



2021-22 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Budget Estimates Hearing

The Hon. Natalie Hutchins
Minister for Corrections

Wednesday 30 June 2021



Corrections system overview



7,000+

People employed within prisons and community corrections



7,227

People in prison in Victoria at the end of April 2021



8,046

People in Victoria on parole, supervised orders, court reparation orders at the end of April 2021



44%

Of people in prison as at 30 April are on remand



15

Facilities in Victoria – **11** publicly operated prisons, **3** privately operated prisons, **1** transition centre

Corrections system overview



\$1.675
billion

Total output budget
for the Corrections
portfolio for 2021-22



\$86
million

Spent on the Corrections
COVID-19 response to 30
April 2021



\$2.1
billion

Value of major prison infrastructure projects
currently underway



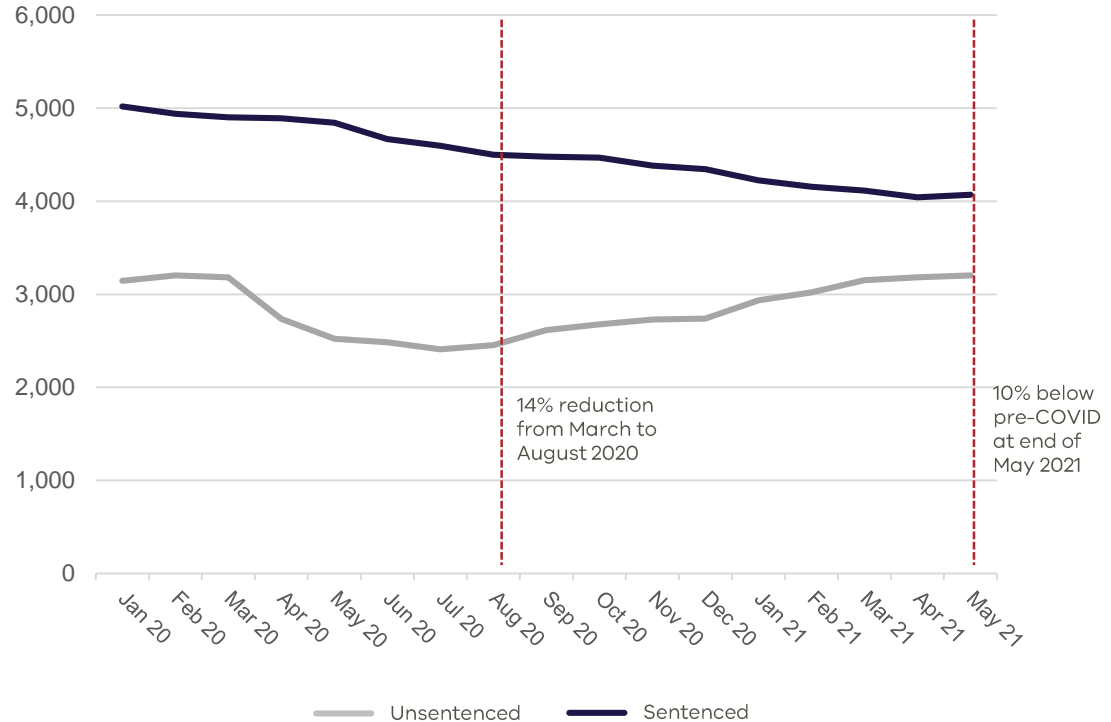


Impact of COVID-19

Prison demand **decreased** during the beginning of 2020-21 due to COVID-19.

We have seen an **increase** in the number of unsentenced prisoners again since COVID restrictions started to ease.

End of Month Prison Population Figures by Warrant Status





Keeping the system safe

The prison and community corrections systems have **continued to manage COVID-19 safely**, with the health and wellbeing of staff and offenders at the core of the approach.



Continued **routine and regular testing**



Continued **protective quarantine units in prison** to prevent transmission



Provided **additional wellbeing support** for individuals in quarantine



Eased restrictions based on **COVIDSafe plans**



Built on **innovations** including **enhanced use of IT** for visits and service delivery

38,000+

Protective quarantine support sessions provided between 1 April 2020 and 30 April 2021

46,000+

Court matters heard through audio-visual link – representing 97% of matters between 1 April 2020 and 30 April 2021

200,000+

Video visits conducted between 1 April 2020 and 30 April 2021 across public and private prisons



We have commissioned an **independent review in to the culture of Victoria's prison system.**

This review will focus on:

- The wellbeing and safety of staff within the adult custodial system
- The safety (including cultural safety) of people in custody

The review will be overseen by a panel of independent expert advisers.

It will **build on initiatives already underway** – including increased integrity training for staff, ongoing efforts to strengthen operational and cultural leadership, and our continued work under the Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement.

The review will **help drive a safer, more inclusive environment for all staff.**

It will also **ensure Victoria's custodial corrections system continues promoting rehabilitation, reducing recidivism, and catering to the needs of all prisoners** to ensure the system improves community safety.

Budget in 2021-22



\$37 million

To ensure people in prison continue to have access to quality **VET education programs**.



\$4.6 million

To continue **critical supports for people in prison**, including a specific service for women with cognitive disability, and psycho-educational and wellbeing programs for people on remand who require mental health support



Budget in 2021-22



\$14.4 million

For increased **oversight of high-risk offenders** on Community Corrections Orders, continuation of the Court Assessment and Prosecution Service, and operation of the Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility to **house offenders at risk of homelessness**.



\$16.6 million

To **support the mental health and wellbeing of people in prison**, as part of the Government's response to the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System.



Budget in 2021-22



\$6.9 million

For corrections initiatives to help **further strengthen** the justice and corrections systems' **response to family violence**



\$14.8 million

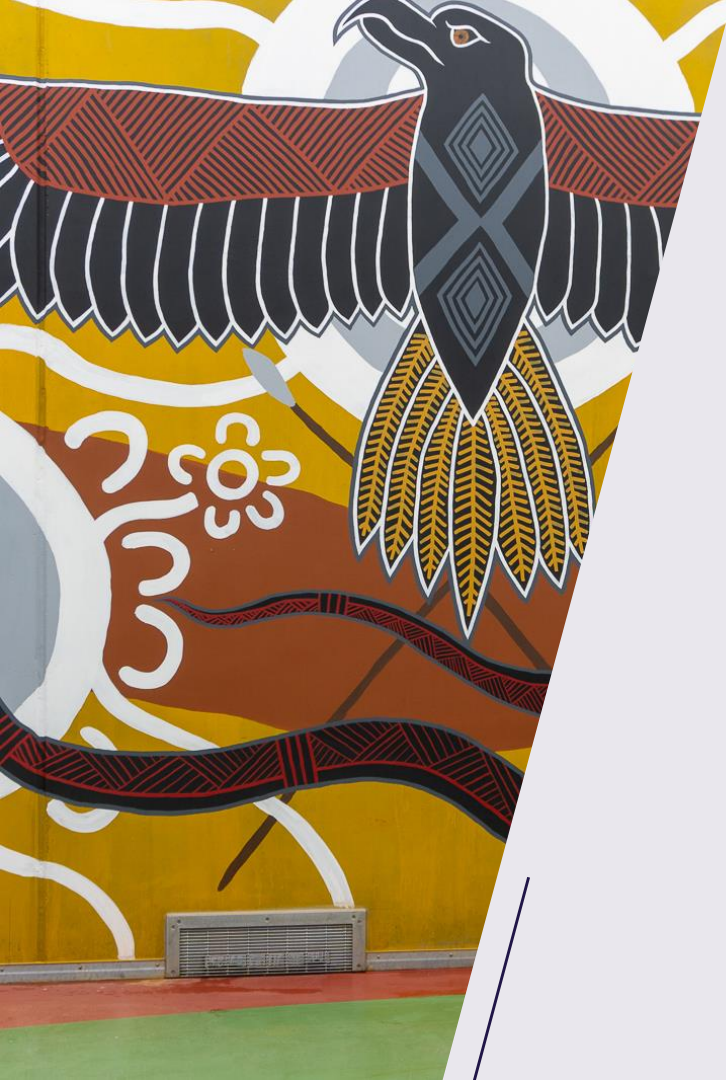
For corrections specific initiatives as part of the Government's efforts to **reduce the growing over-representation of Aboriginal people** in the Victorian justice system and to **promote greater Aboriginal self-determination** across the justice sector



\$6.7 million

To maintain the Corrections Victoria **countering violent extremism service model**





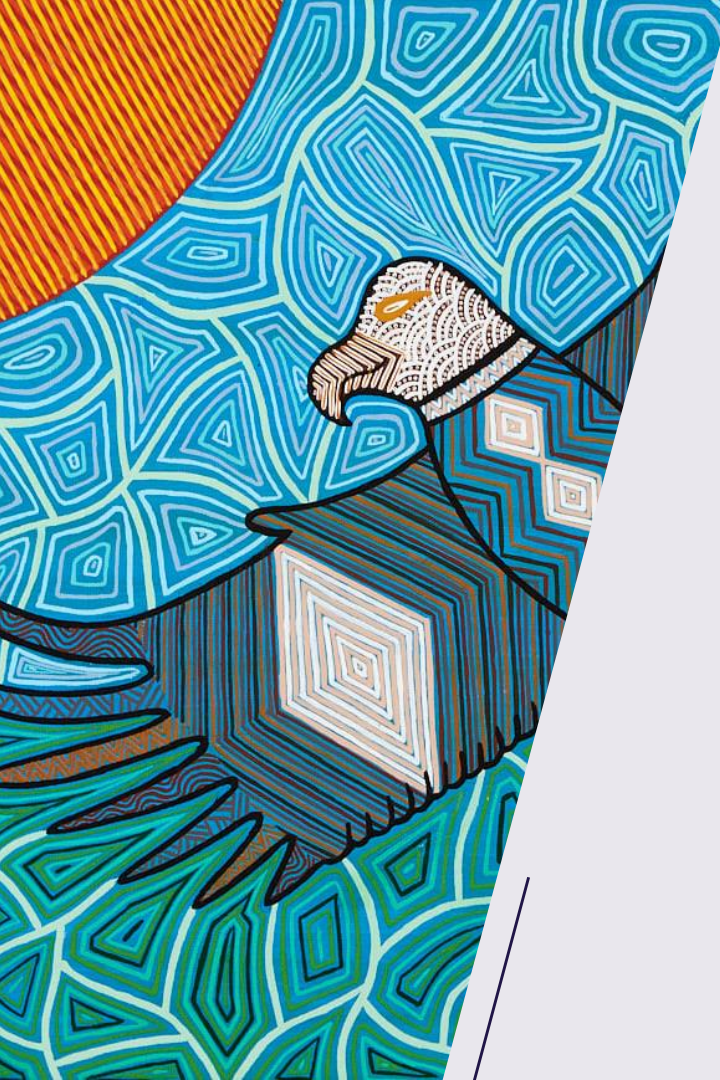
Providing cultural support for Aboriginal people



The Victorian Government is addressing the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the justice system, and promoting Aboriginal self-determination

Aboriginal people in prison can access a suite of culturally-specific programs and services across prisons, as well as mainstream offending-related rehabilitation and transitional programs which also respond to cultural needs.

In the 2021-22 Budget, **over \$14 million over four years** is provided for Aboriginal programs in custodial facilities, as part of our Government's overall commitment to preventing Aboriginal deaths in custody.



Providing cultural support for Aboriginal people

Women's Healing Unit

– to address underlying factors of offending through a culturally safe and holistic approach

Aboriginal Wellbeing Officers

– to continue to provide critical support to Aboriginal people in prison

Prison to work program

– supporting a pathway to employment for Aboriginal men and women in prison

The Torch

– providing support to Aboriginal people in prison through art and cultural programs

Providing education, training and employment opportunities

Education, training and employment are critical drivers of successful rehabilitation and reintegration, with sustainable employment being a key protective factor against re-offending



92.1%

Expected 2020-21 outcome of eligible prisoners in Victoria engaged in employment



35.9%

Expected 2020-21 outcome of eligible prisoners in Victoria in participating in education and training



83.4%

Expected 2020-21 outcome of education modules successfully completed



1000+

Former offenders supported into work by Jobs Victoria services





Thank you.

