

Entity-specific questionnaire – Department of Health and Human Services

1. Economic Outlook

The 2016-17 Budget notes that “In 2014-15, GSP per capita grew by 0.7 per cent and growth is expected to continue over the forward estimates. Keeping economic growth ahead of population growth is critical to ensuring all Victorians benefit from economic growth, and relies on greater employment and increased productivity.” (2016-17 Budget Paper 2, pp.2-3)

Please outline the measures the Department of Health and Human Services is taking to increase Victoria’s GSP per capita.

The Department of Health and Human Services works to achieve the best health, wellbeing and safety of all Victorians so that they can live a life they value. It does this by providing health services to support Victorians to be as healthy as possible, and provide community services to support individuals experiencing disadvantage, supporting them to achieve their maximum potential. The department also provides community support services for vulnerable Victorians, including individuals with a disability, older Victorians, women and children experiencing family violence and vulnerable young people.

Research demonstrates the importance of these services in improving outcomes for individuals and, ultimately, to the community's economic welfare. The department’s services contribute to increasing Victoria’s gross state product by supporting individuals with a physical and/or mental illness to continue to live as productive members of the community, and minimising long term costs of ill health by intervening earlier.

Equally, protecting vulnerable children minimises long term damage to physical and mental health, and later contact with social services, health services and the criminal justice system and support children to have better life outcomes. Stable housing supports social and economic welfare through better educational and social outcomes for children, and improved employment and health outcomes for adults.

2. Departmental objective indicators

For the following question on departmental objective indicators, please refer to BP3 p.215

The Committee notes that the Department has made a minor wording change to one of its objective indicators: 'Attendance of young people in detention in accredited education or training' has been altered to 'Attendance of young people in detention in accredited education and training'.

Are these two indicators synonymous?

This is a typographical error.

The objective indicator should read 'Attendance of young people in detention in accredited education or training'.

3. Reconciliation between Parliamentary authority for the provision of outputs and total income from transactions

The Department advised the total Parliamentary authority for the provision of outputs (\$19,534.5 million) in Q.20 of the Committee's General Questionnaire. This compares with total income from transactions \$22,303.3 million (BP3 p.218). Please identify:

- a) the sources for differences in these figures
- b) whether these sources are in or out of the public account

- a) The variance of \$2,768.8m primarily relates to health agencies' own-sourced revenue. These include :
 - income derived directly from health agencies' activities such as:
 - hospital patient fees
 - ambulance transport and membership subscription fees
 - fees from commercial activities such as parking fees and property rental income
 - donations
 - other miscellaneous revenue
 - interest income derived by health agencies
 - Commonwealth grants and contributions paid directly to health agencies
- b) These sources of income are excluded from Parliamentary authority as they are received directly by the health agencies, not through the Department of Health and Human Services, and consequently they are also out of the public account.