
Government Responses to the Recommendations of

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE'S

Report on the 2023-24 Budget Estimates

Pursuant to Section 36 of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, this paper provides a response to the recommendations contained in the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee's (PAEC) Report on the 2023-24 Budget Estimates.

Guide for readers - Following is the explanation of the format of this paper.

1 PAEC recommendation	2 Response	3 Action taken to date and commitment to further action
--------------------------	---------------	--

Please Complete for each recommendation:

Column 1: Contains PAEC's recommendations as published in its Report on the 2023-24 Budget Estimates.

Column 2: Indicates the Government's response to each recommendation: 'Support', 'Support-in-Principle', 'Not Support', or 'Under Review'.

Column 3: Provides an explanation of the Government's position on the recommendation, indicates the actions that have been taken to date relevant to the implementation of the recommendation, and outlines commitment to further action relevant to the implementation of the recommendation.

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 1: The Department of Treasury and Finance publish revised revenue estimates for the <i>Remove the payroll tax exemption for high-fee non-government schools</i> initiative in the 2023–24 Budget Update, reflecting changes made to the assessment of non-government schools exemption status.</p>	<p>Not Support</p>	<p>Revenue measures announced and published in budget papers reflect the information and data that is available at the time, including policy parameters and economic forecasts. It is not standard practice for initiative estimates to be re-published in subsequent budget papers where there has not been a change in policy.</p> <p>The Minister for Education’s determination identified the number of schools subject to payroll tax, which was lower than the number of schools estimated when the measure was first announced. There was no change in policy through the Minister’s determination. The Treasurer noted at the time that the determination would lead to the initiative raising about \$100 million less compared to the amount estimated when the measure was first announced.</p> <p>The revenue impact of the high-fee non-government schools initiative has been absorbed in payroll tax forecasts in the <i>2023-24 Budget Update</i> and will continue to be captured in future budget publications.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: The Department of Treasury and Finance provide a breakdown of the large general government sector contingencies not allocated to departments by estimated portfolio and department (for example, health, disability education) in the next set of budget papers.</p>	<p>Not Support</p>	<p>Total output and asset contingencies are provided in the <i>2023-24 Budget</i>, Budget Paper No. 5, Chapter 1 <i>Estimated financial Statements for the general government sector</i>.</p> <p>General government output and asset contingencies held reflect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing government policy decisions for which funding has yet to be allocated to departments, or - Provisions not yet allocated to meet additional price and demand growth for health, disability and education, or - An unallocated provision available for future government decisions. <p>It is a long-standing principle that contingencies have been provided in the current format.</p> <p>DTF does not consider further breakdowns of contingency balances relevant for the purposes of interpreting the budget papers.</p> <p>Contingency balances are comprised of commercially sensitive and/or Cabinet-in-Confidence items and disclosure of disaggregated balances may enable the identification of sensitive information.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 3: The Government provide further details on the Department of Treasury and Finance website on how savings initiatives related to the <i>Whole of Government savings and efficiencies</i>, <i>Labor's financial statement savings</i> and <i>COVID Debt Repayment Plan</i> amounting to \$2.9 billion will be achieved.</p>	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p>The Department of Treasury and Finance website, through the <i>2023-24 Budget</i>, Budget Paper No. 3, Chapter 1, details how the 'COVID Debt Repayment Plan - savings and efficiencies' initiative will be achieved. This will be through reductions in corporate and back-office functions, reductions in labour hire and consultancy expenditure (additional to the amount committed in Labor's Financial Statement 2022), and efficiencies across public non-financial corporations and public financial corporations.</p> <p>Furthermore, <i>2023-24 Budget</i>, Budget Paper No. 3, Chapter 1, provides a detailed summary on how the 'COVID Debt Repayment Plan – COVID Debt Levy' will be implemented.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4: Post-review, the Department of Health develop new performance measures for the Ambulance Non-Emergency Services output for inclusion in the 2024–25 Budget. This should include performance information relating but not limited to timeliness, quality, regulatory compliance, access, and supply.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>	<p>The Department of Health's review into non-emergency patient transport is underway. While awaiting the findings for this review, no new measures have been set for inclusion in the 2024-25 budget. On completion of the review, the department will determine the most appropriate way to measure performance in this area.</p>
<p>Recommendation 5: The Department of Health publish on its website the location of the nine new sexual and reproductive hubs and explain how these hubs will fulfil gaps in sexual and reproductive services and respond to demand for these services.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Department of Health has updated a consumer-facing webpage on the sexual and reproductive health hubs and is available here: https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/sexual-and-reproductive-health-hubs</p> <p>The website lists locations of the current hubs and the services they deliver. As new hubs are established, they will be uploaded to the website.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 6: The Department of Health regularly report to the community on how the establishment of sexual and reproductive health hubs reduce the barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health care, including how they reduce the financial burden of this care.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Health has supported media releases announcing new hubs as they are established. The department’s website will continue to be updated as new hubs are established. The department’s website has been updated to clarify services offered by hubs and potential costs associated. The department will continue to report against the Victorian Auditor General’s Office report titled <i>Supporting sexual and reproductive health</i>. No other formal reporting channels have been established.</p>
<p>Recommendation 7: The Department of Health regularly report on the progress of the <i>Hospital Infrastructure Delivery Fund</i> on the Victorian Health Building Authority website, including relevant due diligence and feasibility studies related to all public hospital projects.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Victorian Health Building Authority currently publishes project updates on all funded projects in delivery, this will include the seven hospital redevelopments once they are under contract and enter delivery.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8: The Victorian Health Building Authority publish dedicated information about the progress of construction of the one new and six expanded/ upgraded hospitals listed in the 2023–24 Budget.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Victorian Health Building Authority currently publishes construction progress and updates on dedicated project pages of all funded projects in delivery. This will include the seven hospital redevelopments once they are under contract and enter delivery.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 9: The Department of Health publish its progress towards the <i>Whole of Government Emissions Reductions Pledge</i> in percentage terms and the percentage share of each energy type used in its operations each financial year in its annual report.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Health reports its greenhouse gas emissions and energy usage in its annual report in accordance with the requirements of <i>Financial Reporting Directive 24 Reporting of environmental data by government entities</i> (FRD24).</p> <p>The current Whole of Victorian Government Emissions Reduction Pledge is a commitment to a number of initiatives to reduce total government emissions by 2.7 Mt CO₂-e by 2025 compared to 2018-19 levels. It has no specific targets or baselines for individual departments to report against. The department will continue to report against FRD 24 requirements including progress on implementing actions that support delivery of the WoVG pledge.</p> <p>Energy consumption data is reported in MWh and MJ/TJ as required by FRD 24. The department will maintain consistency with FRD 24 reporting requirements.</p>
<p>Recommendation 10: The Department of Health update its <i>Environmental sustainability strategy</i> for the next five years, including 2023–24.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Health recognises the importance of acting on climate change and sustainability issues in order to achieve our vision of Victorians being the healthiest people in the world. The department is currently in the process of establishing Climate Health Victoria (CHV) – a unit that will drive improvements in climate change and sustainability performance across the health sector.</p> <p>Implementation of the Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2018-19 to 2022-23 has seen its key directions relating to leadership and climate change adaptation integrated into the Health and Human Services Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan, with other outcomes including an increase in hospital water and energy ratings and creation of a sustainability category within the Victorian Public Healthcare Awards.</p> <p>Building on the work already being done by the department, CHV will initially focus on strategic actions to improve climate change mitigation and adaptation performance. Other sustainability issues (including waste, purchasing, water conservation etc.) will be examined through this lens and priorities guided by advice from the health sector.</p>
<p>Recommendation 11: The Department of Health clearly outline the Health Infrastructure portfolio responsibilities, related initiatives, outputs, objectives, objective indicators and performance measures in the 2024–25 Budget.</p>	<p>Not support</p>	<p>The Department of Health’s strategic plan, and Victorian Health Building Authority (VHBA) website, provide public information on our health infrastructure responsibilities and related initiatives. These initiatives are also outlined in Budget Paper 4 and the Department of Treasury and Finance capital investment dashboard. The VHBA website also provides progress information on its capital projects. The specification of outputs and output performance measures is specifically for output funding, as per section 40 of the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>, not asset funding.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 12: The Department of Health report on the number of workforce positions recruited as part of the <i>Alcohol and other drug treatment, support and harm reduction services</i> initiative in its forthcoming annual reports.</p>	Support	<p>The Department of Health collects annual headcount and FTE data for the Alcohol and other drug (AOD) sector through the annual Mental Health and AOD workforce census. Relevant data can be published in the next Departmental annual report in 2023-24.</p>
<p>Recommendation 13: The Department of Health address the shortcomings identified by the Committee in two new performance measures introduced in 2023–24 with further, or altered, performance measures for inclusion in the 2024–25 Budget.</p>	Support-in-principle	<p>The identified measures were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Protection – Comments on proposals and applications to amend the ANZ Food Standards Code are provided within timeframes specified by Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) • Health Workforce Training and Development – Sign-on bonuses for nursing and midwifery graduates. <p>The Department of Health will consider reviewing the effectiveness of demonstrating performance for these two measures as part of the 2025-26 budget.</p>
<p>Recommendation 14: The Department of Health develop new performance measures that reflect the increased investment in sexual and reproductive health for inclusion in the 2024–25 Budget.</p>	Support-in-principle	<p>Internally, the Department of Health has performance measures regarding the service delivery of the hubs, in order to manage the increased investment. The department will consider the inclusion of performance measures to reflect the increased investment in sexual and reproductive health as part of the 2025-26 budget.</p>
<p>Recommendation 15: Where possible, the Department of Education fund all of its initiatives through the budget to promote funding certainty and transparency.</p>	Support-in-principle	<p>The Ministers responsible for the Department of Education seek funding for initiatives through the annual budget cycle. Funding requests required to respond to unforeseen, urgent or emergency situations, are prepared and considered by Government in line with the Resource Management Framework.</p>
<p>Recommendation 16: The Department of Education update its <i>Victorian Teacher Supply and Demand Report</i>.</p>	Support	<p>The Victorian Department of Education (DE) produces the Teacher Supply and Demand Report (TSDR) to provide a comprehensive cross sectoral picture of Victoria’s early childhood and school teaching workforces.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 17: The Department of Education enhance its reporting on how it is meeting teacher workforce supply and demand issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating performance measures related to the funding provided for teaching workforce attraction and retention, including <i>Targeted Initiatives to Attract More Teachers</i> as funded in the 2023–24 Budget • creating and publishing a workforce strategy demonstrating what actions will be taken to meet the demand for government teachers over an appropriate period of time. 	<p>Support-in-Principle</p>	<p>In relation to <i>creating performance measures related to the funding provided for teaching workforce attraction and retention</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DE is developing performance measures for funding provided for teaching workforce attraction and retention to add to the 2024–25 performance statement. <p>In relation to <i>creating and publishing a workforce strategy</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2019, the Government has invested over \$1.6 billion in school workforce initiatives. This investment has focused on 5 strategic priorities: Attraction, Recruitment, Supporting early-career teachers, Retention and Career development. • DE has published a summary of investment across these 5 priorities (https://www.vic.gov.au/ensuring-strong-sustainable-and-supported-school-workforce). <p>DE will continue delivery of the National Teacher Workforce Action Plan together with other State and Territory jurisdictions across Australia.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 18: The Victorian School Building Authority provide information on its website regarding how the location of the 50 planned Government owned and operated early learning centres has been chosen. This should include reporting on the consultation process to determine the remaining 26 locations, and information regarding how each of the 50 locations are targeting areas most in need and reducing inequity of access.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Department of Education will update the Victorian School Building Authority website to include information addressing how locations are chosen and how final sites are selected.</p>
<p>Recommendation 19: The Department of Education address the shortcomings identified by the Committee in the new performance measures identified by the Committee through further, or altered, performance measures in the 2024–25 Budget.</p>	<p>Overall not support</p>	<p><i>See below 19 a, b, c, d, e, f</i></p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>a. The Department of Education (DE) advises the purpose of this measure is to 'reflect the early childhood teaching workforce' and provide 'workforce insights on funded kindergarten programs each year'.</p> <p>While the Committee supports the rationale of the measure and notes the importance of growing the early childhood workforce in the context of the Best Start, Best Life reforms, it is difficult to determine departmental performance regarding the early childhood workforce with this measure, as it only measures the number of teachers.</p> <p>No context is provided regarding how the target was set, how many services there are, how many teachers are needed, or whether DE has met its specified objectives regarding the workforce.</p> <p>Further performance measures should be created to demonstrate DE's performance regarding the early childhood workforce.</p>	<p>Under review</p>	<p>The Best-Start-Best-Life-Workforce-Strategy outlines in detail the current policy settings to support the delivery of BSBL reforms through workforce attraction, retention and quality.</p> <p>More detailed workforce metrics for Victoria's early childhood teaching workforce are outlined in the department's Victorian Teacher Supply and Demand Report, which includes supply drivers such as initial teacher education enrolments, workforce demographics, kindergarten program enrolments, and anticipated workforce demand over time. The Department of Education will consider ways to further improve performance information in this area.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>b. The new measures are useful to demonstrate the stability of the government school teaching workforce and will show a growth or decline in trends in ongoing employment over time.</p> <p>DE notes that both measures were created in part to respond to a Committee recommendation in the Report on the 2022–23 Budget Estimates.</p> <p>The recommendation stated: The 2023–24 Budget include performance measures to track the outcomes achieved by investments to attract, retain and increase the numbers of teachers across metropolitan, rural and regional Victoria.</p> <p>DE does not currently have other performance measures that demonstrate performance in attracting, retaining and increasing teachers.</p> <p>Additionally, there are no measures of workforce trends in different areas in Victoria.</p> <p>DE's performance measures and response to the Committee's recommendation would be improved by further measures addressing these gaps.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Department of Education is developing performance measures for funding provided for teaching workforce attraction and retention to add to the 2024–25 performance statement.</p> <p>The Victorian Teacher Supply and Demand Report provides comprehensive workforce metrics on Victoria's education system. This includes detailed workforce metrics for Victoria's government school system for both primary and secondary education, including attraction (i.e., registered teachers and teachers employed), retention (i.e., attrition), and increasing teachers (i.e., forecast demand over time). The Victorian Teacher Supply and Demand Report also provides detailed geographic breakdowns of key workforce metrics including no-appointment rates, vacancy rates, and attrition.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>c. While the Committee supports the reasoning given for amending this performance measure, the resulting name change and information provided on the methodology for calculating the result is unclear. The methodology provided states the outcome is calculated by using the total number of Year 7 students in a given year, while the name of the measure suggests Year 8 students may also be taken into account. The Committee suggests DE rename the measure to clarify the method of calculation.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Department of Education (DE) supports the recommended changes. DE will revise this measure in its 2024–25 Budget Statement.</p>
<p>d. This new measure has replaced the measure 'Average days lost due to absence for Aboriginal students in Years 7–12' as the new measure is nationally comparable. The new measure results in a loss of information about Aboriginal student absence and attendance in Years 11 and 12, which is important as attendance is likely lower in these years, yet vital for student outcomes in their last year(s) of schooling. The Committee suggests DE create a new measure to demonstrate attendance of Aboriginal students in Years 11 and 12.</p>	<p>Not support</p>	<p>The Department of Education (DE) does not support the recommended performance measure changes. The national attendance measures for Years 7 to 10 that DE recently introduced from the Reporting on Government Services provide more robust and nationally comparable performance information. DE uses attendance information from other states to benchmark performance targets for this cohort of students.</p> <p>Unlike Years 7 to 10, collecting standardised attendance information for Years 11 to 12 presents unique challenges. Senior secondary students take varied pathway options, attending vocational education and training, apprenticeships and work placements, and part-time employment in addition to traditional academic routes. This diversity can make it challenging to track and report attendance for Years 11 to 12 students in a standardized manner.</p> <p>Year 12 completion outcomes provide more accurate performance information for Years 11 to 12.</p> <p>It should be noted that for the reasons stated above, there is no national reporting of Year 11 and 12 attendance.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>e. The Committee commends DE for establishing measures relating to attendance that are broken down into inner and outer regional areas. However, issues with this performance measure are similar to the issues outlined above. An understanding of attendance in Years 11 and 12 are important. The Committee suggests DE establish such measures for inner and outer regional students.</p>	<p>Not support</p>	<p>The Department of Education (DE) does not support the recommended performance information changes. The national attendance measures for Years 7 to 10 that DE recently introduced from the Reporting on Government Services provide more robust and nationally comparable performance information. DE uses attendance information from other states to benchmark performance targets for this cohort of students.</p> <p>Unlike Years 7 to 10, collecting standardised attendance information for Years 11 to 12 presents unique challenges. Senior secondary students take varied pathway options, attending vocational education and training, apprenticeships and work placements, and part-time employment in addition to traditional academic routes. This diversity can make it challenging to track and report attendance for Years 11 to 12 students in a standardized manner.</p> <p>Year 12 completion outcomes provide more accurate performance information for Years 11 to 12.</p> <p>It should be noted that for the reasons stated above, there is no national reporting of Year 11 and 12 attendance.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>f. The Committee believes the Mental Health in primary Schools initiative is important to report on and has discussed the initiative multiple times across previous reports. However, measures such as these that only provide a number often do not aid in the understanding of performance by the department. With a target of 474 schools in 2023–24, the Victorian public will be able to see how the initiative is rolled out to further schools over multiple years. This is the only information gained from this measure. No information regarding the proportion of schools who have access to the program (out of all government schools or those eligible), demand for the program, or the quality of the program is provided. Considering the importance of the initiative, it is vital access and quality are measured to demonstrate how DE is performing when delivering this initiative.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>	<p>The Department of Education is proposing to revise its methodology with this measure to better demonstrate access and demand to the program. Changes for this measure will be considered for introduction in the next budget cycle.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 20: The Department of Education review the discontinued performance measures outlined by the Committee regarding primary and secondary school education.</p>	<p>Overall not support</p>	<p><i>See below 20 a, b, c,</i></p>
<p>a. DE advised that the measure is proposed to be discontinued as 'the underlying methodology for calculating school performance is being reviewed in conjunction with the revisions to the National Assessment Program–Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN)'.</p> <p>The Committee supports this reasoning. However, DE no longer has performance measures in the School Education – Primary output that directly demonstrate schools improving their performance. Improved learning and development, and improved literacy and numeracy skills are listed objectives of DE.</p> <p>Therefore, the Committee recommends that in the next budget, or when appropriate following the revisions to the NAPLAN, DE creates performance measures relating to school performance across relevant outputs</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>	<p>The Department of Education (DE) is revising its school performance methodology. DE will consider the inclusion of new BP3 performance measures at the conclusion of this process, which is due for completion in October 2024.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>b. DE reports that this measure has been discontinued as it does not meet the Resource Management Framework criteria for usefulness or relevance. With the discontinuation of this measure the output does not have any measures associated with the Child Safety Standards, or presumably the work DE does to ensure government schools are compliant with Standards and legislation relating to child safety. The Committee considers it important that there are some measures relating to how schools meet such standards.</p>	<p>Not support, noting existing systems in place for measuring, monitoring and reporting on school compliance with child safety.</p>	<p>The Department of Education (DE) takes child safety very seriously and continues to measure, monitor and report on government schools' compliance with the Child Safety Standards. DE is the review body appointed by Victoria's education and training regulator, the VRQA, to assess schools for compliance with the Minimum Standards for school registration including the Child Safe Standards. This arrangement is governed by an MOU that includes performance measures and reporting requirements. School sector Child Safe Standards' compliance results are publicly reported in the Commission for Children and Young People's annual report.</p> <p>DE does not support the inclusion of a new BP3 reporting measure, noting that the measure was discontinued due to revisions to the DE objectives and output group structure.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>c. Several of DE's performance measures relating to average days lost for different year levels have been replaced by new measures in 2023–24. This measure has been discontinued and has not been replaced 'as there is no nationally comparable measure for senior secondary student attendance'. Attendance for Years 11–12 is now no longer covered by DE's performance measure. The Committee does not see the inability to compare the measure nationally as a reason to discontinue, as the comparison is still valid in Victoria year-on-year. Further, attendance in Years 11 and 12 are likely both lower than other years, and important for student outcomes for all available study options in these years of schooling. The Committee suggests the measure be retained, or a new measure created to allow for performance information on attendance in Years 11 and 12 to be recorded.</p>	<p>Not support</p>	<p>The Department does not support the recommended performance information changes. Collecting and reporting standardised attendance information for Years 11 to 12 presents unique challenges compared to Years 7 to 10. As noted above, Senior Secondary students take varied pathway options, attending vocational education and training, apprenticeships and work placements, and part-time employment in addition to traditional academic routes. This diversity can make it challenging to track and report attendance for Years 11 to 12 students in a standardized manner.</p> <p>Year 12 completion outcomes provide more accurate performance information for senior students.</p> <p>It should be noted that for the reasons stated above, there is no national reporting of Year 11 and 12 attendance.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 21: The Department of Justice and Community Safety explore ways to report on the overall success, outcomes and details of new early intervention support services and outreach and diversionary programs specifically targeting 10-, 11-, 12- and 13-year-olds to prepare for the raising of the minimum age of criminal responsibility.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Justice and Community Safety is working closely with the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing in preparation for the minimum age of criminal responsibility reforms, including exploring ways to report on the overall success, outcomes and details of any new early intervention support services and outreach and diversionary programs specifically targeting 10-, 11-, 12- and 13-year-olds.</p>
<p>Recommendation 22: The Department of Justice and Community Safety include two performance measures in the 2024–25 Budget that report on the implementation and delivery of expected outcomes associated with the <i>Healthcare Services Quality Framework for Victorian Prisons</i> by custodial health service providers in both men’s and women’s prisons.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Justice and Community Safety supports-in-principle the development of performance measures that report on the implementation and delivery of expected outcomes associated with the Healthcare Services Quality Framework for Victorian Prisons. Consideration will be given to new measures to be included in future budget cycles.</p>
<p>Recommendation 23: The Department of Justice and Community Safety consider ways to publicly report on material improvements in and impacts of health services delivered under new clinical governance arrangements and the <i>Healthcare Services Quality Framework for Victorian Prisons</i>.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS) supports-in-principle the development of public reporting on material improvements in and impact of health services delivered under new clinical governance arrangement and the Healthcare Services Quality Framework for Victorian Prisons. DJCS will seek to explore options for public reporting in future budget cycles.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 24: The Department of Justice and Community Safety report on the outcomes and impacts of the <i>Emergency Management Sector Outcomes Framework</i>, as well as annual improvements or changes in outcome indicators outlined in the <i>Framework</i> on the Emergency Management Victoria website.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) and Victoria’s emergency management sector is committed to working towards safer and more resilient communities. To support this EMV has led the development of the Victorian emergency management Sector Outcomes Framework, which describes what the sector is collectively seeking to achieve and deliver for all Victorians. This Framework is an important step towards measuring the emergency management sector’s combined impact, contribution, and value. The Outcomes Framework will help to assess how investment and actions within the emergency management sector are contributing to positive change.</p> <p>The Outcomes Framework is published on the Emergency Management Victoria website: https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/strategic-priorities/sector-outcomes-framework. The rolling three-year Strategic Action Plan (SAP) (also published) provides an overview of how each SAP action relates to the sector outcomes and identifies the actions that have the potential for delivering the greatest number of outcomes. Progress against these actions is monitored and reported publicly by the Inspector-General for Emergency Management.</p>
<p>Recommendation 25: The Department of Justice and Community Safety explore ways to report on the quality of the <i>Youth Crime Prevention</i> program and implement a new performance measure in the 2024–25 Budget that reports on the proportion of participants of the program who complete a planned exit.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS) reviews its Performance Statement for Budget Paper No. 3 on an annual basis for ongoing relevance and appropriateness and to ensure that the performance measures in the statement meet best practice reporting guidance. As part of the review for the upcoming 2024-25 budget, DJCS assessed all performance measures within the Crime Prevention portfolio to ensure the quality of program success is captured. This includes updates to include a quality-based performance measure for the Youth Crime Prevention Program.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 26: The Department of Justice and Community Safety review the three discontinued performance measures outlined by the Committee regarding gambling inspections and gambling licensing client satisfaction.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The performance measure <i>Gambling licencing client satisfaction</i> was discontinued in the <i>2023-24 Budget</i> due to response rates for the stakeholder satisfaction survey not achieving a statistically significant sample to report on this measure. The Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS) will explore options to improve response rates, and options to re-introduce this or a similar measure in future years if a statistically significant sample is consistently achieved.</p> <p>The performance measures <i>Gambling inspections completed – metropolitan</i> and <i>Gambling inspections completed – regional</i> were consolidated in the <i>2023-24 Budget</i> into one measure <i>Gambling inspections completed</i>.</p> <p>The regulator undertakes a risk-based approach to determining where inspections occur. This enables the allocation of resources based on where risks are higher, in line with best practice and that risk varies across the state year by year. The flexibility provided by this aggregated measure is not anticipated to have major impacts on inspections levels across metropolitan and regional areas.</p>
<p>Recommendation 27: The Department of Transport and Planning publish comprehensive details of the impacts of the strategic review of the Infrastructure Investment Program, including: all information listed as ‘tbc’ in the 2023–24 Budget, any financial costs and delays in project timelines associated with the review, any changes in Commonwealth funding or Victorian Government funding allocated to specific projects and the reasons for the change. This should include updated Total Estimated Investment figures and estimated completion dates for those projects not impacted by the strategic review.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Transport and Planning continues to work through many of the impacts resulting from the strategic review of the Infrastructure Investment Program, and the impacts of any changes cannot be fully verified until the release of the Commonwealth Government’s budget, expected to be in May 2024.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 28: The Department of Transport and Planning introduce in the 2024–25 Budget two new performance measures that report on the number of new zero emissions buses added to the metropolitan and regional bus networks.</p>	Support	<p>The Department of Transport and Planning will consider introducing performance measures to report on the number of new zero emission buses added to the metropolitan and regional bus networks following commencement of zero emission buses transitioning into the fleet from 1 July 2025.</p>
<p>Recommendation 29: The Department of Transport and Planning introduce an objective indicator in the 2024–25 Budget that reports on zero emissions buses as a proportion of all operational buses in the Victorian fleet.</p>	Support-in-principle	<p>The Department of Transport and Planning will consider introducing an objective indicator that reports on zero-emission buses as a proportion of all buses in the Victorian fleet following commencement of zero emission buses transitioning into the fleet from 1 July 2025.</p>
<p>Recommendation 30: The Department of Transport and Planning publish information related to the actual outcomes of proposed reforms, including measures to improve customer satisfaction, deliver passenger experience and network operating efficiencies and optimise the transition to zero emission buses, that are implemented in line with <i>Victoria’s Bus Plan</i> and realised through new bus service contracts.</p>	Support-in-principle	<p>The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) is currently progressing the development of an implementation plan that will provide detailed information on how key outcomes relating to Victoria’s Bus Plan will be achieved. DTP will publish an overview of the reforms progressed from Victoria’s Bus Plan, including their associated outcomes.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 31: The Department of Transport and Planning publish on its website the finalised road maintenance workplan for 2023–24, including how the workplan was prioritised and determined, the proportion of roadworks set to take place in inner metropolitan Melbourne, outer suburban Melbourne and regional Victoria, and the proportion of roadworks classified as critical, needed or desirable.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Transport of Planning has re-resumed some road maintenance planning, with procurement underway due to the recent January 2024 flooding. Following the assessment, planning, procurement, and completion of this work, the Department will publish on its website an overview of the 2023-24 workplan, including how the workplan was prioritised and determined, the proportion of roadworks set to take place in inner metropolitan Melbourne, outer suburban Melbourne and regional Victoria, and the proportion of roadworks classified as critical, needed or desirable.</p>
<p>Recommendation 32: The Department of Transport and Planning consider ways to improve the timeliness of its public reporting on non-fatal crashes and road accidents, including reporting on the severity of injuries, where road accidents happened and what caused them to further enhance public understanding of the factors contributing to road fatalities and serious injuries on Victorian roads and support the delivery of road safety policy and infrastructure improvements.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) publishes the Victorian Road Crash datasets, available on Victoria’s Open Data Portal with data available from 2012 onwards. These datasets include tables and attributes which comprehensively explain road crashes in Victoria, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time, date and location • Operating and weather conditions • Crash type and severity • Road user type <p>These datasets are intended to be an authoritative source of road crash data. To ensure the accuracy of this data, DTP implements a delay to allow for data collection, cleansing and validation processes to take place. Some incidents, especially those involving serious injuries, can result in data that remains subject to change for a period of time.</p> <p>DTP has uploaded the most up-to-date verified crash data on Victoria’s Open Data Portal with data from April 2023. These will continue to be updated on a monthly basis as new road crash data is verified and finalised.</p> <p>DTP have also committed to releasing an Annual Road Trauma report which will provide updates on Annual Lives Lost and Serious Injury Road Safety Trends, as well as the Road Safety Strategies Safety Performance Indicators (SPIs) which will cover metrics around roads, vehicles, speed, impaired driving, personal protective equipment, and overall safety.</p> <p>This report will be released towards the end of 2024.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 33: The Department of Transport and Planning introduce a performance measure that reports on the proportion of containers entering Melbourne’s ports that are freighted by rail.</p>	<p>Under Review</p>	<p>The Department of Transport and Planning is supportive of growing the proportion of freight that is carried on rail.</p> <p>The Port Rail Shuttle Network (PRSN), currently in development, is expected to have a significant impact on the role of rail in moving freight to and from the Port of Melbourne.</p> <p>The Department of Transport and Planning, as part of PRSN development, is reviewing how the effectiveness of the PRSN can be measured once complete, which includes consideration of new BP3 DPS measures.</p>
<p>Recommendation 34: The Department of Transport and Planning retain in the 2024–25 Budget a performance measure that reports on the success of prosecutions for transport safety offences.</p>	<p>Not Support</p>	<p>The Department of Transport and Planning considers that the goods or service that is being delivered (i.e., output) is a regulatory and compliance enforcement services activity associated with prosecutions.</p> <p>The ‘Prosecution success rate for transport safety offences’ measure was replaced with ‘Prosecutions that meet model litigant guidelines and court procedures and requirements’ as it better reflects the output which contributes towards achieving the outcomes of safe transport.</p> <p>The regulatory and compliance enforcement services for prosecutions is an output activity within DTP’s control, but the outcomes of those court prosecutions are not.</p>
<p>Recommendation 35: The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing publish long-term data on social housing applications, allocations and average wait times for all categories on its website.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing publishes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • data on the number of applications on the Victorian Housing Register (VHR) on a quarterly basis; and • data on the number of social housing allocations made from the VHR on an annual basis. <p>Both data sets publish breakdowns by VHR category.</p> <p>Data on the average wait time for public housing for priority access applicants or priority transfer applicants who have received a public housing allocation is published in the DFFH Annual Report.</p> <p>The Department is continually exploring options to expand the scope of social housing data that is published, including long-term data sets.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 36: The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing consider ways to improve reporting on child protection practitioners' workloads and the success of its child protection workforce planning, including the number of child protection practitioner vacancies compared to total number of funded positions, or the average caseload and case complexity of child protection practitioners.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>	<p>The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing publishes additional quarterly data on child protection operational performance. Child protection workforce data is also published through the DFFH Annual Report.</p> <p>The department is continually exploring options to improve reported child protection and family services data.</p>
<p>Recommendation 37: The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing address the shortcomings identified by the Committee with the two new performance measures under the Office for Disability and Family Violence Service Delivery outputs with further, or altered, performance measures in the 2024–25 Budget.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>Office for Disability</p> <p>A mandated review of <i>Inclusive Victoria: state disability plan 2022-2026</i> will be undertaken in 2024. The department will consider development of an improved performance measure to report on implementation of the plan as part of that review.</p> <p>Family Violence Service Delivery</p> <p>The Victorian Government produces annual reporting on Victoria's 10 year Plan for Change and Family Safety Victoria produces The Orange Door Annual Service Delivery report which provide information about the referral sources and pathways to accessing The Orange Door, including by police family violence report (L17) and by child protection.</p> <p>The department will develop an additional performance measure to provide the proportion of clients accessing The Orange Door services by self-referral compared to the total number of referrals.</p> <p>This is proposed as an indicator of the role of The Orange Door in 'early intervention' as a visible and accessible source of support. The proposed measure also provides insight into the proportion of people directly accessing The Orange Door services as opposed to those in crisis being referred by a police L17 referral or child protection referral.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 38: The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing ensure future budget papers detail the department's rationale for discontinuing proposed performance measures.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>Decisions to discontinue measures and the detail published in budget papers is determined by the Assistant Treasurer, in consultation with portfolio Ministers.</p>
<p>Recommendation 39: The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions publish the evaluation of the <i>Sick Pay Guarantee</i> scheme once the pilot program has been completed.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions will comply with the evaluation requirements for the Sick Pay Guarantee as set out in the Department of Treasury and Finance's Resource Management Framework.</p>
<p>Recommendation 40: The Victorian Skills Authority include a section that reports on the outcomes of their three-year priorities and actions in the <i>2025 Victorian Skills Plan</i>.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Victorian Skills Authority (VSA) will report on the outcomes of the three-year priorities and actions for the skills sector in the <i>2025 Victorian Skills Plan</i>. In addition, the VSA is reporting on progress against those actions and priorities articulated in the 2023 and 2024 Skills Plans. The <i>2023 Victorian Skills Plan Implementation Update</i> was released in November 2023.</p>
<p>Recommendation 41: The Department of Jobs, Skills Industries and Regions publish timely data relating to the <i>International Education Recovery Plan 2025's</i> measures of success in half-yearly or yearly intervals on the Study Melbourne website.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions supports this recommendation and will publish data relating to the <i>International Education Recovery Plan 2025's</i> measures of success in yearly intervals on the Study Melbourne website. Data for 2023 will be published in Quarter 2, 2024.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 42: The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industries and Regions publicly release a detailed breakdown of the original \$2.6 billion forecast cost of hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games, as well as any cost-benefit analysis undertaken, and a detailed breakdown of the revised approximate of \$6 billion forecast cost of hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>In August 2023, the Government publicly released the Regional Victoria - Commonwealth Games 2026 Business Case. The Business Case includes a detailed breakdown of costs used to inform the forecast cost of hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games and the cost-benefit analysis of hosting the Games. The Government also publicly released the breakdown of the revised approximate \$6 billion forecast cost of hosting the Games.</p> <p>Both documents are publicly available at https://www.vic.gov.au/commonwealth-games-2026</p>
<p>Recommendation 43: The Government announce the details of any costs incurred to the State of Victoria as a result of the cancellation of the Commonwealth Games as soon as they are known.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The State of Victoria has agreed to pay the Commonwealth Games parties (CGF CGFP and CGA) AUD \$380 million. The terms of the settlement will otherwise remain confidential. The settlement finalises all matters between the parties. The parties are legally bound not to speak further regarding the details of the settlement.</p>
<p>Recommendation 44: The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions report on the regional initiatives announced as part of the Commonwealth Games cancellation, the <i>Regional Tourism and Events Fund</i> and the <i>Regional Housing Fund</i> in the 2023–24 Budget Update and in Budget Paper No. 4 in coming years.</p>	<p>Support in part</p>	<p>The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) notes the Government published the <i>Regional Tourism and Events Fund</i> and the <i>Regional Housing Fund</i> in the 2023-24 Budget Update.</p> <p>DJSIR does not support the recommendation to report on Regional Package initiatives in Budget Paper No. 4 in coming years, as the DJSIR initiatives are not capital projects.</p> <p>Further, DJSIR does not support the recommendation for it to report on the Regional Housing Fund in Budget Paper No. 4 in coming years. The Regional Housing Fund is administered by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) and contributes to the DFFH Housing Assistance output. Expenditure, project delivery and reporting are the responsibility of DFFH.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 45: The Department of Jobs, Skills Industry and Regions disclose enhanced information regarding grants allocated through the <i>Victorian Music and Community Broadcasting</i> initiative, such as the grant recipient, the amount provided, a summary of what the grant was used for and the output of grant activities.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions will report on grants allocated through the initiative in its Annual Report, in accordance with the Model Annual Report of Operations Guidelines provided by the Department of Treasury and Finance.</p> <p>The Victorian Music and Community Broadcasting programs are being implemented in accordance with approved Program Design Plans.</p>
<p>Recommendation 46: The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions review the issues with</p>	<p>Support in part</p>	<p><i>Disadvantaged jobseekers who achieve sustainable employment (minimum number of 26 weeks) with the support of Jobs Victoria Services</i></p> <p>The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions supports the recommendation to reinstate this measure.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>the five discontinued measures identified by the Committee relating to Jobs Victoria Services, the Jobs Victoria Fund and investment attraction.</p>		<p><i>Jobs Victoria Services (Advocates, Mentors, Careers Counsellors) delivered to Victorian jobseekers</i></p> <p>The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions does not support the recommendation to reinstate this measure.</p> <p>The data previously captured under this measure for the continuing Mentors services will be captured under the following measures: <i>Disadvantaged jobseekers who gain employment with the support of Jobs Victoria Services</i> and <i>Disadvantaged jobseekers who achieve sustainable employment outcomes (minimum number of 26 weeks) with the support of Jobs Victoria Services</i>. Other Jobs Victoria Services, including Advocates and Careers Counsellors are not funded post 2022-23. The continuation of this measure will not capture additional meaningful data beyond that included in the two BP3 measures above, and as such is recommended to be discontinued.</p> <p><i>Proportion of Jobs Victoria Fund allocated to women</i></p> <p>The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions does not support the recommendation to include replacements for this measure. A specific measure for one or more of the cohorts recommended by the Committee is not reflective of the focus of Jobs Victoria's assistance, which is restricted to supporting Victorians that are long term unemployed (12 months or more) or at significant risk of long-term unemployment. Jobs Victoria services are not limited to specific cohorts and therefore a cohort specific performance measure is not appropriate.</p> <p><i>Jobs resulting from government facilitation services and assistance under the Victorian Jobs and Investment Fund (VJIF)</i></p> <p>The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) does not support the recommendations on transferring the VJIF targets from DPC. Funding allocated to the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) under VJIF has been committed/spent, and whilst other programs in DJSIR are governed by the VJIF framework these programs have their own targets and measures, meaning that transferring the DPC VJIF targets to DJSIR would create duplication with the existing measures.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
		<p><i>New investment resulting from government facilitation services and assistance under the Victorian Jobs and Investment Fund</i></p> <p>The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) does not support the recommendations on transferring the VJIF targets from the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC). Funding allocated to DPC under VJIF has been committed/spent, and whilst other programs in DJSIR are governed by the VJIF framework these programs have their own targets and measures, meaning that transferring the DPC VJIF targets to DJSIR would create duplication with the existing measures.</p>
<p>Recommendation 47: The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action outline the specific programs, services and payments delivered through funding provided for the <i>Timber Harvesting Transition Support</i> and <i>Timber worker and industry support</i> initiatives, including the total funding allocated to each program, and report on the total support payments to workers and the outcomes of these programs and services on the Forestry Transition Program website.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The VicForests <i>2022-23 Annual Report</i> indicates it provided \$149.0 million in sawmill compensation and harvest and haulage contract payments.</p> <p>As part of the Government’s support packages for Forestry Transition announced in 2023-24, \$200 million was allocated for a managed transition out of native timber. This funding targeted support for timber businesses and workers. The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) will be able to provide the actual allocation against business and worker support at financial year end. This is due to the nature of it being a demand-based grant predicated on business and worker applications. Some businesses have chosen to remain open or continue working with Government. Workers attached to these businesses will continue to be employed. Only genuine worker redundancies will be eligible for Worker Support payments.</p> <p>The Government has made \$36 million available for the Forestry Transition Fund which supports job creation and business development focused on timber communities in Gippsland and north-east of the State.</p> <p>The Community Development Fund has been allocated \$22 million and is designed to support the early implementation of the Local Development Strategy program.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 48: The Victorian Government undertake a comprehensive review into the forestry transition program that assesses and reports on the outcomes of the support provided to native timber workers, industry and communities and articulate its plan for VicForests and public land formerly subject to native timber harvesting as soon as practicable.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>On 23 May 2023, the Victorian Government announced that commercial native timber harvesting would end by 1 January 2024. To support the transition of Victoria’s native timber industry, the Government has committed \$875 million to support native timber workers, businesses, and communities under the Forestry Transition Program.</p> <p>The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) has commenced procurement for an independent supplier to provide program monitoring and evaluation services for the Forestry Transition Program. The provider will design a framework for monitoring key initiatives for native timber workers, businesses, and communities, enabling DEECA to understand, report and respond to delivery issues. The Program Evaluation will assess the design and implementation of worker, business, and community support programs against the objectives of Forestry Transition and the Victorian Government’s public commitments to those affected by native forestry transition.</p> <p>As part of the transition to exit native timber harvesting, DEECA will also deliver a program of land management works to manage the 1.8 million hectares of public land currently subject to the timber harvesting Allocation Order. DEECA will establish a taskforce to consider and make recommendations on the areas of forests that qualify for protection as National Parks, the areas of our forests that would be suitable for recreation opportunities - including camping, hunting, hiking, mountain biking and four-wheel driving - and opportunities for management of public land by Traditional Owners.</p> <p>This will result in the largest expansion to the public forests reserve system in Victoria’s history. This transition presents new opportunities to realise the highest value forest uses for Victorian communities and respond to forest management challenges, including climate change and changing community needs. Importantly this includes recognising and valuing the traditional knowledge and rights of Victoria’s Traditional Owners.</p> <p>As a result of the cessation of native timber harvesting on 1 January 2024, the government has made the decision that VicForests will cease operating by 30 June 2024. The government is working closely with VicForests to prepare for the closure of the entity and to support VicForests employees in making decisions about their future.</p> <p>From 1 July 2024, functions like forest planning, spatial mapping, seed collection and forest regeneration will become the responsibility of DEECA. Approximately 80 new roles have been created to integrate these activities into DEECA's broader forest and bushfire risk management operations. These roles are initially being offered exclusively to VicForests employees to ensure the valuable knowledge and skills of VicForests can be retained. All permanent VicForests employees will also have the choice to take a separation package.”</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 49: The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action detail in its annual report the total payments provided under the Zero Emissions Vehicles subsidy program and the reasons for ending the program earlier than scheduled.</p>	Support	<p>The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) supports this recommendation and will detail in the 2023-24 annual report the total payments provided under the Zero Emissions Vehicles subsidy program for that financial year. DEECA notes that the reasons for ending the program have already been provided by the Government prior to the program's closure in June 2023.</p>
<p>Recommendation 50: The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action consider the benefits of developing an objective indicator that reports on the average annual savings realised by consumers who switch energy retailers for a better deal after using the Victorian Energy Compare website.</p>	Not Support	<p>The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) does not support this recommendation as the Victorian Energy Compare (VEC) website cannot access consumer switching data on either electricity or gas. The actual rate of consumer switching varies throughout the year and is highly contingent on the competitiveness of offers that are available in the market at any given time.</p> <p>In 2019, VEC integrated a data-sharing agreement with the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO). This allows consumers to navigate the VEC website by entering specific information (NMI, postcode, and retailer) about their household or business, and AEMO will share twelve months' worth of consumption data. 64 per cent of users access the AEMO data when using the VEC website.</p> <p>AEMO is only able to provide data on switching rates relating to those 64 per cent of users. However, this data does not give a complete or clear insight into the reasons for switching by all consumers visiting the website, including but not limited to consumers who find and switch to better an offer with their current retailer.</p>
<p>Recommendation 51: The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action provide a breakdown by project of the total annual compensation payments to landowners affected by transmission line easements in its forthcoming annual reports.</p>	Under Review	<p>As part of the process of implementing the new landholder payments for communities that host transmission infrastructure, the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action will investigate the recommendation to provide a breakdown by project of the total annual payments to landowners affected by transmission line easements in its forthcoming annual reports. The Department notes that it does not have visibility on total annual compensation payments to easement hosts by transmission companies.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 52: The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action publish a forecast of the total funding required by the State Electricity Commission for all future equity investments to reach its target of 4.5 gigawatts of new renewable energy generation and storage.</p>	<p>Not Support</p>	<p>The State Electricity Commission Victoria (SEC) has a commitment to deliver a 4.5GW generation portfolio by 2035. The SEC government funding allocated over the forward estimates will be reported in the budget papers, as is typical for State Government initiatives/entities. This funding profile will cover all of SEC activities, not just investments in the 4.5GW portfolio.</p>
<p>Recommendation 53: The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action develop an objective indicator that reports on the relative share of Victoria's energy sourced from State Electricity Commission projects.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action will develop an objective indicator that reports on the relative share of Victoria's energy sourced from SEC projects in future budget papers once appropriate data becomes available for annual reporting.</p>
<p>Recommendation 54: The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action publish in forthcoming annual reports a breakdown by project of the scope, expected completion date, ownership share and total estimated investment of State Electricity Commission investments.</p>	<p>Not Support</p>	<p>The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action is not responsible for publishing detailed information on SEC investments in its annual report. The SEC will prepare its own annual report in accordance with legislative requirements and typical practice for State owned companies in Victoria. The SEC's annual report must comply with requirements under the <i>Corporations Act 2001</i> (Cth), the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i> (Vic) and the <i>State-Owned Enterprises Act 1992</i> (Vic). These annual reports will be tabled in Parliament.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 55: The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action publish the forecasted impact of the State Electricity Commission (SEC) on employment, such as the total number of jobs directly created by SEC projects, and economic activity, such as the SEC's impact on Victoria's gross state product.</p>	<p>Not Support</p>	<p>The State Electricity Commission (SEC), rather than the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, will publish relevant commercial, financial, economic and employment information and data in its annual report in accordance with legislative requirements and typical practice for State owned companies in Victoria.</p> <p>As examples, job creation and apprentice hours from SEC projects will be reported through the Victorian Management Centre, in accordance with Victorian Industry Participation Policy and Major Projects Skills Guarantee requirements.</p>
<p>Recommendation 56: The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action clearly outline the responsibilities, related initiatives, outputs, objectives, objective indicators and performance measures of the State Electricity Commission portfolio in the 2024–25 Budget.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>Information about the State Electricity Commission's (SEC) responsibilities, related initiatives and long-term goals are outlined in the SEC Victoria Strategic Plan 2023-2035. Relevant information on outputs, objectives, objective indicators, and performance measures will be incorporated into the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action's Budget Paper No. 3 Departmental Performance Statement when appropriate once the SEC is fully operationalised.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 57: The Department of Treasury and Finance consider ways to improve its public reporting on the amount, impact, and determination of capital repatriation payments by Melbourne’s water corporations to Government.</p>	<p>Not Support</p>	<p>Public reporting of capital repatriations already occurs in two ways.</p> <p>First, they are reported in the State’s <i>Annual Financial Report</i> and <i>Budget Paper 5 Statement of Finances</i> cash flow statements for the general government sector under ‘Net cash flows from investment in financial assets for policy purposes.’ Under the <i>Uniform Presentation Framework (2019)</i> this disclosure for the general government sector represents cash payments made for acquiring financial assets for policy purposes, less cash receipts from the repayment and liquidation of such investments in financial assets and cashflows arising from the acquisition and disposal by the Government of its investments (contributed capital) in entities in the public non-financial corporations (PNFC) and the public financial corporations (PFC) sectors. Capital repatriations are also disclosed in State Budget under Consolidated Fund Receipts ‘Return of capital – government entities’ in the State’s <i>Annual Financial Report</i> and <i>Budget Paper 5 Statement of Finances</i>.</p> <p>Second, as per the requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards, where capital repatriations are determined by the Treasurer these amounts are disclosed in the entities’ annual reports.</p> <p>Determinations regarding Capital Repatriations reflect decisions of Government to return capital from public bodies for various reasons, including where the capital position of such bodies is assessed to be in excess of that required.</p>
<p>Recommendation 58: The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action consider ways to report on the quality or impact of targeted conservation actions for threatened species, not just the number of actions taken.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) has developed the Biodiversity Indicator Framework (BIF) as a new approach for reporting on biodiversity status and trends and for assessing the effectiveness of management and conservation actions. The BIF includes a chapter on Management Effectiveness, which reports on the quality, or effectiveness, of actions not just the number of actions taken. The BIF represents broader biodiversity reporting, but DEECA will consider if or how Management Effectiveness indicators can also be reported through Budget Paper No. 3.</p>
<p>Recommendation 59: The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action ensure future budget papers detail the department’s rationale for discontinuing proposed performance measures.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>Decisions to discontinue measures and the detail published in budget papers is determined by the Assistant Treasurer, in consultation with portfolio Ministers.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 60: Court Services Victoria publish the evaluation report on the outcomes of the active case management pilot in the County and Supreme Courts of Victoria in November 2023.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>Court Services Victoria (CSV) published a summary of the Active Case Management (ACM) evaluation report in January 2024. The summary can be found here: Publications Court Services Victoria.</p> <p>In early 2023, CSV engaged an external consultancy to conduct an independent evaluation of ACM in the Supreme Court of Victoria and the County Court of Victoria. The consultancy made 15 findings in their evaluation; those findings are detailed in the published summary.</p>
<p>Recommendation 61: Court Services Victoria publish data on the initiations, finalisations and pending matters for the periods from April to December 2020 and from January to June 2021</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Victorian courts and Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) publicly report on initiations, finalisations and pending caseload through the caseload dashboard on CSV's website. CSV supports PAEC's recommendation in principle, however it is noted that CSV did not regularise collecting monthly caseload data until July 2021 and not all jurisdictions are able to generate caseload data retrospectively. Accordingly, publication of this data commenced in July 2021 and not prior.</p>
<p>Recommendation 62: Court Services Victoria publish its <i>Evaluation of the Drug Courts of Victoria: Interim Evaluation Report</i>.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The interim evaluation report formed part of a submission to the (then) Expenditure Review Committee of Cabinet and as such cannot be made public. Publication of the Final Evaluation Report will be considered once the evaluation has concluded.</p>
<p>Recommendation 63: The Department of Government Services evaluate the Centralised Accommodation Management program, including any cost savings it has generated and the reasons behind any increased office accommodation costs.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Government Services (DGS) has published the savings delivered under the Centralised Accommodation Management (CAM) program in the 2022-23 DGS Annual Report. DGS continues to monitor office accommodation costs and requirements for future leases are first considered from within the existing portfolio to achieve efficiencies through occupancy consolidation and footprint reduction. Total accommodation cost per square metre will continue to be published.</p> <p>DGS is continuing to evaluate CAM and associated cost savings and benefits. DGS has several CAM initiatives under development to reduce footprint and optimise the portfolio, manage sustainability, and improve fit out project delivery.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 64: The Department of Government Services publicly release the evaluation of the <i>Suburban workplace hubs</i> program once it is completed.</p>	<p>Not Support</p>	<p>The lapsing program evaluation of the Suburban Hubs pilot is Cabinet-in-Confidence.</p> <p>Note: This recommendation was incorrectly assigned to Department of Government Services. The Victorian Public Sector Commission (VPSC) was responsible for the VPS Suburban Hubs. As such the VPSC have responded to this recommendation through Department of Premier and Cabinet as the responsible department.</p>
<p>Recommendation 65: The funding and resourcing for the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria and Consumer Affairs Victoria be reviewed, noting that targets related to dispute resolution performance measures and court and administrative actions are not expected to be met, as the two organisations focus on the increase in disputes relating to renters and rental providers.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>DSCV's outputs were impacted by its prioritisation of resources to supporting the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal from December 2021 with residential tenancies dispute resolution. These support arrangements were finalised on 31 December 2023 and DSCV has resumed ordinary dispute resolution services.</p> <p>CAV employs an intelligence-led, risk-based approach to ensuring its compliance resources are targeted to responding to the most serious risks of consumer harm in the marketplace.</p> <p>DSCV and CAV will continue to prioritise their resources towards meeting the highest needs of the Victorian community as they emerge and change over time.</p>
<p>Recommendation 66: The Department of Government Services review issues with the proposed discontinued performance measure relating to zero emission vehicles acquired via VicFleet.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The 2021-22 budget provided funding to encourage zero emission vehicle uptake across the government fleet through direct procurement and infrastructure upgrades to government owned and leased buildings with funding to transition 400 ZEVs into the government fleet over 2 years. As at 3 April 2024, 390 vehicles have been delivered, with the remaining 10 vehicle orders placed and due for delivery periodically throughout 2024. The lower 2022-23 actual is due to delays in availability of vehicles following supply chain and biosecurity issues which are outside DGS' control. Installation of 400 charging stations was completed in August 2023.</p> <p>DGS is in the final stages of closing out the program of vehicle subsidies and charging infrastructure. DGS is exploring broader measures to encourage net zero fleet transition.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 67: The Department of Treasury and Finance introduce the performance measure ‘Percentage of funding requests through the budget process that meet minimum gender impact consideration requirements’ in the 2024–25 Budget.</p>	Not support	<p>This proposed performance measure would not meet the guidance of the Resource Management Framework because it is not within the control of DTF. Funding requests remain the ultimate responsibility of the Minister submitting them for consideration by the Budget and Finance Committee.</p> <p>DTF will continue to consider PAEC recommendations and other opportunities to improve GRB performance measures.</p>
<p>Recommendation 68: The Department of Treasury and Finance include further performance measures related to the outcomes achieved from gender responsive budgeting including the activities of the Gender Responsive Budgeting Unit in the 2024–25 Budget.</p>	Not support	<p>While gender responsive budgeting is an important aspect of the Budget and Financial Advice output, it is still evolving as a practice across government. DTF will give further consideration to measures over time.</p> <p>DTF will continue to consider PAEC recommendations and other opportunities to improve GRB performance measures.</p>
<p>Recommendation 69: WorkSafe Victoria publish the modelling showing how the WorkCover scheme reform will improve its financial position on their website.</p>	Not Support	<p>The modelling that has informed the Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment (WorkCover Scheme Modernisation) Bill 2023 was developed to support Cabinet in its deliberations.</p> <p>Subject to passage of legislation and committee considerations, there is a Government commitment to undertake a statutory review of reform measures in 3 years, which will provide an appropriate reporting and accountability measure.</p>
<p>Recommendation 70: WorkSafe Victoria report on the outcomes and performance of changes to mental health injury claim eligibility and the establishment of Return to Work Victoria in upcoming annual reports.</p>	Support-in-principle	<p>Once established, Return to Work Victoria’s performance will be included in WorkSafe Victoria’s Annual Report along with its objectives, initiatives and performance statements.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 71: The Department of Premier and Cabinet develop stronger reporting mechanisms that allow departments and agencies to easily collect data linked to the number of jobs awarded to contractors and consultants or under labour hire arrangement.</p>	<p>Under Review</p>	<p>Departments are not currently required to report to the Victorian Public Sector Commission (VPSC), an entity of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC), on what happens to roles that could not be filled through the Jobs and Skills Exchange (JSE) process. This would add a reporting burden without increasing the number of jobs filled via the JSE. Typically, if a role is not filled through the JSE, that role is advertised externally to be competitively filled, rather than going directly to labour hire, consultants, or contractors.</p> <p>The Victorian Government is separately assessing recent VAGO recommendations for improved reporting on contractor and consultant spend, including that all departments monitor their contractor and consultant spending on a minimum quarterly basis.</p> <p>Departments are currently required to publish details on consultancy engagement in annual reports, under <i>Financial Reporting Direction (FRD) 22 – Standard disclosures</i> in the Report of Operations. For engagements over \$10,000, this includes: a summary of the project; project fees; and expenditure levels. Data on jobs is not typically reported because these engagements are mainly for a solution or to perform a particular task, rather than how many people work on the engagement.</p>
<p>Recommendation 72: The Department of Premier and Cabinet publish information in its upcoming annual report about whether the Jobs and Skills Exchange is fulfilling its objectives, including reducing labour hire usage and consultancy expenditure.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Victorian Public Sector Commission reports annually on the Jobs and Skills Exchange achievements and key performance indicators in its annual report and will continue to do so.</p>
<p>Recommendation 73: The Department of Premier and Cabinet review the performance measure ‘On demand matters resolved or referred to a more suitable body within 180 days’ to ensure the measure is sufficiently challenging.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Gig Worker Support Service (GWSS) commenced operation as recently as 1 May 2023. The purpose of the GWSS is to provide support services for on-demand workers, including information and advice in relation to their entitlements and work status. The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) is committed to continually monitoring the performance of the GWSS therefore will be proposing amendments to the measure and target for inclusion in the 2024–25 budget.</p> <p>Note: The GWSS is delivered by Industrial Relations Victoria which was transferred from DPC to the Department of Treasury and Finance on 1 February 2024.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 74: The Department of Premier and Cabinet develop further performance measures related to the Gig Worker Support Service for inclusion in the 2023–24 Budget.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) will propose further performance measures related to the GWSS for inclusion in the 2024–25 budget.</p> <p>Note: The GWSS is delivered by Industrial Relations Victoria which was transferred from DPC to the Department of Treasury and Finance on 1 February 2024.</p>
<p>Recommendation 75: The Department of Premier and Cabinet publish on its website further information regarding the \$138.2 million provided for the <i>Meeting the State’s legal requirements to enter Treaty negotiations</i> initiative, including details about what the funding is expected to deliver.</p>	<p>Support-In-principle</p>	<p>Under the Advancing the Victorian Treaty Process Act 2018, the Minister for Treaty and First Peoples is required to table a Treaty Annual Report in Parliament each year on the work of the State Government in advancing the Treaty process. The 2022-23 Report includes information on the 2022–23 State Budget allocation, including funding provided to the First Peoples’ Assembly of Victoria over four years to support their operation. Consistent with previous Treaty Annual Reports, funding provided in the 2023-24 State Budget, including \$138.2 million for the ‘Meeting the State’s legal requirements to enter Treaty negotiations’ initiative, will be detailed in the 2023-24 Treaty Annual Report, expected to be tabled in Parliament later in 2024.</p>
<p>Recommendation 76: The Department of Premier and Cabinet address the shortcomings identified by the Committee regarding the performance measures ‘Meetings with departments to support Minimum Standards and Additional Preparations, and engaging in Treaty negotiations’ and ‘Minimum Standards and Additional Preparations the State can notify compliance with to the Treaty Authority’.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) notes compliance with the Minimum Standards and Additional Preparations is a legal requirement on the State Government to demonstrate the State's readiness to enter Treaty negotiations under the Treaty Negotiations Framework. Prior to Treaty negotiations commencing (currently scheduled for later in 2024), the State cannot pre-empt Treaty negotiations by identifying outcome measures at this stage of the Treaty process. DPC notes new performance measures could be identified and developed after Treaty negotiations are underway.</p> <p>Meetings across the whole of the Victorian Government on Treaty education, feedback processes, and coordination of WoVG decision-making is a key service for stakeholders in addressing and ensuring performance measures. This activity is directly linked to the 2023-24 Budget allocation for the State government to support Treaty negotiations. DPC notes that WoVG engagement through meetings are key to discharging public obligations engage all departments in Treaty readiness processes. The State government will submit its documentation relating to the Minimum Standards and Preparations to the Treaty Authority, once it is operational.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 77: The Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Justice and Community Safety outline the shared output and changed responsibilities resulting from machinery of government changes in their next annual reports.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Following the Machinery of Government changes effective on 1 January 2023, the Land Justice Unit within the Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS) was transferred to the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC). This resulted in two existing performance measures being transferred from the DJCS output <i>Justice Policy, Services and Law Reform</i> to the DPC output <i>Traditional owner engagement and cultural heritage management programs</i> in the 2023-24 Budget as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Proportion of Native Title negotiations progressed in accordance with the department’s annual work plan and timeframes monitored by the Federal Court</i> • <i>Number of Recognition and Settlement Agreements that commence</i> <p>These two performance measures continue to be published under the DPC output <i>Traditional owner engagement and cultural heritage management programs</i> and were included in the DPC 2022-23 Annual Report. DJCS continues to report on the remaining performance measures in the DJCS output <i>Justice Policy, Services and Law Reform</i>, included in the DJCS 2022-23 Annual Report.</p>
<p>Recommendation 78: When multiple departments share responsibility for an output, the budget papers outline how this responsibility is divided between Ministers, including how initiatives and performance measures are allocated to ensure clarity.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Treasury and Finance will consider opportunities to provide more information on the movement of outputs resulting from machinery of government changes in the budget papers, specifically when multiple departments share responsibility for an output.</p>
<p>Recommendation 79: The Department of Premier and Cabinet clarify the responsibilities and achievements of the Land Coordinator General and the Precincts and Land division in its next annual report.</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Following the machinery-of-government changes from 1 November 2023, responsibility for the role of the Land Coordinator General has transferred to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). DTP is progressing detailed work on the role and future work program of the Land Coordinator General.</p>

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>Recommendation 80: The Department of Premier and Cabinet develop new budget paper performance measures for inclusion in the 2024–25 Budget to measure the performance and outcomes of the Land Coordinator General role and the precincts and land coordinator function within the department.</p>	Support	<p>Following the machinery-of-government changes from 1 November 2023, responsibility for the role of the Land Coordinator General has transferred to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP). DTP is progressing detailed work on the role and future work program of the Land Coordinator General, including 2024-25 budget paper performance measures.</p>
<p>Recommendation 81: The Department of Premier and Cabinet address the shortcomings identified by the Committee with the two new performance measures introduced in 2023–24 regarding the Industrial Relations and Self-Determination Policy and Reform Advice and Programs outputs with further, or</p>	Overall Not Support	<p><i>See below for commitment response</i></p>
	Not Support	<p>Wage Inspectorate Victoria — develop further performance measures</p> <p>The Wage Inspectorate already has Budget Paper No. 3, Chapter 2 measures relating to its other legislative responsibilities. This includes a timeliness measure relating to responsibilities under the <i>Long Service Leave Act 2018</i> and a quality measure relating to responsibilities under the <i>Child Employment Act 2003</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wage Inspectorate Victoria: Child employment compliance activities completed • Wage Inspectorate Victoria: Long service leave investigations completed within 90 days of lodgement.

PAEC recommendation	Response	Action taken to date and commitment to further action
<p>altered, performance measures in the 2024–25 Budget.</p>	<p>Support-in-principle</p>	<p><i>Meetings held to coordinate shared decision making with Aboriginal communities and WoVG implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap priorities to improve outcomes for First Peoples — address shortcomings</i></p> <p>This performance measure was introduced to replace a discontinued measure to better reflect the structures established to ensure shared decision making under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement). These meetings are critical to ensure that Victoria can deliver on work through genuine partnership and shared decision-making with First Peoples stakeholders.</p> <p>The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) is funded to coordinate whole of government Aboriginal self-determination reform and the implementation of the National Agreement in Victoria. Other Victorian Government departments are funded, and have performance measures, to track delivery of commitments in the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework and the National Agreement.</p> <p>DPC has a performance measure for the delivery of a public report on outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians to be tabled in parliament by 30 June each financial year. This report includes performance against the outcomes and targets in the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework (VAAF) and the National Agreement.</p>
	<p>Not Support</p>	<p><i>Coordination of National Agreement on Closing the Gap — have better measures that are outcomes-based</i></p> <p>The Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) has a performance measure for the delivery of a public report on outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians to be tabled in parliament by 30 June each financial year. The report summarises the progress of all Victorian Government departments and agencies (including DPC) in relation to a suite of budget paper performance measures and other commitments relevant to Aboriginal Victorians. For DPC, these include performance measures under the ‘<i>Self-determination policy and reform advice and programs</i>’ and ‘<i>Traditional owner engagement and cultural heritage management programs</i>’ outputs.</p> <p>DPC’s performance measures follow the requirements of the Resource Management Framework, tracking key activities delivered.</p>
<p>Recommendation 82: The Department of Premier and Cabinet retain the performance measure regarding the percentage of agencies that indicate the Victorian Public Sector Commission advice assists in improving their integrity capability.</p>	<p>Not Support</p>	<p>The specific program to which this measure was attached lapsed on 30 June 2023.</p> <p>The Victorian Public Sector Commission will continue to produce whole of public sector resources and guidance materials relating to integrity.</p>