than 2,200 beds statewide.

Enabling First Peoples self-determination

The department is working with First Peoples housing and homelessness providers and communities to enable a self-determined approach to ensure housing options and service responses meet community needs.

Launched First Peoples Home Ownership Program

The First Peoples Home Ownership Program provides grants for eligible First Peoples in Victoria to contribute to the upfront costs of buying a home, including deposit contribution, stamp duty and legal and conveyancing fees. The department has partnered with Aboriginal Housing Victoria and Worn Gundidj to provide community engagement, education, referrals and support to applicants as they progress to home ownership. In 2025–26, 41 First Peoples received grant packages and purchased their own home.

Delivering more new social homes for First Peoples

The Big Housing Build, Regional Housing Fund and Social Housing Accelerator Program ensure 10% of net new social housing will be delivered for First Peoples in Victoria. In 2025–26, 416 new social homes were delivered for First Peoples, exceeding our target of 300 new homes per year.

Delivered key housing and homelessness priorities under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and the Victorian Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Framework (VAHMF)

The department participates in the partnership forum for the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. This commits all Australian governments and First Peoples representatives to a fundamentally new way of developing and implementing policies and programs that affect First Peoples.

As at 30 June 2026, the department progressed towards the National Agreement by delivering key housing and homelessness priorities. This includes establishing and undertaking data sharing processes to progress Data Sovereignty, funding initiatives to improve cultural safety in social housing and building the First Peoples housing sector through the commitment to deliver at least 10% of social homes for First Peoples.

The department continues to work in partnership with First Peoples to implement *Mana-na woorn-tyeen maar-takoort: Every Aboriginal person has a home* – the VAHMF and the *Blueprint for an Aboriginal-specific homelessness system*. The VAHMF enables the government to enable self-determination by transitioning power and responsibility over to First Peoples communities.

Increasing cultural safety across mainstream social housing and homelessness services

In 2025–26, the department partnered with peak bodies Community Housing Industry Association Victoria and Council to Homeless Persons to fund cultural safety initiatives across the housing and homelessness sectors. These initiatives support the department's delivery of the Korin-Korin Balit-Djak [Aboriginal health, wellbeing and safety strategic plan 2017–2027](#).⁶

The department also engaged with the Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness Forum to inform development of a cultural safety standard for the community housing sector, in partnership with the Housing Registrar.

Growing the First Peoples housing sector with capacity building initiatives

Through Homes Victoria, the department supports the growth of the First Peoples community housing sector. There are now 8 registered First Peoples housing providers under the *Housing Act 1983*. This is a significant step towards self-determination as it enables localised housing services to respond to the needs of their communities.

Building a First-Peoples-specific homelessness system

The First-Peoples-specific homelessness entry points program is delivered by Ngwala Willumbong Aboriginal Corporation (Bayside Peninsula and metropolitan Melbourne) and Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative (Barwon area). It provides access to First-Peoples-led, culturally appropriate homelessness services for those at risk of or experiencing homelessness. In 2025–26, the entry points delivered over 1,000 initial assessment and planning sessions.

Objective: Aboriginal voice, knowledge and cultural leadership drive Aboriginal policy, legislation and system reform

Self-determination enables the wellbeing of Aboriginal Victorians. We actively address systems and structures that inhibit self-determination. We work in partnership with and under the leadership of the Victorian Aboriginal community.

Key initiatives and projects

Aboriginal Self-determination and Outcomes Division

The Aboriginal Self-Determination and Outcomes (ASDO) Division is a critical pillar of the department. It has leadership, oversight and coordination functions relating to self-determination, Truth, Treaty and Closing the Gap.

ASDO prioritises First Peoples' expertise, knowledge and experience. The division works in accordance with policy and legislative settings. These include the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework, the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and the *Statewide Treaty and Statewide Treaty Act 2025* (Treaty Act).

The division drives Aboriginal self-determination by embedding First Peoples' voice and ways of knowing, being and doing in decision-making processes.

Response to Yoorrook Justice Commission

In June 2025, the Yoorrook Justice Commission concluded its truth-telling inquiry. The inquiry examined historical and ongoing injustices experienced by First Peoples in Victoria since colonisation. The work of the Commission helps us understand our history from the perspective of Aboriginal people, how it impacts on their present, and how Treaty can be the pathway to practical changes and solutions.

Over the course of the Commission's 4-year term, the department engaged honestly and transparently to assist the Commission in its important truth-telling mandate. This included producing documentary and witness evidence relating to the Commission's key focus areas. These were child protection, housing and prevention of family violence.

In October 2024, the Victorian Government released a progress report on its implementation of the Commission's Yoorrook for justice interim report on the child protection and criminal justice system released in August 2023.

The department remains committed to the truth-telling process and continues to progress the important work of implementing the Commission's recommendations.

Treaty

In late 2025, the Victorian Government signed the Statewide Treaty with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria. Victoria has been on the Truth and Treaty path for nearly 10 years.

Treaty is about ensuring First Peoples have a say over the policies that impact them and their families to achieve better outcomes for First Peoples in Victoria and close the gap.

The Treaty Act gives effect to the Statewide Treaty and establishes Gellung Warl to operate as an ongoing democratic, representative and deliberative body for First Peoples in Victoria.

The department is working to implement the Statewide Treaty and ensure all staff are prepared for and familiar with the commitments under the Statewide Treaty.

We continue to educate staff at all levels about Treaty and the Treaty process. This includes leadership groups, operational staff and staff who contribute to reform and policy initiatives.

The department works closely with the Department of Premier and Cabinet. This ensures all Treaty-related work aligns with whole-of-government best practice guidance.

Closing the Gap

The department is working with sector partners and stakeholders to contribute to the development of the state's Closing the Gap Implementation Plan. This is a partnership between the Victorian Government and Ngaweeyan Maar-oo, the Aboriginal members of the Victorian Closing the Gap Partnership Forum.

ASDO coordinates work to ensure progress against the priority reform and socioeconomic targets and actions. The division also provides quarterly reports to the Victorian Closing the Gap Partnership Forum.

Aboriginal Strategic Governance Forum

The Aboriginal Strategic Governance Forum (ASGF) is the department's Aboriginal-led governance structure. The ASGF sets and oversees strategic direction for system transformation. This work aligns with *Korin Korin Balit-Djak*, the department's overarching Aboriginal strategy. It also aligns with other state and national frameworks including:

- > the National Agreement on Closing the Gap
- > *Victorian Self-Determination Reform Framework*
- > *Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework*
- > *Wungurilwil Gapgapduir*
- > *Mana-na-worn-tyeen maar-takoort*
- > *Dhelk Dja: Safe our way.*

This division works in partnership with the Koorie Caucus of the ASGF. This work embeds self-determination and shared decision making.

Recent highlights include:

- > establishing priority reform working groups. These working groups drive the department's work under Closing the Gap priority reforms. A Koorie Caucus Chair leads each working group. A Deputy Secretary acts as an executive sponsor to support the Chair and the work of each working group
- > these working groups are developing workplans against the Closing the Gap priority reforms relating to child protection, family violence and housing
- > working closely with the ASGF Leadership Group to refresh *Korin Korin Balit-Djak*. This work will align with the current reform environment.

Korin Korin Balit-Djak funding

Through *Korin Korin Balit-Djak*, the department funded Aboriginal community-controlled organisations (ACCOs) and community-led initiatives. These initiatives strengthen Aboriginal governance, self-determination, cultural safety and community wellbeing. Funding supported the establishment of regional Aboriginal governance groups and Gathering Places, as well as initiatives that promote youth leadership, cultural connection and improved wellbeing initiatives for Aboriginal communities across Victoria.

Regional partnerships

The division works with Aboriginal communities and the department. We amplify the lived experience of Aboriginal people. This supports the department's policy advice and program delivery. The division's regional teams in the north, south, east and west have strong relationships with Aboriginal communities and organisations.

These teams work in partnership with Aboriginal organisations. They support and strengthen ACCOs' capacity to provide critical services in Aboriginal communities. The teams collaborate and provide advice to the department's portfolio areas and divisions. This includes Community Operations and Practice Leadership, Family Safety Victoria, Children and Families, Homes Victoria, and Disability, Fairness and Emergency Management.

The division continues to work with Aboriginal stakeholders to strengthen and support, Aboriginal governance bodies across Victoria. These are:

- > Gippsland Governance Group
- > Southern Metropolitan Governance
- > East Metropolitan Governance Group
- > East Regional Governance Group
- > Loddon Mallee Aboriginal Reference Group
- > Northern Metropolitan Aboriginal Strategic Governance Group
- > West Metropolitan Aboriginal Governance Group
- > Western District ACCO Collective.

Regional Aboriginal governance groups are self-governing. They are led by ACCOs funded to administer these governance groups. The groups provide advice on implementing the department's Aboriginal strategies and frameworks.

Chairs of these regional governance bodies are also members of ASGF Koorie Caucus and the Aboriginal Strategic Governance Forum. They bring place-based knowledge and insights on the specific needs, priorities and lived experiences of Aboriginal Victorians to statewide decision-making forums.

The division also leads the department's emergency management work with Aboriginal communities. The regional teams support to ACCOs to identify relief priorities and make preparedness plans. The division also works with Emergency Recovery Victoria. This includes contributing to statewide planning and quality assurance frameworks.

Supporting representation and participation of First Nations young people

The department supports First Nations young people to pursue their goals and stay connected to culture and community.

The 2024–25 State Budget funded a 4-year extension to the government's partnership with the Koorie Youth Council. The council is the peak body representing Aboriginal young people in Victoria.

This important partnership continues to embed a broad, strengths-based, prevention approach. It ensures that the government and organisations engage meaningfully with Aboriginal young people. This helps the government deliver tailored support and services that meet the needs and aspirations of Aboriginal young people.

In addition, the department continued to support the Marram Nganyin Aboriginal Youth Mentoring Program. This is delivered in partnership with the Koorie Youth Council and 5 local Aboriginal community organisations. The program builds protective factors and strengthens connections to culture and community. It supports wellbeing and life skills, enhancing education outcomes. It also creates pathways to training and employment.

Objective: Our social services system is integrated, effective, person-centred and sustainable

The social services system is joined up and provides safe, effective and appropriate services that respond to the needs, preferences and circumstances of Victorians. Our corporate functions and IT systems facilitate efficient service delivery, administration and oversight, and our workforce is sustainable and highly skilled. We nurture strong partnerships with funded agencies, and we deploy data and evidence to continuously improve.

Key initiatives and projects

Strengthening child safeguarding and oversight

Following the 2025 *Rapid Child Safety Review*, reforms to Victoria's key child safeguarding and regulatory frameworks have been implemented through the *Social Services Regulation Amendment (Complaints and Worker Regulation) Act 2025*, which received Royal Assent in December 2025.

Key reforms progressively implemented throughout 2025–26 include consolidation of Working with Children Check, Reportable Conduct Scheme and Child Safe Standards functions into the Social Services Regulator and strengthening the Working with Children Check framework. The reforms will enable information to be shared more easily and acted on more quickly across these regulatory schemes.

The Social Services Regulator will administer these new schemes alongside their existing social services regulatory functions.

Improved information sharing

The department continued to scope and plan for a multiyear program to modernise the core technology systems that support the community and family service system. Following a successful 2026-27 budget outcome, work is underway to replace the Integrated Reports and Information System (IRIS) and design a new case management system for child protection, care and family and sexual violence services. This will allow improved information sharing and record management to improve services and client outcomes.

Investment to support our skilled community services workforce

The department is improving its use of data insights by strengthening data collection, analysis and reporting through the MARAM and Family Violence Information Sharing schemes. This will inform our family and sexual violence responses. Work is also underway to scale and apply linked data insights for decision-making across the Victorian Government through the Victorian Social Investment Model (VicSIM).

The department also continues to support the community and social services sector's recruitment and retention strategies and activities.

Performance against output performance measures

This section provides information about the department's performance against output performance measures.

Results in the tables below are coded according to:

- ✓ Performance target achieved or exceeded
- Performance target not achieved – within 5% variance
- Performance target not achieved – exceeds 5% variance

Note: There may be slight discrepancies in the variation percentage figures due to decimal point rounding.

Child protection and family services

This output, through the funding of statutory child protection services, family support and parenting services, care services and specialist support services, including services for Aboriginal children and families. It aims to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people at risk of harm, abuse and neglect. This output also aims to make a positive difference to Victorians experiencing disadvantage by providing excellent community services to meet clients' needs.

This output provides:

- > child protection services to provide for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people at risk of harm, abuse and neglect
- > specialist support and placement services to provide for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people who need support to remain with their family or are placed in out-of-home care
- > a range of earlier intervention services to provide for the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and families
- > a focus on Aboriginal children, young people, their families and carers.

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2025–26 target	2025–26 actual	Variation	Result
Quantity					
Daily average number of children in care placements	number	10,641	9,145	-14.1%	✓
The 2025–26 result is lower than the 2025–26 target reflecting demand for services. A lower result signifies that fewer placements are required (potentially reflecting impacts of early intervention).					
Daily average number of children in foster care placements	number	1,773	1,237	-30.2%	✓
The 2025–26 result is lower than the 2025–26 target potentially reflecting the overall trend in placements and the availability of foster carers.					
Daily average number of children in kinship care placements	number	8,338	7,433	-10.9%	✓
The 2025–26 result is lower than the 2025–26 target, potentially reflecting the overall trend in placements.					
Daily average number of children in residential care placements	number	529	467	-11.6%	✓
The 2025–26 result is lower than the 2025–26 target, potentially reflecting the overall trend in placements.					
Daily average number of children subject to permanent care orders	number	3,850	3,851	0.0%	✓

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2025–26 target	2025–26 actual	Variation	Result
Number of children authorised to an Aboriginal agency under the Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care program	number	460	586	27.4%	✓
The 2025–26 actual has exceeded the 2025–26 target. This reflects increased funded capacity in mostly established authorised Aboriginal agencies and familiarisation with the approach. New ACAC teams have been able to significantly increase the number of authorised Aboriginal children supported by an ACCO.					
Number of intensive family services cases commencing	number	4,707	5,378	14.3%	✓
The 2025–26 actual is higher than the 2025–26 target due to responsiveness to continuing and consistent high levels of demand for intensive family services. This data is lagged 3 months to ensure accuracy, due to delays in agency data submission.					
Number of intensive family services cases commencing for Aboriginal families	number	1,418	1,524	7.5%	✓
The 2025–26 actual is higher than the 2025–26 target due to responsiveness to continuing and consistent high levels of demand for intensive family services for Aboriginal families. This data is lagged 3 months to ensure accuracy, due to delays in agency data submission.					
Number of investigations from reports to Child Protection Services about the wellbeing and safety of children	number	46,088	52,357	13.6%	✓
The 2025–26 actual is higher than the 2025–26 target. A higher investigation rate may reflect that a higher proportion of reports from the community warrant an investigation to determine whether the statutory threshold for intervention has been met.					
Number of parents/carers enrolled in Supported Playgroups	number	13,900	13,474	-3.1%	○
Reports to Child Protection Services about the wellbeing and safety of children	number	153,982	154,227	0.2%	✓
Total family services cases commencing	number	17,066	21,439	25.6%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is higher than the 2025–26 target due to increased numbers of families receiving Early Help Family Services. This data is lagged 3 months to ensure accuracy, due to delays in agency data submission.					
Total family services cases commencing for Aboriginal families	number	2,680	3,776	40.9%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is higher than the 2025–26 target due to increased numbers of Aboriginal families receiving family services. This data is lagged 3 months to ensure accuracy, due to delays in agency data submission.					
Working with Children and National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) checks processed	Number (thousand)	550–600	585.9	0%	✓
This measure transferred in 2026–27 from the Department of Government Services to reflect machinery of government changes.					
Quality					
Children and young people in care who have had 2 or less placements in the past 12 months (not including time at home in parental care)	per cent	90.0	94.2	4.7%	✓
Children and young people who were the subject of a substantiated report within 12 months of the closure of a previous substantiated report	per cent	17.5	21.9	25.1%	■
The 2025–26 actual is higher than the 2025–26 target. This potentially reflects changes in a child's circumstances, and/or capacity for families to sustain voluntary engagement. Substantiation decisions are made on the best available evidence at the time.					

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2025–26 target	2025–26 actual	Variation	Result
Children and young people who were the subject of an investigation which led to a decision not to substantiate, who were subsequently the subject of a substantiation within 3 months of case closure	per cent	3.0	5.9	96.7%	■
The 2025–26 actual is higher than the 2025–26 target. This potentially reflects changes in a child's circumstances, and/or capacity for families to sustain voluntary engagement. Substantiation decisions are made on the best available evidence at the time.					
Proportion of Aboriginal children placed with relatives/kin, other Aboriginal carers or in Aboriginal residential care	per cent	77.0	72.6	-5.7%	■
The 2025–26 outcome is lower than the 2025–26 target, potentially reflecting overall care placement trends and availability of suitable Aboriginal care placements.					
Proportion of family services cases closing who met an identified goal in their child and family action plans	per cent	70.0	73.2	4.6%	✓
Proportion of parents who participate in a Supported Playgroup who improved parenting self-efficacy	per cent	60.0	67.5	12.5%	✓
The outcome is slightly higher than the 2025–26 target with more families reporting improved parenting efficacy.					
Social service providers' satisfaction with education and guidance provided by the Social Services Regulator.	per cent	75.0	95.0	26.7%	✓
The Social Services Regulator has been able to build upon its initial guidance phase, which focused on supporting registration and basic knowledge of the scheme, towards more engaging and strategic education materials and communications that support awareness and compliance.					
Timeliness					
Percentage of child protection investigations assessed as urgent, that were visited, or where attempts were made to visit, within 2 days of receipt of the report	per cent	97.0	97.8	0.8%	✓
Registration applications processed within statutory timelines.	per cent	70.0	98.0	40.0%	✓
Fixed-term resourcing to support transitional registrations ends in 2025–26. This will affect the Social Services Regulator's capacity to maintain high levels of engagement with providers, which may alter capacity to sustain these outcomes.					
Percentage of clearances for Working with Children and National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) checks issued within agreed timeframes	per cent	100.0	99.4	-0.6%	○
This measure transferred in 2026–27 from the Department of Government Services to reflect machinery of government changes.					
Percentage of exclusions for Working with Children and National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) checks issued within agreed timeframes	per cent	100.0	99.8	-0.2%	○
This measure transferred in 2026–27 from the Department of Government Services to reflect machinery of government changes.					
Cost					
Total output cost	\$ million	2,193.4	2,557.1	16.6%	✓
The higher expenditure reflects insurance claims and premiums and expenditure for care allowance payments					

Family violence service delivery

This output leads and coordinates whole-of-government family violence policy and implements and delivers the government's family violence reform agenda.

This includes operating The Orange Door Network; delivering victim survivor support services; sexual assault support services; perpetrator interventions; implementing information-sharing legislation; early intervention programs and delivering risk assessment and management programs.

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2025–26 target	2025–26 actual	Variation	Result
Quantity					
Number of calls responded to by the statewide crisis helpline for victim survivors of family violence	number	60,000	78,423	30.7%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is higher than the target due to an increase in demand and follows intensive work done with Safe Steps to drive down call waiting times and abandoned calls.					
Number of calls responded to by the statewide telephone helpline for men regarding family violence	number	6,500	7,649	17.7%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is higher than the 2025–26 target due to a higher than anticipated level of calls.					
Number of case management responses provided to perpetrators of family violence including those that require individualised support	number	2,500	3,606	44.2%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is higher than the target, due to the target not reflecting all in-scope funding.					
Number of cases of support provided to adolescents using violence in the home	number	1,040	1,139	9.5%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is higher than the target due to increased demand for the service. This is due to increasing community and public awareness.					
Number of cases referred to Risk Assessment and Management Panels and managed by the coordinators	number	200	231	15.5%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is higher than the 2025–26 target due to the improved specialist family violence system that has enabled proactive engagement of the Risk Assessment and Management Panel (RAMP) coordinators with the sector to manage risk.					
Number of cases referred to and assisted by a Risk Assessment and Management Panel	number	450	393	-12.7%	■
The 2025–26 outcome is lower than the 2025–26 target due to an increased number of cases being referred to and effectively managed by the RAMP coordinators.					
Number of children who receive a Sexually Abusive Behaviours Treatment Service response	number	1,220	986	-19.2%	■
The 2025–26 outcome is lower than the 2025–26 target due to complexities of working with children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviours and their families. Where lengthy engagement is required, annual capacity to commence cases is reduced, and this is reflected in the 2025–26 outcome.					
Number of family violence victim survivors who received a refuge response	number	1,061	955	-10.0%	■
The 2025–26 outcome is lower than the 2025–26 target, reflecting longer stays in refuge than is optimal. A complex interplay of factors contributes to longer stays in refuge including housing affordability, a lack of available rental properties or other suitable exit options for victim survivors.					
Number of men participating in the Men's Behaviour Change program	number	4,400	5,307	20.6%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is higher than the target due to improved reporting and data integrity, which also identified that the target did not capture all in-scope funding. The target has been revised for 2026–27.					

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2025–26 target	2025–26 actual	Variation	Result
Number of new episodes of therapeutic interventions for family violence victim survivors	number	7,239	9,623	32.9%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is higher than the target due to higher demand across the state for the service.					
Number of new periods of family violence case management support provided to victim survivors	number	30,639	33,914	10.7%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is higher than the target due to increased demand for the service. This is due to increasing community and public awareness.					
Number of nights of refuge accommodation provided to victim survivors of family violence	number	54,109	57,115	5.6%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is higher than target reflecting that refuge capacity is being well utilised with victim survivors being supported in available refuge units.					
Number of sexual assault services provided to adults, children and young people	number	19,000	21,513	13.2%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is higher than the 2025–26 target due to an increase in demand for a sexual assault service response. Increasing community awareness of this program from recent inquiries, commissions, victim survivor advocacy, legal cases, and consent law reform, continues to drive strong demand across the system.					
Self-referrals to The Orange Door services as a proportion of total referrals	per cent	27	34	25.9%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is higher than the target as a result of increased service demand, and growing community confidence in accessing local supports through The Orange Door.					
The proportion of victim survivors seeking a refuge response that receive this support	per cent	60	55	-8.3%	■
The 2025–26 outcome is lower than target as the number of refuge referrals has increased at a faster rate than refuge capacity. It reflects an increase in victim survivors seeking a refuge response, rather than a decline in refuge placements.					
Total assessments undertaken at the Support and Safety Hubs	number	190,000	206,350	8.6%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is higher than the 2025–26 target because there has been a rise in demand for family violence and child wellbeing supports.					
Total assessments undertaken for children in the Support and Safety Hubs / The Orange Door	number	105,000	107,313	2.2%	✓
Total number of Central Information Point reports delivered to CIP requesters	number	10,000	9,164	-8.4%	■
The 2025–26 outcome is lower than the 2025–26 target due to factors including a higher proportion of comprehensive reports delivered which take more time to prepare.					
Total number of cases opened at The Orange Door	number	290,000	308,219	6.3%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is higher than the 2025–26 target because there has been a rise in demand for family violence and child wellbeing supports.					
Workers trained in the Multi-Agency Risk Management Framework, the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme and the Child Information Sharing Scheme.	number	15,000	18,169	21.1%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is higher than the 2025–26 target due to a broader range of training products being available and proactive engagement to ensure that sector knowledge reflects new practice requirements.					
Quality					
Satisfaction of clients with Support and Safety Hubs services	per cent	80	94.0	17.5%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is higher than the 2025–26 target due to increased client confidence and the rate at which positive sentiments were provided through the Client Voice Survey.					

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2025–26 target	2025–26 actual	Variation	Result
Satisfaction of workers with the information sharing and family violence risk assessment and risk management training	per cent	95	98.8	4%	✓
Timeliness					
Assessments undertaken within seven days	per cent	80.0	77.8	-2.8%	○
Sexual assault support services clients receiving an initial response within five working days of referral	per cent	98.0	94.0	-4.1%	○
Cost					
Total output cost	\$ million	786.9	809.3	2.9%	✓

Primary prevention of family violence

This output provides initiatives that support primary prevention of family violence and all forms of violence against women.

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2025–26 target	2025–26 actual	Variation	Result
Quantity					
Number of people participating in funded primary prevention programs	number	43,000	44,428	3.3%	✓
The 2025–26 result is an estimate due to timing of program reporting from funded organisations.					
Quality					
Prevention of family violence grant recipients who met or exceeded contractually agreed outcomes	per cent	95	99.8	5.1%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is higher than the 2025–26 target due to an increased number of providers meeting contractually agreed outcomes.					
Timeliness					
Prevention of family violence projects and programs delivered on time	per cent	100	95.8	-4.2%	○
Cost					
Total output cost	\$ million	25.3	28.6	13.0%	✓
The higher actual primarily reflects additional funding for the Women's Health Workforce Capacity Building Program.					

Community participation

Community participation programs include the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program, Men's Sheds, Community Support and Community Finance initiatives. These programs support the social and economic participation of Victorian communities.

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2025–26 target	2025–26 actual	Variation	Result
Quantity					
Average weekly visits to government-funded neighbourhood houses	number	173,600	190,128	9.5%	✓
The 2025–26 actual outcome (using 2025 calendar year data) is higher than the target due to strong community interest in neighbourhood house programs and activities.					

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2025–26 target	2025–26 actual	Variation	Result
Hours of coordination funding provided to Neighbourhood Houses	number	561,896	561,058	-0.1%	○
Timeliness					
Proportion of Men's Shed Funding Program grant projects delivered within program timeframes	per cent	92	92.3	0.3%	✓
Cost					
Total output cost	\$ million	69.7	82.4	18.2%	✓
The higher actual reflects additional funding for government initiatives.					

Disability programs and services

This output, through the provision of services not covered by the National Disability Insurance Scheme for people with disabilities, their carers and their families, aims to make a positive difference for Victorians experiencing barriers to accessing services and to provide high-quality support to meet clients' needs. This includes therapeutic services and supports for people with cognitive disability who are involved, or at risk of being involved, in Victoria's criminal justice system. This includes initiatives under the State Disability Plan such as disability advocacy.

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2025–26 target	2025–26 actual	Variation	Result
Quantity					
Clients receiving forensic disability service	number	800	877	9.6%	✓
The higher result can be attributed to more clients being serviced due to the Youth Forensic Disability Clinical Service program which commenced in early 2024.					
Number of Disability Advocacy clients	number	2,500	2,788	11.5%	✓
The program continues to experience high demand. A small number of agencies continue to phase out of time-limited Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) and other Commonwealth grants that have led to increases in advocacy demand and performance.					
Quality					
Forensic disability residents participating in community reintegration activities	per cent	90.0	99.0	10.0%	✓
The higher result can be attributed to the number of residents now funded through NDIS to access reintegration opportunities.					
Percentage of Victorian Disability Advocacy Program funded organisations that met contractually agreed outcomes	per cent	90.0	90.4	0.4%	✓
Social service providers' satisfaction with education and guidance provided by the Social Services Regulator.	per cent	75.0	95.0	26.7%	✓
The Social Services Regulator has been able to build upon its initial guidance phase, which focused on supporting registration and basic knowledge of the scheme, towards more engaging and strategic education materials and communications that support awareness and compliance.					
Timeliness					
Forensic disability Target Group Assessments completed within 6 weeks	per cent	85	88	3.5%	✓

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2025–26 target	2025–26 actual	Variation	Result
Registration applications processed within statutory timelines.	per cent	70.0	98.0	40.0%	✓
Fixed-term resourcing to support transitional registrations ends in 2025–26. This will affect the Social Services Regulator's capacity to maintain high levels of engagement with providers, which may alter capacity to sustain these outcomes.					
Total output cost	\$ million	372.4	380.6	2.2%	✓

Seniors programs and participation

Support broader community planning processes to facilitate an integrated community planning and response approach aimed at enabling older Victorians to fully participate and engage in the community. This output also delivers recognition and support to Victorians with unpaid caring responsibilities.

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2025–26 target	2025–26 actual	Variation	Result
Quantity					
Eligible seniors in the Seniors Card program	per cent	90	94.9	5.4%	✓
The 2025–26 actual outcome is higher than the 2025–26 target due to increased awareness of the Seniors Card program with Victorians 60 years and over.					
Individuals provided with respite and support services	number	13,250	31,388	136.9%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is significantly higher than the 2025–26 target due to the long-term shift in modes of service provision, with significantly more online services provided to large groups of carers continuing since the COVID pandemic. These measures are being discontinued and replaced with new measures for 2026–27, which more accurately capture funding intent to provide quality one-on-one or small-group service provision to carers.					
Number of hours of respite and support services	number	261,250	459,162	75.8%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is significantly higher than the 2025–26 target due to the long-term shift in modes of service provision, with significantly more online services provided to large groups of carers continuing since the COVID pandemic. These measures are being discontinued and replaced with new measures for 2026–27, which more accurately capture funding intent to provide quality one-on-one or small-group service provision to carers.					
Open rates for Seniors Card e-Newsletters	per cent	48	60.7	26.4%	✓
The 2025–26 actual outcome is higher than the 2025–26 target due to effective strategies implemented to increase open rates of the eNews for Seniors Card holders. This includes strategies to focus content on areas of particular interest to seniors, including cost of living savings and the inclusion of competitions.					
Pension-level Supported Residential Services residents provided with service coordination and support/brokerage services	number	1,040	1,104	6.2%	✓
The 2025–26 result exceeded target with funded organisations responding to increased demand and changing resident needs.					
Pension-level beds available in assisted supported residential services facilities	number	2,242	2,297	2.5%	✓
University of the Third Age membership	number	38,000	44,368	16.8%	✓
U3A Network and the 104 local U3A clubs across Victoria continue to focus on increasing U3A club memberships by offering a comprehensive selection of lifelong learning opportunities to new and existing members that can be accessed online and in person.					
Quality					
Senior satisfaction with Victorian Seniors Festival events	per cent	90.0	86.3	-4.1%	○
Cost					
Total output cost	\$ million	63.1	65.4	3.7%	✓

Support to veterans in Victoria

This output provides coordination of veteran-related issues at a state level, especially in relation to commemoration, education programs, grant programs, employment initiatives, research and veteran welfare. This output supports the Shrine of Remembrance and the Victorian Veterans Council.

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2025–26 target	2025–26 actual	Variation	Result
Quantity					
Community engagement – Shrine ceremonial activities, public and student education programs, tours and general visitation	number	750,000	2,050,972	173.5%	✓
The outcome is significantly higher due to increased digital engagement with the Shrine of Remembrance.					
Entries received – Premier's Spirit of Anzac Prize	number	100	163	63.0%	✓
Expanded application approach and advertising to broader community groups (including in low SES areas and CALD communities) has contributed to strong application numbers.					
Number of veterans employed annually in the Victorian Public Sector	number	263	185	-29.7%	■
The 2025–26 outcome is lower than the 2025–26 target due to a number of external factors that affect the number of ex-defence personnel in Victoria who may be seeking employment in the Victorian Public Service. The program ensures that transitioning defence personnel are aware of career opportunities in the Victorian Public Service, and that they are supported to consider those opportunities.					
Quality					
Commemorative and educative projects meet agreed project objectives	per cent	100.0	100.0	0%	✓
Timeliness					
Deliver an annual program of grants within agreed, published timelines	per cent	100	100	0%	✓
Cost					
Total output cost	\$ million	20.2	11.9	-41.0%	■
The lower actual primarily reflects revised delivery timelines for government initiatives, where carryover will be sought to deliver programs in future years.					

LGBTIQA+ equality policy and programs

This output provides programs and services to promote equality for LGBTIQA+ Victorians and to support the economic, social and civic participation of these communities.

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2025–26 target	2025–26 actual	Variation	Result
Quantity					
Number of people engaged through a Trans and Gender Diverse Peer Support Program	number	450	435	-3.3%	○
An additional 283 people were engaged through a new service partially funded by the Peer Support Program. To ensure consistency with this measure, they were not included in the actual result. The department will work with the provider to improve counting rules for the 2026–27 reporting period.					

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2025–26 target	2025–26 actual	Variation	Result
Number of services engaged for Rainbow Tick accreditation	number	40	57	42.5%	✓
The 2025–26 estimated outcome is higher than the target due to the maturing of a large pipeline of organisations engaged in the program and working toward their full accreditation. This estimated outcome reflects organisations that have formally executed a contract for Rainbow Tick accreditation.					
Proportion of LGBTIQ+ grant program recipients who are located in regional and rural areas	per cent	25	29.3	17.2%	✓
The 2025–26 actual outcome is higher than the 2025–26 target due to a dedicated focus on prioritising applications that support regional and rural LGBTIQ+ communities.					
Cost					
Total output cost	\$ million	10.5	10.9	3.8%	✓

Women's policy

This output provides initiatives that support gender equality and better outcomes for women across all areas of their lives including economic security, safety, leadership, health and wellbeing.

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2025–26 target	2025–26 actual	Variation	Result
Quantity					
Number of people participating in funded gender equality programs	number	2,000	6,953	247.7%	✓
The participant number target was exceeded due to 6,500 Queen Victoria Women's Centre (QVWC) participants who attended QVWC programmed events in 2025–26. This is due to the completion of capital works upgrades to the building in July 2025, which increased the available space in the building compared with 2024–25.					
Percentage of women on Victorian Government boards	per cent	50.0	54.0	8%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome reflects the Victorian Government's commitment to a minimum of 50% of board members being women.					
The number of free pads and tampons dispensers installed	number	1,300	1,484	14.2 %	✓
Due to the initial complexities of this Australian-first initiative, the BP3 target was set more conservatively at 1,300 machines rather than the election commitment of 1,500 machines. The effective strategies implemented during the delivery phase of the project ensured that many of the original risks were mitigated, allowing for the target to be exceeded.					
Quality					
Gender equality grant recipients who met or exceeded contractually agreed outcomes	per cent	100	100	0%	✓
Timeliness					
Tools, resources and guidelines to support the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i> implementation are completed within agreed timeframes	per cent	100	100	0%	✓
Women's portfolio projects and programs delivered on time	per cent	100	100	0%	✓
Cost					
Total output cost	\$ million	15.9	16.8	5.4%	✓
The higher actual reflects additional funding for government initiatives.					

Youth

This output leads and coordinates whole-of-government policy advice and delivers initiatives for young people aged between 12 and 25 years to gain skills and experiences and to actively participate in their local communities.

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2025–26 target	2025–26 actual	Variation	Result
Quantity					
Number of Scout Hall capital projects completed	number	3	2	-33.3%	■
The 2025–26 outcome is lower than the target due to minor changes to the delivery timeline for one Scout Hall upgrade project by Scouts Victoria.					
Participation by young people in programs that support young people to be involved in decision-making in their community	number	2,500	2,648	5.9%	✓
The 2025–26 estimated outcome is higher than the target due to higher-than-expected participation in funded youth programs. Some programs contributing to this measure were refreshed for implementation in 2025, hence the target for this measure was estimated based on conservative projection.					
Participation by young people in programs that provide opportunities to be involved in social and economic life in their communities	number	155,000	209,390	35.1%	✓
The 2025–26 estimated outcome is higher than the target due to higher-than-expected participation in funded youth programs. Some programs contributing to this measure were refreshed for implementation in 2025, hence the target for this measure was estimated based on conservative projection.					
Quality					
Percentage of grant recipients who met or exceeded contractually agreed project outcomes	per cent	93	95.0	2.2%	✓
Timeliness					
Percentage of programs delivered within agreed timeframes	Timeliness %	93.0	99.0	6.5%	✓
The 2025–26 outcome is higher than the target due to consistent monitoring and communication with funded organisations leading to a higher-than-expected percentage of programs delivered within agreed timeframe.					
Cost					
Total output cost	\$ million	30.9	35.6	15.4%	✓
The higher actual reflects additional funding for government initiatives.					

Concessions to pensioners and beneficiaries

This output, through the development and coordination of concessions and relief grants to eligible consumers and concession card holders, aims to make a positive difference for Victorians experiencing disadvantage by providing excellent community services to meet clients' needs.

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2025–26 target	2025–26 actual	Variation	Result
Quantity					
Households receiving mains electricity concessions	number	916,823	914,924	-0.2%	○
Households receiving mains gas concessions	number	673,870	671,859	-0.3%	○
Households receiving non-mains energy concessions	number	22,186	30,036	35.4%	✓
Numbers are driven by public demand. Demand has exceeded expected annual growth due to the nature of the cohort of eligible Victorians who are more susceptible to cost-of-living pressures.					
Households receiving pensioner concessions for municipal rates and charges	number	437,917	419,087	-4.3%	○
Households receiving water and sewerage concessions	number	704,799	686,117	-2.7%	○
Number of State Trustees clients receiving financial administration services	number	9,000	9,682	7.6%	✓
State Trustees provides financial administration services to approximately 9,000 to 10,000 Victorians annually. The actual number of clients receiving financial administration services is dependent on VCAT appointments. The higher than target result reflects a longer tenure of client base.					
Number of Utility Relief Grants granted to households	number	249,879	295,104	18.1%	✓
Annual demand growth has exceeded expectations due to the greater susceptibility to cost-of-living expenses of people eligible for Utility Relief Grants.					
Quality					
State Trustees client experience index (client satisfaction measure)	per cent	80	84	5.0%	✓
Result exceeded the target, reflecting the continuing maturity of the tiered service delivery model that provides clients with service according to need, as well as internal improvements made to customer-delivery skills.					
Timeliness					
Percentage of State Trustees clients onboarded within 45 days	per cent	90.0	95.0	5.6%	✓
Target exceeded after State Trustees reviewed the onboarding function and identified efficiencies.					
Cost					
Total output cost	\$ million	1,162.9	1,259.2	8.3%	✓
The higher expenditure relates to increase in Commonwealth Energy Relief funding					

Housing assistance

This output ensures more Victorians have a place to call home by providing services and support across the housing continuum; including homelessness services, transitional accommodation and wraparound services, and social and affordable housing.

Affordable housing options delivered through the Affordable Housing Rental Scheme are responding to the growing gap in housing affordability. The scheme aims to increase supply for households experiencing rental stress or trying to buy their first home.

This output is ensuring more affordable, safe and secure accommodation is being built right across Victoria. It is also reforming the housing system to provide greater access to housing services and supports for all Victorians, including:

- > housing assistance for low-income families, older people, singles, youth, victim survivors of family violence and other households. It responds to the needs of clients through the provision of appropriate accommodation, including short-term and long-term properties that assist in reducing and preventing homelessness
- > housing support services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, in short-term housing or crisis situations. Support will assist clients in accessing and maintaining tenancies in appropriate accommodation. Services aim to prevent and reduce homelessness
- > working with Aboriginal housing providers to ensure housing is designed and delivered by Aboriginal people, enabling self-determination and meeting community needs.

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2025–26 target	2025–26 actual	Variation	Result
Quantity					
Number of bonds issued to low-income Victorians to assist access to the private rental market	number	7,000	8,608	23.0%	✓
The 2025–26 result exceeded target due to increased demand from eligible households.					
Number of clients assisted to address and prevent homelessness	number	103,000	103,373	0.4%	✓
Number of clients provided with accommodation	number	30,000	26,727	-10.9%	■
The 2025–26 result is below target due to rising costs of, and difficulty of securing suitable short-term accommodation for client base.					
Number of households assisted with long-term social housing (public, Aboriginal and community long-term tenancies at end of year)	number	84,633	84,247	-0.5%	○
Number of public housing dwellings upgraded during year	number	1,500	1,908	27.2%	✓
The 2025–26 result exceeded target due to the accelerated delivery of energy efficiency upgrades to social housing, including more efficient heating and cooling systems, insulation and hot water upgrades.					
Total number of Victorian Affordable Housing Program (VAHP) affordable housing dwellings	number	722	723	0.1%	✓
Total number of Aboriginal social housing dwellings added during the year	number	300	416	38.7%	✓
The 2025–26 result exceeded target due to the focus on delivering more new public and community housing for First Peoples.					
Total number of social housing dwellings	number	92,170	92,484	0.3%	✓
Total social housing dwellings added during the year	number	2,358	2,311	-2.0%	○
Quality					
Proportion of homelessness services clients that engage with support services and access or maintain housing	per cent	77	77	0.0%	✓

Performance measures	Unit of measure	2025–26 target	2025–26 actual	Variation	Result
Social housing tenants satisfied with completed non-urgent maintenance works	per cent	80	80	0.0%	✓
Social housing tenants satisfied with completed urgent maintenance works	per cent	85	78	-8.2%	■
The 2025–26 result has improved since 30 June 2025 but remains below target. The department is implementing a new maintenance operating model in 2026–27 and will continue working with contractors to improve customer satisfaction.					
Timeliness					
Average waiting time for long-term social housing for clients who have received a priority access housing or priority transfer allocation due to family violence	months	10.5	20.0	90.5%	■
The 2025–26 result reflects ongoing demand for social housing, influenced by housing affordability and broader housing market conditions.					
Average waiting time for long-term social housing for those clients who have received priority access housing allocation or a priority transfer	months	10.5	19.4	84.8%	■
The 2025–26 result reflects ongoing demand for social housing, influenced by housing affordability and broader housing market conditions.					
Proportion of clients where support to sustain housing tenure was provided or referred	per cent	85	88	3.5%	✓
Cost					
Total output cost	\$ million	653.4	716.1	9.6%	✓
The higher actual primarily reflects additional funding for housing initiatives and includes the release of the short stay levy (\$91.8 million), approved in June 2026.					

Discontinued output performance measures

The department identified 3 performance measures for discontinuation in the *2025–26 State Budget*.

Two measures were discontinued and replaced with new measures:

- > Number of new episodes of family violence therapeutic interventions
- > Victorian Disability Advisory Council Meetings.

One measure was discontinued, with the information on the capacity of the homelessness system to support clients being captured and reported via other channels:

- > Number of clients assisted to address and prevent homelessness due to family violence.

Departmental financial summary

Five-year financial summary (\$ millions)	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022
Income from government	5,981.8	6,407.7	5,381.7	5,047.5	6,583.4
Total revenue and income from transactions	7,063.4	7,341.8	6,398.0	6,038.0	8,021.4
Total expenses from transactions	(7,561.0)	(7,811.5)	(6,999.7)	(6,282.1)	(7,669.5)
Net result from transactions	(497.6)	(469.7)	(601.7)	(244.1)	351.8
Net result for the period	(462.1)	(522.2)	(638.4)	(264.7)	335.9
Net cash flow from operating activities	31.1	333.7	(103.2)	182.5	548.2
Total assets	41,986.6	41,495.7	40,495.4	38,565.6	38,113.8
Total liabilities	2,594.6	2,401.9	1,933.1	1,383.6	1,337.6

Departmental financial arrangements

The department's audited financial statements presented in this annual report includes entities within the department's portfolio that are not controlled by the department.

To enable efficient production of financial statements for smaller entities within the department's portfolio and to recognise the Homes Victoria entity operating within the department's business structure, pursuant to s. 53(1) (b) of the *Financial Management Act 1994*, the Minister for Finance has granted approval for the department to prepare financial statements incorporating the following entities which form part of the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing reporting entity:

- > Homes Victoria
- > Commission for Children and Young People
- > Respect Victoria
- > Victorian Veterans Council
- > Victorian Disability Worker Commission
- > Disability Worker Registration Board
- > Social Services Regulator

As a public non-financial corporation, the majority of income for the Homes Victoria entity is derived from business operations primarily in the form of public housing rental, along with revenue provided by government through annual appropriation processes.

Detailed financial results for Homes Victoria are included in the appendices of the annual report, following the department's audited financial statements.

Current year financial summary

The details below relate to the department's consolidated financial statements including the entities outlined above.

The department's net result from transactions for the financial year ended 30 June 2026 is a deficit of \$497.6 million, compared with a deficit of \$469.7 million for 30 June 2025.

With the inclusion of other economic flows gains of \$35.5 million, the net result for the financial year is a deficit of \$462.1 million. This compares with a deficit of \$522.2 million in 2024–25.

The deficit from transactions primarily relates to a \$446.7 million deficit in Homes Victoria reflecting the unfunded depreciation expense, offset by government investment funding recognised as revenue in 2025–26 to be as part of the Big Housing Build to grow social and affordable

housing in Victoria. Another main contributor to the net deficit from transactions is a higher insurance expense relating to civil claims from historical institutional child abuse.

Financial Position – balance sheet

The department's net asset base as at 30 June 2026 was \$39,392.0 million, comprising total assets of \$41,986.6 million and total liabilities \$2,594.6 million.

Total assets have increased by \$490.9 million in 2025–26. This reflects the funding received in 2025–26 that was invested and capitalised in the Big Housing Build.

Liabilities totalling \$2,594.6 million mainly consist of payables, borrowings, employee benefit and other provisions. Total liabilities have increased by \$192.7 million compared to 2024–25. This is mainly due to increased borrowings (service concession liabilities associated with Big Housing Build Program) and increase in provision for civil claims costs relating to historical institutional child abuse.

Cash flows

Cash and deposits as at end of the 2025–26 financial year was \$994.2 million, a decrease of \$318.0 million from the beginning of the financial year. This is mainly due to a decrease in net cash flows from operations, resulting from the timing of government funding received last financial year and spent this financial year.

Budget portfolio outcomes

The portfolio budget outcomes provide a comparison between the actual financial statements of all general government sector entities within the portfolio and the forecast financial information published in Budget Paper No. 5 *Statement of Finances 2026–27* (BP5).

The portfolio budget outcomes comprise the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of cash flows, statement of changes in equity, and administered items statement for the financial year 2025–26.

The portfolio budget outcomes have been prepared on a consolidated basis for the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 and include all general government sector entities within the portfolio. Financial transactions and balances are classified into either controlled or administered categories as agreed with the Treasurer in the context of the published statements in BP5.

The portfolio budget outcomes statements are not subject to audit by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office. They are not prepared on the same basis as the financial statements as they include financial information of the following entities:

- > Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)
- > Victorian Disability Workers Commission
- > Disability Worker Registration Board
- > Commission for Children and Young People
- > Social Services Regulator
- > Family Violence Prevention Agency (Respect Victoria)

- > Victorian Veterans Council
- > Director of Housing (General Government).

The portfolio budget outcomes statements include funding from the Commonwealth Government and revenue from the sale of services attributed to DFFH from the state government. They also include income and expenses associated with National Disability Insurance Scheme funding, which are reported in the DFFH administered accounts.

Machinery of government changes

As a result of the machinery of government changes on 9 February 2026, the Workers Screening Unit has become part of DFFH from Department of Government Services (DGS).

Financial performance – operating statement

In 2025–26 the portfolio recorded an actual net result from transactions of a \$92 million deficit compared to a 2025–26 published budgeted deficit of \$3 million.

The variance between the budgeted and actual deficit is mainly related to higher insurance claims expense recognised in 2025–26 as a result of increased in provisions for civil claims associated with historical institutional child abuse.

Financial position – balance sheet

Total assets are \$75 million higher than the published budget. This is mainly attributed to increase in financial assets as a result of timing of funding accessed to settle payments to customers and other accrued obligations, which occurred post the published budget.

Cash flows

The overall cash position at the end of the 2025–26 financial year is \$24 million higher than the published budget, with the variance to the published budget being due to timing of receipts and payments.

Detailed financial results for the 2025–26 portfolio budget and actual results are included in following statements.

Capital projects/asset investment programs

During the financial year ending 30 June 2026, the department **completed** capital projects with a total estimated investment (TEI) of \$10 million or greater. The details related to these projects are reported below.

Project name	Original completion date	Latest approved completion date	Practical completion date	Reason for variance in completion dates	Original approved TEI budget (\$m)	Latest approved TEI budget (\$m)	Actual TEI cost (\$m)	Variation between actual cost and latest approved TEI budget (\$m)	Reason for variance from latest approved TEI budget
High-rise fire upgrade program (statewide)	qtr 4 2025–26	qtr 4 2025–26	June 2026	–	22.091	22.091	16.983	5.108	Savings reflect revised scope as part of the High Rise Redevelopment Program

Section 3: Our workforce

Public sector values and employment principles

The *Public Administration Act 2004* sets out the values and employment principles that apply to the Victorian public sector.

This includes the values of responsiveness, integrity, impartiality, accountability, respect, leadership and human rights. These values underpin our work with colleagues, clients and in the community.

The values define what is important to our organisation and how we do things. They also flow through our governance arrangements. Our values ensure we make decisions based on sound judgements.

We embed the values throughout the department.

They inform:

- > our response to the annual People Matter Survey results
- > performance and development planning
- > learning and development programs
- > how we resolve workplace issues.

We also advise our employees on matters of ethics and integrity. This includes how to avoid conflicts of interest and how to respond to offers of gifts.

The department's policies and practices are consistent with Victorian public sector employment principles and standards. We apply merit and equity principles to all employment policies, programs and resources. We provide fair treatment and career opportunities for all our staff.

Our people

The department's people work in diverse fields. These include child protection, housing, disability, preventing family violence, LGBTIQ+ equality, seniors, carers, veterans, women and youth.

Our *People strategy 2024–2026* sets out our priorities for addressing our challenges. These priorities help us maintain a strong organisation. This means our people are safe, roles are filled and employees stay because of our culture.

The strategy aims to create a workforce where our people have positive experiences. It is a diverse workforce with the capacity and capability to deliver vital services for all Victorians.

Highlights for the year include:

- > implementing the department's *Aboriginal workforce strategy 2021–2026* and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Safety Framework
- > completing the 2025 workplace gender audit, *Gender equality progress report 2026* and *Gender equality action plan 2026–2029*. This supports our obligations under the *Gender Equality Act 2020*
- > delivering programs under the *Diversity and inclusion framework 2022–2027*
- > responding to the People Matter Survey 2025, including providing customised support for teams to build workplace culture and improve safety and workforce civility
- > administering the People Matter Survey 2026, including disseminating results to divisions and briefing leaders and staff on high-level findings
- > supporting our people to access learning and career development opportunities through the learning management system and the department's training calendar
- > supporting employees' psychological health and wellbeing through health, safety and wellbeing programs and wellbeing webinars
- > incorporating mandatory goals in performance and development plans (PDPs) to align employee performance and development goals with departmental priorities
- > linking required Compliance Essentials eLearning modules to PDP outcomes and supporting staff to complete essential training
- > delivering regular orientation programs and integrity sessions for new starters
- > updating and improving the Change Hub and Careers Support Hub.

Capability development

Learning and development activities aim to build the department's capability and performance. This includes in client service delivery, policy implementation, program management and compliance. These are underpinned by the department's capability framework.

Workforce capability activities focused on:

- > service delivery
- > practice development
- > positive workplace culture
- > health, safety and wellbeing
- > equality, diversity and inclusion
- > Aboriginal cultural safety
- > anti-racism
- > leadership and management
- > writing and communication
- > project management
- > software and systems
- > finance and procurement.

During 2025–26, we offered 267 learning and development programs through the department's training calendar, as well as 88 webinar sessions on themes relating to staff wellbeing and career development.

In addition, People and Culture staff facilitated 65 culture building and leadership development workshops targeted to teams around positive workplaces, psychological safety, safe to speak up, preventing and responding to bullying and incivility, staff retention, workload management and giving and receiving feedback.

All employees are required to complete Compliance Essentials eLearning modules on topics related to the obligations of Victorian public servants (11 for staff and 14 for managers) as well as other mandatory training (such as Child Safe Standards and Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management). Compliance Essentials training must be refreshed at least every two years. Completions are monitored through the annual PDP process.

The department continued to strengthen its leadership capability by:

- > including 2 mandatory goals in all leaders' PDPs. These focus on positive workplace culture and supporting performance and delivery
- > requiring each executive officer to complete at least 5 hours of professional development annually on public service craft capabilities (or for new executive officers, to complete Executive Essentials induction training)
- > delivering 171 Leading with Impact sessions. This 5-workshop series had an average of 22 attendees per session. The program focuses on building leadership capabilities in coaching and providing feedback, performance and delivery, equality, diversity and inclusion, ethics and integrity, and psychological safety
- > delivering 63 Aboriginal cultural safety sessions facilitated by a First Peoples training provider. The training includes content recommended in the Yoorrook for Justice recommendations
- > delivering 20 anti-racism people leader sessions. The program focuses on building racial literacy and addressing all forms of racism
- > building leaders' skills in supporting working parents and employees who are experiencing menopause
- > supporting executives to participate in cross-department leadership and new-to-role programs provided by the Victorian Public Sector Commission, including the Executive Essentials Program
- > supporting employees to attend high-quality public leadership programs aimed at broadening and deepening leadership capabilities and giving participants exposure to peers from other organisations
- > providing peer and experiential learning through structured mentoring and coaching opportunities for leaders.

In 2025–26, the department continued to support and expand the learning and development of our frontline workforce by:

- > delivering induction training to commencing staff:
 - 510 child protection practitioners
 - 57 housing services officers
 - 6 forensic residential services staff
 - 11 disability justice coordination staff
 - continuing to provide a range of practice development programs to support the professional development of CPP3-6, such as advanced court practice skills
- > developing future frontline leaders, with:
 - 88 Child Protection Career Advancement Program graduates (CPP3s and CPP4s)
 - 74 CPP5s graduated from the new selective entry Child Protection Leadership Program for CPP5
- > 501 CPP5s completing modules in the open access Child Protection Leadership and Management Program
 - 20 group coaching sessions for new child protection graduates and their managers/mentors as part of the Community and Social Services Graduate Program. This led to 36 graduates being matched with mentors
 - 17 Housing Career Advancement Program graduates
 - 9 Housing Practice Leadership Program graduates.

The department also celebrates the work of frontline staff and excellence in practice through events including:

- > Victorian Protecting Children Awards and the department's Child Protection Staff Awards
- > Public Housing Forum and Workforce Awards
- > Forensic Disability Services Workforce Forum and Awards.

Workforce inclusion policy

The department continues to build a diverse, inclusive and culturally safe workplace. This workplace reflects the communities we serve.

Our strategies elevate and recognise Aboriginal peoples as original custodians of Victoria. We embed Aboriginal cultural safety and self-determination in all that we do.

Diversity and inclusion benefits everyone. It promotes a positive and safe workplace culture. It builds our reputation as an employer of choice. It helps us to attract and retain talented staff. It supports innovation by harnessing the rich and varied perspectives of our people. It helps us understand and meet the needs of the Victorian community.

Aboriginal workforce strategy

The department's *Aboriginal workforce strategy 2021–26* has 5 strategic objectives:

- > exceed a minimum 3% Aboriginal employment by 2026, with a stretch target of 4%
- > exceed 4% Aboriginal employment at manager and executive level positions by 2026
- > embed Aboriginal self-determination and cultural safety in all that we do

- > ensure the workforce develops a deep understanding of Aboriginal ways of listening, knowing and doing
- > celebrate Aboriginal culture and the achievements of Aboriginal employees, children, families and communities.

Implementation of the strategy is on track.

The 4% Aboriginal leadership target has been exceeded, with more than 6% of the executive workforce identifying as Aboriginal.

We create employment pathways and development opportunities for Aboriginal people. The department hosted a record 12 CareerTrackers internships for Aboriginal university students this financial year. It also includes the Aboriginal Graduate Program, leadership programs, mentoring for employees and strengthening the Aboriginal Staff Network.

We continue to support the recruitment and retention of Aboriginal child protection practitioners. We do this through regular check-ins with new child protection practitioners. We have established the Child Protection Aboriginal Staff Network, which comprises 70 Aboriginal child protection staff engaging in development.

We have maintained the highest number of Aboriginal child protection staff the department has achieved. We also expanded wellbeing supports including a dedicated gathering and regular facilitated group sessions.

A dedicated Aboriginal peer-support network supports the health, wellbeing and safety of our Aboriginal workforce. The Victorian Aboriginal Health Service Employee Assistance Program also provides dedicated Aboriginal social and emotional wellbeing supports.

The department's Wirrigirri reconciliation program continues to increase the number of allies for Aboriginal inclusion and cultural safety of workplaces.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural safety

The department continues to implement the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural safety framework*. The framework's vision is to ensure the Victorian community service and housing sectors provide culturally safe practice and service that improve outcomes for Aboriginal people.

The department is developing executive leaders and the workforce to ensure a culturally safe environment and to embed self-determination in policy, programs and service provision.

This financial year the department implemented an expanded Aboriginal Cultural Safety training curriculum aligned with the *Yoorrook for justice* report recommendations.

A compliance Cultural Safety eLearn is completed by all staff. As of 30 June 2026, 96% of the workforce have completed the eLearn.

Facilitated trainings led by a First Peoples provider for staff and people leaders, builds cultural knowledge and capability. Over 1,190 staff have completed one or more training.

In September 2024, the department launched the *Anti-racism action plan*. The plan sets out clear action to address all forms of racism in the workplace. Anti-racism people-leader training ensures leaders have the capability to address all forms of racism. As of 30 June 2026, 85% of people leaders had completed the training.

In May 2025, we launched Aboriginal cultural safety and anti-racism workshops to improve capability to address all forms of racism and ensure policies, services and workplaces are culturally safe. Over 1,900 staff have completed one or more workshops.

The department partners with the University of Melbourne to deliver the Self-determination and Community Services micro-certificate series. The program supports advanced cultural capability. Over 1,090 staff have completed one or more micro certificate since the program launched.

In 2024, the department launched the annual Aboriginal Cultural Safety Workplace Monitoring Tool. It provides index ratings on how we are tracking against cultural safety priority areas. The tool enables us to track progress, understand where we are doing well and areas for improvement.

Aboriginal Staff Network

The Aboriginal Staff Network offers access to a supportive, culturally safe community of practice. It is a place to share good practice and creative ideas, support each other through issues of concern, access opportunities for professional development, and provide input into the department's work to ensure it includes Aboriginal people.

The Aboriginal Staff Network held its annual conference in May 2026. The conference focused on cultural safety, lateral healing, consultation and connection. It was well attended by over 80 Aboriginal staff from the department.

Diversity and inclusion framework

The department's *Diversity and inclusion framework 2022–2027* supports us to become a leading employer in diversity and inclusion. The framework commits the department to:

- > employing a workforce that reflects Victoria's communities to better meet community needs
- > building workplaces that are culturally safe and inclusive for diverse staff.

The framework takes an intersectional approach. It incorporates strategies to improve employee experiences, elevate diversity of thought and remove workplace barriers.

This includes:

- > people with disability
- > people from multicultural and multifaith backgrounds
- > people who are LGBTIQ+
- > people with caring responsibilities.

Since the launch of the framework, progressed implementation actions include:

- > implementing gender-neutral bathroom options
- > establishing employee network month
- > delivering the annual diversity workforce survey
- > establishing accessible communications guidelines
- > launching a language allowance policy
- > implementing a workplace adjustment policy and passport
- > building inclusive leadership development into our leadership training
- > investing in anti-racism training for people leaders
- > delivering disability confidence and autism support training.

Staff-led lived experience networks

The department is investing in diverse staff with lived experience and their allies. Staff lived experienced networks are inclusive places for staff to connect and share experiences. As part of the networks, staff have opportunities to input into the department's projects, strategies and training.

Each network has co-chairs and an appointed Executive Champion accountable for addressing barriers to inclusion. All network members meet regularly to progress priorities. In addition to the Enablers, Pride, Aboriginal staff and Wirrigirri networks, 2 new networks were established in 2025 the Women of Colour and Multicultural Staff Networks.

Network co-chairs completed employee reference group development to support them to effectively navigate their roles.

People with disability

In addition to the department's framework, the department continued to deliver actions under *Getting to work: Victorian public sector disability employment action plan 2018–2025*.

The action plan supports increased opportunities for people with disability to work in the department, with targets of 6% employment by 2020 and 12% employment by 2025. In 2026, the People Matter Survey data showed that of the people who completed the survey, 12% of respondents shared they had a disability.

The department has a dedicated workplace adjustment policy and resources to support the inclusion and participation of employees with disability and build organisational capability. The department has also implemented independent neurodiverse-confident services that offer a range of services and support for neurodivergent employees, as well as managers and their teams.

The Enablers Network for people with disability continued supporting employees with disability to ensure a voice and removing barriers to inclusion.

People from multicultural and multifaith backgrounds

The department has priority targets to improve the representation of the workforce from non-main-English-speaking multicultural backgrounds. The People Matter Survey 2026 shows that 19% of staff speak a language other than English with their families or communities.

We have delivered a guide for ensuring prayer spaces. Roll-out has continued across offices. We have launched a language allowance policy that ensures we valued the language and cultural expertise our workforce brings in serving diverse communities.

The department has established a Multicultural and Women of Colour Network to empower staff to drive an inclusive workplace culture and contribute to innovation that improves outcomes for employees and communities.

LGBTIQ+ people

The department invested in LGBTIQ+ workplace inclusion achieving bronze accreditation in the Australian Workplace Equality Index in May 2026.

The department has supportive processes for trans and gender diverse employees to affirm their gender identity in the workplace and to ensure their safety and inclusion. The department launched a trans and gender diverse eLearn in 2025 to build the capability of the workforce.

The department continued to work with Pride in Diversity to provide employees with training and awareness.

To support wellbeing of staff, we offer LGBTIQ+ confidential contacts and grievance officer programs to ensure trained allies and people and culture staff can support the workforce.

The department's Pride Network provides a safe and inclusive space for LGBTIQ+ employees and allies.

People with caring responsibilities

The department is committed to supporting staff to balance work and caring responsibilities and has included a range of actions to support carers in its diversity and inclusion framework and gender equality action plan.

Key activities include a parental transition support program, promoting equitable access to flexible work arrangements through the development of resources for managers and staff and monitoring uptake of leave for diverse caring, parental and kinship responsibilities through an annual audit to identify and address barriers and trends.

Gender equality

The department continued to promote workplace gender equality and to meet its requirements under the *Gender Equality Act 2020* (the Act) including through:

- > implementation of the department's *Gender equality action plan 2022–2025* (GEAP)
- > completion of the new *Gender equality action plan 2026–2029* and submission to the Commission for Gender Equality in the Public Sector
- > conducting the June 2025 workplace gender audit and preparing the *Gender equality progress report 2026*
- > conducting Gender Impact Assessments (GIAs) for new policies, programs and services that have a significant impact on the public.

The department has progressed activities under the GEAP. This includes developing and delivering Everyday Sexism and Sexual Harassment workshops, providing training and coaching to support parental leave and menopause transition, supporting the family violence contact officer network, implementing eLearning modules about family violence and the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) Framework, and including model gender equality goals for leaders in the professional development cycle.

The department has delivered activities to support GIA capability and compliance. This includes expanding the number of GIAs in our central GIA depository, quality assurance of gender responsive budgeting submissions, and providing in-house training to department staff on GIA processes.

Youth Employment Scheme

The department continued to engage with the Youth Employment Scheme. This initiative of the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions supports young people aged 15 to 29 years to find employment.

The traineeships provide paid employment opportunities while attaining a qualification, with the prospect of further and potentially ongoing employment in the department.

Priority groups include:

- > people unemployed for 6 months or at risk of being long-term unemployed
- > people with disability
- > Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- > culturally and linguistically diverse communities including humanitarian migrants (asylum seekers and refugees)
- > public and social housing residents
- > people with experience of homelessness or at risk of homelessness
- > people with experience of family violence
- > Youth Justice clients
- > young people from out-of-home care
- > single parents
- > people with experience of mental illness.

Western Chances internship

The Western Chances Internship Program matches tertiary scholarship recipients with 12-week paid internships. This internship provides young people facing social or financial barriers with meaningful work experience and an opportunity to develop job-ready skills and builds their professional network.

The department hosted 3 internships for young people through this employment program within this financial year.

Graduate recruitment

The department has 5 graduates participating in the 2026 Victorian Government Graduate Program, which is run by the Victorian Public Sector Commission (VPSC).

In the 2026 intake, the department recruited 5 graduates from diverse academic backgrounds.

Graduates participating in the 12-month graduate programs complete 3 rotations to develop core skills and gain broad experience working within various business units.

In addition to the VPSC graduate program, the department hosted 2 positions within the internal Aboriginal Graduate Program. The 2 employees commenced at different dates within the 2025–26 financial year.

The department also administers the Community and Social Services Graduate Program, which saw the department host 39 graduates during the 2025–26 financial year.

Student placement program

The department offers students undertaking a tertiary qualification the opportunity to complete their fieldwork placement as part of their course.

In 2025–26, 280 tertiary students commenced a placement across the department, including placements in child protection, housing, forensic disability services, corporate services and statewide services.

Child Protection Employment Program

The Child Protection Employment Program (CPEP) offers 12 weeks full-time or 16 weeks part-time, fixed-term paid employment to recent graduates and eligible students studying a social work, welfare, community or behavioural qualification.

The rotation-based program enables participants to work in a structured and supportive learning environment alongside experienced practitioners to experience the child protection practitioner (CPP) role.

Participants who demonstrate the essential skills and attributes necessary for entry into a CPP role, have completed a recognised qualification and who successfully complete the program may receive an offer of employment for a CPP3 position. Participants who have successfully completed the program and are still completing a recognised qualification may receive a conditional offer of employment at the CPP3 level, subject to the successful completion of their recognised qualification. These participants may commence in the department as a CPP2, enabling them to remain working in child protection while completing their qualification.

One hundred CPEP employees completed the program. Ninety participants in the program were recommended for further employment at the end of the program in June 2026.

Additional employment programs in 2025–26

The department has additional employment programs that are smaller in scale that contribute to the *Diversity and inclusion framework 2022–2027*:

- > CareerSeekers – the department hosted 4 internships for participants of this program. CareerSeekers supports university students and experienced professionals from a refugee background to secure employment opportunities
- > Australian Disability Network Internship Program – the department hosted 3 internships for participants of this program.

The department also administers the Community and Social Services Graduate Program, which commenced 180 graduates this financial year. The program provides graduates with opportunities in cross-sector development activities and professional networking to improve graduate job-readiness and retention.

Comparative workforce data

The following table discloses the head count and full-time staff equivalent (FTE) of all active public service employees of the department, employed in the last full pay period in June of the current reporting period (2026), and in the last full pay period of June in the previous reporting period (2025).⁷

Table 1: Details of employment levels in June 2026 and June 2025

	Jun–26						Jun–25							
	All employees		Ongoing			Fixed-term and casual		All employees		Ongoing			Fixed-term and casual	
	Number (head count)	FTE	Full-time (head count)	Part-time (head count)	FTE	Number (head count)	FTE	Number (head count)	FTE	Full-time (head count)	Part-time (head count)	FTE	Number (head count)	FTE
Part 1: Demographic data														
Gender														
Women	5,498	5,131.3	3,757	810	4,287.8	931	843.5	5,488	5,107.7	3,793	802	4,309.1	893	798.6
Men	1,682	1,624.6	1,226	77	1,278.6	379	346.0	1,620	1,564.4	1,164	80	1,218.0	376	346.4
Self-described	102	94.5	59	11	66.4	32	28.1	105	100.3	65	6	69.2	34	31.1
Age														
15–24	291	261.5	147	13	156.2	131	105.4	280	250.2	157	23	171.5	100	78.7
25–34	1,925	1,823.5	1,332	167	1,430.9	426	392.6	1,875	1,782.6	1,329	148	1,419.7	398	362.9
35–44	2,085	1,933.4	1,397	334	1,611.3	354	322.2	2,061	1,903.3	1,379	325	1,581.7	357	321.5
45–54	1,592	1,514.7	1,134	188	1,267.6	270	247.1	1,659	1,573.4	1,169	202	1,308.0	288	265.3
55–64	1,134	1,083.9	850	144	950.9	140	133.0	1,104	1,050.4	824	138	917.6	142	132.7
65+	255	233.5	182	52	216.0	21	17.5	234	212.5	164	52	197.7	18	14.8

⁷ Part 2: Classification data includes all classified child protection practitioners (CPP) within the department. The CPP headcount and full-time equivalent numbers fluctuate throughout the year based on recruitment and attrition. Collectively, the full-time equivalent number of CPPs in statutory intervention positions (CPP3-6) has increased.

	Jun–26						Jun–25							
	All employees		Ongoing			Fixed-term and casual		All employees		Ongoing			Fixed-term and casual	
	Number (head count)	FTE	Full-time (head count)	Part-time (head count)	FTE	Number (head count)	FTE	Number (head count)	FTE	Full-time (head count)	Part-time (head count)	FTE	Number (head count)	FTE
Part 2: Classification data														
VPS 1–6 grades														
VPS 1	2	2.0	0	0	0.0	2	2.0	19	19.0	1	0	1.0	18	18.0
VPS 2	261	219.4	141	56	176.8	64	42.6	264	224.4	147	52	180.1	65	44.3
VPS 3	371	345.6	241	65	286.2	65	59.4	387	363.3	262	51	296.6	74	66.7
VPS 4	628	608.0	445	53	480.7	130	127.3	643	619.4	418	62	461.7	163	157.8
VPS 5	1,142	1,100.6	792	120	877.7	230	222.9	1152	1109.3	814	118	896.1	220	213.2
VPS 6	693	676.5	524	56	566.0	113	110.5	710	694.0	545	55	586.5	110	107.6
Total	3,097	2,952.0	2143	350	2,387.3	604	564.7	3,175	3,029.5	2,187	338	2,421.9	650	607.5
Child Protection Practitioner														
CPP 2	378	327.5	148	58	184.7	172	142.8	299	253.2	138	55	172.4	106	80.8
CPP 3	575	556.9	412	45	441.5	118	115.4	575	553.6	450	64	493.4	61	60.2
CPP 4	843	776.2	674	131	749.4	38	26.8	754	678.4	587	133	658.6	34	19.8
CPP 5	886	826.9	727	140	810.4	19	16.5	868	814.5	718	128	796.1	22	18.4
CPP 6	128	125.1	114	11	122.5	3	2.6	128	125.2	118	7	122.2	3	3.0
Total	2,810	2,612.5	2,075	385	2,308.4	350	304.1	2,624	2,424.9	2,011	387	2,242.7	226	182.2
Children, Youth and Families														
CYF 1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.6	0	0	0.0	1	0.6
CYF 2	87	71.2	43	11	50.4	33	20.8	91	74.3	46	10	52.3	35	22.0
CYF 3	36	32.9	23	9	29.1	4	3.8	35	32.5	24	8	29.5	3	3.0
CYF 4	102	97.6	69	13	77.9	20	19.7	100	94.9	71	12	78.6	17	16.3

	Jun-26						Jun-25							
	All employees		Ongoing			Fixed-term and casual		All employees		Ongoing			Fixed-term and casual	
	Number (head count)	FTE	Full-time (head count)	Part-time (head count)	FTE	Number (head count)	FTE	Number (head count)	FTE	Full-time (head count)	Part-time (head count)	FTE	Number (head count)	FTE
CYF 5	92	87.6	61	11	68.4	20	19.2	102	97.1	62	12	70.8	28	26.3
CYF 6	18	18.0	18	0	18.0	0	0.0	12	12.0	12	0	12.0	0	0.0
Total	335	307.3	214	44	243.8	77	63.5	341	311.4	215	42	243.3	84	68.1
Allied Health														
AH 2	4	3.6	3	1	3.6	0	0.0	8	7.6	5	1	5.6	2	2.0
AH 3	22	19.5	9	5	12.5	8	7.0	37	25.8	10	16	18.3	11	7.6
AH 4	3	2.8	1	1	1.8	1	1.0	4	4.0	3	0	3.0	1	1.0
Total	29	25.9	13	7	17.9	9	8.0	49	37.4	18	17	26.9	14	10.6
Disability Services														
DDSO-1	3	1.9	1	0	1.0	2	0.9	8	6.0	3	2	4.6	3	1.4
DDSO-2	96	78.5	44	5	46.8	47	31.6	93	78.4	40	6	43.3	47	35.2
DDSO-3	37	35.6	25	5	28.6	7	7.0	35	31.9	21	7	26.3	7	5.6
DDSO-4	23	22.1	17	4	20.1	2	2.0	20	19.1	14	4	17.1	2	2.0
DDSO-5	5	5.0	5	0	5.0	0	0.0	4	4.0	4	0	4.0	0	0.0
DDSO-6	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	164	143.1	92	14	101.5	58	41.5	160	139.4	82	19	95.3	59	44.1
Housing Services														
HCSOQ1	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
HCSOQ2	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
HCSOQU	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
HCSO	97	86.1	57	27	76.0	13	10.1	105	97.0	54	25	71.8	26	25.2

	Jun–26						Jun–25							
	All employees		Ongoing			Fixed-term and casual		All employees		Ongoing			Fixed-term and casual	
	Number (head count)	FTE	Full-time (head count)	Part-time (head count)	FTE	Number (head count)	FTE	Number (head count)	FTE	Full-time (head count)	Part-time (head count)	FTE	Number (head count)	FTE
HSO-1	4	3.8	1	0	1.0	3	2.8	5	5.0	2	0	2.0	3	3.0
HSO-2	366	348.0	287	48	319.7	31	28.3	365	349.0	295	42	322.0	28	27.0
HSO-3	69	67.3	62	6	66.3	1	1.0	66	64.3	59	7	64.3	0	0.0
Total	536	505.2	407	81	463.0	48	42.2	541	515.4	410	74	460.2	57	55.2
Other	116	111.7	89	15	100.1	12	11.6	114	108.1	86	9	91.3	19	16.8
Senior employees														
Executives	175	173.1	0	0	0.0	175	173.1	186	183.6	1	0	1.0	185	182.6
STS	20	19.7	9	2	10.8	9	8.9	23	22.5	12	2	13.7	9	8.8
SMA	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total employees	7,282	6,850.4	5,042	898	5,632.8	1342	1,217.6	7213	6,772.3	5,022	888	5,596.2	1,303	1,176.0

The data source for the table above is Common Corporate Support Branch. A similar data cut is used for the Victorian Public Sector Commission submission.

Executive figures include Accountable Officers, namely the Secretary and CEO of Homes Victoria.

The following table discloses the total salary for senior employees of the department, categorised by classification. The salary amount is reported as the full-time annualised salary.

Table 2: Annualised total salary, by \$20,000 bands, for executives and other senior non-executive staff

Income band (salary)	Executives	STS	SMA
\$160,000–\$179,999	0	0	0
\$180,000–\$199,999	0	1	0
\$200,000–\$219,999	0	10	0
\$220,000–\$239,999	59	5	0
\$240,000–\$259,999	28	2	0
\$260,000–\$279,999	14	2	0
\$280,000–\$299,999	28	0	0
\$300,000–\$319,999	16	0	0
\$320,000–\$339,999	8	0	0
\$340,000–\$359,999	5	0	0
\$360,000–\$379,999	7	0	0
\$380,000–\$399,999	1	0	0
\$400,000–\$419,999	0	0	0
\$420,000–\$439,999	1	0	0
\$440,000–\$459,999	3	0	0
\$460,000–\$479,999	2	0	0
\$480,000–\$519,999	0	0	0
\$520,000–\$539,999	1	0	0
\$540,000–\$579,999	0	0	0
\$580,000–\$599,999	1	0	0
\$600,000–\$619,999	0	0	0
\$620,000–\$639,999	1	0	0
Total	175	20	0

Workforce data for the department's portfolio entities

The department includes the following entities that employ public service employees independently of the department's Secretary:

- > Commission for Children and Young People
- > Queen Victoria Women's Centre Trust
- > Respect Victoria
- > Social Service Regulator
- > Shrine of Remembrance Trustees
- > Victorian Disability Worker Commission.

These portfolio entities produce their own annual reports. Therefore, comparative workforce data for these entities are included in their annual reports. The department does, however, disclose the number of executives for these portfolio entities in the 'Executive data' section of this report.

Executive data

The following tables disclose the Senior Executive Service (SES) numbers for the department and its portfolio entities for 30 June 2026.

- > For the department, a member of the SES is defined as a person employed as an executive under part 3 of the *Public Administration Act 2004 (PAA)*.
- > For a public body, an executive is defined under part 3 of the PAA or a person to whom the Victorian Government's *Public Entity Executive Remuneration Policy* applies.
- > All figures reflect employment levels at the last full pay period in June of the current and corresponding previous reporting year.
- > The definition of an SES does not include a statutory office holder or an Accountable Officer.

The following table discloses the variations between the current reporting period (2026) and previous reporting period (2025).

Table 3: Number of SES for the department broken down by gender

Class	Total		Women		Men		Self-described	
	No.	Var.	No.	Var.	No.	Var.	No.	Var.
SES-3	7	-2	4	-2	3	0	0	0
SES-2	54	-7	41	-5	13	-2	0	0
SES-1	112	-2	81	7	28	-9	3	0
Total	173	-11	126	0	44	-11	3	0

The number of executives in Table 4 below is based on the number of executive positions that are substantively occupied at the end of the financial year. Note 9.7 in the financial statements lists the actual number of SES and the total remuneration paid to SES over the course of the reporting period. The financial statements note does not include the Accountable Officer, nor does it distinguish between executive levels or disclose separations. Separations are executives who have left the department during the relevant reporting period. To assist readers, these 2 disclosures are reconciled below.

Table 4: Reconciliation of executive numbers for the department

	2026	2025	Var.
Executives	175	184	-9
Accountable Officer (Secretary)	1	1	0
Accountable Officer (CEO, Homes Victoria)	1	1	0
Less separations	28	14	14
Leave without pay	0	5	-5
Less executives paid by other departments	2	0	2
Total executive numbers at 30 June	173	184	-11

Table 5: Number of executives for the department's portfolio entities broken down by gender-+

Portfolio entities	Total		Women		Men		Self-described	
	No.	Var.	No.	Var.	No.	Var.	No.	Var.
Commission for Children and Young People	2	-1	2	-1	0	0	0	0
Disability Services Commissioner	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	0
Queen Victoria Women's Centre Trust	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Respect Victoria	2	-1	2	-1	0	0	0	0
Shrine of Remembrance Trustees	4	0	3	2	1	-2	0	0
Social Services Regulator	9	7	7	7	2	0	0	0
Victorian Disability Worker Commission	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	19	4	16	6	3	-2	0	0

Notes:

All figures reflect employment levels as at the final pay period in June 2026, and variance is compared with June 2025.

Excluded are those on leave without pay or absent on secondment, external contractors / consultants and temporary staff employed by employment agencies.

Employee health, safety and wellbeing

The department is committed to safeguarding the health, safety and wellbeing (HSW) of all employees and others when conducting work on behalf of the department or in a department workplace. The department has expressed this commitment in its *Health, safety and wellbeing policy*.

Employee health and safety

During 2025–26, the department continued implementation of its *Health, safety and wellbeing strategy 2024 to 2027* (HSW strategy). The strategy aims to create a safe and psychologically healthy workplace. This includes preventing injury and illness in the workplace.

Supporting the HSW strategy is a program of work that focuses the department's resources on key priority areas to achieve the strategic objectives to:

- > promote employee health, safety and wellbeing
- > prevent work-related injury and illness
- > support employees with an injury or illness to recover at work or to return to work early, safely and sustainably.

The department's Health and Safety Management System provides information to support employee health and safety at work and prevent or reduce the likelihood of injury and illness related to workplace operations.

HSW representation gives employees a voice on health and safety. The department has an extensive network of HSW representatives and designated management representatives who participate in health and safety committees and work collaboratively to improve HSW outcomes and resolve issues.

Improvement measures in 2025–26 included:

- > implementation of an upgraded health and safety incident and hazard reporting system (OurSafety) that has improved the end-user experience and enabled better data, particularly in relation to psychosocial hazards
- > improvement of HSW risk management materials to more comprehensively incorporate psychosocial risks
- > development of enterprise-level risk assessments for key psychosocial hazards to inform operational risk assessments
- > successful completion of a pilot de-escalation training program to support frontline employees facing the risk of aggression or violence at work. Planning has commenced to broaden this out across all frontline roles
- > continued implementation of HSW accountabilities through performance development plans for VPS and executive employees

- > continued improvement of the HSW SharePoint site to provide employees better access to current HSW information
- > provision of specialist ergonomic assessments to 139 employees who needed additional support to set up their workstation to prevent injury
- > provision of influenza vaccines to 2,792 employees through the annual vaccination program
- > provision of a series of information sessions and briefings across the department related to the Occupational Health and Safety (Psychological Health) Regulations.

Employee wellbeing and support

The department continues to focus on providing a psychologically healthy workplace. We recognise that everyone benefits from a workplace where the wellbeing of employees is a priority.

The department provides employee supports including:

- > Employee Wellbeing and Support Program
- > Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program
- > Child Protection Wellbeing Program
- > Peer Support Network
- > Critical Incident Support
- > Fitness Passport.

The department has high workforce engagement with its Employee Wellbeing and Support Program. This saw an annual utilisation rate of 28.4%. This shows positive employee engagement in wellbeing.

The department is delivering the *Child protection mental health and wellbeing plan 2024–26*. This promotes wellbeing services to child protection employees. It also supports workplace safety activities using the 4 pillars of leadership, learning, systems and supports.

The department continues to support and strengthen the Peer Support Network (PSN). This year saw a 112% increase in recorded employee contacts with peer supporters.

Critical Incident Support assists employees who have witnessed or have been involved in a critical incident in the course of their work. The model of support is based on psychological first aid. This provides support and care to meet an employee's immediate needs and minimise negative reactions following exposure to a critical incident.

In 2025–26, 95 critical incident support sessions were delivered indicating employees are being offered and receiving support when needed.

Improvement measures in 2025–26 included:

- > enhancements to the Employee Wellbeing and Support Program, including the launch of neurodiversity supports for neurodiverse staff and their managers
- > extended the Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program contract
- > evaluated the department's Peer Support Network
- > continued to provide training on the impact of traumatic events and content (including vicarious trauma). This included how to manage this hazard proactively in the workplace
- > re-engaged Fitness Passport, which gives employees and their family discounted membership and access to fitness and lifestyle facilities across Victoria
- > increased promotion and utilisation of career coaching services as part of managing and supporting employees impacted by organisational change.

Incident and injury management

The department strongly encourages employees to report HSW hazards and incidents which allows the identification and implementation of appropriate actions to prevent re-occurrence and reduce risk where possible. It also assists us to identify employees at risk of injury and to intervene early to prevent injury or illness.

From 1 July 2025, the department moved to a new safety reporting system that more clearly discerned between incidents and hazards. The outcome of which was a greater number of hazards being reported with a corresponding reduction in incident reporting.

There was a 73% increase in the number of hazards reported and a 41% decrease in incidents reported in 2025–26 compared with the prior year.

The department has a defined procedure for incident reporting and investigation. This requires assessing the risk and developing corrective actions for all incidents reported. Some incidents require further investigation. During 2025–26, the department introduced a new investigation method (5-Whys) for incidents and hazards risk rated high or critical which resulted in an increase in investigations undertaken. Four-hundred and fifty-five reported incidents or hazards (15.7%) required further investigation. The department notified WorkSafe Victoria of 7 notifiable incidents.⁸

The department has experienced a 17.1% decrease in the rate of standard claims per 100 FTE, with:

- > a 37.2% decrease in stress-related standard claims per 100 FTE
- > 58.2% increase in musculoskeletal disorder-related standard claims per 100 FTE
- > 27.2% decrease in lost time standard claims per 100 FTE
- > 14.9% decrease in 13-week standard claims per 100 FTE.

Improvement measures in 2025–26 included:

- > developing and implementing an employee capacity support framework to outline the responsibilities of managers and employees to support employees to undertake the inherent requirements of their role
- > analysing workers compensation, return-to-work and employee support data to help identify trends, provide insights and inform decision-making. This included projects to improve risk controls and prevent future injury. The department also focused on preventing harm, including injury or illness arising from exposure to traumatic content or exposure to aggression or violence
- > increased promotion of Max Health and Employee Wellbeing supports to provide early support for employees who are injured at work. This helps injured workers to recover and return to work. The department has seen improvement in Back at Work results within 16 weeks (+7.55%), 26 weeks (+5.45%), and 52 weeks (+7.86%)
- > tailored advice and support for managers managing staff with complex injuries and claims and injuries or illnesses not compensable under the WorkCover scheme
- > early intervention services in the pending phase of a compensation claim through the department's WorkCover insurer, including increased use of face-to-face triage conferences, effective case management and provision of suitable duties
- > commenced a project to review and update inherent requirements checklist for various roles across the department and develop a library of inherent requirements by role type.

8 Data provided by WorkSafe Victoria.

Table 6: The department's performance against health and safety management measures

Measure	Key performance indicator	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
Hazards	Number of hazards	774	812	1,405
	Rate per 100 FTE	11.59	12.10	20.51
Incidents	Number of incidents	2,302	2,569	1497
	Rate per 100 FTE	34.49	38.29	21.85
	Number of incidents requiring first aid and/or further medical treatment	234	394	97
Claims	Number of standard claims ⁹	92	91	77
	Rate per 100 FTE	1.38	1.36	1.12
	Number of lost time claims	52	39	29
	Rate per 100 FTE	0.78	0.58	0.42
	Number of claims exceeding 13 weeks ¹⁰	43	38	33
	Rate per 100 FTE	0.64	0.57	0.48
Absenteeism ¹¹	Total number of days absence due to injury or illness	59,524.87	69,778	67,121
	Rate per 100 FTE	892.03	1,039.91	979.87
Fatalities	Number of fatalities	0	0	0
Prosecutions	Total number of prosecutions ¹²	0	0	0
Claims costs	Average cost per standard claim ¹³	\$178,851	\$245,114	\$152,146
Consultation and participation	Number of People and Culture Committee meetings	11	9	9
	Number of quarterly divisional and area HSW committee meetings	111	114	116

9 Claims where weekly benefit payments or medical treatment expenses exceed (or are expected to exceed) employer excesses. For weekly benefit payments, the employer threshold is 10 days. Excluded are claims closed with no payments or closed buyout claims which have not reached either excess. They are standardised in order to enable comparisons of claim numbers over time by taking into account changes in the way claims have been treated over time.

10 Claims that involve more than 13 weeks of weekly benefits paid.

11 Data based on total number of sick leave hours recorded by employees.

12 Refers to health and safety-related prosecutions.

13 Estimated average cost per standardised claim, incorporating payments to date and estimated future payments. The FDC is an average and there can potentially be a wide variation in the size of individual cases within a category because of the individual circumstances of each case. The average can be volatile for the smaller categories, particularly those with high average severity. Comparability over time will be affected by events or scheme changes. Figures from previous years have been adjusted to reflect mature data.

Table 7: The department's performance against health and safety management measures

Measure	Key performance indicator	Performance
Management commitment	OHS policy statement and OHS criteria	The department's <i>Health, safety and wellbeing policy</i> details its commitment to providing employees with a work environment and experience that is safe and supports and promotes optimum health, safety and wellbeing. Responsibility for health, safety and wellbeing is an inherent part of every employee's role. Specific accountabilities for all employees and additional accountabilities for managers and leaders are defined and documented to provide and maintain a healthy and safe workplace. The department monitors its HSW performance against a defined outcomes framework and reports performance results to a range of governance and consultative committees. The department actively participates in Victorian Public Service HSW governance bodies including the OHS Leadership Group and the OHS Executive Group. The department is actively involved in the Public Sector Psychological Health Initiative.
Consultation and participation	Designated work group structures and issue resolution procedures	The department's extensive network of 134 designated work groups, 201 health and safety representatives (HSRs) (including deputy HSRs) and 137 designated management representatives (DMRs) provide an avenue for employees to be heard on health and safety matters in the workplace. The department has a comprehensive health and safety consultation structure in place comprising committees at the area and divisional level. The People and Culture Committee is a subcommittee of the board. It monitors the HSW performance of the department. This committee met 9 times during 2025–26. Divisional and area HSW committees play a key consultative role in improving health and safety by providing a forum for HSRs and DMRs to meet regularly and work collaboratively to plan and develop solutions to improve HSW outcomes. There were 116 divisional and area HSW committee meetings during 2025–26. The issue resolution guide outlines the department's process for managers and employees to follow to resolve health and safety issues identified in department workplaces.
Risk management	Regular risk assessments and internal audits conducted. Issues identified and actioned	OurSafety is the department's online health and safety hazard and incident reporting system. All employees are encouraged to report work-related incidents and hazards. This helps the department to understand risks and respond quickly and effectively (including incident investigation and implementation of controls). The department has comprehensive procedures and tools for assessing and managing key HSW hazards and risks and for undertaking workplace inspections. WorkSafe made 38 visits to department workplaces and issued 3 improvement notices between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2026.¹⁴ There was 1 provisional improvement notice issued by an HSR.

14 Data provided by WorkSafe Victoria.

Measure	Key performance indicator	Performance
Training	Managers, health and safety representatives and other staff trained	HSW-related training and information sessions were available to managers and employees. These covered topics including psychosocial hazard risk management, psychological first aid, exposure to traumatic content and vicarious trauma, work-related aggression and violence and injury support and wellbeing. Training occurred face-to-face, virtually and via eLearns. Some programs were available to all employees, some for managers specifically, whereas others were tailored to frontline employee groups. Approximately 1,000 employees participated in HSW-related training specific to frontline roles. Approximately 5,000 employees completed mandatory HSW-related eLearns. Approximately 1,000 employees participated in department-wide HSW-related training during the year.¹⁵ HSRs elected during the year were encouraged and supported by the department to undertake a WorkSafe approved 5-day HSR training program. The department delivered a range of information sessions during HSW month held in October 2025. Online events were offered, including a three-part series on the psychosocial risk management process. The opening event, on mentally healthy work, had over 1,100 attendees. The closing event, on resilience, had approximately 480 attendees. In person sessions were held for HSRs across 4 divisional offices.

¹⁵ This training does not include locally arranged and bespoke HSW-related training that also occurs throughout the year.

Section 4: Other disclosures

Local Jobs First

The *Local Jobs First Act 2003* (the Act) establishes the Local Jobs First scheme, which is set out in the Act, the regulations and the Local Jobs First Policy. The Local Jobs First Policy comprises the Victorian Industry Participation Policy (VIPP) and Major Project Skills Guarantee (MPSG).

Departments and public bodies within the meaning of the *Financial Management Act 1994* must apply Local Jobs First as required to regional projects worth more than \$1 million, statewide or metro Melbourne projects worth at least \$3 million, or other projects with a lower budget declared by the Minister as a standard or strategic project.

The MPSG guidelines and VIPP guidelines will continue to apply to MPSG-applicable and VIPP-applicable projects respectively where contracts have been entered prior to 15 August 2018.

Projects commenced – Local Jobs First Standard

During 2025–26, the department commenced 39 Local Jobs First Standard projects totalling \$116.06 million. Of those projects:

- > 25 were in regional Victoria. These had an average commitment of 92% of local content
- > 12 were in metropolitan Melbourne. These had an average commitment of 89% local content
- > 2 were statewide projects. These had an average commitment of 97% local content.

The MPSG applied to 4 of these projects.

The outcomes expected from these projects in relation to Local Jobs First are:

- > an average of 92% of local content commitment was made
- > a total of 300.31 annualised employee equivalent jobs (AEE) were committed, including the creation of 146.65 new jobs and the retention of 153.66 existing jobs (AEE)

- > a total of 32.80 positions for apprentices, trainees and cadets were committed, including the creation of 3.76 new apprenticeships, traineeships, and cadets and the retention of the remaining 29.04 existing apprenticeships, traineeships and cadets
- > MPSG-applicable projects committed to engaging 0.85 apprentices, trainees and cadets
- > 15,948 small to medium-sized businesses were engaged through the supply chain on Local Jobs First projects.

Projects completed – Local Jobs First Standard

During 2025–26, the department completed 4 Local Jobs First Standard projects, totalling \$5.16 million. The projects were in regional Victoria. The MPSG did not apply to these projects.

Where information was provided, the outcomes expected from the implementation of the Local Jobs First policy to these projects include:

- > 96.99% local content
- > 400 small to medium-sized businesses were engaged through the supply chain on completed Standard projects.

Projects commenced – Local Jobs First Strategic

During 2025–26, the department commenced 12 Local Jobs First Strategic Projects, valued at \$464.05 million.

Of these projects, 2 were in regional Victoria, 6 were in metropolitan Melbourne and 4 were statewide. They had an average commitment of 96% local content. The MPSG applied to 6 of these projects.

The outcomes expected from the implementation of the policy where information was provided, were as follows:

- > a total of 812.89 annualised employee equivalent jobs (AEE) were committed, including the creation of 223.69 new jobs and the retention of 589.21 existing jobs (AEE)

- > a total of 100.35 positions for apprentices, trainees and cadets were committed, including the creation of 39.59 new apprenticeships, traineeships and cadets, and the retention of the remaining 60.44 existing apprenticeships, traineeships and cadets
- > MPSG-applicable projects committed to engaging 24.91 apprentices, trainees and cadets
- > 586 small to medium-sized businesses were engaged through the supply chain on Local Jobs First projects.

Projects completed – Local Jobs First Strategic

No Local Jobs First Strategic projects were completed during 2025–26.

Reporting requirements – grants

For grants provided during 2025–26, no interaction reference numbers were required.

Competitive neutrality policy

Competitive neutrality requires government businesses to ensure that where services compete, or potentially compete, with the private sector, any net advantage arising from government ownership is accounted for if it is not in the public interest. Government businesses that undertake significant business activities are required to implement competitive neutrality measures (such as setting competitive neutral prices), which removes any net advantage that comes from public ownership. Competitive neutrality policy supports fair competition between public and private businesses and provides government businesses with a tool to enhance decisions on resource allocation. This policy does not override other policy objectives of government and focuses on removing resource allocation distortions.

The department ensures Victoria fulfils its requirements on competitive neutrality reporting as required under the Intergovernmental Agreement on National Competition Policy and Competition and Infrastructure Reform Agreement.

Government advertising expenditure

For the 2025–26 reporting period, there were 3 government advertising campaigns with planned total media spend of \$100,000 or greater (exclusive of GST). Table 8 sets out details of the campaigns.

Table 8: Details of government advertising expenditure

Name of campaign	Campaign summary	Start/end date	Advertising (media) expenditure ^{(a)(b)} (\$ excl. GST)	Creative and campaign development expenditure (\$ excl. GST)	Research and evaluation expenditure (\$ excl. GST)	Print and collateral expenditure (\$ excl. GST)	Other campaign expenditure (\$ excl. GST)	Total (\$ excl. GST)
Big Housing Build	This campaign aimed to improve localised understanding of nearby social housing redevelopment projects across Victoria. Expenditure was weighted to communities surrounding older high-rise to provide information regarding redeveloping older high-rise estates. This was supported by a secondary spend on necessary information updates to improve localised understanding of nearby social/affordable developments and community impacts during delivery across other areas of Victoria.	14/09/25 – 28/12/25 (Burst 2) 3/5/26 – 27/6/26 (Burst 3)	Approved \$700,000 Actual: \$595,652.71	Planned: \$300,000 Actual: \$285,679.56	Planned: \$35,000 Actual: \$46,980	Planned: \$0 Actual: \$0	Planned: \$0 Actual: \$0	Planned: \$1,035,000 Actual: \$928,312.27

Name of campaign	Campaign summary	Start/end date	Advertising (media) expenditure ^{(a)(b)} (\$ excl. GST)	Creative and campaign development expenditure (\$ excl. GST)	Research and evaluation expenditure (\$ excl. GST)	Print and collateral expenditure (\$ excl. GST)	Other campaign expenditure (\$ excl. GST)	Total (\$ excl. GST)
Fostering Connections	The Fostering Connections 'Play a Part' campaign is a statewide recruitment initiative designed to raise awareness of the need for more foster carers in Victoria and encourage people to take the first step towards fostering. Paid advertising across digital, social, radio and regional media channels was supported by an unpaid communications plan. The campaign seeks to increase awareness, drive enquiries through the Fostering Connections website and phone hotline and contribute to Victoria's efforts to recruit a more diverse and sustainable foster carer workforce.	1/09/2025 – 30/06/2026	Approved \$900,000 Actual: \$727,726.56	Planned: \$0 Actual: \$25,000 ^(c)	Planned: \$0 Actual: \$47,135 ^(d)	Planned: \$0 Actual: \$5,000	Planned: \$0 Actual: \$30,000	Planned: \$900,000 Actual: \$834,861.56

Name of campaign	Campaign summary	Start/end date	Advertising (media) expenditure ^{(a)(b)} (\$ excl. GST)	Creative and campaign development expenditure (\$ excl. GST)	Research and evaluation expenditure (\$ excl. GST)	Print and collateral expenditure (\$ excl. GST)	Other campaign expenditure (\$ excl. GST)	Total (\$ excl. GST)
Go Where You're Needed	Child protection recruitment campaign. The campaign aims to fill current vacancies and motivate Victorians to consider a career in child protection. We want people studying or with relevant qualifications, or work experience, to think about child protection as a viable career option.	19/01/2026 – 06/02/2026	Approved \$100,000 Actual \$88,954.45	Planned: \$0 Actual: \$15,358.64 ^(e)	Planned: \$0 Actual: \$0	Planned: \$0 Actual: \$0	Planned: \$0 Actual: \$3,547.50	Planned: \$100,000 Actual: \$107,860.59

Notes:

- (a) Approved 'Advertising (media) expenditure' is the amount approved for each campaign by the Advertising Approval Group (AAG). Approved 'advertising media expenditure' only relates to advertising. It is separate to creative and campaign expenditure, research and evaluation, print and collateral and other.'
- (b) Planned campaign expenditure amounts are the amounts included in the Campaign Strategy form submitted to the AAG for review.

Consultancy expenditure

Consultancies (valued at \$10,000 or greater)

In 2025–26, the department engaged 50 consultancies valued at \$10,000 or more. The department spent \$8.60 million (excluding GST) on these consultancies. Table 9 sets out the details of these consultancies.

Table 9: Details of consultancies (value of \$10,000 or greater)

Consultant	Purpose of consultancy	Total approved project fee (\$ excl. GST)	Expenditure (\$ excl. GST)	Future expenditure (\$ excl. GST)
Ontoit	Transaction services for Towers Revitalisation Program	\$14,601,453	\$3,977,696	\$5,630,548
The University of Melbourne	Community Protecting Boorais Pilot evaluation	\$712,405	\$452,562	\$186,723
Yamagigu Consulting Pty Ltd	Aboriginal Private Rental Assistance Program evaluation	\$390,475	\$390,475	–
Ernst & Young Services Pty Ltd	Community and Social Services Graduate Program evaluation	\$433,522	\$216,761	\$216,761
Yamagigu Consulting Pty Ltd	Evaluation of lapsing Aboriginal Family Services Funded 2023–24 Budget Outcome Stronger Families – Closing the Gap	\$664,170	\$211,818	\$452,352
Karen Milward Consulting	Strengthening Cultural Safety in The Orange Door evaluation and recommendations	\$196,207	\$196,206	–
KordaMentha Pty Ltd	Development of Department of Families, Fairness and Housing future state enterprise architecture framework and implementation strategy	\$184,879	\$184,879	–
Nous Group Pty Ltd	Evaluation of the Multiple and Complex Needs Initiative and the Support for High-Risk Tenancies program	\$288,000	\$184,738	–
Allen and Clarke Consulting Pty Ltd	Evaluation of the Workforce Vacancies Demonstration Program and other past workforce development programs	\$201,191	\$145,455	\$37,554
Scyne Advisory Pty Ltd	Program assurance for public housing maintenance modernisation	\$310,850	\$137,505	\$173,344
Allen and Clarke Consulting Pty Ltd	Evaluation of the Crisis Response Model, including core and cluster refuges	\$628,343	\$134,467	\$190,097
KPMG	Child Safety Program Management Office support	\$181,818	\$129,960	–
Abstarr Consulting Pty Ltd	Strengthening cultural safety in counselling and restorative engagement services through redress programs	\$125,375	\$125,375	–

Consultant	Purpose of consultancy	Total approved project fee (\$ excl. GST)	Expenditure (\$ excl. GST)	Future expenditure (\$ excl. GST)
Scyne Advisory Pty Ltd	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing housing workload review	\$123,894	\$123,894	–
Lionheart Consulting Australia	Drafting the third family violence Rolling Action Plan and project support for The Orange Door governance project	\$386,650	\$122,862	–
RMIT University	Serious-risk Adults Using Family Violence Program evaluation	\$456,700	\$103,769	\$174,231
Impact Collaborative Pty Ltd	Review the Men's Behaviour Change Program minimum standards and implementation	\$221,895	\$102,003	\$119,892
Urbis	Evaluations of career switch programs (Switch to Social Work and Switch to Child Protection)	\$473,965	\$94,717	–
Impact Collaborative Pty Ltd	24/7 family violence crisis response service model	\$223,646	\$93,748	\$129,898
Accenture	Identity and access management current-state assessment evaluation	\$180,900	\$92,394	–
Morgan & Collective Pty Ltd	Workers with lived experience consultations and resource development	\$153,345	\$86,491	\$58,727
Accufind Pty Ltd	MARAM virtual assistant proof of value	\$106,545	\$76,545	\$30,000
Social Research Centre	Sentiment analysis for evaluation of lapsing program Free Pads and Tampons in Public Places	\$74,541	\$74,541	–
Abstarr Consulting Pty Ltd	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Aboriginal sector workforce strategy	\$338,920	\$71,676	–
Egis Oceana Pty Ltd	Diagnostic review of housing program management system	\$68,532	\$68,532	–
Fromhereon Pty Ltd	Advisory services for information management roadmap	\$134,500	\$68,356	–
Stratagem Enterprises Pty Ltd	Risk Management Fund Project phase 1 and 2 work-related violence risk management documentation review	\$66,022	\$66,022	–
Ernst & Young Services Pty Ltd	Advisor for facilitated placements modification for Ground Lease Model 1 towers redevelopment	\$228,125	\$62,975	\$145,304
Matryx Consulting	Security review engagement of consultant	\$118,740	\$60,030	–
Social Research Centre	Supporting young people to understand affirmative consent program evaluation	\$531,009	\$56,588	–
La Trobe University	Client voice project	\$282,864	\$56,573	–
Anne Dalton & Associates	Probity consultant, towers redevelopment project tranche 1 and 2	\$272,727	\$51,409	\$182,290
Grosvenor Performance Group	Recognition of prior learning for veterans evaluation	\$49,585	\$49,585	–

Consultant	Purpose of consultancy	Total approved project fee (\$ excl. GST)	Expenditure (\$ excl. GST)	Future expenditure (\$ excl. GST)
Cube Group	Statutory review of the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i>	\$148,087	\$48,087	–
Pearce Sheehan Management	Independent review of residential care	\$43,761	\$43,761	–
SGS Economics & Planning Pty Ltd	Portfolio optimisation model for Aboriginal Victorians	\$42,930	\$42,930	–
Dandolo Partners	Scoping national child and family service worker accreditation	\$40,000	\$40,000	–
Courtheath Consulting Pty Ltd	Probity advisor for carer support networks, foster care reform	\$44,500	\$38,340	–
Lighthouse Advisory Pty Ltd	Board of Management risk workshop	\$106,109	\$38,070	–
Rapid Impact Pty Ltd	Aboriginal Children's Forum and Wungurilwil Gagapduir facilitator	\$58,500	\$36,645	\$21,855
Catherine Zissermann	Assistance and support for drafting of Parliamentary materials supporting passage of child safety reform legislation	\$36,364	\$35,200	–
MOEdu.Au Pty Ltd	Independent review of new rosters for After Hours Services rural-based teams	\$44,545	\$30,000	–
AFS & Associates	Audit and advice for a medium-sized not for profit	\$27,182	\$27,182	–
AFS & Associates	Auditing services for funded neighbourhood houses	\$27,182	\$27,182	–
AFS & Associates	Audit of a funded neighbourhood house	\$27,182	\$27,182	–
Acil Allen Consulting Pty Ltd	Evaluation of the Civil Claims Restorative Engagement Program Pilot	\$130,157	\$25,031	\$105,126
Zing & Co Pty Ltd	Family Safety Victoria governance review executive workshops	\$46,573	\$22,985	–
Monash University	MARAM five-year evidence review of risk factors	\$58,182	\$18,565	–
Nous Group Pty Ltd	Supporting stable and strong families outcomes framework development	\$183,070	\$18,182	\$164,888
Karabena Consulting	SAFER Children Framework – First Peoples evaluation	\$178,013	\$13,428	–

Details of consultancies (value under \$10,000)

In 2025–26, the department engaged 4 consultancies valued at less than \$10,000. The department spent \$23,585 (excluding GST) on these consultancies.

Review and study expenditure

During 2025–26, there were 52 reviews and studies undertaken with a total cost of \$5,482,500. Table 10 sets out details of reviews and studies.

Table 10: Review and study expenditure

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/ agency responsible)	Reasons for review/study	Terms of reference/scope	Timeline	Anticipated outcomes	Estimated cost for the year (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Final cost if completed (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL. If no, why
CGEPS Targets Pilot Research Funding 2024 (Commission for Gender Equality in the Public Sector)	To improve gender equality outcomes in public sector organisations	Research to determine effective strategies and methods to drive progress towards meeting 3 public sector workforce gender equality targets in <i>Our equal state</i> (action 94, action 96 and action 97) within public sector organisations	June 2024 to December 2026	Evidence to support public sector organisations to improve gender equality outcomes in their workplaces, to meet the goals of <i>Our equal state</i> and legislative obligations under the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i>	159	N/A	N – the project is still in progress. Preliminary findings have been released: Funded research project 2024: targets pilot generequalityco mmission.vic.gov.au ¹⁶
Statutory review of the <i>Gender Equality Act 2020</i> (Women and Girls portfolio)	Review of operation of Act after 4 years as required by s. 52 of the Gender Equality Act	Assessment of effectiveness of the Act in contributing to gender equality and whether it has been implemented as intended	June 2025 to October 2025	The review found the Act is contributing to workplace gender equality, is being implemented broadly as intended, and has established strong foundations for long-term systemic change. The government response supports all review recommendations in full or in part.	48	148	Y – the report was tabled in Parliament in line with legislative requirements on 27 August 2026. The government response was published on the department's website.

16 <https://www.genderequalitycommission.vic.gov.au/funded-research-projects-2024-targets-pilot>

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/ agency responsible)	Reasons for review/study	Terms of reference/scope	Timeline	Anticipated outcomes	Estimated cost for the year (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Final cost if completed (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL. If no, why
Free pads and tampons in public places election commitment (Women and Girls portfolio)	To meet lapsing program evaluation requirements	Lapsing program evaluation to meet the requirements of the Department of Treasury and Finance Resource Management Framework	August 2025 to August 2026	Evaluation report containing findings and recommendations to support future program investment and improvements	167	N/A	N – the project is still in progress. Cabinet-in-confidence.
Review of Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (Carers and Volunteers portfolio)	To review the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program (NHCP) and recommend updates to program guidelines and internal program management approaches	Departmental review of NHCP within existing funding parameters to identify opportunities for programmatic reform and improvement	January 2025 to June 2026	Improved program monitoring and management approaches, updated program guidelines and reporting requirements to support sector innovation and flexibility	135	135	N – internal government review Updated program guidelines informed by review published 1 July 2026: Neighbourhood House Coordination Program ¹⁷
Review of Additional Respite for Carers Program (Carers and Volunteers portfolio)	To meet lapsing program evaluation requirements	Lapsing program evaluation to meet the requirements of the Department of Treasury and Finance Resource Management Framework	March 2026 to July 2026	Evaluation report containing findings and recommendations to support future program investment and improvements.	153.5	153.5	N – Cabinet-in-confidence.

17 <https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/neighbourhood-house-coordination-program>

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/ agency responsible)	Reasons for review/study	Terms of reference/scope	Timeline	Anticipated outcomes	Estimated cost for the year (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Final cost if completed (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL. If no, why
Evaluation of Switch to Social Work	To meet lapsing program evaluation requirements	Assess the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the Switch to Social Work model to meet the requirements of the Department of Treasury and Finance Resource Management Framework	June 2023 to May 2026	Evaluation report containing findings and recommendations to support future funding considerations and improvements	78	78	N – Cabinet-in-confidence
Evaluation of Switch to Child Protection	To meet lapsing program evaluation requirements	An evaluation of the Switch to Child Protection 2024 program against its stated objectives and outcomes to meet the requirements of the Department of Treasury and Finance Resource Management Framework	April 2024 to December 2025	Evaluation report containing findings and recommendations to support future funding considerations and improvements	16	16	N – Cabinet-in-confidence
Community and Social Services Graduate Program evaluation	To meet lapsing program evaluation requirements	An evaluation of the pilot program against its stated short-, medium- and long-term objectives and outcomes to meet the requirements of the Department of Treasury and Finance Resource Management Framework	July 2025 to October 2027	Interim evaluation report and a final evaluation report to provide considerations to inform future program improvements	216	433	N – Cabinet-in-confidence
Evaluation of the Workforce Vacancies Demonstration Program and other past workforce development programs	To understand the benefits of workforce development activities to inform design of future initiatives	Evaluate the Workforce Vacancies Demonstration Program and other past workforce development programs' appropriateness, effectiveness, impact and sustainability	June 2025 to July 2026	Final report that brings together the findings from the Workforce Vacancies Demonstration Program and four past programs and provide considerations for future workforce policy, program design and delivery	145	201	N – internal government review

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/ agency responsible)	Reasons for review/study	Terms of reference/scope	Timeline	Anticipated outcomes	Estimated cost for the year (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Final cost if completed (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL. If no, why
Exploring community services workforce data insights	To build our understanding of the community services workforce to inform design of future initiatives	Delivered a proof-of-concept data asset and analysis of the size, characteristics and changes over time of the Victorian community services workforce, utilising the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA) dataset	June 2024 to March 2026	Final report on the community services workforce in Victoria, including themed data analysis and figures	22	65	N – the report is not currently published. It may be released to stakeholders or the public in the future
Evaluation of programs funded through the <i>Investing Early in Young Victorians</i> package	To meet lapsing program evaluation requirements and inform future funding consideration	Evaluate programs' appropriateness, effectiveness, efficiency and impacts, and identify continuous improvement opportunities	December 2025 to August 2026	Data and insights summaries and evaluation reports, consisting of key findings, cost–benefit analysis of investment and recommendations for improvements	155	233	N – Cabinet-in-confidence
Evaluation of the Multiple and Complex Needs Initiative (MACNI) and Support for High-Risk Tenancies (SfHRT) programs	Evaluating the MACNI and SfHRT programs is required due to considerable changes since these programs' inception. The complexity and demand for services have increased amid tighter fiscal conditions.	A holistic assessment of the effectiveness of MACNI and SfHRT, determining if the programs are delivering on their intended outcomes and how they could be improved, an assessment of program efficiency, including through a cost–benefit assessment that can support future business cases	December 2024 to December 2025	Two progress reports and one final report on the appropriateness and effectiveness of MACNI and SfHRT, with recommendations on how the programs could be improved to align with the current/future operating environment	185	288	N – due to use of linked data, multiple ethics thresholds need to be met prior to publishing
Evaluation of Forensic Disability Services	To review the appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency of Forensic Disability Services	Forensic Disability Services delivered in Victoria	May 2025 to April 2026	A final report outlining what is working well within Forensic Disability Services and identifying future opportunities for improvement	110	210	N – contains sensitive client information that cannot be made public

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/ agency responsible)	Reasons for review/study	Terms of reference/scope	Timeline	Anticipated outcomes	Estimated cost for the year (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Final cost if completed (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL. If no, why
Strengthening Cultural Safety in The Orange Door evaluation and recommendations: final report	To evaluate the impact of the Strengthening Cultural Safety in The Orange Door project	Assess how cultural safety has been strengthened in The Orange Door network since the project's inception in 2021 Identify opportunities to embed cultural safety more deeply and sustainably across all sites and partner organisations and consider alternative or complementary models for delivering and maintaining cultural safety in the future	November 2025 to June 2026	Embed cultural safety as core business within The Orange Door, strengthening governance and accountability, improving consistency and efficiency of delivery, and supporting sustained practice change over time	196	196	Y – released to The Orange Door partner agencies in Aug 2026
Child and young person-focused MARAM tool development	Development of new family violence risk and wellbeing identification and assessment tools to complement new practice guidance	Undertake a literature review of current evidence base. Undertake a Delphi study to reach consensus on wellbeing and family violence risk factors to include across the range of tools developed, as well as design of tools. Provide Family Safety Victoria with a final report documenting the research and findings	May 2023 to May 2026 (completed)	Final family violence risk and wellbeing tools for working with children and young people to be published under the MARAM Framework	32	224	N – the report is not currently published. Swinburne may choose to publish in future
Evaluation of the Supporting Young People to Understand Affirmative Consent Program	Seeking insights to understand the impact of the program and support decision making about future programs to engage young people and their key influencers in affirmative consent education	To evaluate the appropriateness, efficiency, effectiveness and value for money of the program Make recommendations to government on the future of this work Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation capabilities of funded organisations	April 2023 to February 2026 (completed)	Strengthened evidence base about what works Findings used to inform future strategic and programmatic directions	57	531	N – a dissemination plan to key stakeholders only is being developed

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/ agency responsible)	Reasons for review/study	Terms of reference/scope	Timeline	Anticipated outcomes	Estimated cost for the year (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Final cost if completed (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL. If no, why
Family Violence Multi Agency Risk Assessment and Management (MARAM) 5-year evidence review – date review	Part 2 of 5-year evidence review of MARAM required under the <i>Family Violence Protection Act 2008</i>	Using identified data sources, review MARAM evidence-based risk factors for their alignment to seriousness of family violence risk	May 2023 to June 2026 (completed)	Findings seek to validate the data and evidence underpinning the MARAM family violence risk factors and contribute to updating legislated MARAM Framework	19	58	N – pending publication approval in 2026
Compliance review for prevention learning resources	To review and ensure compliance of learning resources to support delivery of the Course in Contributing to Primary Prevention of Family Violence and Violence against Women	Review and edit learning resources to ensure compliance with the standards outlined in the TAFE Victoria Shared Courseware (TVSC) Hub	September 2025 to October 2025 (completed)	Finalised learning resources to support delivery of the Course in Contributing to Primary Prevention of Family Violence and Violence against Women	9	9	N – the final learning resources are not available to the public but are available to Vocational Education and Training providers on the TAFE Victoria Shared Courseware (TVSC) Hub
Review of the 24/7 Family Violence Crisis Response Service Model	The review seeks independent advice on the optimal 24/7 family violence crisis response service model, in the context of the contemporary family violence service system	Review of the 24/7 family violence crisis response service model	February 2026 to September 2026	Provide advice on the optimal service model for victim survivors of family violence to be able to readily access the highest quality specialised support at times of crisis, at any time of the day or night	94	NA	N – project is still underway

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/ agency responsible)	Reasons for review/study	Terms of reference/scope	Timeline	Anticipated outcomes	Estimated cost for the year (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Final cost if completed (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL. If no, why
Serious-risk adults using family violence (Changing Ways) program evaluation	Seeking insights to inform program delivery and decision making about the future of the program	Assess and articulate the effectiveness of the program Strengthen the design and delivery of the program Contribute to the wider evidence base	May 2023 to October 2026	Improved understanding of the effectiveness, impact and outcomes achieved through the implementation of the program	104	NA	N – approved for limited release only due to sensitivity of program operating details in the context of people who use family violence
Evaluation of the Crisis Response Model, including core and cluster refuges	To evaluate the extent to which the crisis response model is effectively achieving its stated objectives by assessing progress against short to medium-term outcomes	System-level evaluation of the crisis response model as well as lapsing program evaluations (initial plus updated) of services/ programs delivered under the model: core and cluster refuges, family violence crisis brokerage and case management	July 2023 to September 2026	Evidence of each service/program component's efficacy and efficiency, including cost–benefit analysis Inform an overall understanding of the operation of the crisis response model for family violence victim survivors	134	NA	N – project is still underway.

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/ agency responsible)	Reasons for review/study	Terms of reference/scope	Timeline	Anticipated outcomes	Estimated cost for the year (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Final cost if completed (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL. If no, why
Action-learning review of the Immediate Personal Safety Initiative Response trial.	The Women's Safety Package is funding a 4-year trial (2024–28) of the Immediate PSI Response (IPSIR), which seeks to expedite PSI technology responses for victim survivors at high risk in 6 departmental areas. Safe and Equal are funded to undertake an Action Learning Review of the IPSIR trial in 2025–26 to determine its impact for victim survivors in response to a coronial recommendation around expanding access to technology during high-risk periods	Quantitative and qualitative data analysis to determine the impact of the trial for victim survivors, key stakeholders delivering the IPSIR and other learnings to strengthen future implementation	August 2025 to June 2026	Intent is to build evidence and show level of impact on the timeliness of immediate security and technology responses and inform the future implementation of the trial	50	50	N – review is being drafted
Review of the Men's Behaviour Change Minimum Standards and implementation guide	The standards were developed in 2017, and the guide in 2018. Both documents require updating to reflect contemporary evidence, best practice and operational feedback	To update the Minimum Standards and implementation guide to align with contemporary evidence and practice	August 2025 to December 2026	Updated Minimum Standards and implementation guide for men's behaviour change programs	102	NA	N – in progress
Client Voice Project	Review role of Independent Person and develop a client voice framework for the Victorian Senior Practitioner	Literature review, qualitative and quantitative data analysis	June 2023 to October 2025	Review of Independent Person role to understand if it is fit for purpose. Identify strategies to ensure lived experience informs work of the Victorian Senior Practitioner.	57	283	N – in progress
Review of the physical restraint direction paper	A comprehensive 10-year review of the physical restraint direction paper	Literature review, qualitative and quantitative data analysis	June 2023 to October 2025	A stronger framework for the oversight and use of physical restraint in the disability sector.	6	314	N – in progress

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/ agency responsible)	Reasons for review/study	Terms of reference/scope	Timeline	Anticipated outcomes	Estimated cost for the year (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Final cost if completed (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL. If no, why
Building foundations for rights-based behaviour support in the disability sector	Build the capacity of service provider to create environments that respect a person's rights and dignity and ultimately improve the quality of life for people with disability	Literature review, qualitative and quantitative data analysis	June 2024 to December 2025	Develop evidence-based service guidelines (minimum expectations) for rights-based behaviour support for disabled people in supported independent living	20	75	Y – The department's Research into restrictive practices and compulsory treatment webpage ¹⁸
Monitoring of psychotropic medications in children and adolescents with developmental disorders	Examine whether adolescents with intellectual disabilities who are treated with psychotropic medications at The Royal Children's Hospital receive appropriate monitoring for effectiveness and adverse effects	Literature review, quantitative data analysis	April 2025 to December 2026	Improved understanding of quality of monitoring relative to best practice standards and identification of effective interventions that can be applied	8	N/A	N – in progress
Clinical practice review framework project	Develop a clinical practice review framework for the Victorian Senior Practitioner to oversee people subject to Supervised Treatment Orders	Analysis of current practice Pilot testing of evidence-based approaches	April 2026 to December 2026	Development of a framework to guide practice	6	N/A	N – in progress
Housing workload review	Meet commitment in the <i>Victorian Public Service Enterprise Agreement 2024</i> to undertake a comprehensive housing workload review	Analysis of operational, performance and financial data, comparison with housing programs in other Australian jurisdictions, and analysis of functions and responsibilities of housing staff and the time required to complete tasks	August 2025 to December 2025	Implementation of opportunities to support management of workload as identified in final report	124	124	N – internal document only. Final report made available to housing operations staff and the Community and Public Sector Union.

18 <https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/research-restrictive-practices-and-compulsory-treatment>

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/ agency responsible)	Reasons for review/study	Terms of reference/scope	Timeline	Anticipated outcomes	Estimated cost for the year (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Final cost if completed (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL. If no, why
Review of the new After-Hours Service model and roster	Independent review of new rosters for After Hours Services rural based teams.	Desktop review of the Child Protection After Hours Services rural rosters, including distance driving, length of shifts and night shifts	July 2025 to October 2025	Fatigue management strategies in place with oversight from senior people managers aimed at improving worker safety for both planned and unplanned outreaches when staff are rostered on a shift	30	30	N – internal document only
Independent review of residential care	To identify the current oversight and assurance mechanisms that the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing has in relation to residential care	Review of policy and procedural documents and consultation with key subject matter experts	July 2025 to August 2025	To provide advice on whether the quality of oversight is appropriate and identify improvements for consideration	44	44	N – internal document only
Diagnostic review of housing program management system	To assess and provide recommendations to support ongoing enhancement to the housing program management system	To assess the current and future viability of the system to support the project management for the large-scale housing program	November 2025 to January 2026	Enhanced system performance to support project governance and management of the large-scale housing program	69	69	N – internal review
Aboriginal Private Rental Assistance Program (APRAP) Evaluation	Evaluation to inform program improvement and decisions about potential program expansion	Review of efficiency, appropriateness and effectiveness of the program through interviews and yarning sessions	June 2025 to June 2026	Inform on opportunities to work with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and program stakeholders and to ensure APRAP better meets the needs of First Nations renters	384	390	N – internal review

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/ agency responsible)	Reasons for review/study	Terms of reference/scope	Timeline	Anticipated outcomes	Estimated cost for the year (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Final cost if completed (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL. If no, why
Evaluation of the Aboriginal-specific entry points and multidisciplinary team pilot sites	Longer term monitoring and evaluation to ensure that medium-to-long-term outcomes could be meaningfully incorporated. The extended evaluation will integrate with the existing evaluation frameworks and governance structures while incorporating the insights and findings identified through the previous evaluation in 2024.	Examine how the Entry Points respond to the unique housing and homelessness needs of First Peoples in Victoria, including the program's structure, operational delivery, cultural responsiveness, and the outcomes experienced by clients and communities	July 2024 to August 2027	More informed decision making on future program funding	220	312	N – internal review
CCTV enhancement study in North Richmond	Rise in anti-social behaviour on the estate has led to requests for enhanced surveillance by local housing office and police	Assess existing network and expand surveillance to minimise blind spots and increase visibility to evidence gathering for reporting	June 2025 to April 2026	Develop a plan to improve surveillance	25	25	N – internal review
High-rise fire engineering brief update	5-yearly audit of fire strategy for high-rise public housing	Requirement of the <i>Capital development guidelines</i>	In progress	Review fire safety strategy for high-rise towers	64	64	N – internal review
Concrete Spalling study for high rise	Assess concrete spalling in high-rise buildings due to the age of the assets	Assess spalling concerns and rank in terms of safety risk factor	In progress	Develop a plan to address immediate safety requirements	75	75	N – internal review
High-rise redevelopment resident and community understanding survey 2025	To ensure residents and surrounding communities remain informed at different stages of program delivery	To measure levels of understanding of the high-rise program across residents and surrounding community to continually improve communications	June 2025 to October 2025	Ensure communities remain informed by collating feedback from the residents and surrounding community and to continually improve communications	170	170	N – private and sensitive resident information

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/ agency responsible)	Reasons for review/study	Terms of reference/scope	Timeline	Anticipated outcomes	Estimated cost for the year (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Final cost if completed (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL. If no, why
Relocated residents research	To understand and best support residents relocating through the high-rise redevelopment program	To undertake discussion groups and surveys to improve the information and experiences of the relocated residents and understand the needs of the upcoming relocating residents	March 2026 to April 2026	Ensure continuous improvement of communications and engagement approach to support residents to relocate as part of the high-rise redevelopment	191	192	N – private and sensitive resident information
Campaign awareness research	In line with Victorian Government requirements to determine effectiveness of campaign advertising	Measure awareness and effectiveness of community understanding in broad metropolitan area including Bendigo, Ballarat and Geelong	December 2025 to June 2026	Homes Victoria to determine levels of community understanding and feedback of what the community wants to know more about in relation to major developments	47	47	N – private and sensitive resident information
High-rise and Redevelopment Program (HRP) towers heritage review	To develop a heritage interpretation program	Develop briefs that outline how the physical and social heritage of the program will be documented along with the general history of the towers	September 2025 to June 2026	A heritage interpretation program	93	199	N – advice to department
2025 Public Housing Renter Survey	To understand renters in public housings opinions about their home and housing services	An annual survey of ~3,500 renters aged 18 and over who are living in public housing across Victoria. The survey asks questions about satisfaction with housing services, suitability and stability of housing, feelings of safety and security, and community connection and involvement	December 2025 to May 2026	Results provide information to help improve public housing services and better meet the needs of people living in public housing	282	226	N – analysis of 2025 survey results is being finalised

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/ agency responsible)	Reasons for review/study	Terms of reference/scope	Timeline	Anticipated outcomes	Estimated cost for the year (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Final cost if completed (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL. If no, why
Youth – Evaluation of investing early in young Victorians programs (Community Support Groups, Le Mana Pasifika Project, Regional Presence Project and CALD AOD program)	To meet lapsing program evaluation requirements and inform future funding consideration	Evaluate the programs' effectiveness, efficiency and impacts, and identify continuous improvement opportunities	December 2025 to August 2026	Four evaluation reports (one for each program) consisting of data and stakeholder insights summaries (RPP and AOD program reports) and key findings, lessons learned and recommendations for improvements (CSG and Le Mana Pasifika program reports)	155	233	N – Cabinet-in-confidence
Evaluation of the Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) Capital Pilot Program (CPP)	To assess whether the pilot program improved resident outcomes to inform future SDA capital investment	Evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency and scalability of the SDA Capital Pilot program by examining delivery performance, resident outcomes, and performance against objectives	October 2025 to August 2026	An evaluation report of the SDA pilot new build program, including recommendations to improve design of future department-owned SDA homes and resident transition supports	200	N/A	N – internal program evaluation, sensitive resident information
Evaluation of the Veterans Card – Victoria	To meet lapsing program evaluation requirements and inform future funding consideration	Evaluation assesses program justification, delivery, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability	November 2025 to September 2026	Evaluation report containing findings and recommendations to support future program investment and improvements	109	N/A	N – Cabinet-in-confidence
Evaluation of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for veterans pilot program	To meet lapsing program evaluation requirements, assess the service model and inform future funding consideration	Evaluate the pilot program implementation and assess its effectiveness with a focus on the process, program design, and how it was established to provide support to veterans seeking an RPL certificate	September 2025 to November 2025	Evaluation report containing findings and recommendations to support future program investment and improvements	50	50	N – internal program evaluation

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/ agency responsible)	Reasons for review/study	Terms of reference/scope	Timeline	Anticipated outcomes	Estimated cost for the year (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Final cost if completed (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL. If no, why
Shrine of Remembrance Review	Identify strengths and opportunities relating to service delivery to ensure that the Shrine is best placed to continue to deliver its mission and legislated functions into the future	Performance against the Shrine Service Agreement which administers funding provided by the department	June 2026 – September 2026	Report containing key findings which may inform decisions relating to service delivery	150	N/A	N – internal review
Community Protecting Boorais Pilot evaluation	To meet lapsing program evaluation requirements and inform future funding considerations	Evaluation assesses program delivery, effectiveness, and outcomes of authorised ACCOs delivering statutory child protection services	September 2025 – September 2026	Evaluation report responding to the lapsing program evaluation requirements to support potential future development of the program and decisions by Government about continuing funding for the program	453	712	N – review still in progress
Evaluation of lapsing Aboriginal Family Services Funded 2023–24 Budget Outcome Stronger Families – Closing the Gap	To meet lapsing program evaluation requirements and inform future funding considerations	Evaluation assesses program effectiveness, appropriateness, efficiencies and impact	January 2026 – July 2027	Evaluation report responding to the lapsing program evaluation requirements to support potential future development of the program and decisions by Government about continuing funding for the program	212		N – review still in progress
Evaluation of the Civil Claims Restorative Engagement Program Pilot	To evaluate whether the pilot has been implanted as intended and identify areas for improvement to inform ongoing service delivery	Evaluation assesses program effectiveness, appropriateness, efficiencies and impact	May 2026 – March 2027	Evaluation report containing findings and recommendations to support future program improvements	25		N – review still in progress

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/ agency responsible)	Reasons for review/study	Terms of reference/scope	Timeline	Anticipated outcomes	Estimated cost for the year (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Final cost if completed (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL. If no, why
Supporting stable and strong families outcomes framework development	To support the development of an initial outcomes framework ready for scheme commencement to inform development of Ministers' Supporting Stable and Strong Families plans	Development of outcomes, indicators and measures, including consultation, for the legislated outcomes areas of health, education, justice, housing, Aboriginal self-determination and employment	May – September 2026	Initial outcomes framework to inform Supporting Stable and Strong Families plans development across government	18		N – in progress
Lapsing evaluation of Education Supports for Children in Care (ESCC)	To meet lapsing program evaluation requirements and inform future funding consideration	A lapsing program evaluation of Education Supports for Children in Care (ESCC) to understand appropriateness, effectiveness and efficiency including adequacy in addressing the needs of the target cohort	Phase 1: formative evaluation April – September 2025 Phase 2: summative evaluation March– September 2026	Evaluation report responding to the lapsing program evaluation requirements to support future development of the program and decisions by Government about continuing funding for the program	132		N – Cabinet-in-Confidence
Strengthening Cultural Safety in Counselling and Restorative Engagement Services through Redress Programs	To provide advice and recommendations to strengthen cultural safety in the delivery of counselling and psychological care and personal acknowledgements and apologies	To inform activities to improve cultural safety in service delivery	April 2025 – September 2025	A report providing recommendations to improve cultural safety	125	125	N – internal report
Program assurance for Public Housing Maintenance Modernisation (PHMM)	Provide assurance activities over the technology components of the PHMM.	These Assurance Services comply with the minimum requirements of the Victorian Government ICT Project Quality Assurance Framework.	Quarterly Reviews from Jan 2026 to Apr 2027	Utilise Project Assurance Framework for conduct of assurance services.	137.5		N – internal report

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/ agency responsible)	Reasons for review/study	Terms of reference/scope	Timeline	Anticipated outcomes	Estimated cost for the year (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Final cost if completed (excl. GST) \$ thousand	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL. If no, why
Development of DFFH Future State Enterprise Architecture (FSA) Framework and Implementation Strategy	The FSA resets the overarching direction for the department's technology investment to overcome known barriers in current architecture and deliver better outcomes for the services that the department delivers.	Undertake assessment of the current state of the department's enterprise architecture, develop a conceptual 'future state enterprise architecture' design with accompanying implementation strategy, viability and risk assessments and executive stakeholder communication pack.	12 January 2026 to 1 May 2026	Development of conceptual FSA framework.	184.9		N – internal report
Identity and Access Management (IDAM) current state assessment evaluation	This project focused on evaluating DFFH's current IDAM environment, especially for external access, including third-party community partners, contractors and collaborators.	The project sought to assess the current IDAM infrastructure, policies, procedures, and governance framework; identify security risks, inefficiencies, and areas for optimisation; and provide recommendations for enhancing IDAM maturity and aligned with business objectives.	19 May 2025 to 31 July 2025	Provision of a current state assessment report, gap analysis, recommendations, roadmap and executive summary presentation.	92.4		N – internal report

Information and communication technology expenditure

For the 2025–26 reporting period, the department's total ICT expenditure was \$60,972,026.

Table 11: ICT expenditure 2025–26

Expenditure	(\$'000)
Non-BAU ICT expenditure	
Operational expenditure	15,963
Capital expenditure	26,263
Non-BAU ICT expenditure total (A)	42,226
BAU ICT expenditure (B)	18,746
TOTAL (A + B)	60,972

Notes:

- ICT expenditure refers to the department's costs in providing business-enabling ICT services within the current reporting period.
- It comprises business-as-usual (BAU) ICT expenditure and non-business-as-usual (non-BAU) ICT expenditure.
- Non-BAU ICT expenditure relates to projects to create or enhance the department's current ICT capabilities.
- BAU ICT expenditure is all remaining ICT expenditure, which primarily relates to ongoing activities to operate and maintain the current ICT capability.

The total BAU and non-BAU ICT expenditure incurred within the reporting period is \$162.3 million. For reporting purposes, all ICT expenditure relating to shared services for the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (the department) and Department of Health is only reported in the Department of Health's 2025–26 annual report disclosure. The department's component related to shared services is \$101.3 million.

Disclosure of major contracts

In accordance with the requirements of government policy and accompanying guidelines, the department disclosed all contracts greater than \$10 million in value entered into during the year ending 30 June 2026.

Details of contracts disclosed in the Victorian Government contracts publishing system can be viewed at the government's [Buying for Victoria Tenders Portal](#).¹⁹

Contractual details are not disclosed for contracts where disclosure is exempt under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* or government guidelines.

Disclosure of grants and transfer payments

The department supported many not-for-profit community organisations, local governments and schools to deliver services, supports and projects across Victoria.

The department uses the following definition of a grant: money given to organisations for a specified

purpose directed at achieving goals and objectives consistent with government policy.

¹⁹ <https://www.tenders.vic.gov.au>

The department delivered grants using the standard Victorian Common Funding Agreement. This is the required contract for Victorian Government grant delivery.

Grants paid in 2025–26 are listed in 'Appendix 3: Grants and transfer payments'.

Social procurement framework

The department leverages its buying power to deliver social, economic and environmental outcomes that benefit the Victorian community, the economy and the environment – above and beyond the goods, services and construction works procured.

It is guided by the Victorian Government's *Social procurement framework*, released in April 2018. This framework applies to the procurement of all goods, services and construction undertaken by, or on behalf of, the department. It is defined by 10 objectives, with the following 4 priority objectives chosen for both Goods and Services and Public Construction:

- > opportunities for Victorian Aboriginal people
- > opportunities for Victorians with disability
- > women's equality and safety
- > opportunities for Victorian priority jobseekers.

Social procurement initiatives

During 2025–26, social value requirements were applied to a variety of procurement activities, including the procurement of goods, services and construction works.

The department undertook several activities to support social procurement including:

- > a continued relationship with Kinaway Chamber of Commerce through regular meetings and other communications

- > goods and services and construction procurement teams prioritise partnering with project and contract managers to optimise opportunities for effective delivery of social procurement outcomes
- > providing education and training to staff on social procurement on an as needs basis
- > the maintenance of procurement policies, processes, templates and contracts to continue to support the implementation of social procurement.

Social procurement achievements 2025–26

During 2025–26, the department:

- > engaged 99 social benefit suppliers
- > spent a total of \$8.65 million with certified social enterprises, Aboriginal businesses and traditional owner corporations and disability enterprises.

Aboriginal business engagement

During 2025–26, the department:

- > engaged 47 Aboriginal businesses and Traditional owner corporations
- > spent a total of \$1.94 million with Aboriginal businesses and traditional owner corporations.

Compliance with the Building Act

The *Building Act 1993* (the Act) regulates building and plumbing work, practitioners, and standards in Victoria. This includes building construction, building standards and the maintenance of specific building safety features. The Act also provides for an accreditation and permit scheme across the building and plumbing industries.

The department complies with its obligations under the Act. We ensure those who build on our behalf also follow the Act. This ensures the health and safety of the thousands of Victorians who live and work in the department's buildings.

The department requires that all new projects and maintenance work on its land engage appropriately qualified consultants and contractors. Consultants and contractors must comply with the current state and Commonwealth building regulations, codes, and standards. All engaged consultants and contractors are expected to have appropriate mechanisms in place to ensure compliance with the building and maintenance provisions of the Act.

For new projects, the department assesses consultants' and contractors' adherence to compliance obligations. This includes the Act. The department engages them using whole-of-Victorian-Government approved tendering processes.

The department manages these projects in line with a program management framework. This provides a defined approach to managing projects. It ensures adherence to whole-of-government policies and procedures.

In relation to existing buildings, the department is responsible for the mandatory testing of all essential safety measures to comply with the requirements of *Australian Standard AS1851* and for ensuring compliance with the *Residential Tenancies Regulations 2021*. This includes testing of emergency and exit lights, sprinklers, fire detection and other essential safety measures. The department actions responsive works through existing maintenance contracts.

The department liaised with and contributed to progress and outcomes of Cladding Safety Victoria for department-owned buildings. Relevant buildings owned by the department have been audited against the risk framework developed by the Victorian Cladding Taskforce. Remediation of the final 2 buildings requiring cladding replacement has been completed.

The department undertook 553 major works projects in 2025–26, was issued with 15 building-related emergency orders, secured 381 building permits and 296 certificates of final inspection.

Local councils issued 15 emergency orders related to building structure.

Compliance with the Public Interest Disclosures Act

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* encourages and assists people to make disclosures of improper conduct by public officers and public bodies. The Act provides protection to people who make disclosures in accordance with the Act. It establishes a system to investigate and rectify matters disclosed.

The department has a strong ethical culture and expects the highest levels of integrity from its staff. We support disclosures of improper conduct. This includes corrupt conduct and conduct involving substantial mismanagement of public resources and detrimental action.

The department takes all reasonable steps to protect people who make such disclosures from reprisals. We also afford natural justice to the person who is the subject of the disclosure to the extent it is legally possible.

Reporting procedures

Disclosures of improper conduct or detrimental action by the department or any of our employees may be made to any of the following department personnel:

- > the Secretary
- > public interest disclosure coordinators (as listed on the intranet)
- > manager or supervisor of the discloser

- > manager or supervisor of the person who is the subject of the disclosure
- > a person acting in any of the above roles.

Alternatively, disclosures can be made directly to the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC):

Level 1, North Tower, 459 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
Phone: 1300 735 135
[IBAC website](https://www.ibac.vic.gov.au/)²⁰

Further information

The department's public interest disclosures procedures outline the system for reporting disclosures. Access the procedures:

- > on the department's [public interest disclosures webpage](https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/public-interest-disclosures)²¹
- > by emailing public.interest.disclosures@dffh.vic.gov.au²²
- > by telephoning our integrity phoneline on 1300 131 431 (option 1).

20 <https://www.ibac.vic.gov.au>

21 <https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/public-interest-disclosure>

22 <mailto:public.interest.disclosures@dffh.vic.gov.au>

Disclosures under the Public Interest Disclosures Act

The number of disclosures made by an individual to the department and notified to IBAC are:

2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
2	0	2

In addition to the 2 public interest disclosures the department received during the 2025–26 reporting period, the department also received other reports of wrongdoing from individuals including department staff members. For various reasons, these individuals did not elect to make a formal public interest disclosure. The department took action to address the concerns raised. This included referral to IBAC where appropriate.

Compliance with the Carers Recognition Act

The department has taken all practical measures to comply with our obligations under the *Carers Recognition Act 2012* (the Act). These include promoting the principles of the Act to people in care relationships who receive the department's services and to the wider community. We do this by:

- > providing access to information and resource materials on the department's website
- > supporting departmental staff to have an awareness and understanding of the care relationship principles set out in the Act
- > ensuring departmental employment policies on personal/carer leave and flexible working arrangements comply with the Act
- > considering the care relationships principles set out in the Act when setting policies, delivering grants programs and providing services
- > supporting carers' awareness and understanding of the care relationship principles set out in the Act
- > providing opportunities for carers from all identities, ages and circumstances to provide lived and living experience feedback
- > providing opportunities for input on improving policies, processes, systems and services to better support them, including the Victorian Carer Card and *Victorian Carer Strategy 2025–35*.

In 2025–26, the department launched the *Victorian Carer Strategy 2025–2035*. The refreshed strategy focuses on four key areas to help guide how we support carers:

- > awareness, recognition and respect
- > quality services in the right place, at the right time
- > participation, connection and opportunity
- > recognition and support for First Nations care relationships.

The goal of the strategy is to improve carer health and wellbeing.

The department's actions in 2025–26 to deliver and support these priorities included:

- > delivering flexible tailored supports through the Victorian Support for Carers Program and Additional Respite for Carers. This included funding for 3 Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations delivering self-determined supports for First Nations carers and families. These programs meet the needs of thousands of Victorian carers from diverse identities, ages and circumstances, including regional and rural carers
- > funding a third round of the Connecting Carers in their Community grants program, administered by Carers Victoria and the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation. The program provided 34 grants to increase local support for carers
- > launching proof of eligibility changes to make it easier for all carers, particularly young, foster and kinship carers to apply for a Victorian Carer Card
- > refreshing the Victorian Carer Card website to make it easier for carers to find information on who is eligible, how to apply, discounts and benefits and support and services available to unpaid primary carers
- > partnering with the Department of Transport and Planning, to extend free weekend public transport to all Victorian Carer Card holders using a Carers myki from 1 January 2026

- > funding peak body Carers Victoria to provide carers with support. This includes system navigation and linkage to services. Carers Victoria also delivers education and training for the sector and provides government with advice, research and insights to better understand and meet carers' needs
- > working in partnership across the Victorian Government, local and federal government, with sector partners, carers and the community to respond to the needs of Victorian carers. This includes collaborating with the Commonwealth Government on opportunities for alignment with the *National Carer Strategy 2024–2034*.

Compliance with the Disability Act

The *Disability Act 2006* requires Victorian public sector bodies to develop a disability action plan.

Disability action plans aim to:

- > reduce barriers to people with disability accessing goods, services and facilities
- > reduce barriers to people with disability obtaining and maintain employment
- > promote inclusion and participation in the community of people with disability
- > achieve tangible changes in attitudes and practices which discriminate against people with disability.

The department's *Disability action plan 2026–29* (the plan) outlines how we work to increase inclusion and access for people with disability. This includes actions that will make us a better organisation to interact with and to work for.

The plan aligns with the department's vision, strategic priorities and legal obligations and continues our commitment to a more inclusive and accessible Victoria.

The plan is a roadmap that helps us:

- > identify the priority areas we will focus on to create lasting change
- > explain how we will address barriers and challenges faced by people with disability
- > commit to giving people with disability more opportunities to work for the department. This includes providing accessible work environments.

The action areas include:

- > housing
- > changing attitudes
- > digital inclusion
- > supporting a high-quality NDIS
- > children and families
- > preventing abuse and neglect
- > intersecting and/or multiple needs
- > voice and leadership
- > family and sexual violence.

As our second disability action plan, it aligns with Inclusive Victoria: state disability plan 2022–2026, which has been extended to 2027. A final report on the implementation of Inclusive Victoria will be published in 2027.

Disclosure of emergency procurement

In 2025–26, the department activated emergency procurement on one occasion in accordance with the requirements of government policy and accompanying guidelines. Two new contracts, each valued at or more than \$100,000 (GST inclusive), were awarded in 2025–26 in connection with the emergency. Details of the department’s emergency procurements are shown below.

Nature of emergency	Date of activation	Summary of goods and services procured under new contracts	Total spend on goods and services in response to the emergency ^(a)	Number of new contracts awarded valued at \$100,000 (inc. GST) or more
Early childhood centres	25 June 2025 ^(b)	Specialist support services to provide trauma-informed services to support the health and wellbeing of staff involved in the childcare centre investigation and response and establishment of a Project Management Office.	\$131,512.50	2

(a) This is the total of all expenditure, including contracts under and over \$100,000 (GST inclusive).

(b) While the emergency procurement plan was activated at the end of 2024-25 financial year, the associated expenditure falls within the current reporting period.

Disclosure of procurement complaints

Under the Victorian Government Purchasing Board’s governance policy, the department must disclose any formal complaints relating to the procurement of goods and services received through its procurement complaints management system.

The department received no procurement complaints through its procurement complaints management system in 2025–26 relating to the procurement of goods and services.

Compliance with DataVic access policy

Consistent with the *DataVic access policy* issued by the Victorian Government in 2012, the information included in this annual report will be available in machine-readable format from the [DataVic website](#).²³

The department maintains information to support better understanding of Victoria’s human services. The [department’s website](#)²⁴ provides machine-readable annual report data, additional service delivery data about the department’s human services operations (including social housing and homelessness and child protection and family services).

23 <https://www.data.vic.gov.au>

24 <https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/publications/annual-report>

Social housing dwelling stock

Table 12: Summary of changes to social housing dwellings for 2025–26

Description	Units
Stock at 30 June 2025	91,068
Additions total	2,311
New handovers	1,921
Acquisition	306
New short-term leases	50
Stock online	0
Transferred	34
Subtractions total	895
Sales	152
Demolitions	322
Short-term lease hand backs	74
Stock offline	0
Stock conversion reductions	4
Transferred	261
Other community housing disposals	82
Stock at 30 June 2026	92,484

Notes:

- Data includes Homes Victoria owned units (including leases and other Homes Victoria managed units) and community-owned units.
- Transferred (additions) relates to homes previously used for other government or social enterprise programs transferred to social housing.
- Transferred (subtractions) relates to homes previously used for social housing transferred to other government programs, including out-of-home care for children and mental health youth residential programs

Freedom of information

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* aims to extend as far as possible the right of the community to access information held by the Victorian Government and other bodies subject to the Act.

The Act allows the department to refuse access, either fully or partially, to certain documents or information.

Examples of documents that may not be accessed include Cabinet documents, some internal working documents, law enforcement documents, documents covered by legal professional privilege, such as legal advice, personal information about other people and documents relating to trade secrets.

The Act provides a 30-day period for processing requests. This time may be extended where consultation is required and by agreement with the applicant.

If an applicant is not satisfied with a decision made by the department, including a decision about whether the application fee is to be waived, the applicant has the right to seek a review by the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner within 28 days of receiving a decision letter.

Making a request

Access to documents may be obtained through written request to the department's Freedom of Information Unit, pursuant to s. 17 of the Act.

In summary, the requirements for making a request are:

- > it must be in writing
- > it should provide such information concerning the document as is reasonably necessary to enable identification of the document
- > it should be accompanied by the application fee of \$33.60 (the fee may be waived in certain circumstances).

Requests for documents in the department's possession should be addressed to:

Freedom of Information Unit
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
GPO Box 1774
Melbourne VIC 3001

Requests and payment of the application fee can also be lodged online with the [Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner](#).²⁵

Telephone enquiries can be made by calling 1300 151 883.

Access charges for photocopying and search retrieval may also apply once the request has been finalised.

FOI statistics/timeliness

During 2025–2026, 3,132 applications were received. Of these, 25 were from Members of Parliament, 4 were from the media, and the remainder were from the public.

The department made 1,242 FOI decisions and processed 38% of requests within the statutory period. Of the requests finalised, 31% were granted in full or in part.

Fifty-nine decisions were subject to review by the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner, and 11 appeals were made to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Environmental performance and impacts

The department aims for environmentally sustainable operations. Our corporate strategy includes sustainability and climate risk mitigation. We support the Victorian public sector in adopting new technology that reduces emissions and delivers environmental sustainability.

Highlights

Highlights for the period included:

- > continuing to deliver the Energy Efficiency in Social Housing Program. This program upgrades homes to improve thermal comfort and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This program was expanded in 2025–26 with an additional \$120.3 million in federal funding that will broaden delivery and develop a new stream of energy innovation pilot projects.

The program will deliver 50,000 individual upgrades including thermal shell improvements, efficient electric appliances and solar photovoltaic systems, with 5,000 homes to be fully electrified. By the end of 2025–26, the program reached over 21,000 homes and had delivered 36,000 energy-efficient upgrades and have fully electrified more than 2,700 properties.

- > continuing the roll-out of the Cooling our Public Housing Towers program. By the end of 2025–26, this program had installed 1,729 relocatable air conditioners across 16 high-rise towers
- > continuing to supply 100% renewable energy at best-in-market pricing to public, community and affordable housing renters through our Local Energy Networks program. This program now covers 1,034 homes across 7 recently developed apartment sites.

25 <https://www.ovic.vic.gov.au>

- > progressing the *Health and human services climate change adaptation action plan 2022–26*. The plan focuses on actions spanning health and social housing infrastructure, public health programs and services.

Activities included:

- improving the department's climate risk maturity and disclosure via whole of government workstreams and participation in climate risk communities of practice
- evaluating the 2022–26 Health and Human Services Adaptation Action Plan and preparing the new draft plan for the 2027–31 period for public as required by the *Climate Action Act 2017*
- completing a physical climate risk assessment to identify key hazards and evaluate their likelihood and consequences for assets within the portfolio. This work will inform asset management practices that improve the climate resilience of social housing.

Environmental management system

The department's environmental management system (EMS) was developed by the Department of Health and Human Services. The EMS is a structured approach to managing the department's environmental impacts and improving its environmental performance. It is based on the national standard *AS/NZS ISO 14001:2016: Environmental Management Systems* and provides a framework for the department to improve its environmental sustainability.

The EMS was last externally audited in 2020 and was reported to have no significant findings. An internal review of the EMS's continued suitability is now underway.

The EMS objectives include:

- > reducing greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the department's operational activities
- > reducing the amount of waste and maximising the amount of reused and recycled resources in procurement
- > ensuring new capital works incorporate environmentally sustainable principles in design, construction and operation
- > encouraging staff to reduce environmental impacts through behaviour change
- > communicating environmental performance through regular internal and public reporting.

Reporting boundary for environmental data

All the operations and activities of the department are included within the organisational boundary for the 2025–26 Financial Year reporting period. The department continues to evaluate its office footprint and consider co-location and consolidation opportunities where possible.

Table 13: Staff and building reference data

Description	Government-owned buildings ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	Leased buildings	Total
Office-based FTE ^{(i)(iv)} – DFFH	1,175	6,107	7,282
Statutory-based FTE ⁽ⁱ⁾	–	285	285
Total FTE⁽ⁱ⁾			7,567
Number of office-based sites ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	23	44	67
Number of high-rise public housing towers ^(v)	42	–	42
Office-based area (m ²)	52,145	76,827	128,972

Notes:

- (i) FTE (full-time equivalent staff member as of 28 June 2026, the last day of the full pay cycle in this reporting period).
- (ii) Government-owned sites include those owned by the Department of Transport and Planning and sites owned by Homes Victoria.
- (iii) Department offices are all managed by the Department of Government Services and their service delivery partner, Jones Lang Lasalle.
- (iv) Homes Victoria is included as a tier 2 entity.
- (v) Homes Victoria's housing services portfolio includes high-rise public housing, other public housing, disability accommodation and youth and family welfare services.

Climate-related risk disclosure statement

Climate change has the potential to directly and indirectly affect the services and programs that the department delivers on behalf of the Victorian Government. This requires ongoing effort to understand and respond to risks, develop opportunities, and build resilience to climate impacts.

The department seeks to lead the Victorian public sector in adopting new technology to delivery services to the community in ways that support Victoria's transition to net zero emissions and a climate resilient state. The department aims to:

- > communicate its actions to understand the impact of climate change on its assets, operations and services
- > demonstrate that its environmental impacts are responsibly managed and mitigated
- > support the efficient allocation of resources to transition operations to net zero emissions and improve environmental performance over time
- > deliver infrastructure that is resilient and adapted to climate risks by ensuring that new developments are all-electric, energy efficient, thermally comfortable and include the capability for on-site renewable energy generation.

Climate-related risk governance

The department's executive board oversees its risk management framework and is the collective owner of the department's strategic risks. The board monitors risk mitigation activities through quarterly risk management reporting.

The department's Audit and Risk Management Committee provides independent assurance to the Secretary regarding risks and controls. The committee actively monitors the department's risk profile, including climate-related risks and management strategies.

Additionally, the department routinely carries out climate risk maturity assessments which are reviewed by the Victorian Secretaries Board. These assessments identify internal capability and capacity (processes, people, systems) related to climate-related risk management.

Climate-related risk strategy

The department considers the potential impacts of climate-related risks as part of environmental scanning activities. This includes housing needs and supply, population health and wellbeing, the frequency and severity of disaster events and impacts on existing zero emissions commitments in strategic and corporate plans.

The *Health and Human Services Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan 2022–2026* (HHSASAP), and the next plan for the 2027–2031 period, are prepared in line with the requirements of the *Climate Action Act 2017*. The HHSASAP sets out how the department will manage climate risk, in collaboration with its entities and industry sectors. During 2025–26, the department progressed on all actions under the HHSASAP and is actively participating in whole-of-Victorian-Government processes to integrate and progress climate change more broadly.

The department is currently monitoring and managing several climate-related physical risks and opportunities. These include:

- > the impact of increased temperatures and extreme heat on department operations
- > the impact of bushfires and extreme weather events on departmental assets
- > reducing greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the department's operations in line with Victorian Government commitments
- > aligning procurement to circular economy principles
- > improving environmental performance monitoring, evaluation and reporting
- > supporting the continuing uptake of renewable energy and other low emissions technologies across Victoria.

Climate-related risk management

The department's risk management framework requires it to identify, assess and manage climate risks and opportunities. The framework is aligned with the *Victorian Government risk management framework*. It provides guidance for designing, implementing, monitoring, reviewing and continually improving risk management throughout the department. Controls and treatments are progressively being refined to address climate change as a risk for the department.

Climate-related metrics and targets

The department reports climate-related metrics in line with requirements under Financial Reporting Direction 24 (FRD 24) *Reporting of environmental data by government entities*. The environmental data in this report has been sourced from suppliers, equipment metering and reports.

The department continually aims to reduce portfolio emissions to contribute to the Victorian Government's long-term emissions target of net zero emissions by 2045. The department will continue working with relevant stakeholders to achieve this objective.

Greenhouse gas emissions

The department reports its greenhouse gas emissions broken down into emissions 'scopes' consistent with national and international reporting standards.

Scope 1 emissions are from sources that the department owns or controls, such as burning fossil fuels in its vehicles or machinery.

Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from the department's use of electricity from the grid, which still uses coal and gas-fired power generation.

Scope 3 emissions are indirect emissions from sources the department does not control but does influence. The department currently reports scope 3 emissions from corporate air travel and waste disposal as required by FRD 24 and is investigating options to expand this reporting to include significant procurement and investments. The department does not capture data on scope 3 waste and recycling in Housing Services.

The department's scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions decreased by 35% from 2024–25 to 2025–26. This was driven by a dramatic shift in the department's fleet to move away from internal combustion vehicles reliant on fossil-fuels and acquire new plug-in and hybrid electric vehicles. The department has also aligned its accommodation strategy to office sites that use less, and more efficient, natural gas. All new builds are compliant with being electrified only with zero new sites utilising natural gas.

Scope 1 emissions from Housing Services reduced by 5%. This was driven by a reduction in Housing Services gas consumption from the ongoing redevelopment of older gas-intensive public housing estates and their replacement with either new all-electric public housing apartment buildings, or community and affordable housing buildings which are outside of the department's emissions reporting boundary.

The department's scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions slightly decreased by 1% from 2024–25 to 2025–26 with a small drop in purchased electricity across its sites.

The department's scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions from corporate air travel and waste increased by 11% due to 506,422 more kilometres travelled than the previous reporting period coupled with an increased in short-haul domestic flights which are less efficient per kilometre.

Department offices

Greenhouse gas emissions²⁶

Indicator	2025–26 estimate Tonnes CO ₂ -e	2024–25 estimate Tonnes CO ₂ -e	2023–24 estimate Tonnes CO ₂ -e
G1 Total Scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions (Direct)	4,070	5,829	4,763
G2 Total Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions (Indirect electricity)	7,435	7,538	7,216
G3 Total Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions (Other indirect) ²⁷	578	517	657

Housing Services

Greenhouse gas emissions

Indicator	2025–26 estimate Tonnes CO ₂ -e	2024–25 estimate Tonnes CO ₂ -e	2023–24 estimate Tonnes CO ₂ -e
G1 Total Scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions (Direct)	16,620	17,415	20,119
G2 Total Scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions (Indirect electricity)	14,004	13,172	17,914
G3 Total Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions (Other indirect)	4,345	4,686	–

Electricity production and consumption

The department continues to implement energy efficiency policies across its sites to reduce electricity use. These measures include:

- > installing LED lighting
- > switching to efficient electric appliances, for example, minimum 7-star energy-efficient refrigerators when they are replaced
- > no gas in newly acquired buildings
- > adjustments to heating and cooling systems to optimise electricity savings.

Housing services electricity consumption increased by 9% due to the ongoing development of new all-electric housing sites and the substitution of existing gas plant and equipment in some older sites. Indirect emissions from electricity consumption increased by a lesser 6% due to the continued decrease in the emissions factor for electricity consumption in Victoria.

Department office electricity use from 2024–25 to 2025–26 has decreased by 17%. This is due to implementing a more accurate reporting methodology of aggregated then apportioned data. Also, all new department buildings must meet 5-star NABERS ratings which use energy more efficiently.

²⁶ The calculations for 2025-26 greenhouse gas emissions differ from previous years due to methodological changes stipulated by the Department for Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water in the Australian National Greenhouse Accounts Factors.

²⁷ Air travel calculated using total passenger kilometres (T4) and the average emissions factor of 1.43198×10^{-4} tonnes/passenger km for domestic aviation.

Total emissions offsets for electricity consumed by Homes Victoria increased by 332% due to the introduction of 100% renewable energy purchasing to the State Purchase Contract for large-market electricity sites.

Department offices

EL1 Total electricity consumption

Indicator	2025–26 MWh	2024–25 MWh	2023–24 MWh
Purchased electricity – consolidated	9,532.1	11,415.7	11,874.9
Self-generated	–	–	–
EL1 Total electricity consumption	9,532.1	11,415.7	11,874.9

EL2 On-site electricity generated

Indicator	2025–26 MWh	2024–25 MWh	2023–24 MWh
Solar PV			
Consumption behind-the-meter	–	–	–
Exports	–	–	–
Total solar PV	–	–	–
Other non-renewable (diesel backup generator)	–	–	–
EL2 Total on-site electricity generated	–	–	–

EL3 On-site installed generation capacity

Indicator	2025–26 MWh	2024–25 MWh	2023–24 MWh
Solar PV	–	–	–
Diesel backup generator	–	–	–
EL3 Total on-site installed generation capacity	–	–	–

EL4 Total electricity offsets

Indicator	2025–26 MWh	2024–25 MWh	2023–24 MWh
LGC's voluntarily retired by the entity	–	–	–
GreenPower ²⁸	Not yet available	933	714.8
Renewable power percentage in the grid	–		
Certified climate active carbon neutral electricity purchased	–	–	–
EL4 Total electricity offsets	–	933	714.8

28 The current small market utility provider is currently consolidating GreenPower purchases across the portfolio. This information is currently not available.

Housing Services

EL1 Total electricity consumption

Indicator	2025–26 MWh	2024–25 MWh	2023–24 MWh
Purchased electricity – consolidated ²⁹	21,061.3	19,909.7	22,676.2
Self-generated	975.9	344.2	220.0
EL1 Total electricity consumption	22,037.2	20,253.9	22,896.2

EL2 On-site electricity generated

Indicator	2025–26 MWh	2024–25 MWh	2023–24 MWh
Solar PV			
Consumption behind-the-meter ³⁰	975.9	344.2	220.0
Exports	55.0	66.8	0.1
Total solar PV	1,030.9	411.0	220.1
Other non-renewable (diesel backup generator)	–	–	–
EL2 Total on-site electricity generated	1,030.9	411.0	220.1

EL3 On-site installed generation capacity

Indicator	2025–26 MW	2024–25 MW	2023–24 MW
Solar PV	0.8	0.4	0.4
Diesel backup generator	–	–	–
EL3 Total on-site installed generation capacity	0.8	0.4	0.4

EL4 Total electricity offsets

Indicator	2025–26 MWh	2024–25 MWh	2023–24 MWh
LGC's voluntarily retired by the entity	13,655.3	–	–
GreenPower	456.3	1,744.3	1,552.9
Renewable power percentage in the grid ³¹	3,772.1	3,648.3	–
Certified climate active carbon neutral electricity purchased	–	–	–
EL4 Total electricity offsets	17,883.7	5,392.6	1,552.9

29 Electricity consumption includes a 4% estimate in 2025–26 due to some data being unavailable from energy retailers at the time of reporting.

30 Solar PV consumption behind-the-meter and GreenPower electricity offsets include a proportion of electricity consumed in residential tenancies outside the department's organisational boundary. This is attributable to new apartment building developments with shared on-site solar generation. These will be properly accounted for in subsequent periods.

31 Electricity offsets from the renewable power percentage were reported for Housing Services in 2024–25 for the first time. This was due to continuous improvement in reporting methodology.

Stationary fuel use

Sources of emissions from stationary fuel include natural gas used in some buildings' heating systems. The department collected data primarily through billing information from fuel suppliers.

There has been a 17% decrease in natural gas use from 2024–25 to 2025–26 as more sites that are reliant on gas become vacated and all new builds are regulated to use electricity. Consumption and emissions data is from the 18 sites that use natural gas.

Department offices

F1 Total Fuels used in buildings and machinery

Indicator	2025–26 MJ	2024–25 MJ	2023–24 MJ
Buildings			
Natural gas	13,460,454	15,871,876	16,744,636
F1 Total fuels used in buildings and machinery	13,460,454	15,871,876	16,744,636

F2 Greenhouse gas emissions stationary fuel consumption

	2025–26 Tonnes CO ₂ -e	2024–25 Tonnes CO ₂ -e	2023–24 Tonnes CO ₂ -e
F2 Greenhouse gas emissions stationary fuel consumption	604	818	863

Housing Services

F1 Total Fuels used in buildings and machinery

Indicator	2025–26 MJ	2024–25 MJ	2023–24 MJ
Buildings			
Natural gas ³²	322,528,902	337,965,783	390,431,401
F1 Total fuels used in buildings and machinery	322,528,902	337,965,783	390,431,401

F2 Greenhouse gas emissions stationary fuel consumption

	2025–26 Tonnes CO ₂ -e	2024–25 Tonnes CO ₂ -e	2023–24 Tonnes CO ₂ -e
F2 Greenhouse gas emissions stationary fuel consumption	16,620	17,415	20,119

32 Natural gas consumption includes a 33% estimate in 2025–26 due to some data being unavailable from energy retailers at the time of reporting.

Transportation

The data has been exported from the department's vehicle management system (FleetWave). This includes fuel transactions and kilometres travelled for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 (FBT annual reporting). The data indicates a reduction in Co₂ emissions for T1 (MJ) and T3 (Tonnes CO₂-e).

The department's fleet comprises 1,258 vehicles in total. Of the 1,182 are internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, 40% were hybrid unleaded or hybrid electric vehicles (EV). The department's EV fleet has increased 62% since the last reporting period.

This reporting period had reduced travel across all fuel categories (9% diesel; 11% petrol and hybrid) except for EV which had a 128% increase in travel. This is in part due to the increased transition of ICE to Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV), in line with government policy.

The department is committed to the Victorian Government transport sector pledge and a Zero Emissions Vehicle Roadmap as part of our *Climate change strategy*. Reductions in emissions are expected to increase as further internal combustion engine vehicles are replaced with electric vehicles. In addition, procurement of more fuel-efficient vehicles due to the increased standards in car manufacture, has resulted in reduced emissions overall from transportation.

Total energy used in transportation – department fleet

Indicator	2025–26 MJ	2024–25 MJ	2023–24 MJ
Passenger vehicles			
Petrol	15,629,161	19,499,677	22,926,315
Diesel	18,742,732	21,264,277	19,135,277
Hybrid/unleaded	13,315,360	13,293,164	14,828,101
Electricity (MWh)	116	87	–
Total passenger vehicles	47,687,369	54,057,118	57,008,622
Goods vehicles			
Petrol	–	–	–
Diesel ³³	0	115,656	143,164
Electricity (MWh)	–	–	–
Total goods vehicles	0	115,656	143,164
State government vehicle pool	600,655	577,262	649,315
T1 Total energy used in transportation	48,288,024	54,634,380	57,801,100

Number and proportion of vehicles – department fleet

Indicator	2025–26 No.	2025–26 %	2024–25 No.	2024–25 %	2023–24 No.	2023–24 %
Passenger vehicles						
Internal combustion engines						
Petrol	364	29	340	27	390	31
Diesel/biodiesel	334	27	393	31	354	29
Hybrid/unleaded	484	39	470	37	468	38

33 The department has now disposed of all goods vehicles with the exception of one tractor which consumed 22ltrs of diesel.

Indicator	2025–26 No.	2025–26 %	2024–25 No.	2024–25 %	2023–24 No.	2023–24 %
Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV)	7	1	10	1	4	–
Range-extended electric vehicle	68	5	42	3	18	1
Total passenger vehicles	1257	100	1,255	99	1,234	99
Goods vehicles						
Internal combustion engines						
Petrol	0	–	–	–	–	–
Diesel/biodiesel	1	1	4	1	7	1
Hybrid/unleaded	0	–	–	–	–	–
Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV)	0	–	–	–	–	–
Range-extended electric vehicle	0	–	–	–	–	–
Total goods vehicles	1	1	4	1	7	1
T2 Number and proportion of vehicles – department fleet	1,258	100	1,259	100	1,241	100

Greenhouse gas emissions from vehicle fleet

Indicator	2025–26 Tonnes CO ₂ -e	2024–25 Tonnes CO ₂ -e	2023–24 Tonnes CO ₂ -e
Passenger vehicles			
Petrol	1,056	1,319	1,319
Diesel	1,320	1,497	1,294
Hybrid/unleaded	900	890	853
Electricity	90	–	–
Total passenger vehicles	3,416	3,706	3,472
Goods vehicles			
Petrol	–	–	–
Diesel	–	8	10
Electricity	–	–	–
Total goods vehicles	–	8	10
State government vehicle pool	50	49	37
T3 Greenhouse gas emissions from vehicle fleet	3,466	3,763	3,520

Total distance travelled commercial air travel

	2025–26 Passenger km	2024–25 Passenger km	2023–24 Passenger km
T4 Total distance travelled commercial air travel	2,986,316	2,479,894	3,780,623

Total energy use

Department offices

Total energy use

Indicator	2025–26 MJ	2023–24 MJ	2022–23 MJ
E1 Total energy usage from fuels (stationary and transportation)	61,748,478	66,530,129	74,402,573
E2 Total energy used from electricity	34,315,560	41,096,520	42,749,568
E3 Total energy used segmented into renewable and non-renewable sources			
Renewable	–	–	–
Non-renewable	–	–	–
E4 Units of energy used normalised by FTE (MJ/FTE)	14,028	15,325	17,125

Housing Services

Total energy use

Indicator	2025–26 MJ	2024–25 MJ	2023–24 MJ
E1 Total energy usage from fuels (stationary and transportation)	322,528,902	337,965,783	390,431,401
E2 Total energy used from electricity	79,333,991	72,914,053	82,426,464
E3 Total energy used segmented into renewable and non-renewable sources			
Renewable	17,092,841	14,373,045	6,382,276
Non-renewable	384,770,052	396,506,791	466,475,599
E4 Units of energy used normalised by FTE (MJ/FTE)³⁴	NA	NA	NA

Sustainable buildings and infrastructure

The development of sustainable buildings is an economic and environmental necessity. Victoria's increasing experiences of extreme weather events demonstrate the importance of increasing climate resilience across the state. This includes via the design and management of buildings and infrastructure assets. Registered environmental NABERS ratings that are higher than 5 stars are summarised in the table below.

B3 Sustainable buildings and infrastructure

Name of building	Building type	Rating scheme	Rating (B4)
Bairnsdale – 7 Service St	General office building (base building)	NABERS – Energy	5.5
Dandenong – 165-169 Thomas St	General office (base building)	NABERS – Energy	5.5
Dandenong – 165-169 Thomas St	General office (base building)	NABERS Tenancy	6.0
Dandenong – 165-169 Thomas St	General office (base building)	NABERS – Water	5.5
Footscray – 71 Moreland St	General office building (whole building)	NABERS – Energy	6

34 E4 is not reported for Housing Services as the energy is used by tenants. No applicable FTE data for normalisation.

Name of building	Building type	Rating scheme	Rating (B4)
Footscray – 71 Moreland St	General office (base building and tenancy)	NABERS – Water	6
Frankston – 383 Nepean Highway	General office building (base building)	NABERS – Energy	5.5
Melbourne – 121 Exhibition St	General office building (base building)	NABERS – Energy	5.5
Melbourne – 50 Lonsdale St	General office building (whole building)	NABERS – Energy	5.5
Melbourne – 50 Lonsdale St	General office building (base building)	NABERS – Water	5.5
Melbourne – 50 Lonsdale St	General office building (base building)	NABERS Indoor Environment	6.0
Morwell – 65 Church St	General office building (base building)	NABERS – Water	5.5

The department has adjusted lighting levels, temperature and other building systems to avoid unnecessary consumption of energy while maintaining safety and comfort of occupants.

Sustainable procurement

The department considers sustainable procurement objectives through its implementation of the *Social Procurement Framework*. This sets out the requirements that apply to Victorian Government departments and agencies when they procure goods, services and construction. Refer to the 'Social procurement framework' section for more information.

Water consumption

The department monitors its water consumption across facilities and operations. We encourage clients to improve their own water efficiency. The department's water usage increased by 14% due to a combination of factors including unusually warm day peaks offset by increased cold snaps and winter frost; an increase in office attendance; and higher demand on office heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems.

Housing services potable water consumption decreased by 13%. This was attributable to the relocation of renters from high-rise public housing towers and the ongoing replacement of older low-rise public housing sites with new community and affordable housing sites outside of the department's reporting boundary.

Department offices

W1 Total water consumption by an entity

Indicator	2025–26 kL	2024–25 kL	2023–24 kL
Potable water consumption	33,388	29,287	31,340
W1 Total water consumption by an entity	33,387	29,287	31,340

W2 Units of metered water consumed normalised by FTE

	2025–26 kL/FTE	2024–25 kL/FTE	2023–24 kL/FTE
W2 Units of metered water consumed normalised by FTE	4.4	4.2	4.6

Housing Services

W1 Total water consumption by an entity

	2025–26 kL	2024–25 kL	2023–24 kL
Potable water consumption ³⁵	822,258	944,938	1,124,205
W1 Total water consumption by an entity	822,258	944,938	1,124,205

W2 Units of metered water consumed normalised by FTE

	2025–26 kL/FTE	2024–25 kL/FTE	2023–24 kL/FTE
W2 Units of metered water consumed normalised by FTE³⁶	NA	NA	NA

Waste and recycling

Waste management and recycling are key priorities for the department. This includes maximising recycling and minimising waste sent to landfill. The department does not currently collect data on waste disposal and recycling and associated scope 3 emissions from Housing Services.

Total units of waste disposed

Indicator	2025–26 kg	2025–26 %	2024–25 kg	2024–25 %	2023–24 kg	2023–24 %
Landfill general waste	122,088.8	36.2	113,048.7	33.9	89,265.0	23.5
Recycling/recovery (disposal)						
Commingled	20,222.9	6.0	39,731.1	11.9	8,984.7	2.4
Organics	2,252.1	0.7	1,333.1	0.4	1,148.9	0.3
Paper (confidential) ³⁷	182,141.5	53.9	139,538.9	41.9	260,361	68.5
Paper (recycling)	10,243.2	3.0	38,790.9	11.6	19,372.5	5.1
Toners and print cartridges ³⁸	700	0.2	896	0.3	1022	0.3
Soft Plastics ³⁹	5.9	<0.1	–	–	–	–
WR1 Total units of waste disposed	337,654.40		333,338.70		380,154.1	

Percentage of office sites that are covered by dedicated collection services (Indicator WR2)

Waste type	2025–26 %	2024–25 %	2023–24 %
Printer cartridges	100	100	100

35 Potable water consumption includes a 15% estimate in 2025–26 due to some data being unavailable from water corporations at the time of reporting.

36 W2 is not reported for Housing Services as metered water is consumed by tenants. No applicable FTE data for normalisation.

37 Increased confidential paper waste is due to ongoing efforts to digitise records at all department offices throughout the state.

38 Estimates were unavailable for previous years but are now included. The uptake of 'follow-me printing' is responsible for the decrease in printer usage over the past two-years.

39 The department did not occupy sites that offered this recycling opportunity in previous reporting periods.

Waste type	2025–26 %	2024–25 %	2023–24 %
Batteries	0	0	0
E-waste ⁴⁰	100	100	100
Soft plastics	0	0	0

Total units of waste disposed of normalised by FTE

	2025–26 kg/FTE	2024–25 kg/FTE	2023–24 kg/FTE
WR3 Total units of waste disposed of normalised by FTE	49	47	55

Recycling rate

	2025–26 %	2024–25 %	2023–24 %
WR4 Recycling rate	64.6	66	76.5

Greenhouse gas emissions associated with waste disposal

	2025–26 Tonnes CO ₂ -e	2024–25 Tonnes CO ₂ -e	2023–24 Tonnes CO ₂ -e
WR5 Greenhouse gas emissions associated with waste disposal ⁴¹	150.5	147	116

40 Supported by department staff who move e-waste from smaller offices and more remote offices to larger, central locations for collection.

41 The methodology for calculating greenhouse gas emissions changed in 2023–24 as per updates to FRD24 reporting.

Financial management compliance attestation statement

I, Peta McCammon, as the Responsible Body, certify that the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing has no material compliance deficiency with respect to the applicable Standing Directions under the *Financial Management Act 1994* and Instructions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peta McCammon', is written over a faint, light blue grid background.

Peta McCammon PSM

Secretary

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

8 September 2026

Section 5: Financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

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Declaration in the financial statements

The attached financial statements for the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (the department) have been prepared in accordance with Direction 5.2 of the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards including Interpretations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the Comprehensive Operating Statement, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement, Statement of Changes in Equity and accompanying notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2026 and financial position of the department as at 30 June 2026.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstance that would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 8 September 2026.



Peta McCammon PSM

Secretary

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

Melbourne

8 September 2026



Cynthia Lahiff

Chief Finance Officer

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

Melbourne

8 September 2026

Independent auditor’s report

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Independent Auditor’s Report

To the Secretary of the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

Opinion	I have audited the financial report of the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (the department) which comprises the: • balance sheet as at 30 June 2026 • comprehensive operating statement for the period then ended • statement of changes in equity for the period then ended • cash flow statement for the period then ended • notes to and forming part of the financial statements • declaration in the financial statements. In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the department as at 30 June 2026 and its financial performance and cash flows for the period then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 7 of the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.
Basis for Opinion	I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report. My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the department in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board’s APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (Including Independence Standards)</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.
Key audit matters	Key audit matters are those matters that, in my professional judgement, were of most significance in my audit of the financial report of the current period. The following matter was addressed in the context of my audit of the financial report as a whole, and in forming my opinion thereon, and I do not provide a separate opinion on this matter.

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Key audit matter	How I addressed the matter
Recognition and measurement of service concession arrangement assets, liabilities and commitments	
Refer to Note 5.1.1 <i>Total service concession assets</i> , Note 6.5 <i>Other liabilities</i> , Note 7.1 <i>Borrowings</i> , Note 7.5.2 <i>Service concession arrangements commitments</i> and Note 7.5.3 <i>Service concession arrangements</i>	
Total service concession assets - \$1,145.9 million	My key procedures included:
Other liabilities - grant of right to the operator (GORTO) liability - \$122 million	reviewing all supporting schedules, financial models and technical accounting papers prepared by the department to support their judgements and conclusions
Service concession financial liabilities - \$670.7 million	evaluating the department's financial models and judgements applied to our independent expert reports
Service concession arrangements commitments - \$1 856.6 million (nominal value)	assessing the completeness and accuracy of service concession assets, liabilities and commitments against the contracts and underlying financial models for each project
The department has various service concession arrangements with consortiums for the construction of new social housing dwellings, affordable and private rental homes and specialist disability accommodation. Under these arrangements, the private sector consortium will finance, design, construct and operate these assets for a specified period of time. These arrangements include the: - Ground Lease Model 1 - Public Housing Renewal Program - commitments \$141.3 million - Ground Lease Model 2 - commitments \$1 715.4 million	- assessing whether management's accounting treatments aligned with AASB 1059 and evaluating the reasonableness of management's judgements in applying the standard - assessing the adequacy of financial report disclosures against the requirements of applicable Australian Accounting Standards.
I consider service concession arrangements to be a key audit matter because: - they are financially significant - the requirements of AASB 1059 <i>Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors</i> are complex, and its application requires significant management judgement - the contractual arrangements and the financial models underpinning the amounts reported are complex - the required disclosures for service concession commitments are extensive.	

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The Secretary's responsibilities for the financial report	The Secretary of the department is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>, and for such internal control as the Secretary determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial report, the Secretary is responsible for assessing the department's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.
Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report	As required by the <i>Audit Act 1994</i>, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report. As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also: • identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. • obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the department's internal control. • evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Secretary. • conclude on the appropriateness of the Secretary's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the department's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the department to cease to continue as a going concern.

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**Auditor’s
responsibilities
for the audit
of the financial
report
(continued)**

- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Secretary regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

From the matters communicated with the Secretary, I determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial report of the current period and are therefore key audit matters. I describe these matters in the auditor’s report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, I determine that a matter should not be communicated in the auditor’s report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

MELBOURNE
11 September 2026



Roberta Skliros
as delegate for the Auditor-General

Comprehensive operating statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Revenue and income from transactions			
Output appropriations	2.3	5,902.2	6,307.1
Special appropriations	2.3	79.6	100.6
Rental income	2.4.1	625.6	594.6
Grants	2.4.2	341.8	285.3
Other income		114.2	54.2
Total revenue and income from transactions		7,063.4	7,341.8
Expenses from transactions			
Employee benefits	3.1.1(a)	1,077.8	1,087.6
Depreciation and amortisation	5.1.2	646.6	535.4
Grants and other transfers	3.1.2	4,707.2	4,952.9
Other operating expenses	3.1.3	634.9	693.4
Property management expenses	3.1.4	494.5	542.2
Total expenses from transactions		7,561.0	7,811.5
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)		(497.6)	(469.7)
Other economic flows included in net result			
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets	9.2(a)	(3.6)	(6.5)
Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments	9.2(b)	1.2	3.2
Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows	9.2(c)	37.9	(49.2)
Total other economic flows included in net result		35.5	(52.5)
Net result		(462.1)	(522.2)
Other economic flows – other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be reclassified to net result			
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	9.3(b)	43.3	(1.7)
Remeasurement of superannuation defined benefit plans	9.3(a)	0.7	(1.2)
Total other economic flows – other comprehensive income		44.0	(2.9)
Comprehensive result		(418.1)	(525.1)

The comprehensive operating statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Balance sheet as at 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Assets			
Financial assets			
Cash and deposits ⁽ⁱ⁾	7.3	994.2	1,312.2
Receivables	6.1	1,355.2	1,074.6
Loans	6.2	26.2	66.7
Total financial assets		2,375.6	2,453.5
Non-financial assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5.1	39,534.9	38,954.9
Intangible assets		59.0	66.1
Prepayments		12.6	12.6
Non-financial physical assets classified as held for sale		4.5	8.7
Total non-financial assets		39,611.0	39,042.2
Total assets		41,986.6	41,495.7
Liabilities			
Payables	6.3	487.0	450.6
Borrowings	7.1	905.4	768.5
Employee related provisions	3.1.1(b)	322.1	321.1
Other provisions	6.4	758.1	741.9
Other liabilities	6.5	122.0	119.8
Total liabilities		2,594.6	2,401.9
Net assets		39,392.0	39,093.8
Equity			
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		(1,385.5)	(978.8)
Physical asset revaluation surplus	9.3(b)	8,797.8	8,754.5
Contributed capital		31,979.7	31,318.1
Net worth		39,392.0	39,093.8

The balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Note:

- (i) As of 30 June 2026, the department held restricted cash of \$5.2 million (2025: \$267.1 million) representing funds set aside and unavailable for general operational use. The decreased balance reflected obligation settlement under its various services concession arrangements during 2025–26. Further information is included in Note 7.3 Cash flow information and balances.

Cash flow statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

	Note	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts			
Output appropriations		5,928.0	6,291.6
Special appropriations		79.6	100.6
Receipts from other entities		113.7	391.4
Rent received		618.0	587.2
Interest received		51.0	37.6
Other receipts		10.0	9.9
GST recovered from Australian Taxation Office ⁽ⁱ⁾		441.2	346.6
Total receipts		7,241.5	7,764.9
Payments			
Grants and other transfers		(5,055.7)	(5,258.7)
Employee benefits		(1,068.9)	(1,078.3)
Supplies and services		(553.7)	(542.0)
Other operating expenses		(54.2)	(38.6)
Property management expenses		(477.9)	(513.5)
Total payments		(7,210.4)	(7,431.1)
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	7.3.1	31.1	333.7
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from the sale of non-financial assets		313.8	105.5
Payments for non-financial assets		(1,360.1)	(865.3)
Client loans granted		–	(38.9)
Repayments of loans from other parties		40.5	0.4
Net cash flows from/(used in) investing activities		(1,005.9)	(798.3)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Receipts / (payments) for advances		(3.7)	(3.0)
Owner contributions by Victorian Government – appropriation for capital expenditure purposes		661.6	1,063.4
Repayment / proceeds of borrowings and principal portion of lease liability ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾		(1.1)	(5.3)
Net cash flows from/(used in) financing activities		656.8	1,055.1
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and deposits		(318.0)	590.5
Cash and deposits at beginning of financial year		1,312.2	721.7
Cash and deposits at the end of financial year	7.3	994.2	1,312.2

The cash flow statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Notes:

- (i) Goods and services tax (GST) recovered from the Australian Taxation Office is presented on a net basis.
- (ii) The department has recognised cash payments for the principal portion of lease payments as financing activities, cash payments for the interest portion as operating activities consistent with the presentation of interest payments and short-term lease payments for leases and low-value assets as operating activities.

Statement of changes in equity for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

	Note	Physical asset revaluation surplus \$M	Accumulated surplus/ (deficit) \$M	Contributed capital \$M	Total \$M
Balance at 1 July 2024		8,756.2	(455.4)	30,261.5	38,562.3
Net result for the year		–	(522.2)	–	(522.2)
Remeasurement of superannuation defined benefit plans	9.3(a)	–	(1.2)	–	(1.2)
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	9.3(b)	(1.7)	–	–	(1.7)
Capital contributions by Victorian State Government	9.3(c)	–	–	1,063.4	1,063.4
Asset transfers via capital contribution		–	–	(6.8)	(6.8)
Balance at 30 June 2025		8,754.5	(978.8)	31,318.1	39,093.8
Adjustment ⁽ⁱ⁾	9.3	–	54.7	–	54.7
Net result for the year		–	(462.1)	–	(462.1)
Remeasurement of superannuation defined benefit plans	9.3(a)	–	0.7	–	0.7
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	9.3(b)	43.3	–	–	43.3
Capital contributions by Victorian State Government	9.3(c)	–	–	661.6	661.6
Balance at 30 June 2026		8,797.8	(1,385.5)	31,979.7	39,392.0

The statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.

Notes:

- (i) An adjustment of the accumulated surplus / (deficit) was made to the opening balance of the accumulated surplus / (deficit) and physical asset revaluation for 2025–26, as a result of GST recovered on expense accounts for prior years. Further information is included in Note 9.3 Reserves.

Notes to and forming part of the financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

1. About this report

The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (the department) was established on 1 February 2021 as a government department of the State of Victoria, pursuant to an order made by the Premier under the *Public Administration Act 2004*. It is an administrative agency acting on behalf of the Crown.

Its principal address is:

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
50 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

A description of the nature of its operations and its principal activities is included in the report of operations, which does not form part of these financial statements.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements cover the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing as an individual reporting entity and include all controlled activities of the department.

Where control of an entity is obtained during the financial year, its results are included in the comprehensive operating statement from the date on which control commenced. Where control ceases during the financial year, the entity's results are included for that part of the period in which control existed. Where entities adopt dissimilar accounting policies and their effect is considered material, adjustments are made to ensure consistent policies are adopted in these financial statements. There were no new entities for which DFFH obtained control over in 2025–26.

Furthermore, the following agencies have been consolidated into the department's financial statements pursuant to a determination made by the Minister for Finance under section 53(1)(b) of the *Financial Management Act 1994 (FMA)*. These agencies are reported in aggregate and are not controlled by the department:

- Homes Victoria
- Commission for Children and Young People
- Disability Worker Registration Board
- Victorian Disability Worker Commission
- Respect Victoria
- Victorian Veterans Council
- Social Services Regulator

Where control of an entity is obtained during the financial period, its results are included in the comprehensive operating statement from the date on which control is demonstrated. Where control ceases during a financial period, the entity's results are included for that part of the period in which control existed. Where entities adopt dissimilar accounting policies and their effect is considered material, adjustments are made to ensure consistent policies are adopted in these financial statements.

In preparing financial statements for the department, all material transactions and balances between the above entities are eliminated.

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and the historical cost convention is used unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the note associated with the item measured on a different basis.

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied in the preparation of these financial statements, except for cash flow information, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Consistent with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) 1004 *Contributions*, contributions by owners (that is, contributed capital and its repayment) are treated as equity transactions and, therefore, do not form part of the income and expenses of the department.

Additions to net assets which have been designated as contributions by owners are recognised as contributed capital. Other transfers that are in the nature of contributions to or distributions by owners have also been designated as contributions by owners.

Transfers of net assets arising from administrative restructures are treated as distributions to or contributions by owners. Transfers of net liabilities arising from administrative restructures are treated as distributions to owners.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about the financial information being presented. The significant judgements made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in applying Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) that have significant effect on the financial statements and estimates are disclosed in the Note 8.3 'Fair value determination', Note 7.5.2 'Service concession arrangements commitments' and Note 6.4 'Other provision' under the heading 'Significant judgement'.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going-concern basis.

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest \$1 million unless otherwise stated.

Compliance information

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the FMA and applicable AASs which include Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). In particular, they are presented in a manner consistent with the requirements of AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

Where appropriate, those AAS paragraphs applicable to not-for-profit entities have been applied. Accounting policies selected and applied in these financial statements ensure that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

These annual financial statements were authorised for issue by the Secretary of the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing on 8 September 2026.

2. Funding delivery of our services

Introduction

The department's overall objective is to create equal opportunities for all Victorians to live a safe, respected and valued life.

To enable the department to fulfil its objective and provide outputs as described in Note 4 'Disaggregated financial information by output', it receives income (predominantly accrual-based parliamentary appropriations). The department also receives income from the supply of services and tenancy agreements.

Structure

- 2.1 Summary of revenue and income that fund the delivery of our services
- 2.2 Appropriations
- 2.3 Summary of compliance with annual parliamentary and special appropriations
- 2.4 Income from transactions
 - 2.4.1 Rental income
 - 2.4.2 Grants
- 2.5 Annotated income agreements

2.1 Summary of revenue and income that fund the delivery of our services

	Note	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Output appropriations	2.2, 2.3	5,902.2	6,307.1
Special appropriations	2.2, 2.3	79.6	100.6
Rental income	2.4.1	625.6	594.6
Grants	2.4.2	341.8	285.3
Other income		114.2	54.2
Total revenue and income from transactions		7,063.4	7,341.8

2.2 Appropriations

Once annual parliamentary appropriations are applied by the Treasurer, they become controlled by the department and are recognised as income when applied to the purposes defined under the relevant *Appropriations Act*.

Output appropriations: Income from the outputs the department provides to the government is recognised when those outputs have been delivered and the relevant minister has certified delivery of those outputs in accordance with specified performance criteria.

Special appropriations: Under s. 5.4.6 of the *Gambling Regulation Act 2003*, income related to the Mental Health Fund is recognised when the amounts appropriated for that purpose are due and payable by the department.

2.3 Summary of compliance with annual parliamentary and special appropriations

The following table discloses the details of the various annual parliamentary appropriations received by the department for the year.

In accordance with accrual output-based management procedures 'provision of outputs' and 'additions to net assets' are disclosed as 'controlled' activities of the department.

Administered transactions are those that are undertaken on behalf of the state over which the department has no control or discretion (refer to Note 4.2).

	Appropriation Act		Financial Management Act 1994			Total parliamentary authority \$M	Appropriations applied \$M	Variance \$M	
	Annual appropriation \$M	Advance from Treasurer \$M	Section 29 ⁽ⁱ⁾ \$M	Section 30 \$M	Section 32 \$M				
2026									
Controlled									
Provision of outputs	4,507.8	389.5	1,052.7	(26.2)	30.1	5,954.0	5,902.2	51.8	(ii)
Addition to net assets	597.3	9.1	9.0	26.2	7.9	649.5	493.9	155.6	(iii)
Administered									
Payments made on behalf of the State	3,118.9	–	–	–	–	3,118.9	3,082.5	36.4	
Total	8,224.0	398.6	1,061.7	–	38.0	9,722.4	9,478.6	243.8	
2025									
Controlled									
Provision of outputs	4,515.5	431.3	1,394.5	(7.5)	16.4	6,350.1	6,307.1	43.0	(iv)
Addition to net assets	467.5	464.3	15.6	7.5	14.1	969.0	940.2	28.9	(v)
Administered									
Payments made on behalf of the State	2,964.6	4.4	–	–	6.5	2,975.6	2,975.6	–	
Total	7,947.6	900.0	1,410.1	–	37.0	10,294.7	10,222.9	71.9	

Notes:

- (i) Revenue annotated to the department's appropriation under section 29 of the *Financial Management Act 1994* predominantly include funding provided by the Commonwealth as part of the National Agreement on Social Housing and Homelessness and the Energy Bill Relief program. Refer to Note 2.5 for further detail.
- (ii) The provision of outputs variance of \$51.8 million is primarily due to \$28.6 million of funding that will be requested in 2026–27 to deliver services and projects. The remaining variance of \$23.1 million relates to output appropriation authority not applied in 2025–26, primarily driven by changes to cashflow of output initiatives and lower than anticipated depreciation expenditure.
- (iii) The additions to net assets variance of \$155.6 million predominantly relates to funding for projects that will be delivered in 2026–27 rather than 2025–26, offset by an increase in appropriation reinstated as an alternative funding source in lieu of Treasurer's Advance budget supplementation.
- (iv) The provision of outputs variance of \$43.0 million is primarily due to \$34.2 million of funding that will be requested in 2025–26 to deliver services and projects. The remaining variance of \$8.5 million relates to output appropriation authority not applied in 2024–25, primarily driven by changes to cashflow of output initiatives and lower than anticipated depreciation expenditure.
- (v) The additions to net assets variance of \$28.9 million predominantly relates to funding for projects that will be delivered in 2025–26 rather than 2024–25, offset by authority not required in 2024–25 and allowed to lapse as effectively, and increase in appropriation reinstated as an alternative funding source in lieu of Treasurer's Advance budget supplementation.

The following table discloses the details of compliance with special appropriations:

Authority	Purpose	Appropriation applied	
		2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Section 5.4.6 of the <i>Gambling Regulation Act 2003</i>	Contribution to the Mental Health Fund	63.9	64.0
Section 10 of the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>	Access to various Commonwealth grants – provision of outputs	15.7	36.6
Total special appropriations – Provision of outputs		79.6	100.6
Section 10 of the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>	Access to various Commonwealth grants – addition to net assets	167.7	123.2
Total special appropriations – Addition to net assets		167.7	123.2
Total special appropriations		247.3	223.8

2.4 Income from transactions

2.4.1 Rental income

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Rental income	1,242.2	1,181.2
Rental rebates	(612.3)	(583.2)
Rental subsidies	(11.3)	(10.6)
Total net rental	618.6	587.4
Total user charges – rental properties	6.4	6.7
Rendering of services	0.6	0.5
Total rental income	625.6	594.6

Rental income, rebates and subsidies arising from tenancy agreements are raised weekly. Rebates derive from the same performance obligation of rental income and are the discount provided to eligible tenants to reduce the weekly contribution towards the costs of living in public housing. Market rent is reviewed on an annual basis as per the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997*. Rebates are reviewed bi-annually based on the tenants' household income. Weekly amounts payable is the lesser of 25 percent of household income and the market rent for eligible tenants.

Homes Victoria provides rental accommodation for a range of clients. These are public rental units that are largely owned and operated by the Homes Victoria which have week-to-week tenancy agreements with people on low incomes that are most in need, especially those who have recently experienced homelessness, family violence or have other special needs. These agreements are subject to the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* provisions which allow termination of a lease under certain circumstances.

2.4.2 Grants

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Income recognised under AASB 1058	341.8	285.3
Total grants	341.8	285.3
Represented by:		
Victorian Government		
Department of Treasury and Finance	248.9	237.5
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	48.3	9.9
Department of Education	18.5	8.9
Department of Health	12.0	10.7
Department of Justice and Community Safety	6.2	4.7
Department of Premier and Cabinet	3.3	0.1
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions	0.8	6.2
Court Services Victoria	0.4	0.3
Department of Transport and Planning	0.1	1.9
Other Victorian government bodies	–	0.4
Commonwealth Government		
Commonwealth Government	3.3	4.7
Total grants	341.8	285.3

Grants income

The department receives grants income which are paid for a particular purpose and/or have conditions attached regarding their use. However, these grant agreements for grants received by the department do not contain sufficiently specific performance obligations such as the period over which the service deliveries must be delivered, the specific nature or type of the service deliveries, the cost or value of the service deliveries, or the number of service deliveries to be provided. These grants are received under the agreements between the relevant departments to provide services for a given output and activities to further achieve the objective of the departments. These grants are recognised in accordance with AASB 1058 when the department has an unconditional right to receive cash.

Income from grants to construct the capital assets that are controlled by the department is recognised progressively as the asset is constructed. The progressive percentage costs incurred are used to recognise income because these most closely reflect the progress to completion as costs are incurred as the works are done.

Income from grants without any sufficiently specific performance obligations, or that are not enforceable, is recognised in accordance with AASB 1058 when the department has an unconditional right to receive the cash which usually coincides with receipt of cash. On initial recognition of the asset, the department recognises any related contributions by owners, increases in liabilities, decreases in assets, and revenue ('related amounts') in accordance with other Australian Accounting Standards. Related amounts may take the form of:

- contributions by owners, in accordance with AASB 1004
- revenue or a contract liability arising from a contract with a customer, in accordance with AASB 15.

2.5 Annotated income agreements

The department is permitted under s. 29 of the *Financial Management Act 1994* to have certain income annotated to the annual appropriation. The income which forms part of a s. 29 agreement is recognised by the department and the receipts paid into the consolidated fund as an administered item. At the point of income recognition, s. 29 provides for an equivalent amount to be added to the annual appropriation.

The following is a listing of annotated income agreements under s. 29 of the *Financial Management Act 1994* approved by the Treasurer:

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
User charges, or sales of goods and services		
Community Residential Units Accommodation charges include full Board and Lodging Model (Output)	19.8	19.0
Revenue for Services Provided for the National Disability Insurance Agency (Output)	22.5	23.0
Revenue for Services Provided for the National Disability Insurance Agency (Capital)	9.0	14.7
Office of Senior Victorians – advertising and sponsorship income (Output)	0.8	0.8
	52.1	57.5
Asset sales		
Proceeds from sale of land and buildings (Capital)	–	0.8
	–	0.8
Commonwealth specific purpose payments		
National Partnership Agreements		
Family Law Information Sharing (Output)	2.1	–
National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (Output)	460.5	451.0
Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Support (Output)	29.6	28.5
Energy Bill Relief (Output)	512.2	865.7
Other		
Unattached Refugee Children (Output)	3.2	4.2
Women's Safety Measures – Keeping Women Safe in Their Homes (Output)	1.4	1.3
National Disability Data Asset (Output)	0.1	0.5
Pacific regional engagement in the Women Deliver 2026 Global Conference (Output)	0.5	0.5
	1,009.6	1,351.8
Total annotated income agreements	1,061.7	1,410.1

3 The cost of delivering services

Introduction

This section provides an account of the expenses incurred by the department in delivering services and outputs. In Note 2 'Funding delivery of our services', the funds that enable the provision of services were disclosed and in this note the costs associated with the provision of services are recorded. Note 4 'Disaggregated financial information by output' discloses aggregated information in relation to the income and expenses by output.

Structure

3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services

3.1.1 Employee benefits

3.1.2 Grants and other transfers

3.1.3 Other operating expenses

3.1.4 Property management expenses

3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services

	Note	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Employee benefits	3.1.1(a)	1,077.8	1,087.6
Grants and other transfers	3.1.2	4,707.2	4,952.9
Other operating expenses	3.1.3	634.9	693.4
Property management expenses	3.1.4	494.5	542.2
Total expenses incurred in delivery of services		6,914.4	7,276.1

3.1.1 Employee benefits

3.1.1(a) Employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Salaries and wages, annual leave and long service leave	959.0	991.0
Defined contribution and benefit superannuation expense	100.2	94.0
Termination benefits	18.6	2.6
Total employee benefits	1,077.8	1,087.6

Employee benefits include all costs related to employment, including salaries and wages, leave entitlements, fringe benefits tax, termination benefits, payroll tax and WorkCover premiums.

The amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement in relation to superannuation is employer contributions for members of both defined benefit and defined contribution superannuation plans that are paid or payable during the reporting period. Other than former employees of Homes Victoria, the department does not recognise any defined benefit liabilities because it has no legal or constructive obligation to pay future benefits relating to its employees. Instead, the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) discloses in its annual financial statements the net defined benefit cost related to the members of these plans as an administered liability (on behalf of the State as the sponsoring employer).

Termination benefits are payable when employment is terminated before normal retirement date, or when an employee accepts an offer of benefits in exchange for the termination of employment. Termination benefits are recognised when the Department is demonstrably committed to terminating the employment of current employees according to a detailed formal plan without possibility of withdrawal or providing termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy.

3.1.1(b) Employee benefits in the balance sheet

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of annual leave and long service leave (LSL) for services rendered to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Current provisions		
Annual leave	–	
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	61.9	59.2
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	32.3	31.3
Parental leave		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	9.9	11.1
Long service leave		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	20.6	19.9
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	107.7	110.3
Superannuation		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	2.0	2.1
Provisions for on-costs		
Unconditional and expected to be settled within 12 months	17.8	18.0
Unconditional and expected to be settled after 12 months	31.1	31.8
Total current provisions for employee benefits	283.5	283.7
Non-current provisions		
Conditional long service leave entitlements	19.0	16.5
Superannuation	15.3	17.2
Provisions for on-costs	4.3	3.7
Total non-current provisions for employee benefits	38.6	37.4
Total provisions for employee benefits	322.1	321.1

Sick leave: No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and it is not considered probable that the average sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future. As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised in the comprehensive operating statement as it is taken.

Employment on-cost: Employment on-costs such as payroll tax, workers' compensation and superannuation are not employee benefits. They are disclosed separately as a component of the provision for employee benefits when the employment to which they relate has occurred.

Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability; even where the department does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months because it will not have the unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement should an employee take leave within 12 months.

The components of this current LSL liability are measured at present value where the department does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months. The components of current LSL liability are measured at nominal value where the department expects to settle within 12 months.

Conditional LSL is disclosed as a non-current liability. There is an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement until the employee has completed the requisite years of service. This non-current LSL liability is measured at present value.

Any gain or loss following the revaluation of the present value of non-current LSL liability is recognised as a transaction, except to the extent that a gain or loss arises due to changes in bond interest rates for which it is then recognised as an 'other economic flow' in the net result.

Provisions for superannuation – Defined benefit obligation

The department reports a liability for unfunded superannuation in respect of former employees of Homes Victoria for the shortfall of superannuation benefits paid to former housing staff who retired or resigned on or before 14 December 1987 or were employed by Homes Victoria as at 14 December 1987 and retired or resigned prior to or on 30 June 1994.

In accordance with the requirements of Financial Reporting Directions (FRD) 112, Homes Victoria is required to recognise defined benefit liabilities or surpluses of defined benefit plans in accordance with the requirements of AASB119. Other than former employees of Homes Victoria, the department does not recognise any defined benefit liabilities because it has no legal or constructive obligation to pay future benefits relating to its employees. Instead, the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) discloses in its annual financial statements the net defined benefit cost related to the members of these plans as an administered liability (on behalf of the State as the sponsoring employer).

This liability represents the shortfall between the total net assets of the superannuation fund at 30 June 2026 and the total benefits that members have accrued up to that date, determined by an actuarial assessment. Information relating to the fund based on the latest actuarial assessment for 30 June 2026 is set out below. The amount expensed in respect of unfunded superannuation represents the contributions made by the department to the superannuation fund, adjusted by the movement in the liability or asset.

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Reconciliation of the superannuation liability in the balance sheet		
Defined benefit obligation	17.3	19.3
Net liability/(asset)	17.3	19.3
Total obligation and liability in the balance sheet	17.3	19.3
Represented by –		
Current liability	2.0	2.1
Non-current liability	15.3	17.2
Total liability	17.3	19.3
Principal actuarial assumptions		
Discount rate	5.0%	4.6%
Expected return on plan assets	6.4%	6.4%
Expected rate of salary increase	3.3%	3.3%
Inflation	2.5%	2.5%

The expected return on assets assumption is determined by weighting the expected long-term return for each asset class by the target allocation of assets to each asset class and allowing for the correlations of the investment returns between asset classes. The returns used for each asset class are net of investment tax (where applicable) and investment fees.

Reconciliation of opening and closing balances of the present value of the defined benefit obligation

Movements in the present value of the defined benefit obligation in the current period were as follows:

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Opening balance of defined benefit obligation	19.3	20.3
Interest cost	0.8	0.9
Actuarial losses/(gains)	(0.7)	0.3
Benefits paid	(2.1)	(2.1)
Closing balance of defined benefit obligation	17.3	19.3

3.1.1 (c) Superannuation contributions

Employees of the department are entitled to receive superannuation benefits and the department contributes to both defined benefit and defined contribution plans. The defined benefit plans provide benefits based on years of service and final average salary.

Other than former employees of Homes Victoria, the defined benefit liability is recognised in the Department of Treasury and Finance as an administered liability. However, the department is still required to make minimum superannuation contributions under Enterprise agreements and legislation, and the contributions paid or payable for the reporting period are included as part of employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement of the department.

	Paid contribution for the year		Contribution outstanding at year end	
	2026 \$M	2025 \$M	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Defined benefit plans				
State superannuation fund	2.4	2.0	–	–
Defined contribution plans				
VicSuper	50.4	49.3	–	–
Other	47.4	42.7	–	–
Total	100.2	94.0	–	–

3.1.2 Grants and other transfers

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Non-government agencies and individuals ⁽ⁱ⁾		
Assistance payment and other benefits to households and individuals		
• Concessions to pensioners and other beneficiaries ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	1,150.0	1,449.7
• Child protection and family services	313.8	321.8
• Other organisations	10.7	14.1
Subtotal – Assistance payment and other benefits to households and individuals	1,474.5	1,785.5
Community service organisations and other non-government organisations		
• Child protection and family services	1,179.4	1,123.2
• Provision of housing and homelessness services	690.4	669.0
• Family violence Service Delivery	628.1	600.9
• Disability services ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	115.1	195.0
• Concessions to pensioners and other beneficiaries	68.6	58.1
• Other organisations	178.8	163.5
Subtotal – Community service organisations and other non-government organisations	2,860.3	2,809.7
	4,334.8	4,595.2
Other state government agencies		
Public health services and hospitals	74.7	78.8
Other state government departments and associated entities	272.0	251.5
	346.7	330.4
Local government		
Local councils	25.1	27.0
	25.1	27.0

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Commonwealth Government		
Commonwealth government organisations	0.5	0.4
	0.5	0.4
Total grant expenses	4,707.2	4,952.9

Note:

- (i) Grants to non-government agencies and individuals primarily relate to social and affordable housing initiative, concessions to pensioners and beneficiaries and services provided by non-government organisations to Victorians.
- (ii) In 2025-26, there is a decrease in grant payments for concessions to pensioners and other beneficiaries and disability services due to the Energy Bill Relief Fund and fixed-term funding for government disability accommodation services ending on 31 December 2025.

Transactions in which the department provides goods, services, assets (or extinguishes a liability) or labour to another party without receiving approximately equal value in return are categorised as 'Grant and other transfers'. Grants can either be operating or capital in nature. Grants can be paid as general-purpose grants, which refer to grants that are not subject to conditions regarding their use. Alternatively, they may be paid as specific purpose grants which are paid for a particular purpose and/or have conditions attached regarding their use.

Grants and other transfers to third parties are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred. They include transactions such as grants, subsidies and other transfer payments to other state government agencies, local councils and non-government agencies and individuals. Committed grants and other transfers as at 30 June 2026 are disclosed in Note 7.5.1.

Grants to non-government agencies and individuals include payments related to:

- initiatives to increase social and affordable housing stock as part of the Big Housing Build as well as the Building Works Package to fund the maintenance and upgrade of social housing. Committed grants under the Big Housing Build and Building Works Package initiatives are disclosed in Note 7.5.1
- concessions to pensioners and beneficiaries that include the development and coordination of the delivery of concessions and relief grants to eligible consumers and concession card holders
- services provided by non-government organisations to support Victorians, including support family, child protection, early parenting, family violence victims and reform, sexual assault victims, placement care and specialist support. Refer to Note 4.1.2 Departmental outputs – controlled income and expenses for further details.

3.1.3 Other operating expenses

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Interest expenses	49.8	36.9
Supplies and services		
Lease expenses	2.3	1.0
Office accommodation and property services	10.9	90.8
Administrative costs ⁽ⁱ⁾	404.0	434.2
Information, communications and technology costs	80.8	83.4
Direct care operating costs	24.4	24.1
Financial redress payments ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	–	13.5
Fair value of assets and services provided free of charge or for nominal consideration		
Assets and services provided free of charge	62.7	9.5
Total other operating expenses	634.9	693.4

Note:

- (i) Administrative costs mainly include the community service organisation, corporate and civil insurance claims settlement payments managed by Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA) on behalf of the department, purchase of intergovernmental services and professional services, as well as the unused trust fund returning to the consolidated fund.
- (ii) Financial redress payments recognised in prior years provide compensation of Redress Scheme for Victorians who were placed in institutional care prior to 1990 ("Pre-1990 Care Leavers") and experienced physical, psychological, and emotional abuse or neglect. Payments will be disbursed in subsequent years based on validated claims received. Refer to Note 6.4 Other provision for further details.

3.1.4 Property management expenses

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Maintenance ⁽ⁱ⁾	242.0	292.4
Rates to local government	135.1	137.5
Tenant utilities and other expenses	117.4	112.3
Total property management expenses	494.5	542.2

Note:

(i) Maintenance expenses mainly include statutory maintenance requirements, responding to urgent maintenance works, maintenance works required for vacated properties before re-letting, and maintenance works undertaken to proactively address and respond to asset condition.

4. Disaggregated financial information by output

Introduction

The department is predominantly funded by accrual-based parliamentary appropriations for the provision of outputs. This section provides a description of the departmental outputs delivered during the year along with the objectives of those outputs.

This section disaggregates revenue and expenses that enables the delivery of services (described in Note 2 'Funding delivery of our services') by output and records the allocation of expenses incurred (described in Note 3 'The cost of delivering services') also by output, which form part of controlled balances of the department.

It also provides information on items administered in connection with these outputs.

Judgement is required in allocating income and expenditure to specific outputs. For the period under review there were no amounts unallocated.

The distinction between controlled and administered items is based on whether the department has the ability to deploy the resources in question for its own benefit (controlled items) or whether it does so on behalf of the state (administered). The department remains accountable for transactions involving administered items, but it does not recognise these items in its financial statements.

Structure

4.1 Departmental outputs

- 4.1.1 Departmental outputs – Descriptions and objectives
- 4.1.2 Departmental outputs – Controlled income and expenses
- 4.1.3 Departmental outputs – Controlled assets and liabilities

4.2 Administered (non-controlled) items

- 4.2.1 Administered income and expenses
- 4.2.2 Administered assets and liabilities

4.1 Departmental outputs

4.1.1 Departmental outputs – Descriptions and objectives

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing outputs

Output 1: Disability Programs and Services ⁽ⁱ⁾

The Disability Programs and Services output, through the provision of services not covered by the National Disability Insurance Scheme for people with disabilities, their carers and their families, aims to make a positive difference for Victorians experiencing barriers to accessing services and to provide high-quality support to meet clients' needs. This includes therapeutic services and supports for people with cognitive disability involved, or at risk of involvement, in Victoria's criminal justice system. This includes initiatives under the State Disability Plan including disability advocacy.

Note:

- (i) The Office for Disability and Disability Services outputs have been consolidated into the Disability Programs and Services output, to align to the State's role following completion of the NDIS transition.

Output 2: Child Protection and Family Services

The Child Protection and Family Services output, through the funding of statutory child protection services, family support and parenting services, care services and specialist support services, including services for Aboriginal children and families, aims to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people at risk of harm, abuse and neglect. This output aims to make a positive difference to Victorians experiencing disadvantage by providing excellent community services to meet clients' needs.

Output 3: Concessions to Pensioners and Beneficiaries

The Concessions to Pensioners and Beneficiaries output, through the development and coordination of the delivery of concessions and relief grants to eligible consumers and concession card holders, aims to make a positive difference for Victorians experiencing disadvantage by providing excellent community services to meet clients' needs.

Output 4: Community Participation

The Community Participation programs include the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program, Men's Shed Funding Program, Food Relief, Community Support and Community Finance initiatives. These programs support the social and economic participation and inclusion of Victorian communities.

Output 5: Seniors Programs and Participation

The Seniors Programs and Participation output, which supports broader community planning processes to facilitate an integrated community planning and response approach aimed at enabling older Victorians to fully participate and engage in the community. This output also delivers recognition and support to Victorians with unpaid caring responsibilities.

Output 6: Support to Veterans in Victoria

The Support to Veterans in Victoria output, which provides coordination of veteran-related issues at a state level, especially in relation to commemoration, education programs, grant programs, employment initiatives, research and veteran welfare.

Output 7: LGBTIQA + Equality Policy and Programs

The LGBTIQA+ Equality Policy and Programs output, which provides programs and services to promote equality for LGBTIQA+ Victorians and to support the economic, social and civic participation of these communities.

Output 8: Women's policy

The Women's Policy output, which provides initiatives that gender equality and better outcomes for women across all areas of their lives including economic security, safety, leadership, health and wellbeing.

Output 9: Primary Prevention of Family Violence

The Primary Prevention of Family Violence output, which provides initiatives that support primary prevention of family violence and all forms of violence against women.

Output 10: Youth

The Youth output, which leads and coordinates whole of government policy advice and delivers a range of initiatives for young people aged between 12 and 25 years to gain a range of skills and experience and to actively participate in their local communities.

Output 11: Family Violence Service Delivery

The Family Violence Service Delivery output leads and coordinates whole of government family violence policy and implements and delivers the Government's family violence reform agenda. This includes operating The Orange Door Network; delivering victim survivor support services; sexual assault support services; and perpetrator interventions; implementing information sharing legislation; early intervention programs; and delivering risk assessment and management programs.

Output 12: Housing Assistance

The Housing Assistance output ensures more Victorians have a place to call home by providing services and support across the housing continuum; including homelessness services, transitional accommodation and wrap around services and social and affordable housing.

Affordable housing options delivered through the Affordable Housing Rental Scheme are responding to the growing gap in housing affordability and aim to increase supply for households experiencing rental stress or trying to buy their first home.

This output is ensuring more affordable, safe, and secure accommodation is being built right across Victoria, and reforming the housing system to provide greater access to housing services and supports for all Victorians, including:

- housing assistance for low-income families, older people, singles, youth, victim survivors of family violence and other households. It responds to the needs of clients through the provision of appropriate accommodation, including short-term and long-term properties that assist in reducing and preventing homelessness
- housing support services to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, in short-term housing or crisis situations. Support will assist clients in accessing and maintaining tenancies in appropriate accommodation. Services provided will assist in preventing and reducing homelessness
- working with Aboriginal housing providers to ensure housing is designed and delivered by Aboriginal people, enabling self-determination and meeting community needs.

Output 13: Victorian Contribution to National Disability Insurance Scheme

The Victorian Contribution to National Disability Insurance Scheme is the Department's contribution to Australia's National Disability Insurance Scheme. The scheme ensures that people with severe or profound disabilities can access the necessary supports they need to live the life they want and achieve their goals and aspirations. Funding and the related transactions of this output are reported in Note 4.2.1 Administered (non-controlled) items.

Further details on the objectives of each output can be found in Budget Paper No. 3 Service Delivery.

4.1.2 Departmental outputs – Controlled income and expenses for the year ended 30 June 2026

Output ⁽ⁱ⁾ 2026	1 \$M	2 \$M	3 \$M	4 \$M	5 \$M	6 \$M	7 \$M	8 \$M	9 \$M	10 \$M	11 \$M	12 \$M	Total \$M
Revenue and income from transactions													
Output appropriations	296.2	2,385.8	1,487.3	77.4	65.0	10.2	10.8	16.8	26.7	32.2	790.1	703.6	5,902.2
Special appropriations	63.9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3.2	12.5	79.6
Rental income	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	625.6	625.6
Grants	5.4	35.9	–	19.5	0.4	1.6	–	–	1.8	3.3	0.3	273.4	341.8
Other income	15.2	30.2	0.6	0.6	–	0.1	–	–	–	–	16.0	51.6	114.2
Total revenue and income from transactions	380.8	2,451.9	1,487.9	97.5	65.4	11.9	10.9	16.8	28.6	35.6	809.6	1,666.7	7,063.4
Expenses from transactions													
Employee benefits	141.1	604.3	11.7	5.7	4.5	2.1	2.7	6.7	11.8	4.4	70.4	212.6	1,077.8
Depreciation and amortisation	10.7	13.2	–	–	–	–	–	0.2	–	–	18.1	604.3	646.6
Other operating expenses	95.4	353.0	8.8	1.5	2.4	1.1	0.2	1.0	5.5	0.9	41.4	123.6	634.9
Grants and other transfers	125.2	1,535.3	1,467.5	75.2	58.5	8.7	8.0	8.9	11.2	30.3	682.4	696.1	4,707.2
Property management expenses	8.2	9.7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	476.6	494.5
Total expenses from transactions	380.5	2,515.4	1,487.9	82.4	65.4	11.9	10.9	16.8	28.6	35.6	812.3	2,113.2	7,561.0
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)	0.3	(63.5)	–	15.1	–	–	–	–	–	–	(2.7)	(446.5)	(497.6)
Other economic flows included in net result													
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets	0.1	2.5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	(6.3)	(3.6)
Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments	–	1.2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1.2
Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows	0.5	34.7	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.2	2.4	37.9
Total other economic flows included in net result	0.6	38.4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.2	(3.9)	35.5
Net result	0.9	(25.1)	–	15.1	–	–	–	–	–	–	(2.5)	(450.4)	(462.1)
Other economic flows – other comprehensive income													
Items that will not be reclassified to net result													
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	(1.0)	1.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	43.3	43.3
Remeasurement of superannuation defined benefit plans	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.7	0.7
Total other economic flows – other comprehensive income	(1.0)	1.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	44.0	44.0
Comprehensive result	(0.1)	(24.1)	–	15.1	–	–	–	–	–	–	(2.5)	(406.4)	(418.1)

Note:

(i) Refer to Note 4.1.1 for output definitions.

Output ⁽ⁱ⁾ 2025	1 \$M	2 \$M	3 \$M	4 \$M	5 \$M	6 \$M	7 \$M	8 \$M	9 \$M	10 \$M	11 \$M	12 \$M	Total \$M
Total revenue and income from transactions													
Output appropriations	401.8	2,375.9	1,763.3	64.2	64.4	8.7	11.5	23.4	25.7	30.7	754.4	783.2	6,307.1
Special appropriations	63.9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	31.6	5.0	100.6
Rental income	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	594.6	594.6
Grants	7.8	23.9	–	2.1	0.4	1.6	0.1	1.1	1.8	0.9	1.3	244.3	285.3
Other income	1.8	1.9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	50.7	54.2
Total revenue and income from transactions	475.3	2,401.7	1,763.3	66.3	64.8	10.3	11.6	24.5	27.5	31.6	787.4	1,677.8	7,341.8
Expenses from transactions													
Employee benefits	146.1	606.1	14.4	4.7	4.9	2.6	2.6	7.5	10.8	5.5	69.5	213.0	1,087.6
Depreciation and amortisation	11.6	15.9	0.2	–	–	–	–	0.4	–	–	16.6	490.7	535.4
Other operating expenses	92.7	419.4	8.0	2.6	2.7	0.7	0.5	2.0	7.1	1.3	39.9	116.5	693.4
Grants and other transfers	215.2	1,484.2	1,733.3	59.1	57.5	6.9	8.4	14.5	9.6	24.9	661.0	678.3	4,952.9
Property management expenses	8.6	9.9	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	523.8	542.2
Total expenses from transactions	474.2	2,535.5	1,755.9	66.4	65.0	10.2	11.6	24.5	27.5	31.7	787.0	2,022.3	7,811.5
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)	1.1	(133.8)	7.3	(0.1)	(0.3)	0.1	–	–	–	(0.1)	0.4	(344.5)	(469.7)
Other economic flows included in net result													
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets	0.1	3.4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	(9.9)	(6.4)
Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments	0.2	3.0	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3.2
Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows	(1.6)	(41.6)	(0.1)	–	–	–	–	–	(0.1)	–	(0.3)	(5.4)	(49.2)
Total other economic flows included in net result	(1.4)	(35.2)	(0.1)	–	–	–	–	–	(0.1)	–	(0.3)	(15.3)	(52.5)
Net result	(0.3)	(169.0)	7.3	(0.1)	(0.3)	0.1	–	–	(0.1)	(0.1)	0.1	(359.8)	(522.2)
Other economic flows – other comprehensive income													
Items that will not be reclassified to net result													
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	(1.6)	(4.3)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4.2	(1.7)
Remeasurement of superannuation defined benefit plans	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	(1.2)	(1.2)
Total other economic flows – other comprehensive income	(1.6)	(4.3)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3.0	(2.9)
Comprehensive result	(1.9)	(173.2)	7.3	(0.1)	(0.3)	0.1	–	–	(0.1)	(0.1)	0.1	(356.8)	(525.1)

Notes:

(i) Refer to Note 4.1.1 for output definitions.

4.1.3 Departmental outputs – Controlled assets and liabilities for the year ended 30 June 2026

Output ⁽ⁱ⁾ 2026	1 \$M	2 \$M	3 \$M	4 \$M	5 \$M	6 \$M	7 \$M	8 \$M	9 \$M	10 \$M	11 \$M	12 \$M	Total \$M
Assets													
Financial assets	284.6	233.3	217.1	26.9	19.3	14.0	14.4	23.4	47.8	36.1	85.0	1,373.8	2,375.6
Non-financial assets	1,256.2	387.2	(0.3)	–	0.3	–	–	2.4	–	–	40.6	37,924.7	39,611.0
Total assets	1,540.7	620.5	216.8	26.9	19.6	14.0	14.4	25.8	47.8	36.1	125.6	39,298.5	41,986.6
Liabilities													
Liabilities	(153.4)	(1,006.3)	(183.6)	(8.8)	(1.9)	(0.7)	(1.2)	(2.5)	(3.9)	(0.8)	(14.1)	(1,217.4)	(2,594.6)
Total liabilities	(153.4)	(1,006.3)	(183.6)	(8.8)	(1.9)	(0.7)	(1.2)	(2.5)	(3.9)	(0.8)	(14.1)	(1,217.4)	(2,594.6)
Net assets	1,387.4	(385.8)	33.2	18.0	17.7	13.3	13.3	23.2	43.9	35.3	111.4	38,081.1	39,392.0

Note:

(i) Refer to Note 4.1.1 for output definitions

Output ⁽ⁱ⁾ 2025	1 \$M	2 \$M	3 \$M	4 \$M	5 \$M	6 \$M	7 \$M	8 \$M	9 \$M	10 \$M	11 \$M	12 \$M	Total \$M
Assets													
Financial assets	281.1	236.0	214.2	26.0	18.2	16.8	13.9	23.8	47.7	37.6	75.9	1,462.3	2,453.5
Non-financial assets	1,250.3	358.9	(0.2)	–	0.3	–	–	2.6	–	0.1	59.2	37,371.2	39,042.2
Total assets	1,531.4	594.9	214.0	26.0	18.5	16.8	13.9	26.4	47.7	37.7	135.1	38,833.5	41,495.7
Liabilities													
Liabilities	(312.1)	(824.5)	(173.7)	(5.1)	(3.3)	(0.8)	(1.6)	(3.0)	(2.4)	(1.4)	(23.0)	(1,051.2)	(2,401.9)
Total liabilities	(312.1)	(824.5)	(173.7)	(5.1)	(3.3)	(0.8)	(1.6)	(3.0)	(2.4)	(1.4)	(23.0)	(1,051.2)	(2,401.9)
Net assets	1,219.3	(229.6)	40.3	20.9	15.2	16.0	12.3	23.3	45.4	36.3	112.2	37,782.3	39,093.8

Note:

(i) Refer to Note 4.1.1 for output definitions.

4.2 Administered (non-controlled) items

The department's administered activities mainly relate to the output of disability services. The distinction between controlled and administered items is drawn based on whether the Department has the ability to deploy the resources in question for its own benefits (controlled items) or whether it does so on behalf of the State (administered). The department remains accountable for transactions involving administered items, but it does not recognise these items in its controlled financial statements. Administered income includes Victoria's contribution to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements, fees, Commonwealth grants and the proceeds from the sale of administered surplus land and building. Except as otherwise disclosed, administered resources are accounted for on an accrual basis using the same accounting policies adopted for recognition of the departmental items in the financial statements. Both the controlled department financial statements and these administered items are consolidated into the financial statements of the state.

The department does not gain control over assets arising from statutory income, consequently no income is recognised in the department's financial statements. The department collects these amounts on behalf of the state. Accordingly, the amounts are disclosed as income in the schedule of Administered Items.

4.2.1 Administered income and expenses for the year ended 30 June 2026

Output ⁽ⁱ⁾⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ 2026	1 \$M	2 \$M	3 \$M	4 \$M	5 \$M	6 \$M	7 \$M	8 \$M	9 \$M	10 \$M	11 \$M	13 \$M ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	Total \$M
Administered income from transactions													
Commonwealth grants	0.1	3.2	—	—	—	—	—	0.5	—	—	1.4	—	5.2
Sales of goods and services	42.3	21.7	—	—	0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	64.8
Appropriations – payments made on behalf of the state ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	79.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,003.2	3,082.5
Grants	9.0	0.5	16.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26.3
Other	2.4	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.5
Total administered revenue and income from transactions	133.1	25.6	16.8	—	0.8	—	—	0.5	—	—	1.4	3,003.2	3,181.4
Administered expenses from transactions													
Grants and other transfers ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	79.3	—	15.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,003.2	3,097.9
Employee benefits	—	—	1.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.4
Other operating expenses	—	(2.1)	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(3.0)	—	(5.0)
Payments into the consolidated fund	54.0	27.2	—	—	0.8	—	—	0.5	—	—	4.4	—	86.9
Total administered expenses from transactions	133.3	25.1	16.8	—	0.8	—	—	0.5	—	—	1.4	3,003.2	3,181.1
Total administered net result from transactions	(0.2)	0.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.3
Administered other economic flows included in net result													
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total administered other economic flows	—	(0.5)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(0.5)
Administered net result	(0.2)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(0.2)

Notes:

(i) Refer to Note 4.1.1 for output definitions.

(ii) Output 12 Housing Assistance is not applicable for administered activities.

(iii) The administered appropriations and corresponding expenses represent Payments on behalf of the State (POBOS) appropriation the department accesses to administer the State's contribution to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Output ⁽ⁱ⁾⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ 2025	1 \$M	2 \$M	3 \$M	4 \$M	5 \$M	6 \$M	7 \$M	8 \$M	9 \$M	10 \$M	11 \$M	13 \$M ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	Total \$M
Administered income from transactions													
Commonwealth grants	0.5	4.2	–	–	–	–	–	0.5	–	–	1.3	–	6.5
Sales of goods and services	41.9	–	–	–	0.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	42.7
Appropriations – payments made on behalf of the state ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	76.6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,899.0	2,975.6
Grants	14.7	0.3	1.6	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	16.6
Other	1.0	(0.1)	(0.0)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.9
Total administered revenue and income from transactions	134.7	4.4	1.6	–	0.8	–	–	0.5	–	–	1.3	2,899.0	3,042.3
Administered expenses from transactions													
Grants and other expense transfers ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	76.6	–	1.5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,899.0	2,977.1
Other operating expenses	–	–	0.1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.1
Payments into the consolidated fund	58.7	4.9	–	–	0.8	–	–	0.5	–	–	1.3	–	66.2
Total administered expenses from transactions	135.4	4.9	1.6	–	0.8	–	–	0.5	–	–	1.3	2,899.0	3,043.4
Total administered net result from transactions	(0.6)	(0.5)	(0.1)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	(1.1)
Administered other economic flows included in net result													
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets	–	0.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.8
Total administered other economic flows	–	0.8	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	0.8
Administered net result	(0.6)	0.3	(0.1)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	(0.3)

Notes:

- (i) Refer to Note 4.1.1 for output definitions.
- (ii) Output 12 Housing Assistance is not applicable for administered activities.
- (iii) The administered appropriations and corresponding expenses represent Payments on behalf of the State (POBOS) appropriation the department accesses to administer the State's contribution to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

4.2.2 Administered assets and liabilities ⁽ⁱ⁾

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Administered assets		
Financial assets		
Receivables	3.1	3.3
Total administered assets	3.1	3.3
Administered liabilities		
Financial liabilities		
Amounts payable to the consolidated fund	3.1	3.3
Total administered liabilities	3.1	3.3
Total administered net assets	–	–

Note:

- (i) The administered assets and liabilities are not disclosed by output, which is due to the fact that the administered assets and liabilities predominantly relate to the Victorian Natural Disasters Relief Trust Account (NDRA) and Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA).

4.3 Restructuring of administrative arrangements

Transfer of employees from Department of Government Services to the Social Services Regulator (SSR) from 9 February 2026

The Victorian Government issued an administrative order under section 172 of the *Worker Screening Act 2020* restructuring some of its activities via machinery of government changes. As part of the machinery of government restructure:

- The Department of Government Services (as transferor) transferred Workers Screening Unit to the Social Services Regulator (as transferee) effective from 9 February 2026.
- The net receivables of \$1.8 million and net liabilities of \$1.8 million were transferred to the department as a result of the administrative restructure and are recognised in the balance sheet at the carrying amount of those assets in the transferor's (Department of Government Services) balance sheets immediately after the transfer.

Transfer of employees from Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to the Social Services Regulator from 23 February 2026

The Victorian Government issued an administrative order under section 65 of the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005* restructuring some of its activities via machinery of government changes. As part of the machinery of government restructure:

- The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (as transferor) transferred Commission for Children and Young People to the Social Services Regulator (as transferee) effective from 23 February 2026.
- The net receivables of \$1.3 million and net liabilities of \$1.3 million were transferred to the Social Services Regulator as a result of the administrative restructure. The results included in the balance sheet remained unchanged, as the Social Services Regulator is consolidated into the department's financial statements pursuant to a determination made by the Minister for Finance under section 53(1)(b) of the *Financial Management Act 1994 (FMA)*.

The net asset transfers were treated as a contribution of capital by the state.

	2026 DFFH – transfer out \$000	2026 SSR – transfer in \$000	2026 DGS– transfer in \$000	2026 Total net transfer \$000
Assets				
Cash and deposits	(1,292.7)	1,292.7	–	–
Receivables	–	–	1,762.8	1,762.8
Liabilities				
Accrued Salary and Wages	–	–	(128.5)	(128.5)
Employee related provisions	1,292.7	(1,292.7)	(1,634.3)	(1,634.3)
Net assets recognised/(transferred)	–	–	–	–
Net capital contribution from the Crown	–	–	–	–

During 2024–25, there were no machinery of government changes for the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

5. Key assets available to support output delivery

Introduction

The department controls infrastructure and other investments that are utilised in fulfilling its objectives and conducting its activities. They represent the key resources that have been entrusted to the department to be utilised for delivery of those outputs, which primarily relates to the delivery of housing output.

Significant judgement: Fair value measurement

Other than assets under construction, these assets are carried at fair value, additional information is disclosed in Note 8.3 in connection with how those fair values were determined.

Structure

5.1 Total property, plant and equipment

5.1.1 Total service concession assets

5.1.2 Depreciation and amortisation

5.1.3 Reconciliation of movements in carrying amount of property, plant and equipment

5.1 Total property, plant and equipment

	Gross carrying amount		Accumulated depreciation		Net carrying amount	
	2026 \$M	2025 \$M	2026 \$M	2025 \$M	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Land at fair value	24,229.3	24,225.6	–	–	24,229.3	24,225.6
Buildings at fair value	14,208.4	13,726.5	(1,136.2)	(546.0)	13,072.2	13,180.5
Plant and equipment at fair value	12.0	3.0	(2.8)	(2.7)	9.2	0.3
Assets under construction	2,135.0	1,455.5	–	–	2,135.0	1,455.5
Right-of-use assets: land, building and vehicles ⁽ⁱ⁾	179.0	168.2	(89.8)	(75.2)	89.2	93.0
Net carrying amount	40,763.7	39,578.8	(1,228.8)	(623.9)	39,534.9	38,954.9

Notes:

- (i) As a result of a change in FRD 104 Leases effective for reporting periods from 30 June 2026, right-of-use assets are measured at cost for 2025–26. The comparative information for 2024–25 is not restated and is reported at the previously determined fair value. For further information, refer to Note 9.4.

5.1.1 Total service concession assets

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Buildings at fair value	352.5	352.5
Assets under construction ⁽ⁱ⁾	811.0	399.4
Buildings at fair value – accumulated depreciation	(17.6)	(10.6)
Net carrying amount	1,145.9	741.3

Note:

- (i) Refer to Note 7.5.3 Service concession arrangements for further details.

Initial recognition

Items of property, plant and equipment, are measured initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Where an asset is acquired for no or nominal cost, the cost is the asset's fair value at the date of acquisition. Assets transferred as part of a machinery of government change are transferred at their carrying amount.

The cost of constructed non-financial physical assets includes the cost of all materials used in construction, direct labour on the project and an appropriate proportion of variable and fixed overheads. Homes Victoria uses specific estimates to allocate these overheads to capital projects, ensuring each project bears its fair share of indirect costs.

The cost of leasehold improvements is capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the remaining term of the leases or their estimated useful lives.

Service concession assets (under AASB 1059 Service Concession Assets: Grantors) –

Initial measurement

The department initially recognises service concession assets and service concession assets under construction at current replacement cost in accordance with the cost approach to fair value in AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*.

As part of the application of AASB 1059, the department uses a fair value proxy approach for the service concession assets that are under construction. The fair value proxy approach captures the financing cost incurred during the construction of a service concession asset by the private sector, with the aim of achieving faithful representation of the current replacement cost of service concession assets under construction balance.

Right-of-use assets acquired by lessees – Initial measurement

The department recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for:

- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentive received
- any initial direct costs incurred
- an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located.

Subsequent measurement

Property, plant and equipment (PPE) and service concession assets are subsequently measured at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Fair value is determined with regard to the asset's highest and best use (considering legal or physical restrictions imposed on the asset, public announcements or commitments made in relation to the intended use of the asset) and is summarised below by asset category.

In accordance with FRD 103, the department will apply Appendix F of AASB 13 prospectively in its next scheduled formal revaluation in 2028–29 or interim revaluation process (whichever is earlier). Based on the 2026 fair value assessment using the Valuer-General Victoria (VGV) Land and Building indices, the estimated movements were approximately 4.6% for land and 5.6% for buildings and were deemed not material.

Service concession assets – Subsequent measurement

Service concession assets are subject to revaluation as required by FRD 103. When revalued, the fair value of service concession assets will be determined based on current replacement cost.

Right-of-use assets – Subsequent measurement

Right-of-use assets are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated depreciation, impairment and any adjustments for remeasurement of the lease liability. The department depreciates the right-of-use assets on a straight-line basis from the lease commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. Impairment of the right-of-use asset is determined and accounted for in accordance with AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets*. Refer to Note 9.4 Changes in accounting policy.

Non-specialised land and non-specialised buildings – Subsequent measurement

Non-specialised land and non-specialised buildings are valued using the market approach, whereby assets are compared to recent comparable sales or sales of comparable assets that are considered to have nominal value.

Specialised land and specialised buildings – Subsequent measurement

The market approach is also used for specialised land, although is adjusted for the community service obligation (CSO) to reflect the specialised nature of the land being valued.

The CSO adjustment is a reflection of the valuer's assessment of the impact of restrictions associated with an asset to the extent that is also equally applicable to market participants. This is a material estimate.

For the majority of the department's specialised buildings which are under Homes Victoria, the current replacement cost method is used, adjusting for the associated depreciation.

Refer to Note 8.3.2 for additional information on fair value determination of property, plant and equipment.

Impairment of property, plant and equipment

The recoverable amounts of these assets are expected to be materially the same as fair value determined under AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*, with the consequence that AASB 136 does not apply to such assets that are regularly revalued.

5.1.2 Depreciation and amortisation

Charge for the period

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Buildings	594.2	487.2
Plant and equipment	0.1	0.1
Intangible assets	25.3	22.4
Right-of-use assets	28.3	27.0
Aggregate depreciation and amortisation allocated	648.0	536.7
Less depreciation and amortisation capitalised to carrying amount of other assets during the year	(1.4)	(1.3)
Total depreciation and amortisation	646.6	535.4

All buildings, plant, equipment and vehicles that have finite useful lives are depreciated. The exceptions to this rule include items under assets held for sale and land.

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis at rates that allocate the asset value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life.

Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for the current and prior year are included in the table below:

Asset class	2026	2025
Buildings	5 to 85 years	5 to 85 years
• Leasehold improvements	5 to 10 years	5 to 10 years
• Buildings	45 to 85 years	45 to 85 years
Plant, equipment and vehicles	3 to 15 years	3 to 15 years
Intangible assets	3 to 20 years	3 to 20 years

The estimated useful lives, residual value and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period. Estimated useful lives for buildings, and plant, equipment and vehicles remain unchanged since June 2019. Note the estimated useful lives of assets directly impact their depreciation rates, which in turn materially affects the annual depreciation expense.

Right-of-use assets are generally depreciated over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term. Where the department obtains ownership of the underlying leased asset or if the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the entity will exercise a purchase option, the entity depreciates the right-of-use asset over its useful life.

AASB 116 requires annual reviews and adjustments of fixed asset useful life estimates for accurate depreciation.

Buildings depreciate in accordance with the straight-line depreciation method. For buildings marked for early retirement and demolition, accelerated depreciation is applied if approval is given well in advance. If approval is given close to the demolition/retirement date, the building assets are written off. This ensures buildings are fully depreciated or impaired, leaving no residual value by the end of their serviceable period. Depreciation for 2025-26 includes the impact of accelerated depreciation of \$207.7 million (2025: \$95.5 million) which relates to the high-rise towers with established demolition plans that are part of the "44 ageing high-rise renewal project", specifically, 5 towers in Tranche 1 scheduled for demolition in 2025–26, 2 in Tranche 2 in 2026–27, 7 in Tranche 3 in 2028–29 and 2029–30, and the remaining towers scheduled for demolition in future years beyond 2030.

5.1.3 Reconciliation of movements in carrying amount of property, plant and equipment

	Land at fair value \$M	Buildings at fair value \$M	Plant and equipment at fair value \$M	Assets under construction at cost \$M	Right-of-use assets ⁽ⁱ⁾ \$M	ROU assets (i) \$M
Balance at 1 July 2024	24,102.7	13,115.5	0.4	1,175.6	90.1	38,484.3
Capital contributed from asset transfers	(6.2)	(0.6)	–	–	–	(6.8)
Additions	–	–	–	1,070.4	21.2	1,091.7
Disposals	(56.1)	(37.6)	–	–	(7.1)	(100.8)
Net revaluation increments/(decrements)	0.2	(20.2)	–	18.2	–	(1.8)
Depreciation and amortisation	–	(487.3)	(0.1)	–	(26.9)	(514.3)
Fair value of assets received/(provided) free of charge or for nominal consideration	(2.6)	–	–	–	–	(2.6)
Transfers in/(out) of assets under construction	187.6	621.1	–	(808.6)	–	–
Transfers (to)/from assets held for sale	–	(10.6)	–	–	0.4	(10.2)
Other changes	–	–	–	–	15.3	15.3
Balance at 1 July 2025	24,225.6	13,180.3	0.3	1,455.6	93.0	38,954.9
Additions	–	–	–	1,427.4	20.6	1,448.0
Disposals	(101.7)	(199.9)	–	–	(8.0)	(309.6)
Net revaluation increments/(decrements)	(4.4)	17.9	–	29.8	–	43.3
Depreciation and amortisation	–	(594.3)	(0.1)	–	(28.3)	(622.7)
Fair value of assets received/(provided) free of charge or for nominal consideration	(0.1)	–	–	–	–	(0.1)
Transfers in/(out) of assets under construction	109.9	667.8	–	(777.7)	–	–
Transfers (to)/from assets held for sale	–	0.4	–	–	(1.4)	(1.0)
Other changes	–	–	9.0	–	13.1	22.1
Balance at 30 June 2026	24,229.3	13,072.2	9.2	2,135.0	89.0	39,534.9

Notes:

- (i) As a result of a change in FRD 104 *Leases* effective for reporting periods ending on or after 30 June 2026, right-of-use assets are measured at cost for 2025–26. The comparative information for 2024–25 is not restated and is reported at the previously determined fair value. For further information, refer to Note 9.4.

6. Other assets and liabilities

Introduction

This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from the department's controlled operations.

Structure

6.1 Receivables

6.2 Loans

6.3 Payables

6.3.1 Maturity analysis of contractual payables

6.4 Other provisions

6.4.1 Reconciliation of movements in other provisions

6.5 Other liabilities

6.1 Receivables

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Current receivables		
<i>Contractual</i>		
Tenants in arrears	24.2	23.4
Other receivables	461.2	211.8
<i>Less allowance for impairment losses of contractual receivables</i>	(6.0)	(9.8)
	479.4	225.4
<i>Statutory</i>		
Amounts owing from Victorian Government	684.1	633.2
GST input tax credit recoverable	88.9	36.4
	773.0	669.6
Total current receivables	1,252.4	895.0
Non-current receivables		
<i>Statutory</i>		
Amounts owing from Victorian Government	102.8	179.6
Total non-current receivables	102.8	179.6
Total receivables	1,355.2	1,074.6

Contractual receivables are classified as financial instruments and categorised as 'financial assets at amortised costs'. They are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. The department holds the contractual receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and therefore subsequent to initial measurement they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Statutory receivables do not arise from contracts and are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except for impairment) but are not classified as financial instruments for disclosure purposes. The department applies AASB 9 for initial measurement of the statutory receivables and, as a result, statutory receivables are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Amounts recognised from the Victorian Government represent funding for all commitments incurred and are drawn from the Consolidated Fund as the commitments fall due. Details about the department's impairment policies, the department's exposure to credit risks and the calculation of the loss allowance are set out in Note 8.1.3.1.

6.2 Loans

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Current loans		
<i>Contractual</i>		
Fixed interest home loans	0.4	0.5
Indexed interest home loans	5.4	6.4
Community housing loans	–	38.9
Total current loans	5.7	45.8
Non-current loans		
<i>Contractual</i>		
Fixed interest home loans	0.1	0.2
Indexed interest home loans	0.3	0.6
Community housing loans	20.2	20.2
Total non-current loans	20.6	21.0
Less allowance for impairment losses of contractual loans		
Indexed interest home loans	(0.1)	(0.1)
Total allowance for impairment losses of contractual loans	(0.1)	(0.1)
Total loans	26.2	66.7

The department's loans are related to housing loan programs that are no longer active. The majority of these housing loans are secured by a registered mortgage. However, there are a small number of loans that are on terms incorporated in the contracts of sale. Whilst the title remains in the name of the vendor, Homes Victoria has claim to the title until the amount owing under the contract of sale is paid in full.

Loans are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial measurement they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

Defaults and breaches: During the current and prior year, there were no defaults and breaches of any of the loans.

6.3 Payables

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Current payables		
<i>Statutory</i>		
FBT payable	1.2	0.9
<i>Contractual</i>		
Employee benefits payable	24.4	18.2
Supplies and services	88.6	127.9
Amounts payable to external agencies	33.4	44.3
Concession payments to pensioners	166.8	133.0
Tenants in advance	33.6	31.9
Other	139.0	93.6
Total current payables	487.0	449.8
Non-current payables		
<i>Contractual</i>		
Other	–	0.8
Total non-current payables	–	0.8
Total payables	487.0	450.6

Payables consist of:

- **contractual payables** classified as financial instruments and measured at amortised cost. Accounts payable represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the department prior to the end of the reporting period that are unpaid, and
- **statutory payables**, that are recognised and measured similarly to contractual payables, but are not classified as financial instruments and are not included in financial liabilities at amortised cost, because they do not arise from a contract.

Payables for supplies and services have an average credit period of 30 days.

The terms and conditions of amounts payable to the government and agencies vary according to the particular agreements and as they are not legislative payables, they are not classified as financial instruments.

6.3.1 Maturity analysis of contractual payables ⁽ⁱ⁾

	Carrying amount \$M	Nominal amount \$M	Maturity dates				
			Less than 1 month \$M	1–3 months \$M	3 months – 1 year \$M	1–5 years \$M	5+ years \$M
2026							
Payables	485.8	485.8	455.9	8.0	21.9	–	–
Total	485.8	485.8	455.9	8.0	21.9	–	–
2025							
Payables	449.7	449.7	418.8	22.5	7.6	0.8	–
Total	449.7	449.7	418.8	22.5	7.6	0.8	–

Note:

(i) Maturity analysis is presented using the contractual undiscounted cash flows.

6.4 Other provisions

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Current provisions		
Redress scheme provision	175.3	203.6
Insurance claims	262.7	249.0
Make-good provision	5.1	4.6
Total current provisions	443.1	457.2
Non-current provisions		
Redress scheme provision	–	–
Insurance claims	305.1	273.6
Make-good provision	9.9	11.1
Total non-current provisions	315.0	284.7
Total other provisions	758.1	741.9

Provisions are recognised when the department has a present obligation, the future sacrifice of economic benefits is probable, and the amount of the provision can be measured reliably. The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at reporting date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties surrounding the obligation.

Where a provision is measured using the cash flows estimated to settle the present obligation, its carrying amount is the present value of those cash flows, using a discount rate that reflects the time, value of money and risks specific to the provision.

6.4.1 Reconciliation of movements in other provisions

	Redress Scheme provision 2026 \$M	Make-good 2026 \$M	Insurance claims 2026 \$M	Total 2026 \$M
Opening balance	203.6	15.7	522.6	741.9
Additional provisions recognised	–	(0.6)	277.0	276.4
Reductions arising from payments/claims handling expenses/other sacrifices of future economic benefits	(28.3)	–	(182.0)	(210.3)
Actuarial revaluations of insurance claims liability inclusive of risk margin	–	–	(67.0)	(67.0)
Unwind of discount and effect of changes in the discount rate	–	–	17.1	17.1
Closing balance	175.3	15.1	567.7	758.1

When some or all of the economic benefits required to settle a provision are expected to be received from a third party, the receivable is recognised as an asset if it is virtually certain that recovery will be received and the amount of the receivable can be measured reliably.

The **make-good** provision is recognised in accordance with the lease agreement over the building facilities. The department must remove any leasehold improvements from the leased building and restore the premises to its original condition at the end of the lease term.

The **Redress scheme** provision is the recognition of the compensation amount of Redress Scheme for Victorians who were placed in institutional care prior to 1990 (Pre-1990 Care Leavers) and experienced physical, psychological, and emotional abuse or neglect, with its key assumption being based on an actuarial assessment of the number of eligible claimant population and approved eligible redress payment amount.

Redress Scheme:

On 12 October 2022, the former Premier announced that Redress would be co-designed with people with lived and living experience and key stakeholder organisations and urgent hardship payments for people in exceptional circumstances (now known as advance redress payments) would be available before it commences. On 8 February 2024, Premier Allan delivered a formal apology in Parliament to Victorians who experienced historical abuse and neglect as children in institutional care.

Redress opened for applications on 10 December 2024 and was expected to be open for 18-months. Redress has since been extended and is now expected to be closed for applications on 31 December 2026.

Redress is for people who experienced physical, emotional or psychological abuse and neglect as children in institutional settings in Victoria before 1990. People who apply and are found eligible can be offered:

- a payment of up to \$20,000
- a personal acknowledgement or apology
- up to 20 counselling sessions.

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- lived as a child (before the age of 18) in a Victorian institution for at least 6 months (in total) before 1 January 1990
- experienced physical, psychological, or emotional abuse or neglect in the Victorian institution.

Significant judgements and assumptions

Redress

The Redress scheme provision is the recognition of the compensation amount for people who experienced non-sexual abuse in institutional care, with its key assumption being based on an actuarial assessment of the number of eligible claimant population and approved eligible redress payment amount. Actual outcomes are heavily dependent on a broad range of largely unknown factors including the number of Pre-1990 Care Leavers who experienced institutional child abuse and the number that will participate.

In determining the redress provision amount, the Department obtained actuarial advice from an independent actuary to estimate the likely number of claims to be accepted by the scheme. DFFH have then used this information, amongst other judgements, to determine the liability in accordance with AASB 137 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets*.

A quarterly report that includes “trigger point” would be produced to trigger the following:

- Early closure of Redress if the budget is at risk of being exceeded, and
- Extension of Redress if the number of actual applications is lower than estimates.

Due to the lower-than-expected take-up rate, redress has since been extended by a further six months to December 2026. As at 30 June 2026, the department has not adjusted the provisions as it expects that the claim numbers will increase as redress approaches its revised closing date. The department will continue to monitor actual claims experience and assess the adequacy of the provision in 2026–27.

The provision:

- Includes Redress payments, and internal administration expenses, such as counselling and personal acknowledgement or apology costs, staff costs and operating expense that may be incurred in administering Redress.
- Includes escalation of internal administration and operating costs across the period of Redress.
- Is a best estimate and does not include any additional risk margin related to the uncertainty of the estimates.

Insurance claims:

The department engaged the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA) under a claims administration agreement to manage its insurance arrangements. These arrangements include corporate (including property and liability), community service organisation (CSOs) insurance covers as well as self-insured historical abuse claims (civil claims).

Significant judgements and assumptions

Civil Claims and CSO insurance

The department makes significant judgements and assumptions in respect to its self-insured historical abuse claims (civil claims) and CSO insurance provision. These judgements and assumptions include whether possible obligations arising from cases that may be lodged in the future by possible claimants should be included in the provision and the calculation of estimated average settlement costs.

The amount provided for historical abuse claims and CSO insurance are based on assessed claims lodged on the basis that these represent present obligations in line with the requirements of AASB 137. Possible obligations arising from future claims that may or may not take place by future claimants are classified as contingent liabilities (refer to Note 8.2 for more details).

Another key judgement for this cohort relates to the ultimate average settlement costs. Average settlement costs are projected with reference to recent average settlement trends and allowance for future superimposed inflation.

To assist with this, the department has obtained actuarial advice from an independent actuary to determine the liability in accordance with AASB 137 *Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets*.

The provision:

- Contains an allowance for the time value of money. Claim costs have been discounted back to the valuation date using risk-free discount rates.
- Contains allowances for economic inflation and superimposed inflation (where relevant), which reflect trends in court awards and increases in the level of compensation for injuries.
- Includes an allowance for claims management fees which are paid to VMIA to manage these claims in accordance with an agreed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

A risk margin is applied to the net central estimate of the claims liabilities to achieve a 75% probability that the claims liabilities will be sufficient. To estimate the risk margin, the independent actuary considers the uncertainty associated with the actuarial models and assumptions, the quality of the data used, and the external environmental impacts. Risk margins are set for each class of business, although the risk margin for the abuse claims is considered to be a significant judgement given both the materiality of these liabilities and the associated uncertainties in future cost outcomes for abuse claims.

These liabilities have been assessed in accordance with actuarial Professional Standard 302 *Valuations of General Insurance Claims (PS 302)*, which applies to actuaries undertaking a valuation of various liabilities including general insurance, accident compensation and self-insurance claims for an entity.

6.5 Other liabilities

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Other liabilities – current		
Grant of right to operate liability	2.8	2.0
Other liabilities – non-current		
Grant of right to operate liability	119.2	117.8
Total other liabilities	122.0	119.8

A **grant of right to the operator (GORTO) liability** is recognised where the department does not have a contractual obligation to pay cash or another financial asset but grants the right to the operator to earn revenue from the public use of the asset. This type of arrangement is commonly referred to as an economic service concession arrangement. It represents unearned revenue and is progressively reduced over the period of the arrangement in accordance with its substance. Further information is included in Note 7.5.3 Service concession arrangements.

7. How we financed our operations

Introduction

This section provides information on the sources of finance utilised by the department during its operations, along with interest expenses (the cost of borrowings) and other information related to financing activities of the department.

This section includes disclosures of balances that are financial instruments (such as borrowings and cash balances). Notes 8.1 and 8.3 provide additional, specific financial instrument disclosures.

Structure

- 7.1 Borrowings
- 7.2 Maturity analysis of borrowings
- 7.3 Cash flow information and balances
 - 7.3.1 Reconciliation of net result for the period to net cash flow from operating activities
- 7.4 Trust account
 - 7.4.1 Trust account balances
 - 7.4.2 Trust account – Legislative references and nature
- 7.5 Commitments for expenditure
 - 7.5.1 Total commitments payable
 - 7.5.2 Service concession arrangements commitments
 - 7.5.3 Service concession arrangements

7.1 Borrowings

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Current borrowings		
Advances from Victorian Government	27.8	32.5
Service concession financial liability	5.9	2.0
Lease liabilities	37.7	35.0
Total current borrowings	71.4	69.4
Non-current borrowings		
Loans from Treasury Corporation of Victoria (TCV)	129.8	129.8
Service concession financial liabilities	664.8	525.2
Lease liabilities	39.4	44.1
Total non-current borrowings	834.0	699.1
Total borrowings	905.4	768.5

Service concession financial liability relates to the Ground Lease Model – public housing renewal program arrangement recognised applying AASB 1059. Interest is charged on the liability and recognised in the interest expense section below. The liability is reduced over the term of the arrangement through quarterly cash payments to the operator. Further information is included in Note 7.5.3 Service concession arrangements.

Borrowings are classified as financial instruments. All interest-bearing liabilities are initially recognised at the fair value of the consideration received, less directly attributable transaction costs. The measurement basis subsequent to initial recognition depends on whether the department has categorised its interest-bearing liabilities as either 'financial liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss', or financial liabilities at 'amortised cost'. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the interest-bearing liabilities. The department determines the classification of interest-bearing liabilities at initial recognition.

Defaults and breaches: During the current and previous financial year, there were no defaults or breaches of required conditions in relation to any of the borrowings.

7.2 Maturity analysis of borrowings

	Carrying amount \$M	Nominal amount \$M	Maturity dates				
			Less than 1 month \$M	1–3 months \$M	3 months – 1 year \$M	1–5 years \$M	5+ years \$M
2026							
Advances from Victorian Government	27.8	27.8	27.8	–	–	–	–
Loans from TCV	129.8	129.8	–	–	–	129.8	–
Service concession financial liability	670.8	702.4	–	0.5	5.5	44.8	651.6
Lease liabilities	77.0	83.9	8.2	5.5	26.7	39.2	4.3
Total	905.4	943.9	36.0	6.0	32.2	213.8	655.9
2025							
Advances from Victorian Government	32.5	32.5	31.5	–	1.0	–	–
Loans from TCV	129.8	129.8	–	–	–	129.8	–
Service concession financial liability	527.2	701.9	–	0.5	1.5	38.0	661.9
Lease liabilities	79.0	84.6	5.8	5.6	26.0	42.8	4.4
Total	768.5	948.8	37.3	6.1	28.5	210.6	666.3

7.3 Cash flow information and balances

Cash and deposits, including cash equivalents, comprise cash on hand and cash at bank, deposits at call and highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less, which are held for the purpose of meeting short-term cash commitments rather than for investment purposes and are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with an insignificant risk of changes in value.

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Total cash and deposits disclosed in the balance sheet		
Short-term deposits ⁽ⁱ⁾	844.1	966.3
Cash at bank ⁽ⁱ⁾	78.6	30.0
Restricted cash ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	5.2	267.1
Funds held in trust ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	66.2	48.5
RentAssist bonds	0.1	0.3
Balance as per cash flow statement	994.2	1,312.2

Notes:

- (i) Cash and short-term deposits include funds held by Homes Victoria in the Central Banking System as well as funds that have been committed to a number of significant projects and are expected to be expensed in 2026–27 (as disclosed in Note 7.5).
- (ii) As of 30 June 2026, the department held restricted cash of \$5.2 million (2025: \$267.1 million) representing funds set aside and unavailable for general operational use. The decreased balance reflected obligation settlement under its various services concession arrangements during 2025–26.
- (iii) Please refer to Note 7.4.1 Trust account balances for further details.

Due to the state's investment policy and funding arrangements, the department does not hold a large cash reserve in its bank accounts. Cash received from generation of income is generally paid into the state's bank account ('public account'). Similarly, departmental expenditure, including in the form of cheques drawn for the payments to its suppliers and creditors, are made via the public account. The public account remits to the department the cash required upon presentation of cheques by the department's suppliers or creditors.

7.3.1 Reconciliation of net result for the period to net cash flow from operating activities

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Net result for the period	(462.1)	(522.2)
Non-cash movements		
(Gain)/loss on sale of non-financial assets	3.6	6.5
Depreciation and amortisation	646.6	535.4
Resources (received)/provided free of charge	0.1	2.6
Movements in assets and liabilities		
Financial assets		
(Increase)/decrease in receivables	(209.2)	86.4
(Increase)/decrease in prepayments	–	12.9
Financial liabilities		
Increase/(decrease) in payables	36.1	(21.1)
Increase/(decrease) in employee related provisions and other provisions	16.0	233.1
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	31.1	333.7

7.4 Trust account

7.4.1 Trust account balances

The department has responsibility for transactions and balances relating to trust funds held on behalf of third parties external to the department. Funds managed on behalf of third parties are not recognised in these financial statements as they are managed on a fiduciary and custodial basis, and therefore are not controlled by the department. For trust accounts that are controlled by the department, the transactions are incorporated as part of the department's financial statements. Please refer to Note 7.3 Cash flow information and balances.

Any earnings on the funds held pending distribution are also applied to the trust funds under management as appropriate.

The following is a listing of trust account balances relating to trust accounts controlled and administered by the department.

	2026					2025					
	Opening balance as at 1 July 2025 \$M	Total receipts \$M	Total payments \$M	Non-cash movement \$M	Closing balance as at 30 June 2026 \$M	Opening balance as at 1 July 2024 \$M	Machinery of Government – transfer in/(out) \$M	Total receipts \$M	Total payments \$M	Non-cash movement \$M	Closing balance as at 30 June 2025 \$M
Controlled trusts											
Intellectually Handicapped Children's Amenities Fund	0.1	–	–	–	0.1	0.1	–	–	–	–	0.1
Mental Health Fund	2.1	63.9	63.9	–	2.1	2.1	–	63.9	63.9	–	2.1
Treasury Trust	11.9	20.4	17.3	–	15.0	12.4	–	4.7	5.3	0.0	11.9
Inter-departmental Transfer Trust	15.9	43.3	33.8	(0.3)	25.0	18.3	–	31.1	29.6	(3.9)	15.9
Vehicle Lease Trust Account	12.7	2.6	0.5	–	14.8	13.2	–	3.5	4.0	–	12.7
Victorian Veterans Fund	0.0	0.5	0.4	–	0.1	0.2	–	0.5	0.7	–	0.0
Anzac Day Proceeds Fund	1.1	1.1	1.2	–	1.1	0.8	–	1.1	1.0	0.2	1.1
Commonwealth Treasury Trust Fund	4.7	3.3	–	–	8.1	–	–	4.7	–	–	4.7
Total controlled trusts	48.5	135.3	117.2	(0.3)	66.2	47.1	–	109.5	104.5	(3.7)	48.5

	2026					2025					
	Opening balance as at 1 July 2025 \$M	Total receipts \$M	Total payments \$M	Non-cash movement \$M	Closing balance as at 30 June 2026 \$M	Opening balance as at 1 July 2024 \$M	Machinery of Government – transfer in/(out) \$M	Total receipts \$M	Total payments \$M	Non-cash movement \$M	Closing balance as at 30 June 2025 \$M
Administered trusts											
Public Service Commuter Club	(0.1)	0.1	–	–	(0.1)	(0.1)	–	0.1	0.1	–	(0.1)
Revenue Suspense Account	0.8	0.5	–	–	1.3	0.5	–	0.3	–	–	0.8
Victorian Natural Disasters Relief Fund	(5.8)	16.8	16.8	(15.3)	(21.1)	(10.3)	–	1.6	1.6	4.5	(5.8)
Total administered trusts	(5.1)	17.4	16.8	(15.3)	(19.8)	(9.9)	–	2.0	1.7	4.5	(5.1)

7.4.2 Trust account – Legislative references and nature

Controlled trusts

Intellectually Handicapped Children's Amenities Fund

Established under the *Intellectually Disabled Persons Act 1986* which was then repealed by the *Disability Act 2006*. The trust was established to meet the cost of the provision of amenities for children under the age of 16 years in the care of the department.

Mental Health Fund

Established under the *Gaming Regulation Act 2003* for the establishment and maintenance of mental health services and residential institutions and facilities, for the administration of the *Mental Health Act 1986* and for the administration of the *Disability Act 2006*.

Treasury Trust

Established to record the receipt and disbursement of unclaimed monies and other funds held in trust.

Inter-Departmental Transfer Trust

Established under s. 19 of the *Financial Management Act 1994* by the Minister for Finance to record inter-departmental transfers when no other trust arrangement exists.

Vehicle Lease Trust Account

Established to record transactions relating to the government's vehicle pool and fleet management business.

Departmental Suspense Account

Short-term clearing account pending correct identification of payments.

Victorian Veterans Fund

Established under s. 20 of the *Veterans Act 2005* to educate Victorians about Victoria's involvement in Australia's war and service history, to honour or commemorate the service or sacrifice of veterans, to assist the education of veterans' dependants and any other purpose agreed in writing by the Minister for Veterans. The Victorian Veterans Council may invest any part of the Victorian Veterans Fund not immediately required for the purposes of the Victorian Veterans Fund in any manner approved by the Treasurer.

Anzac Day Proceeds Fund

Established under s. 4A of the *ANZAC Day Act 1958* to receive funds as required to be paid by the *ANZAC Day Act 1958* and the *Racing Act 1958* and to be credited to the Victorian Veterans Fund.

Commonwealth Treasury Trust Fund

Established under s. 19 of the *Financial Management Act 1994*, for the primary purpose of holding funds from the Commonwealth Government that are to be on-passed to relevant departments.

Administered trusts

Public Service Commuter Club

Established to record the receipt of amounts associated with the Public Service Commuter Club Scheme and deductions from club members' salaries as well as to record payment to the Public Transport Corporation.

Revenue Suspense Account

Short-term clearing account pending correct identification of receipts.

Victorian Natural Disasters Relief Fund

Established for the purpose of granting assistance to persons who suffer losses as a result of flood, bushfires and other natural disasters.

7.5 Commitments for expenditure

Commitments for future expenditure include operating and capital commitments arising from contracts. These commitments are recorded below at their nominal value and inclusive of GST where applicable. These future expenditures cease to be disclosed as commitments once the related liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet.

7.5.1 Total commitments payable

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
The following commitments have not been recognised as liabilities in the financial statements.		
(a) Capital expenditure commitments		
Less than 1 year	615.9	342.9
Longer than 1 year and not longer than 5 years	58.1	1.8
Longer than 5 years	—	—
Total capital expenditure commitments	673.9	344.7
(b) Other operating commitments		
Less than 1 year	217.6	164.4
Longer than 1 year and not longer than 5 years	6.8	17.6
Longer than 5 years	—	—
Total other operating commitments	224.4	182.0
(c) Grant and other expense transfers to NGO ⁽ⁱ⁾		
Less than 1 year	297.1	1,108.7
Longer than 1 year and not longer than 5 years	231.1	68.6
Longer than 5 years	1,065.9	242.3
Total grant and other expense transfers to NGO	1,594.1	1,419.6
Total commitments other than SCA commitments	2,492.6	1,946.3
(d) SCA commitments (Refer to Note 7.5.2)		
Ground Lease Model 1 – Public Housing Renewal Program		
Less than 1 year	0.3	0.3
Longer than 1 year and not longer than 5 years	1.3	1.2
Longer than 5 years	139.7	140.0
Total Ground Lease Model 1 – Public Housing Renewal Program commitments	141.2	141.5
Ground Lease Model 2		
Less than 1 year	33.5	—
Longer than 1 year and not longer than 5 years	184.7	172.1
Longer than 5 years	1,497.2	1,543.3
Total Ground Lease Model 2	1,715.4	1,715.4
Total SCA commitments	1,856.6	1,856.9
Total commitments for expenditure (inclusive of GST)	4,349.2	3,803.2
Less GST recoverable from the ATO	352.8	308.0
Total commitments for expenditure (exclusive of GST)	3,996.4	3,495.2

Notes:

- (i) "NGO" stands for "Non-Government Organisations", which includes initiatives to increase social and affordable community housing stock as part of the Big Housing Build as well as the Building Works Package to fund the maintenance and upgrade of social housing.

7.5.2 Service concession arrangements commitments

AASB 1059 *Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors* applies to arrangements where an operator provides public services, using a service concession asset, on behalf of the state and importantly, the operator manages at least some of the public service at its own discretion. The department must also control the asset for AASB 1059 to apply.

Significant judgement – service concession arrangements

There is significant judgement involved in determining what constitutes 'public service' and furthermore whether the operators manage at least some of that public service at their own discretion.

In the housing portfolio, Registered Housing Agencies (RHAs) are contracted to provide community housing services to the public with either existing or newly constructed dwellings and qualify as Operators. RHAs are required to be not-for-profit entities by the *Housing Act 1983*.

The department considers that only the activities that involve the supply of dwellings (i.e. providing housing capacity) are fundamental to the overall delivery of public service. In other words, public housing services cannot be provided without the supply of dwellings, even if other peripheral activities (e.g. tenancy management, cleaning and maintenance) are conducted.

As only the supply of dwellings and the management of the dwellings post construction are considered public service in the context of the housing portfolio, the operators are considered to have discretion in providing public service if they make decisions on the delivery of dwellings (e.g. the detailed design of the dwellings, material used in the construction and scheduling of sub-contractors, etc).

The department has determined that the arrangements Homes Victoria entered into in June 2021 (Ground Lease Model 1) and August 2023 (Ground Lease Model 1 Modification, Flemington Phase 2) with Building Communities (Vic) Limited and November 2023 (Ground Lease Model 2) with Building Even Better Communities Limited for the design, construction, financing, management and maintenance of residential rental dwellings should be accounted for under AASB 1059. These projects deliver a mixture of dwellings, being social housing, affordable housing, specialist disability accommodation and private rentals across multiple sites for 40 year concession periods, whereby all land remains in public ownership. Private rental dwellings do not form part of the Service Concession Asset, however, at the end of the 40-year concession period, all dwellings, including the private rental dwellings return to Homes Victoria's management. The details are provided in Note 7.5.3 below.

7.5.3 Service concession arrangements

For arrangements within the scope of AASB 1059, at initial recognition the department records a **service concession asset (SCA)** at current replacement cost, with a related liability, which could be a financial liability, an accrued revenue liability (referred to as the 'Grant Of A Right To The Operator' or GORTO liability) or a combination of both.

For both Ground Lease Model 1 – Public Housing renewal program phase 1&2 and Ground Lease Model 2, the department initially recognised the liability at the same amount as the SCA, adjusted by the amount of any consideration from the department to the operator, or from the operator to the department.

Exception to this occurs when the department reclassifies an existing asset to a SCA. When this occurs, no liability is recognised unless additional consideration is provided to the operator. Instead, the department recognises a SCA and a corresponding liability for the amounts spent on the upgrade/expansion work.

A **financial liability** is recognised where the department has a contractual obligation to pay the operator for providing the SCA. It is measured in accordance with AASB 9 *Financial Instruments* and is recognised as a borrowing (Note 7.1). The liability is increased by interest charges, based on the interest rate implicit in the arrangement. Where the interest rate is not specified in the arrangement, the prevailing market rate of interest for a similar instrument with similar credit ratings is used. The liability is reduced by any payments made by the department to the operator as required by the contract.

A **grant of right to the operator (GORTO) liability** is recognised where the department does not have a contractual obligation to pay cash or another financial asset but grants the right to the operator to earn revenue from the public use of the asset (Note 6.5). This type of arrangement is commonly referred to as an economic service concession arrangement. It represents unearned revenue and is progressively reduced over the period of the arrangement in accordance with its substance.

After initial recognition, SCAs are subsequently measured applying the revaluation model (refer to Note 5.1 *Total Property, Plant and Equipment*).

As part of the application of AASB 1059, the department uses a fair value proxy approach for the service concession assets that are under construction. The fair value proxy approach captures the financing cost incurred during the construction of a service concession asset by the private sector, with the aim of achieving faithful representation of the current replacement cost of service concession assets under construction balance.

The department has the following service concession arrangements:

	Notes	Classification of Arrangement	Carrying amount of asset as at 30 June ⁽ⁱ⁾	Carrying amount of liability as at 30 June ⁽ⁱ⁾	Liability as at 30 June ^(v)	Capital Contribution	Other Commitments	Commitments ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾
			\$000	\$000	Discounted Value \$000	Nominal Value \$000	Present Value \$000	Nominal Value \$000
Commissioned 2026								
Ground Lease Model 1 – PHRP phase 1 ^(iv)	7.5.3.1	Hybrid (GORTO & Financial Liability)	334,916	293,748	–	–	47,731	141,278
Uncommissioned 2026								
Ground Lease Model 1 – Flemington phase 2	7.5.3.2	GORTO Liability	170,655	38,611	–	5,241	–	–
Ground Lease Model 2	7.5.3.3	Hybrid (GORTO & Financial Liability)	640,388	460,388	489,200	–	53,299	1,715,364

	Notes	Classification of Arrangement	Carrying amount of asset as at 30 June ⁽ⁱ⁾	Carrying amount of liability as at 30 June ⁽ⁱ⁾	Liability as at 30 June ^(v)	Capital Contribution	Other Commitments	Commitments ^{(ii) (iii)}
			\$000	\$000	Discounted Value \$000	Nominal Value \$000	Present Value \$000	Nominal Value \$000
Commissioned 2025								
Ground Lease Model 1 – PHRP phase 1 ^(iv)	7.5.3.1	Hybrid (GORTO & Financial Liability)	341,966	297,621	–	–	45,840	141,566
Uncommissioned 2025								
Ground Lease Model 1 – Flemington phase 2	7.5.3.2	GORTO Liability	84,731	34,563	–	87,130	–	–
Ground Lease Model 2	7.5.3.3	Hybrid (GORTO & Financial Liability)	314,699	314,699	489,200	180,000	49,817	1,715,364

Notes:

- (i) For arrangements within the scope of AASB 1059, on transition and at initial recognition a public sector grantor is required to record the asset(s) used in the service concession arrangement at current replacement cost in accordance with the cost approach to fair value under *AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement*, with a related liability, which in the case of the Project results in the combination of a financial liability and a 'Grant Of A Right To The Operator' or GORTO liability.
- (ii) Total commitments represent the nominal value of the total service payments to be incurred during the Project's 40-year operations phase and includes the capital contribution component.
- (iii) Commissioned SCAs: Only operating, maintenance and lifecycle costs commitments of the SCA for the remaining term of the SCA contract are included in the commitment's amounts, as the capital component (i.e. the construction of the underlying asset) is recorded as a liability on the department's balance sheet (Refer to Note 7.1); Uncommissioned SCAs: The commitments include the capital component not yet recognised on the balance sheet (i.e. the amount relating to the asset which hasn't been constructed as yet), the department's future capital contributions as well as the operating, maintenance and lifecycle costs commitments for the SCA contract.
- (iv) Capital contribution for Ground Lease Model 1 – PHRP phase 1 has been fully drawn down over the construction term.
- (v) The discounted value of the liability represents the capital component of the future Quarterly Service Payment cash flows to be paid as at the expected date of commissioning (Commercial acceptance date).

Arrangement specific details

7.5.3.1 Ground Lease Model project – Public Housing Renewal Program 1

Operator: Building Communities (Vic) Ltd

Concession period: 40 years

In June 2021, Homes Victoria achieved financial close on a housing arrangement whereby it has appointed the Building Communities consortium to finance, design, construct, maintain and operate 619 brand-new social housing dwellings, 112 affordable homes, 327 private rental dwellings and 26 Specialist Disability Accommodation dwellings, at existing housing sites at Brighton, Flemington and Prahran.

The 3 redeveloped sites have been delivered under a Ground Lease Model on a fully financed, build-to-rent basis. The ground lease will be delivered as a Public Private Partnership arrangement under the Partnerships Victoria framework. Construction of the assets commenced in 2021 and Commercial Acceptance was achieved in early 2024. The service concession arrangement is now in the Operational Phase.

A ground lease model is being used for this package whereby title to public land and dwellings (which will have a residual design life) will revert to Homes Victoria at the end of the 40-year concession period.

Homes Victoria is contracted to make quarterly service payments for the 40-year operating term, which will include both a capital and a life cycle component. While operating the dwellings, Building Communities will perform the following functions: asset management, community engagement, maintenance and lifecycle replacement, tenancy management and residential lease management.

7.5.3.2 Ground Lease Model 1 Flemington Phase 2 project

Operator: Building Communities (Vic) Ltd

Concession period: 40 years

In August 2023, Homes Victoria achieved financial close on a housing arrangement Modification to the Ground Lease Model 1 (GLM1) Project Deed whereby it appointed the Building Communities consortium to finance, design, construct, maintain and operate an additional 50 new social housing dwellings, 221 affordable rental homes and 15 Specialist Disability Accommodation dwellings, at the Holland Court Flemington housing site (Flemington Phase 2).

The scope is being delivered as a Modification to the base GLM1 project on a fully financed, build-to-rent basis. GLM1, including Flemington Phase 2 is being delivered as a Public Private Partnership arrangement under the Partnerships Victoria framework.

Enabling works and remediation works for Flemington Phase 2 commenced in mid-2024. Main works construction of the assets is well underway with renters expected to move into the new homes from late 2026.

A ground-lease model is being used for this project whereby title to public land and dwellings (which will have a residual design life) remains with Homes Victoria and control of the assets will revert to Homes Victoria at the end of the 40-year concession period.

Notwithstanding that the consortium will operate and maintain the assets for the 40-year concession term, there are no quarterly service payments that apply to this Modification. While operating the dwellings for the 40-year concession period, Building Communities will perform the following functions: asset management, community engagement, maintenance and lifecycle replacement, tenancy management and residential lease management.

7.5.3.3 Ground Lease Model 2 project

Operator: Building Even Better Communities Limited

Concession period: 40 years

In November 2023, Homes Victoria achieved financial close on a housing arrangement whereby it appointed the Building Even Better Communities consortium to finance, design, construct, maintain and operate 659 brand new social housing dwellings, 182 affordable rental homes, 473 private rental dwellings and 56 Specialist Disability Accommodation dwellings, at existing housing sites at Simmons Street South Yarra, Essex Street Prahran, Bluff Road Hampton East and Barak-Beacon Port Melbourne.

The four sites are being delivered under a Ground Lease Model on a fully financed, build-to-rent basis. The ground lease will be delivered as a Public Private Partnership arrangement under the Partnerships Victoria framework. Construction of the assets commenced in late 2024 and is well underway and Commercial Acceptance is expected by late 2026, with renters expected to move into the new homes shortly thereafter.

A ground-lease model is being used for this package whereby title to public land and dwellings (which will have a residual design life) will remain with Homes Victoria during the 40-year concession period and control of the assets will revert to Homes Victoria at the end of the 40-year concession period.

Homes Victoria is contracted to make quarterly service payments for the 40-year operating term, which will include both a capital and a life cycle component. While operating the dwellings, Building Even Better Communities will perform the following functions: asset management, community engagement, maintenance and lifecycle replacement, tenancy management and residential lease management.

8. Risks, contingencies and valuation judgements

Introduction

The department is exposed to risk from its activities and outside factors. In addition, it is often necessary to make judgements and estimates associated with recognition and measurement of items in the financial statements. This section sets out financial instrument specific information (including exposures to financial risks), as well as those items that are contingent in nature or require a higher level of judgement to be applied, which for the department relate mainly to fair value determination.

Structure

- 8.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures
 - 8.1.1 Financial instruments: Categorisation
 - 8.1.2 Financial instruments: Net holding gain/(loss) on financial instruments by category
 - 8.1.3 Financial risk management objectives and policies
- 8.2 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities
- 8.3 Fair value determination
 - 8.3.1 Fair value determination of financial assets and liabilities
 - 8.3.2 Fair value determination of non-financial physical assets

8.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures

Introduction

Financial instruments arise out of contractual agreements that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Due to the nature of the department's activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statute rather than a contract (for example taxes, fines and penalties). Such assets and liabilities do not meet the definition of financial instruments in AASB 132 *Financial Instruments: Presentation*.

Guarantees issued on behalf of the department are financial instruments because, although authorised under statute, terms and conditions for each financial guarantee may vary and are subject to an agreement.

Categories of financial assets

Financial assets at amortised costs are recognised if both of the following criteria are met and the assets are not designated as fair value through net result:

- the assets are held by the department to collect the contractual cash flows, and
- the assets' contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest.

These assets are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment.

The department recognises the following assets in this category:

- cash and deposits
- receivables (excluding statutory receivables)
- short-term deposits
- loan receivables.

Categories of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities at amortised cost are initially recognised on the date they are originated. They are initially measured at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these financial instruments are measured at amortised cost with any difference between the initially recognised amount and the redemption value being recognised in profit and loss over the period of the interest-bearing liability, using the effective interest rate method. The department recognises the following liabilities in this category:

- payables (excluding statutory payables)
- borrowings (including lease liabilities).

Offsetting financial instruments: Financial instrument assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount presented in the balance sheet when, and only when, the department has a legal right to offset the amounts and intends either to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Some master netting arrangements do not result in an offset of balance sheet assets and liabilities. Where the department does not have a legally enforceable right to offset recognised amounts, because the right to offset is enforceable only on the occurrence of future events such as default, insolvency or bankruptcy, they are reported on a gross basis.

Derecognition of financial assets: A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is derecognised when:

- the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired, or
- the department retains the right to receive cash flows from the asset, but has assumed an obligation to pay them in full without material delay to a third party under a 'pass through' arrangement, or
- the department has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset and either:
 - has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, or
 - has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, but has transferred control of the asset.

Where the department has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards or transferred control, the asset is recognised to the extent of the department's continuing involvement in the asset.

Derecognition of financial liabilities: A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires.

When an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as a derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability. The difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognised as an 'other economic flow' in the comprehensive operating statement.

8.1.1 Financial instruments: Categorisation

	Cash and deposits \$M	Financial assets at amortised cost (AC) \$M	Financial liabilities at amortised cost (AC) \$M	Total \$M
2026				
Contractual financial assets				
Cash and deposits	994.2	–	–	994.2
Receivables ⁽ⁱ⁾	–	479.4	–	479.4
Loans	–	26.2	–	26.2
Total contractual financial assets	994.2	505.6	–	1,499.8
Contractual financial liabilities				
Payables ⁽ⁱ⁾	–	–	485.8	485.8
Borrowings ⁽ⁱ⁾	–	–	877.6	877.6
Total contractual financial liabilities	–	–	1,363.4	1,363.4

	Cash and deposits \$M	Financial assets at amortised cost (AC) \$M	Financial liabilities at amortised cost (AC) \$M	Total \$M
2025				
Contractual financial assets				
Cash and deposits	1,312.2	–	–	1,312.2
Receivables ⁽ⁱ⁾	–	225.4	–	225.4
Loans	–	66.7	–	66.7
Total contractual financial assets	1,312.2	292.1	–	1,604.3
Contractual financial liabilities				
Payables ⁽ⁱ⁾	–	–	449.7	449.7

	Cash and deposits \$M	Financial assets at amortised cost (AC) \$M	Financial liabilities at amortised cost (AC) \$M	Total \$M
2025				
Borrowings ⁽ⁱ⁾	–	–	737.0	737.0
Total contractual financial liabilities	–	–	1,186.7	1,186.7

Note:

- (i) The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts e.g. amounts owing to/from Victorian Government and GST input tax credit recoverable and taxes payable. Refer to Note 6.1 for the breakdown of contractual and statutory receivables, Note 6.3 for the breakdown of contractual and statutory payables, and Note 7.1 for the breakdown of borrowings.

8.1.2 Financial instruments: Net holding gain/(loss) on financial instruments by category

	Total interest income/(expense) \$M
2026	
Contractual financial assets	
Loans	4.7
Short-term investments – term deposits	38.5
Total contractual financial assets	43.2
Contractual financial liabilities	
Payables ⁽ⁱ⁾	–
Borrowings	(49.7)
Total contractual financial liabilities	(49.7)
2025	
Contractual financial assets	
Loans	5.8
Short-term investments – term deposits	37.5
Total contractual financial assets	43.3
Contractual financial liabilities	
Payables ⁽ⁱ⁾	–
Borrowings	(36.9)
Total contractual financial liabilities	(36.9)

Note:

- (i) The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts, for example, amounts owing to/from Victorian Government and GST input tax credit recoverable and taxes payable.

The net holding gains or losses disclosed above are determined as follows:

- for cash and cash equivalents, loans and receivables, the net gain or loss is calculated by taking the movement in the fair value of the asset, the interest income, and minus any impairment recognised in the net result
- for financial liabilities measured at amortised cost, the net gain or loss is the interest expense.

8.1.3 Financial risk management objectives and policies

The department does not enter into derivative financial instruments to manage its exposure to interest rates.

The department does not enter into or trade financial instruments, including derivative financial instruments, for speculative purposes.

The department's principal financial instruments comprise:

- cash and cash equivalents
- receivables (excluding statutory receivables)
- payables (excluding statutory payables)
- borrowings (including lease liabilities)

Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement, and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, with respect to each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument above are disclosed in Note 8.3 Fair value determination.

The main purpose in holding financial instruments is to prudentially manage the department's financial risks within the government policy parameters. The department uses different methods to measure and manage the different risks to which it is exposed.

The carrying amounts of the department's contractual financial assets and financial liabilities by category are disclosed in Note 8.1.1 Financial instruments: Categorisation.

8.1.3.1 Financial instruments: credit risk

Credit risk refers to the possibility that a borrower will default on its financial obligations as and when they fall due.

The department's exposure to credit risk arises from the potential default of a counter party on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the department.

Credit risk associated with the department's contractual financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is the Victorian Government. For debtors other than the Victorian Government and home loan recipients, it is the department's policy to only deal with entities with high credit ratings of a minimum triple-B rating and to obtain sufficient collateral or credit enhancements, where appropriate. In addition, the department does not engage in hedging for its contractual financial assets.

Provision of impairment for financial assets is calculated based on past experience, and current and expected changes in client credit ratings, or based on the assumptions about risk of default and expected credit loss rates. Tenant loans are made up of small amounts therefore the likelihood of default is considered immaterial.

Contract financial assets are written off against the carrying amount when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery. Bad debt written off by mutual consent is classified as a transaction expense. Bad debt written off following a unilateral decision is recognised as other economic flows in the net result.

The department does not have material credit risk as the department mainly holds financial assets that are non-interest bearing except for cash and cash equivalents which are mainly cash at bank. As with the policy for debtors, the department's policy is to only deal with domestic banks with high credit ratings.

Except as otherwise detailed in the following table, the carrying amount of contractual financial assets recorded in the financial report statements, net of any allowances for losses, represents the department's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking account of the value of any collateral obtained.

There has been no material change to the department's credit risk profile in 2025–26.

Credit quality of contractual financial assets

	Financial institutions A plus credit rating Total \$M	Government agencies double-A credit rating Total ⁽ⁱ⁾ \$M	Credit ratings not disclosed \$M	Total \$M
2026				
Cash and deposits (not assessed for impairment due to the nature of cash)	926.5	67.7	–	994.2
Contractual receivables applying the simplified approach for impairment ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	–	444.3	35.1	479.4
Loans ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	–	–	26.2	26.2
Statutory receivables (with no impairment loss recognised)	875.8	–	–	875.8
Total financial assets	1,802.3	512.0	61.3	2,375.6
2025				
Cash and deposits (not assessed for impairment due to the nature of cash)	1,262.3	49.9	–	1,312.2
Contractual receivables applying the simplified approach for impairment ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	–	179.5	45.9	225.4
Loans ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	–	–	66.7	66.7
Statutory receivables (with no impairment loss recognised)	849.2	–	–	849.2
Total financial assets	2,111.5	229.4	112.6	2,453.5

Notes:

- (i) State of Victoria credit rating was downgraded from AAA to AA as at 30 June 2021.
- (ii) The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts, for example, amounts owing from Victorian Government, GST input tax credit recoverable and other taxes payable.
- (iii) The carrying amounts consist of amounts due from numerous counterparties for which no credit ratings have been disclosed due to impracticability.

Impairment of financial assets under AASB 9

The department records the allowance for expected credit loss for the relevant financial instruments applying AASB 9's Expected Credit Loss approach. Subject to AASB 9 impairment assessment includes the department's contractual receivables and statutory receivables.

Equity instruments are not subject to impairment under AASB 9. Other financial assets mandatorily measured or designated at fair value through net result are not subject to impairment assessment under AASB 9. While cash and cash equivalents are also subject to the impairment requirements of AASB 9, the identified impairment loss was immaterial.

Contractual receivables at amortised cost

The department applies the AASB 9's simplified approach for all contractual receivables to measure expected credit losses using a lifetime expected loss allowance based on the assumptions about risk of default and expected loss rates. The department has grouped contractual receivables on shared credit risk characteristics and days past due and selected the expected credit loss rate based on the department's past history, existing market conditions, as well as forward-looking estimates at the end of financial year.

On this basis, the department determines the loss allowance at the end of the financial year as follows:

	Gross amount \$M	Not past due and not impaired ⁽ⁱ⁾ \$M	Past due				Total \$M
			Less than 1 month \$M	1–3 months \$M	3 months – 1 year \$M	1–5 years \$M	
2026							
Expected loss rate		0%	1%	1%	1%	23%	
Gross carrying amount of contractual receivables	485.4	101.1	59.7	39.5	271.8	13.4	485.4
Loss allowance		–	0.5	0.3	2.2	3.0	6.0
2025							
Expected loss rate		0%	0%	1%	25%	52%	
Gross carrying amount of contractual receivables	235.1	117.0	77.8	11.7	18.7	9.9	235.1
Loss allowance		–	–	0.1	4.6	5.0	9.7

Note:

(i) The amounts disclosed here include repayments of borrowings that are not scheduled to be repaid in the next 12 months.

The average credit period for receivables is 30 days.

Reconciliation of movement in the loss allowance for contractual receivables is shown as follows:

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Balance at beginning of the year	(9.7)	(7.1)
Opening loss allowance	(9.7)	(7.1)
Decrease/(increase) in provision recognised in the net result	1.4	(5.9)
Reversal of provision of receivables written off during the year as uncollectible	2.3	3.3
Balance at the end of the year	(6.0)	(9.7)

Credit loss allowance is classified as other economic flows in the net result. Contractual receivables are written off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery and impairment losses are classified as a transaction expense. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against the same line item.

Statutory receivables at amortised cost

The department's non-contractual receivables arising from statutory requirements are not financial instruments. However, they are nevertheless recognised and measured in accordance with AASB 9 requirements as if those receivables are financial instruments.

Statutory receivables are considered to have low credit risk, taking into account the counterparty's credit rating, risk of default and capacity to meet contractual cash flow obligations in the near term. As a result, the loss allowance recognised for these financial assets during the period was limited to 12 months of expected losses. No loss allowance has been recognised.

8.1.3.2 Financial instruments: market risk

The department's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk. The department's exposure to other price risks is insignificant. Objectives, policies and processes used to manage the risk are disclosed below.

The tables that follow show the impact on the department's net result and equity for each category of financial instrument held by the department at the end of the reporting period, if the above movements were to occur.

Interest rate risk

Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The department has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risks through cash and deposits and short-term deposits.

Interest rate exposures are insignificant and arise predominantly from liabilities bearing variable interest rates.

The carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities that are exposed to interest rates and the department's sensitivity to interest rate risk are set out in the table that follows.

Interest rate exposure of financial instruments

	Weighted average effective interest rate (%)	Carrying amount \$M	Interest rate exposure		
			Fixed interest rate \$M	Variable interest rate \$M	Non-interest bearing \$M
2026					
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	4.1%	994.2	—	921.7	72.5
Receivables ⁽ⁱ⁾		479.4	—	—	479.4
Loans	1.4%	26.2	0.3	—	25.9
Total financial assets		1,499.8	0.3	921.7	577.7
Financial liabilities					
Payables ⁽ⁱ⁾		485.8	1.0	—	484.8
Borrowings ⁽ⁱ⁾	6.0%	877.6	877.6	—	—
Total financial liabilities		1,363.4	878.6	—	484.8
2025					
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	4.2%	1,312.2	—	1,258.8	53.4
Receivables ⁽ⁱ⁾		225.4	—	—	225.4
Loans	1.4%	66.7	0.3	—	66.4
Total financial assets		1,604.3	0.3	1,258.8	345.2
Financial liabilities					
Payables ⁽ⁱ⁾		449.7	1.0	—	448.7
Borrowings ⁽ⁱ⁾	6.0%	737.0	735.9	—	1.1
Total financial liabilities		1,186.7	736.9	—	449.8

Note:

- (i) The carrying amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts, for example, amounts owing to/from Victorian Government and GST input tax credit recoverable and taxes payable.

Sensitivity disclosure analysis and assumptions

The department's sensitivity to market risk is determined based on the observed range of actual historical data for the preceding five-year period, with all variables other than the primary risk variable held constant. The department's fund managers cannot be expected to predict movements in market rates and prices. Sensitivity analyses are shown for illustrative purposes only. The following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months.

A shift of +1.0% and -0.5% (2025: +1.0% and -0.5%) in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates.

Several loan programs have loans with interest rates linked to movement in the consumer price index (CPI). The total balances outstanding under these programs have reduced to a level that any changes to the CPI have a limited impact on the amount of interest charged and no new lending is made under these programs.

The table below discloses the impact on the department's net result and equity for each category of financial instrument held by the department at the end of the reporting period.

Interest rate risk sensitivity analysis

	Carrying amount \$M	Interest rate risk		Consumer Price Index (CPI)	
		-0.50% Net result \$M	+1.00% Net result \$M	-0.25% Net result \$M	+1.5% Net result \$M
2026					
Contractual financial assets					
Cash and deposits ⁽ⁱ⁾	994.2	(4.6)	9.2	—	—
Receivables ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	479.4	—	—	—	—
Loans ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	26.2	—	—	—	—
Total impact	1,499.8	(4.6)	9.2	—	—
Contractual financial liabilities					
Payables ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	485.8	—	—	—	—
Borrowings ^(iv)	877.6	—	—	—	—
Total impact	1,363.4	—	—	—	—

	Carrying amount \$M	Interest rate risk		Consumer Price Index (CPI)	
		-0.50% Net result \$M	+1.00% Net result \$M	-0.25% Net result \$M	+1.5% Net result \$M
2025					
Contractual financial assets					
Cash and deposits ⁽ⁱ⁾	1,312.2	(6.3)	12.6	—	—
Receivables ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	225.4	—	—	—	—
Loans ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	66.7	—	—	—	—
Total impact	1,604.3	(6.3)	12.6	—	—
Contractual financial liabilities					
Payables ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	449.7	—	—	—	—
Borrowings ^(iv)	737.0	—	—	—	—
Total impact	1,186.7	—	—	—	—

Notes:

- (i) All cash and deposits are held in Australian dollars and were held on deposits at fixed and variable interest rates. This item is not subject to any other identified risk sensitivities.
- (ii) The carrying amount is denominated in Australian dollars and is non-interest bearing. This item is not subject to the identified risk sensitivities.
- (iii) The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts, for example, amounts owing to/from Victorian Government and GST input tax credit recoverable and taxes payable.
- (iv) Borrowings are denominated in Australian dollars. \$670.7 million (2025: \$527.2 million) relates to Service concession financial liability and \$77.1 million (2025: \$79.1 million) relates to lease liabilities.

8.2 Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet, but are disclosed by way of a disclosure and, if quantifiable, are stated at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

Contingent assets

Contingent assets are possible assets that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity.

These are classified as either quantifiable, where the potential economic benefit is known, or non-quantifiable.

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Quantifiable contingent assets		
Details and estimates of contingent assets are as follows:		
a) Bank guarantee held for: building contracts	45.0	52.6
Total	45.0	52.6

Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:

- possible obligations that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the entity, or
- present obligations that arise from past events but are not recognised because:
 - it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligations, or
 - the amount of the obligations cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Contingent liabilities are also classified as either quantifiable or non-quantifiable.

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Quantifiable contingent liabilities		
a) The department has estimated that potential liability exists in respect of a number of legal actions instigated by clients and their representatives, employees and others, and other contractual liabilities.	0.7	–
Total	0.7	–

Non-quantifiable contingent liabilities

From time to time the department enters into arrangements with other parties to compensate them for losses they might incur as a result of transactions they enter into. The arrangements are evaluated to establish whether they represent onerous contracts, contingent liabilities or whether they are executory in nature.

There are a number of litigations under way at balance date, the details of which are not disclosed in order not to prejudice the cases. Contingent liabilities are not secured over any of the assets of the department.

Insurance claims

The department engaged the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA) under a claims administration agreement to manage its insurance arrangements, including those related to self-insured historical abuse claims that are civil in nature and Community Service Organisations (CSOs) insurance program.

For self-insured historical abuse claims and CSOs insurance program, the department has been served with a number of claims and the amount provided is based on assessed claims lodged on the basis that these represent present obligations in line with the requirements of AASB 137.

Possible future claims may or may not arise from future claimants and these possible liabilities can only be confirmed by claims being made and subsequent assessment. Given these circumstances, it is impracticable to accurately quantify the full financial effects of these potential future claims.

8.3 Fair value determination

Significant judgement: Fair value measurements of assets and liabilities

Fair value determination requires judgement and the use of assumptions. This section discloses the most significant assumptions used in determining fair values. Changes to assumptions could have a material impact on the results and financial position of the department.

This section sets out information on how the department determined fair value for financial reporting purposes. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

The following assets and liabilities are carried at fair value:

- financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss
- financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income
- land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (excluding right-of-use assets)

In addition, the fair values of other assets and liabilities which are carried at amortised cost also need to be determined for disclosure purposes.

The department determines the policies and procedures for determining fair values for both financial and non-financial assets and liabilities as required.

Fair value hierarchy

In determining fair values, a number of inputs are used. To increase consistency and comparability in the financial statements, these inputs are categorised into three levels, also known as the fair value hierarchy. The levels are as follows:

- Level 1 – Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2 – Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable
- Level 3 – Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable

The department determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by reassessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

The Valuer-General Victoria (VGV) is the department's independent valuation agency. The department, in conjunction with VGV, monitors changes in the fair value of each asset and liability through relevant data sources to determine whether revaluation is required.

How this section is structured

For those assets and liabilities for which fair values are determined, the following disclosures are provided:

- carrying amount and the fair value (which would be the same for those assets measured at fair value)
- which level of the fair value hierarchy was used to determine the fair value
- in respect of those assets and liabilities subject to fair value determination using Level 3 inputs:
 - a reconciliation of the movements in fair values from the beginning of the year to the end
 - details of significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value determination.

This section is divided between disclosures in connection with fair value determination for financial instruments (refer Note 8.3.1) and non-financial physical assets (refer Note 8.3.2).

8.3.1 Fair value determination of financial assets and liabilities

The fair values and net fair values of financial assets and liabilities are determined as follows:

- Level 1 – the fair value of financial instruments with standard terms and conditions and traded in active liquid markets are determined with reference to quoted market prices
- Level 2 – the fair value is determined using inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the financial asset or liability, either directly or indirectly
- Level 3 – the fair value is determined in accordance with generally accepted pricing models based on discounted cash flow analysis using unobservable market inputs.

The department currently holds a range of financial instruments that are recorded in the financial statements where the carrying amounts are a reasonable approximation of fair values, either due to their short-term nature or with the expectation that they will be paid in full by the end of the 2025–26 reporting period.

8.3.2 Fair value determination of non-financial physical assets

Fair value measurement hierarchy

		Fair value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 ⁽ⁱ⁾	Level 2 ⁽ⁱ⁾	Level 3 ⁽ⁱ⁾
2026	Carrying amount \$M	\$M	\$M	\$M
Land at fair value ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾				
Non-specialised land	24,065.2	–	24,065.2	–
Specialised land	164.1	–	–	164.1
Total land at fair value	24,229.3	–	24,065.2	164.1
Buildings at fair value ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾				
Non-specialised buildings	12,593.1	–	12,593.1	–
Specialised buildings	445.3	–	–	445.3
Total buildings at fair value	13,038.4	–	12,593.1	445.3
Plant, equipment and vehicles at fair value ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾				
Plant and equipment	9.2	–	9.2	–
Total plant, equipment and vehicles at fair value	9.2	–	9.2	–

		Fair value measurement at end of reporting period using:		
		Level 1 ⁽ⁱ⁾	Level 2 ⁽ⁱ⁾⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	Level 3 ⁽ⁱ⁾
2025	Carrying amount \$M	\$M	\$M	\$M
Land at fair value				
Non-specialised land	24,068.5	–	24,068.5	–
Specialised land	164.1	–	–	164.1
Total land at fair value	24,232.5	–	24,068.5	164.1
Buildings at fair value				
Non-specialised buildings	13,063.7	–	13,063.7	–
Specialised buildings	126.9	–	–	126.9
Total buildings at fair value	13,190.5	–	13,063.7	126.9
Plant, equipment and vehicles at fair value				
Plant and equipment	0.3	–	0.3	–
Total plant, equipment and vehicles at fair value	0.3	–	0.3	–

Note:

- (i) Classified in accordance with the fair value hierarchy. The department, in conjunction with the VGV, monitors the changes in the fair value of building and land assets through relevant data sources to determine whether revaluation is required.
- (ii) As a result of a change in FRD 104 Leases effective for reporting periods from 30 June 2026, right-of-use assets are measured at cost for 2025–26. The comparative information for 2024–25 is not restated and is reported at the previously determined fair value. For further information, refer to Note 9.4.

Non-specialised land and non-specialised buildings are valued using the market approach, whereby assets are compared to recent comparable sales or sales of comparable assets that are considered to have nominal value.

Homes Victoria land and buildings are primarily held in Level 2 as it is considered that each residential dwelling assessed has an active and liquid market. As such, the market value of each residential asset has been determined by reference to the current property market for similar assets.

Specialised land and specialised buildings: The market approach is used for specialised land, although may be adjusted for the community service obligation (CSO) to reflect the specialised nature of the land being valued.

The CSO adjustment is a reflection of the valuer's assessment of the impact of restrictions associated with an asset to the extent that is also equally applicable to market participants. This approach is in light of the highest and best use consideration required for fair value measurement, and takes into account the use of the asset that is physically possible, legally permissible, and financially feasible. As adjustments of CSO are considered as significant unobservable inputs, specialised land with a CSO adjustment would primarily be classified as Level 3 assets.

For the majority of the department's specialised buildings, the current replacement cost method is used, adjusting for the associated depreciations. As depreciation adjustments are considered as significant, unobservable inputs in nature, specialised buildings are primarily classified as Level 3 fair value measurements.

An independent valuation of the departments' land and buildings was performed by the Valuer-General Victoria in financial year 2023–24. The effective date of the valuation is 30 June 2024.

Vehicles are valued using the current replacement cost method. The department acquires new vehicles and at times disposes of them before the end of their economic life. The process of acquisition, use and disposal in the market is managed by experienced fleet managers in the department who set relevant depreciation rates during use to reflect the utilisation of the vehicles.

Plant and equipment is held at fair value. When plant and equipment is specialised in use, such that it is rarely sold other than as part of a going concern, fair value is determined using the current replacement cost method.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period to 30 June 2026.

For all assets measured at fair value, the current use is considered the highest and best use.

AASB 2022-10 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities* amended AASB 13 by adding Appendix F Australian implementation guidance for not-for-profit public sector entities. Appendix F explains and illustrates the application of the principles in AASB 13 on developing unobservable inputs and the application of the cost approach. These clarifications are mandatorily applicable annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024.

FRD 103 permits Victorian public sector entities to apply Appendix F of AASB 13 in their next scheduled formal asset revaluation or interim revaluation (whichever is earlier). Annual fair value assessments for 30 June 2026 using indices did not give rise to material changes in the value of plant and equipment. In accordance with FRD 103, the department will apply Appendix F of AASB 13 prospectively in its next scheduled formal revaluation in 2028-29 or interim revaluation process (whichever is earlier). Based on the 2026 fair value assessment using the VGV Land and Building indices, the estimated movements were approximately 4.6% for land and 5.6% for buildings, and were deemed not material.

Reconciliation of Level 3 fair value movements

	Specialised land \$M	Specialised buildings \$M	Total \$M
2026			
Opening balance	164.1	126.9	291.0
Additions	–	–	–
Capitalisation of work in progress	–	2.4	2.4
Reassessment of lease payments	–	–	–
Increase/(decrease) in make-good provision	–	–	–
Disposals	–	–	–
Capital contributed from asset transfers	–	–	–
Transfers in/(out) of Level 3	–	334.9	334.9
Depreciation	–	(18.0)	(18.0)
Subtotal of gains or losses recognised in net result	–	(18.0)	(18.0)
Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows – other comprehensive income			
Net revaluation increments/(decrements)	–	(1.0)	(1.0)
Subtotal of gains or losses recognised in other economic flows	–	(1.0)	(1.0)
Closing balance	164.1	445.3	609.4

	Specialised land \$M	Specialised buildings \$M	Total \$M
2025			
Opening balance	170.2	146.6	316.8
Additions	–	–	–
Capitalisation of work in progress	–	2.5	2.5
Reassessment of lease payments	–	–	–
Increase/(decrease) in make-good provision	–	–	–
Disposals	–	–	–
Capital contributed from asset transfers	(6.2)	(0.6)	(6.8)
Gains or losses recognised in net result		–	
Depreciation	–	(20.0)	(20.0)
Subtotal of gains or losses recognised in net result	–	(20.0)	(20.0)
Gains or losses recognised in other economic flows – other comprehensive income			
Net revaluation increments/(decrements)	–	(1.6)	(1.6)
Subtotal of gains or losses recognised in other economic flows	–	(1.6)	(1.6)
Closing balance	164.1	126.9	291.0

Description of significant unobservable inputs to Level 3 valuations

	Valuation technique	Significant Unobservable Inputs
Specialised land	Market approach	Community Service Obligation (CSO) adjustment (rate 20–80%)
Specialised buildings	Current replacement cost	Direct cost per square metre
		Useful life of specialised buildings
Plant and equipment	Current replacement cost	Useful life of equipment
		Cost per unit

Significant unobservable inputs have remained unchanged since June 2025.

9. Other disclosures

Introduction

This section includes additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or otherwise, for the understanding of this financial report.

Structure

- 9.1 Ex-gratia expenses
- 9.2 Other economic flows included in net result
- 9.3 Reserves
- 9.4 Changes in accounting policy
- 9.5 Entities included in the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing financial statements pursuant to section 53(1)(b) of the FMA
- 9.6 Responsible persons
- 9.7 Remuneration of executives
- 9.8 Related parties
- 9.9 Remuneration of auditors
- 9.10 Subsequent events
- 9.11 Other accounting policies
- 9.12 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective
- 9.13 Glossary of technical terms
- 9.14 Style conventions

9.1 Ex-gratia expenses

Ex-gratia expenses are the voluntary payments of money or other non-monetary benefit (for example a write off) that is not made either to acquire goods, services or other benefits for the entity or to meet a legal liability, or to settle or resolve a possible legal liability of or claim against the entity.

There were no ex-gratia expense items greater than or equal to \$5,000 in the current and previous year.

9.2 Other economic flows included in net result

Other economic flows are changes in the volume or value of an asset or liability that do not result from transactions. Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows include the gains or losses from:

- the revaluation of the present value of the long service leave liability due to changes in the bond interest rates and the effects of changes in actuarial assumptions
- other revaluations on the value of outstanding insurance claims and liabilities
- bad debt expenses.

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
(a) Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets		
Proceeds from disposal of non-financial physical assets		
Land	90.6	48.5
Buildings	210.8	40.3
Shared home ownership scheme	1.9	1.9
Miscellaneous assets	10.6	10.6
Total revenue from disposal of non-financial physical assets	313.9	101.3
Costs on disposal of non-financial physical assets		
Land	102.0	62.3
Buildings	205.5	36.4
Shared home ownership scheme	2.0	2.1
Miscellaneous assets	7.8	7.0
Total costs on disposal of non-financial physical assets	317.3	107.8
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-financial assets	(3.6)	(6.5)
(b) Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments		
Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments and statutory receivables/payables	1.2	3.2
Total net gain/(loss) on financial instruments	1.2	3.2
(c) Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows		
Net gain/(loss) arising from revaluation of long service leave liability	3.7	(4.9)
Revaluation and adjustments of insurance claims	32.6	(38.5)
Bad debt expenses	1.6	(5.8)
Total other gains/(losses) from other economic flows	37.9	(49.2)

9.3 Reserves

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
(a) Accumulated surplus/(deficit)		
Balance at beginning of financial year	(978.8)	(455.4)
Adjustment ⁽ⁱ⁾	54.7	–
Net result for the year	(462.1)	(522.2)
Remeasurement of superannuation defined benefit plans	0.7	(1.2)
Balance at the end of financial year	(1,385.5)	(978.8)
(b) Physical asset revaluation surplus		
Balance at beginning of financial year	8,754.5	8,756.2
Revaluation increments/(decrements) of land and buildings	43.3	(1.7)
Balance at the end of financial year	8,797.8	8,754.5
Physical asset revaluation surplus represented by:		
• Land	6,072.5	6,076.9
• Buildings	2,725.3	2,677.6
Total physical asset revaluation surplus	8,797.8	8,754.5
(c) Contributed capital		
Balance at beginning of financial year	31,318.1	30,261.5
Asset transfer via capital contribution	–	(6.8)
Capital contributions by Victorian State Government	661.6	1,063.4
Balance at the end of financial year	31,979.7	31,318.1
Total equity	39,392.0	39,093.8

Notes:

- (i) Homes Victoria received a favourable Private Binding Ruling during 2025–26 confirming the Australian Tax Office accepts that the supplies of accommodation to tenants with a disability should be GST-free under the *A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999*. Accordingly, Homes Victoria is entitled to claim back the GST paid on eligible costs relating to those GST-free supplies as an input tax credit. Retrospective claims on both operating and capital expenses can be made in arrears. As a result, an adjustment was made to the opening balance of the accumulated surplus/(deficit) and physical asset revaluation for 2025–26 to reflect GST recovered on expense accounts for prior years.

9.4 Changes in accounting policy

Right-of-use assets

The department has made a change in accounting policy to change the measurement basis from the revaluation model to the cost model for the subsequent measurement of right-of-use assets arising from market leases, in accordance with the updated requirements under FRD 104.

Previously, the department had measured all right-of-use assets arising from market leases using the revaluation model under AASB 13. Following the change in accounting policy, the Department will measure all right-of-use assets using the cost model. Right-of-use assets measured using the cost model are held at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment and any adjustments for remeasurement of lease liability. Periodic revaluations are not required; however, the cost model requires annual impairment assessments in accordance with AASB 136.

Upon the adoption of the cost model, the department has applied a modified retrospective approach. The approach takes the right-of-use asset's carrying amounts recorded under the revaluation model as at 30 June 2025 as the right-of-use asset's opening balances on application of the cost model.

Accordingly, the comparative information presented is not restated and is reported at the previously determined fair value.

Right-of-use assets arising from significantly below-market leases

The department is not required to make any adjustments to right-of-use assets arising from significantly below-market leases, including peppercorn leases, as the department already measures these right-of-use assets using the cost model in accordance with AASB 16 and FRD 104, and are thus not impacted as a result of this accounting policy change.

Impacts on financial statements

On transition to the cost model, there was no impact on the department's financial statements. No impairment was identified by the Department for the right-of-use asset held as at 30 June 2026.

9.5 Entities included in the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing financial statements pursuant to section 53(1)(b) of the FMA

The financial information of the following entities has been included into the department's 2025–26 financial statements pursuant to a determination made by the Minister for Finance under s. 53(1)(b) of the *Financial Management Act 1994*:

- Homes Victoria (from 1 February 2021)
- Commission for Children and Young People (from 1 July 2015)
- Disability Worker Registration Board (from 1 June 2020)
- Victorian Disability Worker Commission (from 1 June 2020)
- Respect Victoria (from 1 February 2021)
- Victorian Veterans Council (from 1 February 2021)
- Social Services Regulator (from 1 July 2024)

The financial effects of each of those entities, except Homes Victoria, were trivial to the financial statements, both individually and in aggregate. Therefore, those entities are reported in aggregate, together with the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing in the table below.

	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing		Homes Victoria		Eliminations and adjustments		Total	
	2026 \$M	2025 \$M	2026 \$M	2025 \$M	2026 \$M	2025 \$M	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Total revenue and income from transactions	5,407.9	5,675.9	1,671.8	1,681.4	(16.2)	(15.5)	7,063.4	7,341.8
Total expenses from transactions	5,458.9	5,801.2	2,118.5	2,025.8	(16.2)	(15.5)	7,561.0	7,811.5
Net result from transactions	(51.0)	(125.3)	(446.7)	(344.4)	–	–	(497.6)	(469.7)
Total assets	2,688.1	2,662.1	39,308.4	38,848.2	(10.0)	(14.6)	41,986.6	41,495.7
Total liabilities	1,377.2	1,350.7	1,227.4	1,065.8	(10.0)	(14.6)	2,594.6	2,401.9

9.6 Responsible persons

In accordance with the Directions of the Minister for Finance under the *Financial Management Act 1994* the following disclosures are made for the responsible persons for the reporting period.

Names

The persons who held the positions of Ministers and Accountable Officers ⁽ⁱ⁾ in the department were as follows:

Relevant office	Minister or Accountable Officer	Period
Minister for Disability	Hon. Lizzie Blandthorn	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Minister for Children	Hon. Lizzie Blandthorn	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Minister for Veterans	The Hon. Natalie Suleyman	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Minister for Youth	The Hon. Natalie Suleyman	1 July 2025 to 14 April 2026
Minister for Youth	Hon. Luba Grigorovitch	15 April 2026 to 30 June 2026
Minister for Carers and Volunteers	The Hon. Ros Spence	1 July 2025 to 14 April 2026
Minister for Carers and Volunteers	Hon. Luba Grigorovitch	15 April 2026 to 30 June 2026
Minister for Prevention of Family Violence	The Hon. Natalie Hutchins	1 July 2025 to 18 December 2025
Minister for Prevention of Family Violence	Ingrid Stitt MP	19 December 2025 to 14 April 2026
Minister for Prevention of Family Violence	The Hon. Melissa Horne	15 April 2026 to 30 June 2026
Minister for Women	The Hon. Natalie Hutchins	1 July 2025 to 18 December 2025
Minister for Women	Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas	18 December 2025 to 14 April 2026
Minister for Women and Girls	The Hon. Gabrielle Williams	15 April 2026 to 30 June 2026
Minister for Housing and Building	Hon. Harriet Shing	1 July 2025 to 14 April 2026
Minister for Housing and Building	The Hon. Nick Staikos	15 April 2026 to 30 June 2026
Minister for Equality	The Hon. Vicki Ward	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Minister for Ageing	Ingrid Stitt MP	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Secretary	Peta McCammon	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

The persons who acted in the positions of Minister and of Accountable Officers ⁽ⁱ⁾ in the department were as follows:

Relevant office	Acting Minister or Accountable Officer	Period
Acting Minister for Veterans	Hon. Lizzie Blandthorn	1 July 2025 to 4 July 2025
	The Hon. Danny Pearson	5 July 2025 to 12 July 2025
	The Hon. Vicki Ward	13 July 2025 to 25 July 2025
Acting Minister for Youth	Hon. Lizzie Blandthorn	1 July 2025 to 4 July 2025
	The Hon. Danny Pearson	5 July 2025 to 12 July 2025
	The Hon. Vicki Ward	13 July 2025 to 25 July 2025
Acting Minister for Disability	Hon. Harriet Shing	22 December 2025 to 4 January 2026
	The Hon. Ros Spence	5 January 2026 to 8 January 2026
	Hon. Natalie Suleyman	9 January 2026 to 11 January 2026
	The Hon. Melissa Horne	29 June 2026 to 30 June 2026
Acting Minister for Children	Hon. Harriet Shing	22 December 2025 to 4 January 2026
	The Hon. Ros Spence	5 January 2026 to 8 January 2026
	Hon. Natalie Suleyman	9 January 2026 to 11 January 2026
	The Hon. Melissa Horne	29 June 2026 to 30 June 2026
Acting Minister for Carers and Volunteers	The Hon. Vicki Ward	5 July 2025 to 27 July 2025
		9 January 2026 to 25 January 2026
Acting Minister for Women and Girls	The Hon. Vicki Ward	1 July 2025 to 1 August 2025
Acting Minister for Prevention of Family Violence	The Hon. Vicki Ward	1 July 2025 to 1 August 2025
Acting Minister for Housing and Building	Hon. Lizzie Blandthorn	30 August 2025 to 6 September 2025
	Hon. Natalie Suleyman	15 January 2026 to 25 January 2026
Acting Secretary	Danny O'Kelly	5 January 2026 to 14 January 2026
	Simon Newport	9 September 2025 to 9 September 2025
		5 January 2026 to 18 January 2026

(i) The Secretary (as the Accountable Officer) and Acting Secretary are included in the above tables.

Remuneration

Remuneration received or receivable by the Accountable Officers ⁽ⁱ⁾ in connection with the management of the department during the reporting period was in the range:

Income band	30 June 2026	30 June 2025
\$0 – \$9,999	1	3
\$10,000 – \$19,999	1	1
\$630,000 – \$639,999	–	1
\$640,000 – \$649,999	1	–
Total	3	5

Note:

(i) The Secretary (as the Accountable Officer) and Acting Secretary are included in the above tables.

9.7 Remuneration of executives

The numbers of executive officers, other than Ministers and Accountable Officers, and their total remuneration during the reporting period are shown in the table below. Total annualised employee equivalent provides a measure of full-time equivalent executive officers over the reporting period.

Remuneration comprises employee benefits in all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by the entity, or on behalf of the entity, in exchange for services rendered, and is disclosed in the following categories.

Short-term employee benefits include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

Post-employment benefits include pensions and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

Other long-term benefits include long service leave, other long service benefit or deferred compensation.

Termination benefits include termination of employment payments, such as severance packages.

Remuneration of executive officers (including key management personnel disclosed in Note 9.7)	Total remuneration	
	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Short-term employee benefits	49.0	48.3
Post-employment benefits	5.3	5.0
Other long-term benefits	1.2	1.2
Termination benefits	2.3	0.5
Total remuneration ⁽ⁱ⁾	57.8	55.0
Total number of executives ⁽ⁱ⁾	230	216
Total annualised employee equivalent (AEE) ⁽ⁱ⁾⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	192.3	196.1

Notes:

- (i) Total figures for 2024–25 and 2025–26 include the remuneration of the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) who delivered services, as an executive officer to the department but is employed by the Department of Treasury and Finance.
- (ii) Annualised employee equivalent is based on the time fraction worked over the reporting period.

9.8 Related parties

The department is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the State of Victoria.

The following entities have been included into the department's financial statements pursuant to the determination made by the Minister for Finance under s. 53(1)(b) of the *Financial Management Act 1994*:

- Commission for Children and Young People
- Homes Victoria
- Disability Worker Registration Board
- Victorian Disability Worker Commission
- Respect Victoria
- Victorian Veterans Council
- Social Services Regulator

Related parties of the department and the above mentioned administrative offices and entities include:

- all key management personnel and their close family members and personal business interests (controlled entities, joint ventures and entities they have significant influence over)
- all cabinet ministers and their close family members
- all departments and public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole of state consolidated financial statements.

All related party transactions have been entered into on an arm's length basis.

Significant transactions with government-related entities

The department received funding and made payments to the Consolidated Fund of \$341.8 million (2025: \$285.3 million) and \$4,707.2 million (2025: \$4,952.9 million) respectively.

Refer to Note 2.4.2 and 3.1.2 for other government-related entity transactions.

Key management personnel

Key management personnel of the department include the Portfolio Ministers: Hon. Lizzie Blandthorn, Hon. Natalie Suleyman, Hon. Luba Grigorovitch, The Hon. Ros Spence, The Hon. Natalie Hutchins, Ingrid Stitt MP, The Hon. Melissa Horne, Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas, The Hon. Gabrielle Williams, Hon. Harriet Shing, The Hon. Nick Staikos, The Hon. Vicki Ward, The Hon. Danny Pearson, Secretary Peta McCammon and members of the senior executive team, which includes:

Entity	Key management personnel	Position title	Period
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Raylene Harradine	Deputy Secretary, Aboriginal Self-Determination and Outcomes	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Annette Lancy	Deputy Secretary, Children and Families	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	David Atkinson	Acting Deputy Secretary, Children and Families	1 July 2025 to 18 July 2025 30 March 2026 to 17 April 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Danny O'Kelly	Deputy Secretary, Community Operations and Practice Leadership	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Kelly Stanton	Acting Deputy Secretary, Community Operations and Practice Leadership	26 July 2025 to 17 August 2025
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Jenny Litsas	Acting Deputy Secretary, Community Operations and Practice Leadership	17 January 2026 to 1 February 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Kirstie-Lee Lomas	Chief Practitioner, Office of Professional Practice	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Linda Gerditz	Acting Chief Practitioner, Office of Professional Practice	3 November 2025 to 14 November 2025
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Nicola Quin	Deputy Secretary, Corporate and Delivery Services	1 July 2025 to 1 August 2025
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Drew Warne-Smith	Acting Deputy Secretary, Corporate and Delivery Services	4 August 2025 to 4 March 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Elsie Loh	Acting Deputy Secretary, Corporate and Delivery Services	2 January 2026 to 9 January 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Drew Warne-Smith	Deputy Secretary, Corporate and Delivery Services	5 March 2026 to 30 June 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Cynthia Lahiff	Chief Finance Officer	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Shane Lay	Acting Chief Finance Officer	8 September 2025 to 20 October 2025 14 April 2026 to 13 May 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Argiri Alisandratos	Deputy Secretary, Disability, Fairness and Emergency Management	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Rachael Green	Acting Deputy Secretary, Disability, Fairness and Emergency Management	11 August 2025 to 26 September 2025 4 November 2025 to 31 December 2025
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Andrea Spiteri	Acting Deputy Secretary, Disability, Fairness and Emergency Management	1 December 2025 to 12 December 2025
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Hayley Parkes	Acting Deputy Secretary, Disability, Fairness and Emergency Management	29 June 2026 to 30 June 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Melanie Heenan	Deputy Secretary, Family Safety Victoria	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Amber Griffiths	Acting Deputy Secretary, Family Safety Victoria	26 February 2026 to 15 March 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Drew Warne-Smith	Deputy Secretary, System Reform, Workforce and Engagement	1 July 2025 to 4 March 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Ben Richardson	Acting Deputy Secretary, System Reform, Workforce and Engagement	14 July 2025 to 27 July 2025 4 August 2025 to 29 May 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Rachael Green	Acting Deputy Secretary, System Reform, Workforce and Engagement	23 March 2026 to 10 April 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Tess Mullenger	Acting Deputy Secretary, System Reform, Workforce and Engagement	13 April 2026 to 18 June 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Ruth Ward	Chief of Public Engagement, System Reform, Workforce and Engagement	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

Entity	Key management personnel	Position title	Period
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Lachlan Quick	Acting Chief of Public Engagement, System Reform, Workforce and Engagement	3 November 2025 to 11 November 2025 16 February 2026 to 3 March 2026 14 May 2026 to 21 May 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Laura Miller	Acting Chief of Public Engagement, System Reform, Workforce and Engagement	3 November 2025 to 11 November 2025 2 February 2026 to 13 February 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Simon Newport	Chief Executive Officer, Homes Victoria	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Dannii de Kretser	Acting Chief Executive Officer, Homes Victoria	15 July 2025 to 1 August 2025
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Martin McCurry	Acting Chief Executive Officer, Homes Victoria	15 April 2026 to 29 April 2026
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Dannii de Kretser	Deputy CEO, Homes Victoria	1 July 2025 to 31 December 2025
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Elsie Loh	Acting Deputy CEO, Homes Victoria	16 July 2025 to 3 October 2025

Key management personnel of the agencies amalgamated pursuant to s. 53(1)(b) of the *Financial Management Act 1994* into the department's financial statements include:

Entity	Key management personnel	Position title	Period
Commission for Children & Young People	Meena Singh	Commissioner	1 July 2025 to 19 December 2025
Commission for Children & Young People	Dallas Widdicombe	Commissioner	15 June 2026 to 30 June 2026
Commission for Children & Young People	Meena Singh	Acting Principal Commissioner	1 July 2025 to 4 November 2025
Commission for Children & Young People	Argiri Alisandratos	Acting Principal Commissioner	5 November 2025 to 22 December 2025
Commission for Children & Young People	Tracy Beaton	Principal Commissioner	22 December 2025 to 30 June 2026
Commission for Children & Young People	Leanne Barnes	Chief Executive Officer	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Commission for Children & Young People	Emily Sanders	Acting Chief Executive Officer	27 October 2025 to 7 November 2025
Commission for Children & Young People	Todd Sweeney	Acting Chief Executive Officer	30 March 2026 to 17 April 2026
Disability Services Commissioner	Jennifer Jackson-Hall	Commissioner	1 July 2025 to 30 April 2026
Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria	Melanie Eagle	Chairperson	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Respect Victoria	Helen Bolton	Chief Executive Officer	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Respect Victoria	Jacque O'Brien	Acting Chief Executive Officer	2 April 2026 to 15 April 2026
Respect Victoria	Kate Fitz-Gibbon	Chairperson	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Respect Victoria	Claudia Fatone	Board Member	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Respect Victoria	Maxine McKew	Board Member	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Respect Victoria	Hang Vo	Board Member	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Respect Victoria	Nesreen Bottriell	Board Member	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Respect Victoria	Steven Roberts	Board Member	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Respect Victoria	Jan Noblett	Board Member	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Victorian Disability Worker Commission	Dan Stubbs	Commissioner	1 July 2025 to 7 November 2025
Victorian Disability Worker Commission	Kate Maddern	Commissioner	10 November 2025 to 30 June 2026
Victorian Veterans Council	Greg Yorke	Chairperson	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

Entity	Key management personnel	Position title	Period
Victorian Veterans Council	Brett West	Acting Chairperson	1 July 2025 to 15 July 2025 15 September 2025 to 2 November 2025 14 March 2026 to 25 March 2026
Social Services Regulator	Jonathan Kaplan	Social Services Regulator	1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026
Social Services Regulator	Richard Marks	Acting Social Services Regulator	1 July 2025 to 18 July 2025

Remuneration of key management personnel

The compensation detailed below excludes the salaries and benefits the Portfolio Ministers received. The Ministers' remuneration and allowances are set by the *Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968* and are reported within the State's Annual Financial Report.

	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing		Other section 53 ⁽ⁱ⁾	
	2026 \$M	2025 \$M	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Compensation of KMPs				
Short-term employee benefits	4.9	5.6	1.9	1.9
Post-employment benefits	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2
Other long-term benefits	0.1	0.1	0.0	–
Termination benefits	–	–	–	–
Total ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	5.4	6.1	2.1	2.1

Notes:

- (i) This includes remuneration of KMPs for Commission for Children and Young People, Disability Worker Registration Board of Victoria, Victorian Disability Worker Commission, Disability Services Commissioner, Respect Victoria, Victorian Veterans Council and Social Services Regulator. The remuneration of Homes Victoria's key management personnel is disclosed in the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing for the period 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026.
- (ii) Total figures for 2024–25 and 2025–26 include the remuneration of the CFO who delivered services, as an executive officer to the department but is employed by the Department of Treasury and Finance.
- (iii) Note that KMPs are also reported in the disclosure of remuneration of Accountable Officers (refer to Note 9.6) and in the disclosure of remuneration of executive officers (refer to Note 9.7).

Transactions and balances with key management personnel and other related parties

Given the breadth and depth of state government activities, related parties transact with the Victorian public sector in a manner consistent with other members of the public, for example stamp duty and other government fees and charges. Further employment of processes within the Victorian public sector occur on terms and conditions consistent with the *Public Administration Act 2004* and Codes of Conduct and Standards issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. Procurement processes occur on terms and conditions consistent with the Victorian Government Procurement Board requirements.

Outside of normal citizen-type transactions, there were no material related party transactions that involved key management personnel, their close family members and their personal business interests with the department, the Administrative Offices or its s. 53(1)(b) entities.

No provision has been required, nor any expense recognised, for impairment of receivables from related parties.

9.9 Remuneration of auditors

	2026 \$	2025 \$
Victorian Auditor-General's Office – audit of the financial report	654,500	563,000

9.10 Subsequent events

There are no subsequent events for the 2025–26 financial year.

9.11 Other accounting policies

Contributions by owners

Consistent with the requirements of AASB 1004 *Contributions*, contributions by owners (that is, contributed capital and its repayment) are treated as equity transactions and therefore do not form part of the income and expenses of the department.

Additions to net assets that have been designated as contributions by owners are recognised as contributed capital. Other transfers that are in the nature of contributions to or distributions by owners have also been designated as contributions by owners.

Transfers of net assets arising from administrative restructurings are treated as distributions to or contributions by owners. Transfers of net liabilities arising from administrative restructurings are treated as distributions to owners.

9.12 Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

Certain new and revised accounting standards have been issued but are not effective for the 2025–26 reporting period. These accounting standards have not been applied to the financial statements.

AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities

AASB 2022-10 *Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities* amended AASB 13 by adding Appendix F Australian implementation guidance for not-for-profit public sector entities. Appendix F explains and illustrates the application of the principles in AASB 13 on developing unobservable inputs and the application of the cost approach. These clarifications became mandatorily applicable annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024. FRD 103 permits Victorian public sector entities to apply Appendix F of AASB 13 in their next scheduled formal asset revaluation or interim revaluation (whichever is earlier) over the five-year revaluation cycle to 30 June 2029.

In accordance with FRD 103, the department will apply Appendix F of AASB 13 in its next scheduled formal revaluation in 2028–29 or interim revaluation process (whichever is earlier).

AASB 17 Insurance Contracts, AASB 2022-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Insurance Contracts: Consequential Amendments and AASB 2022-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Insurance Contracts in the Public Sector

AASB 17 replaces AASB 4 *Insurance Contracts*, AASB 1023 *General Insurance Contracts* and AASB 1038 *Life Insurance Contracts* for not-for-profit public sector entities for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2026.

AASB 2022-9 amends AASB 17 to make public sector-related modifications (e.g. it specifies the pre-requisites, indicators and other considerations in identifying arrangements that fall within the scope of AASB 17 in a public sector context). This Standard applies for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2026.

AASB 2022-8 makes consequential amendments to other Australian Accounting Standards so that public sector entities are permitted to continue to apply AASB 4 and AASB 1023 to annual periods before 1 July 2026.

AASB 2024-2 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification and Measurement of Financial Instruments

AASB 2024-2 amends AASB 7 *Financial Instruments: Disclosures* and AASB 9 *Financial Instruments*.

AASB 2024-2 amends requirements relating to:

- settling financial liabilities using an electronic payment system
- assessing contractual cash flow characteristics of financial assets with environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) and similar features
- disclosure requirements for investments in equity instruments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income and financial instruments with contingent features that do not relate directly to basic lending risks and costs.

This amendment applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2026.

AASB 18 *Presentation and Disclosure of Financial Statements*

AASB 18 replaces AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements* to improve how entities communicate in their financial statements, with a particular focus on information about financial performance in the statement of profit or loss.

The key presentation and disclosure requirements established by AASB 18 is the presentation of newly defined subtotals in the statement of profit or loss.

AASB 18 applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2027 for for-profit entities and applies to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2028 for not-for-profit entities. The one year deferral allows the AASB to consult with stakeholders and consider potential modifications for not-for-profit public sector entities. On 30 October 2025, the AASB released Exposure Draft ED 338 Application of AASB 18 and AASB 17 by Superannuation and Not-for-Profit Entities and Operating Cash Flow Reconciliation, proposing its public sector modifications to AASB 18 for public comments by 27 February 2026.

The Department is currently in the process of assessing the potential impact of these standards and amendments.

A few other standards and amendments have also been issued that apply to future reporting periods; however they are not expected to have any significant impact on the financial statements in the period of initial application.

9.13 Glossary of technical terms

The following is a summary of the major technical terms used in this report.

Actuarial gains or losses on superannuation defined benefit plans are changes in the present value of the superannuation defined benefit liability resulting from:

- experience adjustments (the effects of differences between the previous actuarial assumptions and what has occurred)
- the effects of changes in actuarial assumptions.

Administered item generally refers to a department lacking the capacity to benefit from that item in the pursuit of the entity's objectives and to deny or regulate the access of others to that benefit.

Amortisation is the expense that results from the consumption, extraction or use over time of a non-produced physical or intangible asset. This expense is classified as an 'other economic flow'.

Associates are all entities over which an entity has significant influence but not control, generally accompanying a shareholding and voting rights of between 20 per cent and 50 per cent.

Biological assets may comprise commercial forests and also any living animal, plant or agricultural produce that is the harvested product of biological assets.

Borrowings refers to interest-bearing liabilities mainly raised from public borrowings raised through the Treasury Corporation of Victoria, lease liabilities, service concession arrangements and other interest-bearing arrangements. Borrowings also include non interest-bearing advances from government that are acquired for policy purposes.

Commitments include those operating, capital and other outsourcing commitments arising from non-cancellable contractual or statutory sources.

Comprehensive result is the amount included in the operating statement representing total change in net worth other than transactions with owners as owners.

Controlled item generally refers to the capacity of a department to benefit from that item in the pursuit of the entity's objectives and to deny or regulate the access of others to that benefit.

Current grants are amounts payable or receivable for current purposes for which no economic benefits of equal value are receivable or payable in return.

Depreciation is an expense that arises from the consumption through wear or time of a produced physical or intangible asset. This expense is classified as a 'transaction' and so reduces the 'net result from transaction'.

Effective interest method is the method used to calculate the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

Employee benefits expenses include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, redundancy payments, defined benefits superannuation plans, and defined contribution superannuation plans.

Ex gratia expenses mean the voluntary payment of money or other non-monetary benefit (e.g. a write off) that is not made either to acquire goods, services or other benefits for the entity or to meet a legal liability, or to settle or resolve a possible legal liability or claim against the entity.

Finance lease is a lease that transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an underlying asset.

Financial asset is any asset that is either:

- cash
- an equity instrument of another entity
 - a contractual right to receive cash or another financial asset from another entity or to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially favourable to the entity.
- A financial asset can also be a contract that will or may be settled in the entity's own equity instruments and is either:
 - a non-derivative for which the entity is or may be obliged to receive a variable number of the entity's own equity instruments
 - a derivative that will or may be settled other than by the exchange of a fixed amount of cash or another financial asset for a fixed number of the entity's own equity instruments.

Financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity.

Financial liability is any liability that is either:

- a contractual obligation to deliver cash or another financial asset to another entity or to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially unfavourable to the entity
- a contract that will or may be settled in the entity's own equity instruments and is either:
 - a non-derivative for which the entity is or may be obliged to deliver a variable number of the entity's own equity instruments
 - a derivative that will or may be settled other than by the exchange of a fixed amount of cash or another financial asset for a fixed number of the entity's own equity instruments. For this purpose, the entity's own equity instruments do not include instruments that are themselves contracts for the future receipt or delivery of the entity's own equity instruments.

Financial statements in the Model report comprises:

- a balance sheet as at the end of the period
- a comprehensive operating statement for the period
- a statement of changes in equity for the period
- a cash flow statement for the period
- notes, comprising a summary of material accounting policies and other explanatory information
- comparative information in respect of the preceding period as specified in paragraph 38 of *AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements*
- a statement of financial position as at the beginning of the preceding period when an entity applies an accounting policy retrospectively or makes a retrospective restatement of items in its financial statements, or when it reclassifies items in its financial statements in accordance with paragraphs 41 of AASB 101.

Grant expenses and other transfers are transactions in which one unit provides goods, services, assets (or extinguishes a liability) or labour to another unit without receiving approximately equal value in return. Grants can either be operating or capital in nature.

While grants to governments may result in the provision of some goods or services to the transferor, they do not give the transferor a claim to receive directly benefits of approximately equal value. For this reason, grants are referred to by the AASB as involuntary transfers and are termed non-reciprocal transfers. Receipt and sacrifice of approximately equal value may occur, but only by coincidence. For example, governments are not obliged to provide commensurate benefits, in the form of goods or services, to taxpayers in return for their taxes.

Grants can be paid as general-purpose grants, which refer to grants that are not subject to conditions regarding their use. Alternatively, they may be paid as specific purpose grants, which are paid for a particular purpose and/or have conditions attached regarding their use.

General government sector comprises all government departments, offices and other bodies engaged in providing services free of charge or at prices significantly below their cost of production. General government services include those that are mainly non-market in nature, those that are largely for collective consumption by the community and those that involve the transfer or redistribution of income. These services are financed mainly through taxes, or other compulsory levies and user charges.

Grants for on-passing are grants paid to one institutional sector (e.g. a State general government entity) to be passed on to another institutional sector (e.g. local government or a private non-profit institution).

Infrastructure systems provide essential services used in the delivery of final services or products. They are generally a complex interconnected network of individual assets and mainly include sewerage systems, water storage and supply systems, and public transport assets owned by the State.

Interest expense represents costs incurred in connection with borrowings. It includes interest on advances, loans, overdrafts, bonds and bills, deposits, interest components of lease repayments, service concession financial liabilities and amortisation of discounts or premiums in relation to borrowings.

Interest income includes unwinding over time of discounts on financial assets and interest received on bank term deposits and other investments.

Investment properties are properties held to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both. Investment properties exclude properties held to meet service delivery objectives of the State of Victoria.

Joint ventures are contractual arrangements between the department and one or more other parties to undertake an economic activity that is subject to joint control and have rights to the net assets of the arrangement. Joint control only exists when the strategic financial and operating decisions relating to the activity require the unanimous consent of the parties sharing control (the venturers).

Leases are rights conveyed in a contract, or part of a contract, the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period in exchange for consideration.

Net acquisition of non-financial assets (from transactions) are purchases (and other acquisitions) of non-financial assets less sales (or disposals) of non-financial assets less depreciation plus changes in inventories and other movements in non-financial assets. Includes only those increases or decreases in non-financial assets resulting from transactions and therefore excludes write offs, impairment write downs and revaluations.

Net financial liabilities is calculated as liabilities less financial assets, other than equity in public non-financial corporations (PNFC) and public financial corporations (PFC). This measure is broader than net debt as it includes significant liabilities, other than borrowings (e.g. accrued employee liabilities such as superannuation and long service leave entitlements). For the PNFC and PFC sectors, it is equal to negative net financial worth.

Net financial worth is equal to financial assets minus liabilities. It is a broader measure than net debt as it incorporates provisions made (such as superannuation but excluding depreciation and bad debts) as well as holdings of equity. Net financial worth includes all classes of financial assets and liabilities, only some of which are included in net debt.

Net gain on equity investments in other sector entities measured at proportional share of the carrying amount of net assets/(liabilities) comprises the net gains relating to the equity held by the general government sector in other sector entities. It arises from a change in the carrying amount of net assets of the subsidiaries. The net gains are measured based on the proportional share of the subsidiary's carrying amount of net assets/(liabilities) before elimination of inter-sector balances.

Net lending/borrowing is the financing requirement of government, calculated as the net operating balance less the net acquisition of non-financial assets. It also equals transactions in financial assets less transactions in liabilities. A positive result reflects a net lending position, and a negative result reflects a net borrowing position.

Net operating balance or **net result** from transactions is a key fiscal aggregate and is revenue from transactions minus expenses from transactions. It is a summary measure of the ongoing sustainability of operations. It excludes gains and losses resulting from changes in price levels and other changes in the volume of assets. It is the component of the change in net worth that is due to transactions and can be attributed directly to government policies.

Net result is a measure of financial performance of the operations for the period. It is the net result of items of revenue, gains and expenses (including losses) recognised for the period, excluding those classified as 'other non-owner movements in equity'.

Net worth is calculated as assets less liabilities, which is an economic measure of wealth.

Non-financial assets are all assets that are not financial assets. It includes inventories, land, buildings, infrastructure, road networks, land under roads, plant and equipment, cultural and heritage assets, intangibles and biological assets such as commercial forests.

Non-financial public sector represents the consolidated transactions and assets and liabilities of the general government and PNFC sectors. In compiling statistics for the non-financial public sector, transactions and debtor/creditor relationships between sub-sectors are eliminated to avoid double counting.

Non-produced assets are assets needed for production that have not themselves been produced. They include land, subsoil assets, and certain intangible assets. Non-produced intangibles are intangible assets needed for production that have not themselves been produced. They include constructs of society such as patents.

Operating result is a measure of financial performance of the operations for the period. It is the net result of items of revenue, gains and expenses (including losses) recognised for the period, excluding those that are classified as 'other non-owner movements in equity'. Refer also to 'net result'.

Other economic flows included in net result are changes in the volume or value of an asset or liability that do not result from transactions. In simple terms, other economic flows are changes arising from market remeasurements. They include gains and losses from disposals, revaluations and impairments of non-current physical and intangible assets; fair value changes of financial instruments and agricultural assets; and depletion of natural assets (non produced) from their use or removal.

Other economic flows – other comprehensive income comprises items (including reclassification adjustments) that are not recognised in net result as required or permitted by other Australian Accounting Standards. They include changes in physical asset revaluation surplus; share of net movement in revaluation surplus of associates and joint ventures; and gains and losses on remeasuring available-for-sale financial assets.

Payables include short and long-term trade debt and accounts payable, grants, taxes and interest payable.

Produced assets include buildings, plant and equipment, inventories, cultivated assets and certain intangible assets. Intangible produced assets may include computer software, motion picture films and research and development costs (which does not include the start-up costs associated with capital projects).

Public financial corporations (PFC) are bodies primarily engaged in the provision of financial intermediation services or auxiliary financial services. They are able to incur financial liabilities on their own account (e.g. taking deposits, issuing securities or providing insurance services). Estimates are not published for the public financial corporation sector.

The **public non-financial corporation (PNFC)** sector comprises bodies mainly engaged in the production of goods and services (of a non-financial nature) for sale in the marketplace at prices that aim to recover most of the costs involved (e.g. water and port authorities). In general, PNFCs are legally distinguishable from the governments that own them.

Receivables include amounts owing from government through appropriation receivable, short and long-term trade credit and accounts receivable, accrued investment income, grants, taxes and interest receivable.

Sales of goods and services refers to income from the direct provision of goods and services and includes fees and charges for services rendered, sales of goods and services, fees from regulatory services and work done as an agent for private enterprises. It also includes rental income under leases and on produced assets such as buildings and entertainment, but excludes rent income from the use of non-produced assets such as land. User charges include sale of goods and services income.

Service concession arrangement is a contract effective during the reporting period between a grantor and an operator in which:

- the operator has the right of access to the service concession asset (or assets) to provide public services on behalf of the grantor for a specified period of time
- the operator is responsible for at least some of the management of the public services provided through the asset and does not act merely as an agent on behalf of the grantor
- the operator is compensated for its services over the period of the service concession arrangement.

Supplies and services generally represent cost of goods sold and the day-to-day running costs, including maintenance costs, incurred in the normal operations of the department.

Taxation income represents income received from the State's taxpayers and includes:

- payroll tax, land tax and duties levied principally on conveyances and land transfers
- gambling taxes levied mainly on private lotteries, electronic gaming machines, casino operations and racing
- insurance duty relating to compulsory third-party, life and non-life policies
- insurance company contributions to fire brigades
- motor vehicle taxes, including registration fees and duty on registrations and transfers
- levies (including the environmental levy) on statutory corporations in other sectors of government
- other taxes, including landfill levies, licence and concession fees.

Transactions are those economic flows that are considered to arise as a result of policy decisions, usually an interaction between two entities by mutual agreement. They also include flows into an entity such as depreciation, where the owner is simultaneously acting as the owner of the depreciating asset and as the consumer of the service provided by the asset. Taxation is regarded as mutually agreed interactions between the government and taxpayers. Transactions can be in kind (e.g. assets provided/given free of charge or for nominal consideration) or where the final consideration is cash. In simple terms, transactions arise from the policy decisions of the Government.

9.14 Style conventions

Figures in the tables and in the text have been rounded. Discrepancies in tables between totals and sums of components reflect rounding. Percentage variations in all tables are based on the underlying unrounded amounts.

The notation used in the tables is as follows:

- – zero, or rounded to zero
- (xxx.x) negative numbers
- 20xx year end
- 20xx–xx year period.

The financial statements and notes are presented based on the illustration for a government department in the 2025-26 model report for Victorian Government departments. The presentation of other disclosures is generally consistent with the other disclosures made in earlier publications of the department's annual reports.

Section 6: Appendices

Appendix 1: Budget portfolio outcomes

Comprehensive operating statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

	2025–26	2025–26		
	Actual \$M	Published budget \$M	Variation to published budget %	Notes
Net result from continuing operations				
Income from transactions				
Output appropriations	5,902	5,474	7.8	(a)
Special appropriations	80	69	15.7	(b)
Grants	68	26	159.2	(c)
Fair value of assets and services received free of charge or for nominal consideration	62	61	1.3	
Other income	(5)	0	–	
Total income from transactions	6,108	5,631	8.5	
Expenses from transactions				
Employee benefits	865	709	22.0	(d)
Depreciation	42	49	(14.2)	
Interest expense	2	3	(16.7)	
Grants and other transfers	1,220	1,185	2.9	
Other operating expenses	4,070	3,687	10.4	(e)
Total expenses from transactions	6,200	5,633	10.1	
Net result from transactions (net operating balance)	(92)	(3)	3,334.6	
Other economic flows included in net result				
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets	3	(4)	(170.3)	
Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments and statutory receivables/payables	1	–	–	
Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows	77	–	–	
Total other economic flows included in net result	80	(4)	(2,244.3)	
Net result	(12)	(6)	81.3	
Other economic flows – other comprehensive income				
Changes in non-financial asset revaluation surplus	–	–	–	
Total other economic flows – other comprehensive income	–	–	–	
Comprehensive result	(12)	(6)	81.3	

- (a) Actual output appropriation was higher than the published budget mainly due to additional funding from the Commonwealth to deliver the Energy Bill Relief concession payments, the revenue from the Short Stay Levy and the Government's investments in the Community service organisations indexation funding.
- (b) Actual special appropriation was higher than the published budget mainly reflects the increase in accessing funding received in prior years from the Commonwealth under the National Partnership Agreement (NPA) for Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses and the Housing Support Program under Section 10 of the *Financial Management Act 1994* (FMA).
- (c) Higher Grants than the published budget was primarily due to the Government's investment in Strengthening Food Security across Victoria, Implementation of Child Safety Reforms, Education Supports for Children in Care and Community Food Relief programs.
- (d) Higher actual employee benefits expenditure than the published budget primarily reflects the Government's additional investments for service delivery.
- (e) Actual other operating expenses were higher than the published budget primarily reflects the Government policy commitments including civil claims costs for historical institutional child abuse and the expenditure as part of the contribution from the Commonwealth including the Energy Bill Relief concession payments.

Balance sheet as at 30 June 2026

	2025–26	2025–26		
	Actual \$M	Published budget \$M	Variation to published budget %	Notes
Assets				
Financial assets				
Cash and deposits	91	67	36.1	(a)
Receivables from government	766	745	2.7	
Other receivables	146	128	13.8	(b)
Total financial assets	1,002	940	6.6	
Non-financial assets				
Non-financial assets classified as held for sale including disposal group assets	2	0	363.3	
Property, plant and equipment	1,638	1,639	(0.0)	
Intangible assets	34	24	40.9	
Other	13	11	17.7	
Total non-financial assets	1,686	1,674	0.8	
Total assets	2,688	2,613	2.9	
Liabilities				
Payables	336	331	1.5	
Borrowings	46	44	4.8	
Provisions	996	904	10.1	(c)
Total liabilities	1,377	1,278	7.7	
Net assets	1,311	1,335	(1.8)	
Equity				
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	(338)	(333)	1.6	
Reserves	271	271	–	
Contributed capital	1,378	1,397	(1.3)	
Total equity	1,311	1,335	(1.8)	

(a) The cash and deposits was higher than the published budget mainly due to cash flow timing differences.

(b) The other receivables balance was higher than the published budget primarily due to an increase in the State Administration Unit inter-entity accounts as a result of timing of funding accessed to settle payments to customers and other accrued obligations, which occurred post the 2025–26 Published Budget.

(c) The provisions balance was higher than the published budget primarily due to the provisions for Civil claims associated with historical institutional child abuse.

Statement of cash flows for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

	2025–26	2025–26		
	Actual \$M	Published budget \$M	Variation to published budget %	Notes
Cash flows from operating activities				
Receipts				
Receipts from government	6,013	5,591	7.5	(a)
Receipts from other entities	65	26	146.5	(b)
Other receipts	(10)	6	(273)	
Total receipts	6,068	5,623	7.9	
Payments				
Payments of grants and other transfers	(1,225)	(1,185)	3.3	
Payments to suppliers and employees	(4,771)	(4,407)	8.3	(c)
Interest and other costs of finance	(2)	(3)	(16.7)	
Total payments	(5,999)	(5,595)	7.2	
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	70	28	148.6	
Cash flows from investing activities				
Net investment	1	–	–	
Payments for non-financial assets	(47)	(56)	(15.9)	
Proceeds from sale of non-financial assets	11	–	–	
Net loans to other parties	1	3	(61.3)	
Net cash flows from/(used in) investing activities	(34)	(53)	(36.0)	
Cash flows from financing activities				
Owner contributions by state government	11	30	(62.9)	
Repayment of right of use leases	(14)	–	–	
Net borrowings	(5)	(1)	289.4	
Net cash flows from/(used in) financing activities	(8)	29	(127.2)	
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	28	4	638.7	
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	63	63	–	
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	91	67	36.1	

(a) Actual Receipts from government was higher than the published budget mainly due to funding from the Commonwealth to deliver the Energy Bill Relief concession payments and the Government's policy commitments including Short Stay Levy and Community Services Organisations Indexation funding.

(b) Receipts from other entities was higher than the published budget mainly due to the Government's policy commitments including Strengthening food security across Victoria and funding to enable implementation of Child Safety Reforms.

(c) The actual payments to suppliers and employees were higher than the published budget primarily due to increased expenditure as part of Government policy commitments including civil claims costs for historical institutional child abuse and contribution from the Commonwealth including the Energy Bill Relief concession payments.

Statement of changes in equity for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

	Accumulated surplus/ (deficit) \$M	Contributions by owner \$M	Revaluation surplus/ (deficit) \$M	Other reserves \$M	Total equity \$M
Opening balance 1 July 2025	(327)	1,367	271	–	1,311
Comprehensive result	(12)	–	–	–	(12)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners	–	11	–	–	11
Closing balance 30 June 2026 (actual)	(338)	1,378	271	–	1,311
Comprehensive result	(6)	–	–	–	(6)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners	–	30	–	–	30
Closing balance 30 June 2026 (published budget)	(333)	1,397	271	–	1,335
Actual variation to published budget (%)					
Comprehensive result	81	–	–	–	81
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners	–	(63)	–	–	(63)
Closing balance 30 June 2026	2	(1)	–	–	(2)

Administered items statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

	2025–26	2025–26	Variation to published budget	Notes
	Actual \$M	Published budget \$M	%	
Administered income				
Appropriations – Payments made on behalf of the State	3,083	3,119	(1.2)	
Sales of goods and services	65	40	61.5	(a)
Grants	31	18	75.9	(b)
Other income	8	1	917.2	
Total administered income	3,187	3,178	0.3	
Administered expenses				
Expenses on behalf of the state	0	1	(84.1)	
Grants and other transfers	3,098	3,119	(0.7)	
Payments into the Consolidated Fund	87	64	35.6	(c)
Total administered expenses	3,186	3,184	0.1	
Income less expenses	0	(6)	(105.9)	
Other economic flows included in net result				
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets	(1)	6	(108.1)	
Total other economic flows included in net result	(1)	6	(108.1)	
Net result	(0)	–	–	
Comprehensive result	(0)	–	–	
Administered assets				
Receivables	3	4	(13.9)	
Other financial assets	0	0	0.0	
Total administered assets	3	4	(26.6)	
Administered liabilities				
Provisions	0	0	–	
Total administered liabilities	0	0	–	
Net assets	3	4	(26.6)	
Equity				
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	1	1	(19.3)	
Contributed capital	3	3	–	
Total equity	3	3	(19.3)	

- (d) The actual Sales of goods and services was higher than the published budget mainly due to the Workers Screening Unit transferred from the Department of Government Services (DGS) as part of machinery of government changes (MoG).
- (e) The Grants was higher than the published budget mainly due to the higher grant payments related to Natural Disaster Relief including the extreme heat and extreme fire danger ratings in January 2026.
- (f) The Payments into the Consolidated Fund was higher than the published budget mainly due to the Workers Screening Unit transferred from DGS as part of MoG.

Appendix 2: Homes Victoria

Comprehensive operating statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Revenue and income from transactions		
Grant from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	716.1	788.3
Rental income	625.6	594.6
Grants	278.5	247.8
Other income	51.6	50.7
Total revenue and income from transactions	1,671.8	1,681.4
Expenses from transactions		
Employee benefits	212.6	213.0
Depreciation and amortisation	604.3	490.7
Grants and other transfers	701.2	681.9
Other operating expenses	123.7	116.5
Property management expenses	476.7	523.7
Total expenses from transactions	2,118.5	2,025.8
Net result from transactions (net operating balance) ⁽ⁱ⁾	(446.7)	(344.4)
Other economic flows included in net result		
Net gain/(loss) on non-financial assets	(6.3)	(9.9)
Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows	2.4	(5.4)
Total other economic flows included in net result	(3.9)	(15.3)
Net result	(450.6)	(359.7)
Other economic flows – other comprehensive income		
Items that will not be reclassified to net result		
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	43.3	4.2
Remeasurement of superannuation defined benefit plans	0.7	(1.2)
Total other economic flows – other comprehensive income	44.0	3.0
Comprehensive result	(406.6)	(356.7)

Notes:

- (i) The 2025–26 net result from transactions of (\$446.7) million includes a non-cash depreciation charge of \$604.3 million on homes owned by Homes Victoria. The net operating result from transactions (excluding depreciation) of \$157.6 million reflects the timing of government investment to grow social and affordable housing in Victoria.

Balance sheet as at 30 June 2026

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Assets		
Financial assets		
Cash and deposits ⁽ⁱ⁾	898.3	982.2
Restricted cash	5.2	267.1
Receivables	454.0	160.9
Loans	26.2	66.7
Total financial assets	1,383.7	1,476.9
Non financial assets		
Non-financial physical assets classified as held for sale	2.8	8.4
Property, plant and equipment	37,896.9	37,334.3
Intangible assets	25.0	26.8
Other non-financial assets	–	1.8
Total non-financial assets	37,924.7	37,371.3
Total assets	39,308.4	38,848.2
Liabilities		
Payables	188.9	165.6
Borrowings	831.9	694.9
Employee related provisions	84.6	85.5
Other liabilities	122.0	119.8
Total liabilities	1,227.4	1,065.8
Net assets	38,081.0	37,782.4
Equity		
Accumulated surplus/(deficit)	(1,047.2)	(652.0)
Physical asset revaluation surplus	8,526.7	8,483.4
Contributed capital	30,601.5	29,951.0
Net worth	38,081.0	37,782.4

Notes:

- (i) The cash at bank reflects the planned acquittal of government funding received last financial year and spent this financial year as part of capital programs to continue growing the number of and improving the condition of social housing in Victoria.

Cash flow statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

	2026 \$M	2025 \$M
Cash flows from operating activities		
Receipts		
Output appropriations	703.6	783.2
Special appropriations	12.5	5.0
Funds from other entities	42.6	352.0
Rent received	618.0	587.2
Interest received	50.7	37.3
Other receipts	9.7	8.7
GST recovered from Australian Taxation Office ⁽ⁱ⁾	178.5	79.1
Total receipts	1,615.6	1,852.5
Payments		
Grants and other transfers	(834.8)	(770.3)
Employee benefits	(212.5)	(208.6)
Supplies and services	(91.4)	(55.8)
Interest and other costs of finance paid	(51.8)	(37.3)
Property management expenses	(464.6)	(495.6)
Total payments	(1,655.1)	(1,567.6)
Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities	(39.5)	284.9
Cash flows from investing activities		
Proceeds from the sale of non-financial assets	303.1	94.8
Repayments of loans from other parties	40.5	0.4
Payments for non-financial assets	(1,295.6)	(783.6)
Client loans granted	–	(38.9)
Net cash flows from/(used in) investing activities	(952.0)	(727.3)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Net receipts / (payments) for advances	–	(1.0)
Owner contributions by Victorian Government – appropriation for capital expenditure purposes	650.4	1,041.6
Repayment/ proceeds of borrowings and principal portion of lease liability	(4.7)	(7.1)
Net cash flows from/(used in) financing activities	645.7	1,033.5
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and deposits	(345.8)	591.1
Cash and deposits at beginning of financial year	1,249.3	658.2
Cash and deposits at the end of the financial year	903.5	1,249.3

Note:

(i) GST recovered from the Australian Taxation Office is presented on a net basis.

Statement of changes in equity for the financial year ended 30 June 2026

	Physical asset revaluation reserve \$M	Accumulated surplus / (deficit) \$M	Contributed capital \$M	Total \$M
Balance at 30 June 2024	8,479.2	(291.1)	28,909.4	37,097.5
Net result for the year	–	(359.7)	–	(359.7)
Remeasurement of superannuation defined benefit plans	–	(1.2)	–	(1.2)
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	4.2	–	–	4.2
Capital contribution by Victorian State Government	–	–	1,041.6	1,041.6
Balance at 30 June 2025	8,483.4	(652.0)	29,951.0	37,782.4
Adjustment ⁽ⁱ⁾	–	54.7	–	54.7
Net result for the year	–	(450.6)	–	(450.6)
Remeasurement of superannuation defined benefit plans	–	0.7	–	0.7
Changes in physical asset revaluation surplus	43.3	–	–	43.3
Capital contribution by Victorian State Government	–	–	650.5	650.5
Balance at 30 June 2026	8,526.7	(1,047.2)	30,601.5	38,081.0

Note:

- (i) An adjustment to the opening balance of the accumulated surplus / (deficit) for 2025-26 was made as a result of GST recovered on prior year expenses.

Appendix 3: Grants and transfer payments

Community Participation – community funding initiatives

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Aboriginal Community Elders Services Inc	61,640
Adass Israel Welfare Fund Inc	30,000
AfriAus iLEAC Inc	62,250
African-Australian Family and Parenting Support Services Inc	60,000
Africare Community Services Inc	17,250
Ajani Neighbourhood House Inc	10,613
Alamein Neighbourhood & Learning Centre Inc	7,018
Albury Wodonga and Region Community Care, trading as New Life Care Wodonga	15,000
Alex Makes Meals Group Ltd	135,000
Alphington Community Centre Inc	8,800
Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team Ltd	74,625
Anglicare Victoria	26,250
Ararat Neighbourhood House Inc	76,125
Aspendale Gardens Community Service Inc	4,290
Australia Hindu Maha Sabha Inc	7,750
Australian Multicultural Community Services Ltd	56,250
Australian Sikh Support Inc	70,000
Australian-Filipino Community Services Inc	18,750
Bairnsdale Neighbourhood House Inc	61,000
Balla Balla Community Centre	18,000
Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre Inc	35,250
Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council Inc	74,125
Banksia Gardens Association Inc	57,500
Bannockburn & District Men's Shed	34,100
Bayside Community Information & Support Service Inc	20,000

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House Inc	16,704
Bellarine Living and Learning Centre Inc – t/a Whittington Neighbourhood House	4,951
Bellarine Woodworkers Inc	8,000
Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative	11,518
Bendigo Community Health Services Limited	32,000
Bendigo Foodshare Inc	125,000
Ben's Shed Inc	41,185
Berwick District Woodworkers Club Inc	5,787
Big Group Hug Ltd	18,750
Birallee Park Neighborhood House Inc	21,613
Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service	43,125
Boys to the Bush Ltd	34,500
Bright Food Co-op	50,000
Brimbank City Council	100,000
Brunswick Neighbourhood House Inc	17,250
Building Cultural Connections Australia Inc.	25,000
C Care Inc	60,000
Camperdown and District Community House Inc	63,750
Capel Sound Community Hub	65,250
CareNet Ltd	12,500
CareWorks SunRanges Inc	26,250
Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre Inc	42,750
Castlemaine Community House Inc	23,100
Cheltenham Community Centre Inc	56,951
City of Greater Dandenong	57,000
City of Melbourne	70,500
Cobram Community House Inc	18,750

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Coburg and Pascoe Vale Mens Shed	7,581
Colac Area Health	10,000
Combined Churches Caring Melton Inc	45,000
Common Ground Project Ltd	36,000
Community Centre Swifts Creek Inc.	18,375
Community Information & Support Victoria Inc	118,375
Community Support Frankston Inc	18,750
Compassion North Inc	33,750
Congregational Christian Church in Samoa (EFKS) Brimbank Central Parish Inc	56,250
Connecting Home Limited	51,375
Corinella & District Community Centre Inc	25,986
Cornerstone Contact Centre Inc	53,750
Cranbourne Casey Mens Shed	3,891
Creswick Neighbourhood Centre Inc	10,338
Crossenvale Community Group Incorporated	10,461
Dallas Neighbourhood House Inc	11,250
Dandenong Neighbourhood House	63,375
Darebin Information Volunteer Resource Service Inc	10,613
Daylesford Neighbourhood Centre Inc	66,750
Deans Marsh Community Cottage	4,408
Djerriwarrh Employment & Education Services	2,842
Donald Learning Group Inc	6,181
Doveton Neighbourhood Learning Centre	25,125
Dromana Community House Inc	7,913
Drummond Street Services Inc	56,250
Duke Street Community House Association Inc	68,172
Dunolly & District Neighbourhood Centre Inc	15,000
Eaglehawk Community House Inc	18,235
East Wimmera Health Service	18,750

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Eastern Emergency Relief Network Inc	15,000
Eltham and District Woodworkers Inc	39,596
Endeavour Hills Men's Shed Inc	7,000
Enjoy Community Inc	20,000
Ethnic Council of Shepparton and District Inc	63,750
FareShare Australia Inc	75,000
Find A Penny Foundation Inc	56,250
Fitzroy Neighbourhood House Inc	17,625
Five Loaves Charitable Foundation Ltd	63,000
Flowerdale Community House Inc	7,865
Food Relief Neerim District Incorporated	25,000
Foodbank Victoria Ltd	1,121,000
Forrest & District Neighbourhood House Inc	62,993
Foundation Murrindindi	8,159
Frankston Churches Community Breakfast Inc – Frankston Brekky Club	50,000
Geelong Foodshare Inc	212,500
Gellibrand Community House Inc	48,000
Girgarre & Community Group Inc	22,500
Give Where You Live Inc	7,875
Glen Park Community Centre Inc	9,711
Glenroy Neighbourhood Learning Centre Inc	65,422
Golden Plains Shire Council	55,500
Goolum Goolum Aboriginal Cooperative	75,000
Goulburn Valley Woodworkers Inc	10,000
Great Ocean Road Health	34,613
Greenhills Neighbourhood House Inc	51,250
Gurduara Council Of Victoria	35,000
Halal Food Bank Melbourne Inc	7,875
Hare Krishna Food For Life Melbourne Ltd	10,875
Health Futures Australia Ltd	51,375

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Hume Mens Shed Craigieburn	16,000
Jika Jika Community Centre Inc	20,000
Kangaroo Flat Community Group Inc	9,850
Kensington Neighbourhood House Inc	37,782
Khalsa Shaouni Inc	10,125
Kindness Community Inc	60,000
Kinglake Ranges Neighbourhood House Inc	6,883
Knox Infolink Inc	160,680
Kyneton Community House	9,719
Labertouche and District Mens Shed Inc	3,412
Lalor Neighbourhood House Inc	11,250
Living Learning Pakenham Inc	7,000
Loch Sport Men's Shed Inc.	23,714
Lockington and District Bush Nursing Centre	54,000
Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre	60,000
Mallee District Aboriginal Services Ltd	18,750
Mallee Track Health and Community Service	20,000
Manna Gum Community House Inc	10,217
Mansfield Men's Shed Inc	10,000
Merri-Bek City Council	33,750
MHA Care Ltd	221,000
Milpara Community House Inc	9,309
Monash Graduate Association Inc	55,000
Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre Inc	6,000
Morwell Neighbourhood House Inc	54,000
Mount Alexander Shire Council	50,000
Mount Eliza Neighbourhood House Inc	15,000
Mountain District Womens Cooperative Ltd	38,606
Mullum Mullum Aboriginal Gathering Place Ltd	67,000
Multicultural Sudanese Centre	57,375

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Murtoa and District Neighbourhood House	1,995
Myrtleford Neighbourhood Centre	9,013
Nairn Marr Djambana	17,500
National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (Vic)	16,875
New Peninsula Mount Martha Men's Shed	6,750
Nillumbik Community Health Service Ltd	10,000
Norlane Community Centre Inc	52,913
North & West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre Inc	65,250
North Melbourne Chinese Association Inc	19,000
North Richmond Community Health Ltd	18,000
Notting Hill Neighbourhood House	11,250
Nourishing Neighbours Inc	10,666
Numurkah Community Learning Centre Inc	18,500
Om Bhandara Ltd	20,000
Oonah Health & Community Services Aboriginal Corporation	18,750
Open Table Inc	60,000
OzHarvest Ltd	466,000
Park Towers Community Pantry Ltd	63,750
PlateitForward Ltd	48,000
Preston Neighbourhood House Inc	52,500
Quantin Binnah Community Centre Inc	18,000
Quercus Beechworth Inc.	25,000
Red Cliffs Community Resource Centre Inc	15,000
Regional Food Security Alliance Inc	70,000
Reservoir Neighbourhood House Inc	39,628
Ringwood Mens Shed Inc	2,540
Rochester Community House Inc	88,999
Romsey Mens Shed Inc	48,590
Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative	91,000

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Sacred Heart Soup Kitchen (Group within Parish of Saints Anne and Joachim, Sunraysia)	34,125
Sandy Point Community Mens Shed	20,000
SecondBite Ltd	420,000
Seymour & District Community House Inc.	25,529
Somali Elders Group in Victoria Inc	20,000
Somali Voice Victoria Inc	37,500
South East Community Links Inc	58,625
South Shepparton Community House Inc	6,675
South Sudanese Christian Welfare Association Inc	18,750
Springvale Learning and Activities Centre Inc	11,250
Sri Guru Nanak Satsang Sabha Ltd	45,000
St Arnaud Neighbourhood House Inc	10,025
St Kilda Police & Citizens Youth Club Inc	61,500
St Mary's House of Welcome Ltd	63,750
Sunbury Aboriginal Corporation	12,500
Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Inc	8,125
Sustain: The Australian Food Network Ltd	14,375
Sustainable King Valley Inc	14,939
Swan Hill Neighbourhood House Inc	67,500
The Earth Village Community Ltd	69,038
The Outpost Inc	19,500
The Veggie Empire	17,625
The Venny Inc	20,000
Thorne Harbour Health Ltd	17,500
Torquay Community Men's Shed Inc.	15,000
Transit Soup Kitchen Inc	50,000
Transition Town Kensington Inc	60,000
Venus Bay Community Centre Inc	15,000
Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation Inc	190,000
Victorian Sikh Gurduaras Council	25,000

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Village Well Community Centre	32,625
Waminda Inc – t/a Waminda Community House	43,833
Warracknabeal Neighbourhood House & Learning Centre Inc	21,075
Warrnambool & District Food Share Inc – t/a Western District Food Share	82,500
Warrnambool Neighbourhood & Community Centre Inc.	7,065
Wathaurong Booln Booln Cultural Centre	72,750
Wellsprings for Women Inc	68,880
Wendouree Neighbourhood Centre	18,375
Whittlesea Community Connections Inc	8,750
Whittlesea Community House Inc	68,354
Whittlesea Men's Shed	37,000
Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association Incorporation	51,568
Winchelsea Community House	10,000
Wingate Avenue Community Centre Inc	62,844
Woodend Neighbourhood House	16,875
Wyndham Park Community Centre Inc	122,094
Yarram Neighbourhood House Inc	10,563
Yarrowonga Mulwala Mens Shed Inc	4,800
Yarrowonga Neighbourhood House Inc	48,375
Yarrunga Community Centre Inc	4,500
Total	10,081,791

Disability Programs and Services

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Action for more Independence and Dignity in Accommodation	25,498
African-Australian Family and Parenting Support Services Inc	6,809
Alpine Valleys Autism Community	6,809
Assist Ability Australia	10,591
Auspicious Arts Projects Inc.	6,809

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Australian Bosnian Women's Association Zena Zeni	6,809
Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) Ltd	13,617
Autism Family Support Association Inc	10,591
Autism Valued Incorporated	52,153
Autistic-led Regional Culture Arts Neurodiversity Education and Employment (ARCANE) inc	13,617
Bakhtar Community Organisation	6,809
Blind Sports and Recreation Victoria (BSRV)	6,809
Brain Injury Matters	27,234
Chinese Parents Special Support Network Incorporated	10,591
Chinese Stroke Support Group Inc	6,809
Chrisalis Foundation Inc.	10,591
Chronic Pain Australia	6,809
Collective of Self Help Groups Inc	26,655
Deaf Victoria	6,809
Different Journeys	10,591
Disability Resources Centre	21,182
Down Syndrome Association of Victoria Inc	6,809
East African Women's Foundation	10,591
Family Empowerment for Change, Growth, and Social Development	6,809
Fight Parkinsons	72,971
Grampians disAbility Advocacy Association	10,591
Hemispherectomy Foundation Australia	10,086
Inclusive Rainbow Voices	10,591
Kyabram Community and Learning Centre Inc	10,591
LINE Wangaratta	6,809
Manningham Inclusive Community Housing Inc.	6,940
Mansfield Support Group for Carers and People with Special Needs Inc	10,591
Mixed Nuts Media Inc.	10,591
Monash Student Association (Clayton) Inc	5,296
Mooroopna Education and Activity Centre Inc	6,809
Multicultural Sudanese Centre	6,809

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Muscular Dystrophy Australia	5,401
Music and The Brain Foundation Ltd	6,051
Northern Autism Network	10,591
OdysseyCare Solutions	6,809
Peninsula Autism Friendship Group	10,591
People with Multiple Sclerosis Vic Inc	10,553
Polio Victoria Incorporated – T/a Polio Network Victoria	10,591
Preston Neighbourhood House Inc	6,052
PS My Family Matters	10,591
Quantin Binnah Community Centre Inc	4,161
Salamfest Inc	6,809
The Association of Hazaras in Victoria Inc	6,809
The Trustee for The Sistar Squad Unit Trust	6,809
UsherKids Australia Ltd	10,591
Vietnamese Families with Special needs Inc	10,591
Young Ostomates United Inc	1,210
Total	611,278

Housing Support and Homelessness Assistance

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Belgium Avenue Neighbourhood House Inc	70,000
Fitzroy Legal Service Inc	110,000
The Outpost Inc	51,083
Yarra City Council	381,400
Total	612,483

LGBTIQA+ equality policy and programs

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Africare Community Services Inc	9,600
All The Queens Men	10,000
Amaze Inc	22,043
Auspicious Arts Projects Inc.	45,900
Australian GLBTIQ Multicultural Council (AGMC)	27,500
Castlemaine Community House Inc	10,957
ChillOut Daylesford Inc	10,000

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Cypher Culture Inc.	10,000
Dallas Neighbourhood House Inc	8,000
Divisi Inc.	23,000
Drummond Street Services Inc	1,060,000
Flat Out	108,100
Geelong Pride Film Festival	9,500
Geelong Rainbow	21,000
Gippsland Pride Initiative	50,000
Gippsland Ranges Roller Derby Inc.	17,619
Glen Park Community Centre Inc	8,975
GLOBE Victoria	12,500
Goulburn Valley Pride	22,500
Housing for the Aged Action Group	6,680
Inclusive Rainbow Voices	36,000
InterAction for Health and Human Rights	60,000
Joy Melbourne Inc	150,000
La Trobe University	1,670,000
Latrobe Community Health Service Ltd	8,500
Let's Talk About X	20,238
LINE Wangaratta	60,000
Living Positive Victoria	22,500
Mallee Family Care Inc	15,500
Many Coloured Sky	83,006
Melbourne Queer Film Festival Inc	54,312
Midsumma Festival	1,845,000
Minus18 Foundation	134,260
Northern District Community Health	10,000
Pride Cup	15,000
Proud 2 Play	50,000
Q-Lit: Victoria's Queer Festival of Words	16,500
Rural Pride Australia	25,000
Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health	17,332
Switchboard (Victoria)	1,200,000
Thorne Harbour Health Ltd	109,000
tilde: Melbourne Trans and Gender Diverse Film Festival	37,000
Transcend Australia	96,831
Transgender Victoria	643,554
Uniting (Victoria & Tasmania) Ltd	7,570

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Victorian Pride Centre	93,000
VincentCare Victoria Ltd	28,200
Weenthunga Health Network	9,500
Youth Projects Ltd	22,500
Total	8,034,176

Primary Prevention of Family Violence

Organisation	Payment (\$)
AfriAus iLEAC Inc	60,000
African Family Services Ltd	250,000
AMES Australia	82,500
Annie North Inc	170,000
Arabic Welfare Inc	70,000
Australasian Centre for Human Rights and Health	80,000
Australian Greek Welfare Society trading as PRONIA	50,000
Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights	270,000
Australian Vietnamese Women's Association	50,000
Benevolence Australia	52,500
Berry Street Victoria Incorporated	170,000
Board of Imams Victoria	70,000
Brotherhood of St Laurence	82,500
Centre for Holistic Health	50,000
Centre for Multicultural Youth	233,800
Community Abundance Inc	58,100
Ethnic Council of Shepparton and District Inc	52,500
Gateway Health	27,500
GenWest Inc	233,273
Gippsland Women's Health	233,273
IndianCare Inc	60,000
Jesuit Social Services Limited	670,000
Jewish Care (Victoria) Inc	70,000
Latin Stories Australia	45,000
Melbourne Anglican Diocesan Corporation Ltd	63,000
Migrant Information Centre (Eastern Melbourne) Ltd	240,000
Multicultural Centre for Women's Health	260,773

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Multicultural Community Services Geelong Inc – t/a Cultura	252,500
Nillumbik Community Health Service Ltd	200,000
Our Watch Limited	589,844
Primary Care Connect	60,000
Safe and Equal	405,000
Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre	170,000
South East Community Links Inc	82,500
VICSEG New Futures	80,000
Victorian Afghan Associations Network	50,000
Victorian Sikh Gurdwaras Council	50,000
Wellsprings for Women Inc	67,500
Whittlesea Community Connections Inc	252,500
Women with Disabilities Victoria Inc	526,000
Women's Health and Wellbeing Barwon South West	233,273
Women's Health East	233,273
Women's Health Goulburn North East Inc	233,273
Women's Health Grampians Inc	233,273
Women's Health In the North	233,273
Women's Health in the South East	233,273
Women's Health Loddon Mallee	313,273
Women's Health Victoria Inc	233,273
Total	8,486,747

Respect Victoria grant expenditure in 2025-26 is reported in the Respect Victoria Annual Report and is not included in the table above.

Support to Veterans in Victoria

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Adventure Works Australia Ltd	150,000
Air Force Association – Victoria	10,000
Ararat Legacy Inc	4,876
Aussie Veterans Pty Ltd	100,909
Australian Aircraft Restoration Group / trading as Moorabbin Air Museum	6,617
Australian Living Peace Museum	28,900
Australian National Veterans Arts Museum	155,000
Avenel Jubilee Park Association Incorporated	8,000

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Bairnsdale RSL Sub Branch	10,000
Ballarat Veterans Assistance Centre	75,681
Boronia RSL Sub-Branch Inc	50,000
Borough of Queenscliffe	29,593
Bright RSL Sub-Branch	1,565
Broadford RSL Sub-Branch	50,000
Carry On (Victoria)	150,000
City of Port Phillip	30,000
Cobram-Barooga RSL Sub-Branch	17,550
Colac Legacy Club Inc	13,500
Doncaster RSL Sub-Branch Incorporation	10,000
Flemington / Kensington RSL Sub-Branch	50,000
Foster RSL Sub-Branch	1,785
Gisborne RSL Sub Branch Inc	30,000
Goorambat Veterans' Retreat Incorporated	50,000
Hawthorn RSL Sub-Branch	110,900
Hepburn Shire Council	27,306
I've Got Your 6 Foundation Ltd	149,902
Inverleigh RSL Sub-Branch	46,000
Kingston, Friends of the Avenue Inc	30,000
Lara RSL	4,000
Lilydale RSL Sub-Branch	45,833
Macedon Ranges Group of Bendigo Legacy Inc.	7,470
Maldon RSL Sub-Branch	27,937
Melbourne Legacy	180,000
Montmorency Eltham RSL Sub-Branch	10,000
Mount Alexander Shire Council	10,000
Mt Macedon ANZAC Day Dawn Service Incorporated	29,726
Mt Macedon Memorial Cross Council for Commemorative Services Inc	30,000
Museum of Chinese Australian History	22,552
Music and The Brain Foundation Ltd	19,950
Myrtleford RSL Sub-Branch Inc	9,950
Mysia Recreation Reserve Committee of Management	3,287
Oakleigh Carnegie RSL Sub-Branch	10,203
Path of the Horse Ltd	93,166

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Paynesville RSL Sub Branch Inc.	5,910
Returned & Services League of Australia Victorian Branch	440,000
Rochester RSL Sub-Branch	5,894
Rotary Club of Beaufort	1,800
Rotary Club of Boronia	3,024
Rotary Club of Manningham City Inc	6,883
Save our services Australia	46,668
Shrine of Remembrance	689,270
Soldier On	42,350
Sorrento Portsea RSL Sub-Branch Inc	10,000
The Legacy Club of Ballarat Inc	24,900
The Scout Association of Australia Victorian Branch	30,000
The Working Lajjik for Community Association	30,000
This Story Australia Ltd.	29,500
Torquay RSL Sub-Branch	30,000
Vasey RSL Care	209,366
Vietnam Veterans Federation Vic Branch Inc	15,000
Wangaratta RSL Sub-Branch	50,000
Waverley RSL Sub-Branch Inc	23,976
Wedderburn Korong Vale R.S.L. Sub Branch Inc.	7,700
Wodonga Institute of TAFE	200,000
Total	3,804,401

Women's policy

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Ai Group Limited	2,000
Australian National University	159,357
Djirra (Previously Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service)	150,000
Ethnic Communities' Council of Victoria	50,000
Geelong Manufacturing Council	2,000
Gender Equity Victoria (GEN VIC)	2,000
Gippsland Women's Health	2,000
McClelland Sculpture Park + Gallery	21,000
NECA Education & Careers	2,000
Our Community Pty Ltd	2,000

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Queen Victoria Women's Centre	448,000
SisterWorks Incorporated	2,000
Springvale Monash Legal Service Inc	480,000
Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation Inc	50,036
Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry	595,000
Victorian Trades Hall Council	1,195,000
Women of Colour Australia	2,000
Women with Disabilities Victoria Inc	60,000
Women's Health Grampians Inc	2,000
Women's Health in the South East	2,000
Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc	50,000
Total	3,278,393

Youth

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Africa Day Australia Inc	2,000
Africare Community Services Inc	30,000
Al Hussein Cultural Association	2,000
Al Siraat College	2,000
Al-Hussein Arabic School	2,000
Alpine Shire Council	40,000
Anglicare Victoria	2,000
Ararat Rural City Council	54,999
Artlight Artists Incorporated	8,000
AusSudan Aid Inc	2,000
Australian-Filipino Community Services Inc	45,000
Ballarat International Foto Biennale Inc	2,000
Ballarat Specialist School	12,000
Banyule City Council	88,666
Barwon Valley School	12,000
Bass Coast Shire Council	48,600
Baw Baw Latrobe Local Learning and Employment Network Inc	55,000
Baw Baw Shire Council	99,999
Bayside City Council	42,000
Beaufort Guides Support Group Inc.	50,000
Benalla Rural City Council	79,999

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative	67,500
Berry Street Victoria Incorporated	114,999
Birchip Neighbourhood House	42,000
Birchip P-12 School	14,000
Bluebird Foundation	2,000
Brimbank City Council	40,000
Brophy Family and Youth Services	2,000
Buloke Shire Council	2,000
Burrinja Cultural Centre	2,000
Campaspe Cohuna Local Learning and Employment Network	2,000
Campaspe Shire Council	99,999
Cardinia Shire Council	91,999
Castlemaine Secondary College	12,000
CatholicCare Victoria Ltd	65,000
Central Goldfields Shire Council	91,999
Centre for Multicultural Youth	7,231,310
Charles La Trobe P-12 College	17,500
Cheltenham Community Centre Inc	53,333
City of Ballarat	42,000
City of Casey	40,000
City of Greater Bendigo	42,000
City of Greater Dandenong	89,999
City of Greater Geelong	66,999
City of Melbourne	2,000
City of Monash	52,000
City of Port Phillip	52,000
City of Whittlesea	40,000
Clunes Neighbourhood House	12,000
Cobden Technical School	12,000
Colac Otway Shire Council	58,666
Colac Specialist School	12,000
Community Bike Hub	20,000
Community Health Advancement and Student Engagement Inc.	27,000
Corangamite Shire Council	88,666
Croydon Special Developmental School	12,000
Cultural Centre of Florinians Aristotelis	2,000
Cultural Infusion Foundation Ltd	52,500

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Cypher Culture Inc.	32,000
Darebin City Council	38,666
Dhauwurd-Wurrung Elderly and Community Health Service	2,000
Different Journeys	50,000
Dimboola Memorial Secondary College	15,000
Down Syndrome Association of Victoria Inc	2,000
Drummond Street Services Inc	50,000
EACH Ltd	61,999
East Gippsland Shire Council	59,999
East Wimmera Health Service	2,000
Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School	12,000
Emerson School	12,000
Epping Secondary College	12,000
Eritrean Families in Hume and the North Inc.	2,000
Evolve Community HUB Ltd.	2,000
Expression Australia	12,000
Frankston City Council	42,000
Gateway Health	37,666
Girl Guides Association of Victoria	250,000
Glen Eira City Council	32,000
Glenelg Shire Council	91,999
Golden Plains Shire Council	98,666
Grampians Community Health	40,000
Great Ocean Road Health	2,000
Greater Shepparton City Council	40,000
Greater Shepparton Secondary College	12,000
Hamlyn Views School	15,000
Heatherwood School	12,000
Hepburn Shire Council	40,000
Heywood and District Secondary College	15,000
Himilo Ltd.	416,667
Hindmarsh Shire Council	94,999
HipHopopportunities for Youth Inc	59,924
Hobsons Bay City Council	88,666
Hopetoun P-12 College	12,000
Horsham Rural City Council	99,999
Hume City Council	94,999

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Indigo Shire Council	40,000
Initiative For Peace And Development IPD	2,000
Intereach Limited	1,906
Karaval Konkans Australia Inc	2,000
Keilor Downs College	12,000
Kensington Neighbourhood House Inc	2,000
Knox City Council	56,599
Launch Housing	30,000
Liberty Unity Organization Life Global Foundation Australia (LUOLGFA) Inc	2,000
Linden New Art	2,000
Little Dreamers Australia Co Ltd.	65,000
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	87,999
Mallee Track Health and Community Service	2,000
Mansfield Shire Council	81,666
Maribyrnong City Council	89,999
Maroondah City Council	1,000
Melton City Council	81,999
Merri Community Health Services Ltd trading as Holstep Health	635,843
Merri-Bek City Council	38,666
Mildura Rural City Council	99,999
Minus18 Foundation	30,000
Mitchell Shire Council	101,999
M'mbembe M'mbondo Victoria Inc	2,000
Moira Shire Council	40,000
Monash Student Association (Clayton) Inc	2,000
Moonee Valley City Council	86,666
Moorabool Shire Council	64,999
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	48,066
Mount Alexander Shire Council	98,666
Mountain District Radio Inc.	2,000
Moyne Shire Council	101,999
Mullum Mullum Aboriginal Gathering Place Ltd	128,800
Multicultural Youth Group (MYG)	2,500
Murrindindi Shire Council	20,000
Murtoa College	12,000

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Nelson Park School	15,000
Nillumbik Shire Council	52,000
North Central Local Learning & Employment Network	59,999
Northern District Community Health	133,999
Officer Specialist School	15,000
Old Orchard Primary School	2,000
Omeo District Health	2,000
Open House Christian Involvement Centres	2,000
Operation Newstart Inc	45,000
Orygen Ltd	2,000
Peak Play Academy	2,000
Perfect Ballers Incorporated	2,000
Preston Neighbourhood House Inc	56,666
Pyrenees Shire Council	40,000
Queenscliff Music Festival Inc	40,000
Raise Foundation	65,000
Red Cliffs Secondary College	12,000
Rite Mentoring Incorporated	57,500
Rumbalara Football and Netball Club Inc	128,800
Selby Community House Inc	2,000
SENVIC	50,000
Shugoofa Incorporated	2,000
Somali Voice Victoria Inc	2,000
South East Community Links Inc	154,999
South Gippsland Shire Council	42,000
Southern Grampians Shire Council	41,970
St Columba's College	2,000
St Helena Secondary College	2,000
Standing Tall in Warrnambool Inc	40,000
Stonnington City Council	40,000
Strathbogie Shire Council	94,999
Student Youth Network Inc.	120,000
Sudd Foundation Ltd	2,000
Surf Coast Shire	111,999
Swan Hill College	15,000
Swan Hill Rural City Council	59,999
Temple Beth Israel	2,000
The Bridge Youth Service Inc	25,000

Organisation	Payment (\$)
The Learning and Life Centre (Huddle) LTD	1,052,510
The Push ? Youth Music Organisation LTD	450,000
The Reach Foundation	40,000
The Scout Association of Australia Victorian Branch	1,056,500
The Trustee for The Salvation Army (Victoria) Property Trust	90,332
The Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency	50,000
Towong Shire Council	2,000
UN Youth Victoria	2,000
Uniting (Victoria & Tasmania) Ltd	1,052,510
Unity Libyan Youth Association	2,000
Victorian Aboriginal Health Service	128,800
Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service	346,000
Victorian Arabic Social Services Inc	23,000
Victorian YMCA Youth & Community Services Inc	172,270
Virtual School Victoria	14,000
Wakakirri Story-Dance Association Incorporated	22,000
Wangaratta Rural City Council	91,999
Warragul and District Specialist School	14,000
Warrnambool City Council	99,999
Weenthunga Health Network	128,800
Weeroona College Bendigo	12,000
Wellington Shire Council	42,000
West Wimmera Shire Council	89,999
Western Bulldogs Community Foundation	30,000
Western District Health Service	50,000
Western Port Secondary College	15,000
Whittlesea Community Connections Inc	50,000
Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation	130,800
Wodonga City Council	42,000
Wodonga Middle Years College	12,000
Wodonga Senior Secondary College	15,000
Woodend Neighbourhood House	2,000
Wyndham City Council	232,000
Wyndham Community and Education Centre Inc	2,009,060

Organisation	Payment (\$)
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	52,000
Yarram and District Health Service	40,000
Yarram Secondary College	12,000
Yarrawonga Neighbourhood House Inc	22,000
Yarriambiack Shire Council	50,000
Yoruba Language School Australia Ltd.	15,000
Young Australian Film Festival	2,000
Young Men's Christian Association of Ballarat Youth Services INC	53,333
Young Workers Centre	2,000
Youth Affairs Council of Victoria Inc	1,136,821
Youth Albury Wodonga Inc	40,000
Youth Projects Ltd	98,666
Total	24,030,666

Appendix 4: Additional departmental information available on request

In compliance with the requirements of the Standing Directions 2018 under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, details in respect of the items listed below have been retained by the department and are available on request, subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*:

- > a statement that declarations of pecuniary interests have been duly completed by all relevant officers
- > details of shares held by a senior officer as nominee or held beneficially in a statutory authority or subsidiary
- > details of publications produced by the entity about itself, and how these can be obtained
- > details of changes in prices, fees, charges, rates and levies charged by the entity
- > details of any major external reviews carried out on the entity
- > details of major research and development activities undertaken by the entity
- > details of overseas visits undertaken including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each visit
- > details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the entity to develop community awareness of the entity and its services
- > details of assessments and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees
- > a general statement on industrial relations within the entity and details of time lost through industrial accidents and disputes
- > a list of major committees sponsored by the entity, the purposes of each committee and the extent to which the purposes have been achieved
- > details of all consultancies and contractors including consultants/contractors engaged; services provided; and expenditure committed to for each engagement.

Requests for additional information may be made in writing to the following:

Executive Director, Organisational Strategy and Governance
GPO Box 1774 Melbourne Vic 3001

Email DFFHcorporate.reporting@dffh.vic.gov.au

Appendix 5: Disclosure index

The annual report of the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislation. This index has been prepared to facilitate identification of the department's compliance with statutory disclosure requirements (FRD 10).

Click on the page number (Ctrl + click in Microsoft Word) to refer to the relevant requirements for the corresponding disclosure requirements, or alternatively, refer to the corresponding page references.

Report of operations

Legislation	Requirement	Page reference
Charter and purpose		
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FRD 22	Organisational structure	21–22
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FRD 8	Performance against output performance measures	58–71
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FRD 12	Disclosure of major contracts	118
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FRD 22	Major changes or factors affecting performance	58–71
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FRD 22	Compliance with building and maintenance provisions of <i>Building Act 1993</i>	119–120
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FRD 22	Details of consultancies over \$10,000	99–101
FRD 22	Details of consultancies under \$10,000	101
FRD 22	Disclosure of government advertising expenditure	96–98
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FRD 22	Statement of availability of other information	241

Legislation	Requirement	Page reference
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FRD 22	Disclosure of social procurement activities under the Social Procurement Framework	119
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FRD 29	Workforce data disclosures	82–86
SD 5.2	Specific requirements under Standing Direction 5.2	2
Compliance attestation and declaration		
SD 5.1.4	Attestation for compliance with Ministerial Standing Direction	139
SD 5.2.3	Declaration in report of operations	3

Financial report

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Other requirements as required by FRDs in notes to the financial statements⁴²		
FRD 9	Departmental disclosure of administered assets and liabilities by activity	171
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FRD 21	Disclosures of responsible persons, executive officers and other personnel (contractors with significant management responsibilities) in the financial report	209–210
FRD 103	Non-financial physical assets	222 , 173 , 206 , 207–208
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Note: FRD = Financial Reporting Direction; SD = Standing Direction

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