

Victorian State Budget 2023 – 2024

Overview

Contents

Service Delivery Budget	2
Whole of Government - Aboriginal Affairs	3
Aboriginal Affairs	4
Supporting Treaty and Self-Determination	5
Department of Health	5
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	6
Department of Justice and Community Safety	6
Department Premier and Cabinet	8
Capital Budget	8

Service Delivery Budget

[Victorian State Budget 2023 - 2024: paper no. 3](#)

Overview of each portfolio budget - Budget Paper 3

	Service Type	\$22-23	\$23-24	\$24-25	Notes
Vic Govt	Total Output Initiative	\$1.97bn	\$4.79bn	\$3.09bn	The huge increase in 2023-24 is mainly due to increase in Education, Health, and DFFH.
Aboriginal Affairs	Outputs	Not calculated	\$59.5bn	\$80bn	This new budget line item is likely to include funding taken from other areas.
Dept Health	Outputs	\$38m	\$1.32bn	\$1.08bn	Given the scale of increase it is likely that there has been a change to how spending is counted.
DFFH	Outputs	\$14.9m	\$441.5m	\$280.1m	Given the scale of increase it is likely that there has been a change to how spending is counted.
Education	Outputs	\$47.3m	\$815.1m	\$497.5m	Given the scale of increase it is likely that there has been a change to how spending is counted.

Note: There is no information about funding for Aboriginal-specific programs within these budgets.

Whole of Government – Aboriginal Affairs

Output Initiatives

Table 1.3: Output initiatives – Aboriginal Affairs

	(\$ million)				
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
Aboriginal cultural heritage management and protection	..	1.9	0.3	0.3	0.3
Continuing the Aboriginal Community Infrastructure Fund	..	5.1	5.1
Enabling Traditional Owner participation in recognition and settlement agreements with the State	..	3.7	2.7
Major Aboriginal cultural events and awards	..	0.7	0.7
Meeting the State's legal requirements to enter Treaty negotiations	..	21.9	35.6	40.3	40.4
Strengthening lifelong Aboriginal health and wellbeing	..	4.3	7.9	11.3	11.6
Stronger Families – Closing the Gap by transforming the children and families service system	..	20.9	26.7	40.0	52.3
Traditional Owner formal recognition support services	..	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total output initiatives (a)	..	59.5	80.0	92.8	105.5

(a) Table may not add due to rounding

Aboriginal Affairs

[Victorian State Budget 2023 - 2024: paper no. 3](#)

Budget Paper 3, Pages 3 – 5

Continuing the Aboriginal Community Infrastructure Fund (2023-24: \$5.1m)

Funding is provided to continue the Aboriginal Community Infrastructure Fund, including the Aboriginal Community Infrastructure Program and the First Mortgage and Community Infrastructure Program.

Strengthening lifelong Aboriginal health and wellbeing (2023-24: \$4.3m)

- Include three new allied health positions to support coordination, data administration and analysis.
- ACCOs' holistic model of health – based on Aboriginal ways of Being, Doing and Knowing – and their community links will support the prevention of chronic conditions and hospitalisations, particularly in the early years of life.

Stronger Families – Closing the Gap by transforming the children and families service system (2023-24: \$20.9m)

- the transfer of an additional 774 Aboriginal children to the Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care program
- expansion of the Community Protecting Boorais trial, an Aboriginal-led investigation team for child protection reports, for 348 Aboriginal children
- early intervention supports, including Koorie supported playgroups, the Aboriginal Rapid Response service model, and the Family Preservation and Reunification Response for Aboriginal families
- continued support for the Aboriginal Workforce Fund, business planning resources for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, targeted training packages for approximately 100 sector workers and support for the Aboriginal Community Infrastructure Program

Best Start, Best Life: Pre-Prep (no amount specified)

Initiatives will invest in workforce attraction, retention and quality, and includes funding for Aboriginal controlled organisations and Traditional Owners to work with early childhood services to improve cultural safety and inclusion.

Ending family violence and sexual assault (no amount specified)

Funding is provided to continue delivering support for victim survivors and perpetrator intervention programs including:

- Aboriginal frontline family violence services
- Aboriginal-led sexual assault services

Investing early where it matters (no amount specified)

These Community-led initiatives provide Aboriginal youth mentoring and vulnerable young people from African and Pasifika backgrounds with culturally specific support and improved education and employment opportunities. These initiatives will also support improved Community safety outcomes by building protective factors that prevent young people being drawn to various forms of antisocial behaviour. Initiatives include:

- the Marram Nganyin Aboriginal Youth Mentoring Program

Supporting Treaty and Self-Determination

[Victorian State budget 2023 – 2024 overview](#)

Budget overview document Page 50

\$82 million will be provided to support the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria to prepare for and enter the historic Treaty negotiations. This is a part of the **\$475 million** investment that the government is making to First Peoples through this Budget.

- **\$35 million** to support 25 self-determining Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations to strengthen workforce capacity
- **\$17 million** to implement a regional hub model for Victorian Aboriginal Legal Services, enhancing Victoria Police's Aboriginal Youth Cautioning Program in collaboration with Victorian Aboriginal communities, and investing in Aboriginal Community Justice Panels
- **\$14 million** to attract new and returning First Peoples into teaching degrees and government school teaching roles
- **\$10 million** to continue the Aboriginal Community Infrastructure Program to help advance employment and social and economic development opportunities for Aboriginal Victorians
- **\$6.4 million** to continue to support Traditional Owner corporations when negotiating a Recognition and Settlement Agreement package
- **\$3.9 million** to continue the First Nations Legal and Research Services
- **\$3.9 million** for an Aboriginal-led Early Parenting Centre that's completely dedicated to Aboriginal families and children
- **\$2.6 million** to strengthen the Aboriginal Heritage Officer and the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape World Heritage Rangers programs
- **\$1.4 million** to deliver Aboriginal cultural events and awards

Department of Health

[Victorian State Budget 2023 – 2024: paper no. 3](#)

Health-based response to public – page 60

Intoxication Funding is provided for the statewide rollout of the health-based response to public intoxication, including dedicated services for Aboriginal Victorians and central clinical and referral support services.

This initiative contributes to the Department of Health's Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation output.

Implementing the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Act – page 63

Funding is provided to support the establishment and operations of new and existing entities under the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Act 2022

Priority suicide prevention and response efforts – page 64

Funding also continues delivery of social and emotional wellbeing supports and suicide prevention services through the Strong Brother Strong Sister program for Aboriginal young people in the Geelong region and continue the Youth Live4Life program for young people living in rural and regional Victoria.

Strengthening and supporting the mental health and wellbeing workforce – page 64

Funding is provided to continue the Earn and Learn and Aboriginal Traineeship programs, attracting new workforce by providing concurrent opportunities for education and on the job learning.

Further to the above initiatives, \$5 million is allocated to the Women's Health Research Institute, and \$35 million to paediatric cancer research. Although these are not Aboriginal specific funding, these are areas that VACCHO could ask for a funding from this announced funding pool for research for Aboriginal Women and Aboriginal children.

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

[Victorian State Budget 2023 - 2024: paper no. 3](#)

Pg. 44 – continuation of Aboriginal family violence services, otherwise seems to be an absence in their initiatives.

Page 16 – Investing in Women's Health

- \$86 million to help parents with their newborn babies, including more access to free Maternal and Child Health services and lactation consultants, additional support for fathers' groups and multicultural communities, a new early parenting centre and a centre dedicated to Aboriginal families and children. Funding will also support the Baby Bundle program.
- \$58 million for 20 new women's health clinics and a dedicated Aboriginal-led women's clinic, to overcome some of the barriers to treatment that women face such as cost, confidentiality, geographical location of services, cultural and communication differences. The clinics will mean women can access specialists – gynaecologist, urologist, along with specialist nursing and allied health in one spot.
- \$140 million to reduce Aboriginal overrepresentation in child protection and family services through culturally appropriate care, led by the Aboriginal community. This funding will also expand the trial of an Aboriginal-led investigation team for child protection reports

Page 49 – Keeping women and children safe

- This year's Budget will invest a further \$117 million to continue to support victim survivors of family violence and hold perpetrators to account, including in Aboriginal-led services, by delivering perpetrator intervention programs, keeping victim survivors safe in their homes, increasing sexual assault support services and providing specialist family violence legal assistance at court.

Page 55 – Taking care of those we love

- \$590,000 to continue delivering social and emotional wellbeing initiatives in regional Victoria, including a suicide prevention program for Aboriginal young people in the Geelong region

Department of Justice and Community Safety

[Victorian State Budget 2023 - 2024: paper no. 3](#)

Prisoner Supervision and Support

Reducing future justice demand and keeping the community safe – page 86

Funding is provided to reduce future justice demand and keep people out of prison, including:

- enhancing the Aboriginal Youth Cautioning Program to improve cautioning for young people

aged 10–17 years old in collaboration with Victorian Aboriginal communities

- funding for a two-year pilot to assist Aboriginal Community Justice Panels in three locations
- implementing a regional hub model for Victorian Aboriginal Legal Services (VALS) across five locations, in response to increasing demand for legal services in regional Aboriginal communities

Supporting the corrections system to improve community safety:

- the women's justice diversion program, to provide housing and targeted supports for women on remand and on short sentences – I believe this would be in relation to Veronica Nelson, and how women and more commonly arrested and remand for non-violent offences
- culturally safe support programs for Aboriginal people in custody

Women's custodial health services – page 87

Funding is provided to deliver expanded primary health services in Victoria's two women's prisons. Enhanced services under these arrangements will be delivered by Western Health at Dame Phyllis Frost Centre and Dhelkaya (Castlemaine) Health in partnership with Bendigo Health at Tarrengower Prison and will include:

- increased access to medical officers, including general practitioners
- improved cultural safety and access to Aboriginal services
- a comprehensive inmate reception process and integrated care planning, including a focus on the continuity of care for women exiting custody
- a strengthened clinical governance framework.

Although not all points are Aboriginal specific, they are still relevant as improved health care is what is needed in all prisons. These initiatives will help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in custody.

Providing legal assistance and supporting Victorians with disability – page 89

Additional funding is also separately provided for culturally safe legal assistance delivered by the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service across Victoria.

Youth Justice Custodial Services

Funding is provided to continue critical initiatives in Youth Justice, including culturally responsive services to support Aboriginal young people in custody.

Court Services Victoria

Continuing therapeutic court programs – page 112 (\$18.3 million allocated)

Funding is provided to continue therapeutic court programs that provide targeted support to address the drivers of offending. This includes:

- continuing Drug Court programs in Ballarat, Shepparton, and the County Court of Victoria to help participants address substance abuse issues
- continuing the Court Integrated Services Program Indictable Stream Pilot to support people on bail access services including housing, mental health support, drug and alcohol treatment, and Koorie specific services.

Department Premier and Cabinet

[Victorian State Budget 2023 - 2024: paper no. 3](#)

Public Sector Administration Advice and Support: Government boards that reflect the communities they serve – page 94

Funding is provided for the Victorian Public Sector Commission to deliver initiatives to support the recruitment of people from diverse backgrounds to Victorian Government boards. This includes capacity building training and resources to facilitate inclusive Victorian Government board culture, and it is an action in the Victorian Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Partnership Forum to increase the number of Aboriginal people on hospital boards.

*there is nothing within the DPC budget that is specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people although funding for some activities in the self-determination section may come from DPC, for instance, funding for the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria.

Capital Budget

[Victorian State Capitol Program - state budget paper no. 4](#)

	New/Existing projects	\$22-23	\$23-24	Notes
Whole of Govt	New	\$266m	\$2.87bn	
Whole of Govt	Existing	\$56.2bn	\$24.2bn	
Dept Health	New	\$9.8m	\$250.6m	
Dept Health	Existing	\$3.7bn	\$3.1bn*	*\$1.45bn is coming from contingency funds so advise Total Health capital expenditure is \$1.9bn, not \$3.35bn (pg. 72)
DFFH	New	Not included	\$0	
DFFH	Existing	\$54.3m	\$83.3m	*\$36.7m is described as "Other" projects being undertaken in addition to existing projects which totalled \$46.6m

