

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Budget Estimates Hearing 24-25

The Hon. Enver Erdogan MLC
Minister for Corrections

24 May 2024



Corrections system overview



5,600+

People employed across the corrections system



6,001 (↓538)

People in prison in Victoria (as of 30 April 2024)



9,870 (↓738)

People in Victoria on parole, supervised court orders, court reparation orders (as of 30 April 2024)



34.2% (↓6.3pt)

Proportion of people in prison on remand (as of 30 April 2024)



18

Facilities in Victoria – 12 publicly operated prisons 3 privately operated prisons, 2 post sentence residential facilities, 1 transition centre



35

Community Corrections locations throughout Victoria

Investing in our corrections system



The total cost of Corrections outputs in 2024-25 is forecast to be \$1.8 billion

- **\$1.538 billion** for **Prisoner Supervision and Support** to ensure safe, secure and humane containment of prisoners
- **\$0.268 billion** for **Community Based Offender Supervision** to ensure effective supervision of offenders in the community



Total estimated capital expenditure 2024-25 of \$155.24 million

- **\$141.28 million** for **Men's prison system capacity** for Prison Infill Expansion construction
- **\$9.49 million** for **Prison system capacity expansion** for the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre fire upgrade
- **\$4.47 million** for **Justice Services – Contributing to a Safer Community** for the Justice Accommodation Expansion Program

2024-25 Budget

A total of \$41.3 million was provided for initiatives in the Corrections portfolio, alongside \$28.2 million to address Aboriginal overrepresentation across the justice system.



Gender-responsive supports for women in prison

\$5.6 million to continue:

- family engagement services
- specialist trauma counselling for women in prison
- the Safe, Strong and Connected program to support women who are victim survivors in prison
- Enhanced Mental Health Services at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre



Culturally safe supports for Aboriginal people

\$12.0 million to continue:

- Additional Aboriginal Wellbeing Officers (for a total of 27)
- The Wadamba Prison to Work Program
- The Torch in-prison art program
- Baggarrook's women transitional housing program



Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility

- **\$14.4 million** to continue providing short term accommodation and transitional support for men in contact with the criminal justice system who would otherwise be homeless, at the Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility

Improving health services in custody



New health care model

On 1 July 2023 a new primary health care model was introduced across public prisons. This provides men and women in custody with access to:

- Health assessment and planning
- Primary care including dental services and allied health
- AOD health
- Population health services including health promotion

Additional investment has allowed for public health providers in the women's system to provide:

- access to a wider, flexible network of community and specialist services
- onsite healthcare for children in the care of their mothers.



Aboriginal health checks

Aboriginal health checks are a new service that can be accessed by all Aboriginal people in public prisons.

The checks consider the Aboriginal concept of social and emotional wellbeing, including:

- traditional healing
- connections to family and community
- post release follow up care.

As of 31 March 2024, over **900 Aboriginal health checks** have been completed for Aboriginal people across the prison system.



Delivering a better corrections system



Raw imprisonment rate per 100,000 population

- Victoria – **125.4**
- NSW – **194.2**
- National average – **201.9**



Average daily time out of cells (hours)

- Victoria – **10**
- NSW – **7.6**
- National average – **8.8**



Participation in employment

- Victoria – **93.7%**
- NSW – **85.4%**
- National average – **81.4%**



Participation in education and training*

- Victoria – **31.1%**
- NSW – **16.1%**
- National average – **25.8%**

- Source: Report on Government Services 2022-23, published January 2024
- Note that different calculation methods are used across the states and territories.

Reducing reoffending

Victoria's rate of return within two years



To prison

- Was **39.5%** in 2022-23
- The national average was **42.5%**
- Victoria's expected outcome for 2023-24 is **39.7%**
- The national average for 2023-24 is not yet known



To corrective services within two years of discharge from a Community Corrections Order

- Was **10.7%** in 2022-23
- The national average was **24.3%**
- Victoria's expected outcome for 2023-24 is **12.5%**
- The national average for 2023-24 is not yet known



Source: Victorian figures reported in the budget papers. National averages reported in the Report on Government Services

Prison System demand



After more than a decade of growth, prisoner numbers overall have declined following the peak in March 2020.

The Government has invested in a range of crime prevention, early intervention and rehabilitation initiatives.

The impact of these initiatives, alongside the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on criminal justice system activity, has seen overall prison demand decrease in recent years.

Monthly prison population figures over the past ten years



Thank you

