### **2024-25 Victorian State Budget**

## Hon. Natalie Hutchins MP

Minister for Women

21 May 2024



#### Portfolio overview

#### The Women's portfolio:

Leads whole-of-government strategic policy to drive gender equality

Delivers policy and programs to support women's leadership,

economic participation, health, wellbeing and safety

> Implements and oversees the *Gender Equality Act 2020* 

Influences reforms and investment across government

to prioritise outcomes for women.



# Key achievements over the past 12 months

Released Victoria's second gender equality strategy, Our equal state, committing to 110 actions over the next four years.

> Engaged in a commercial RFT to implement pads and tampons in public spaces.

Continued development of strategies to boost women's participation and equity in the energy and manufacturing sectors, including investment of more than \$2 million in grants.

Inducted 22 women into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women.

Hosted an inclusive regional Women Deliver event in Melbourne ahead of the Rwanda Women Deliver conference in July 2023.

Seen the Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner receive the first reports under the Gender Equality Act 2020 on their gender equality progress, including public service bodies, local councils and universities.

In 2022-23, the Victorian Government provided **\$400,000** to deliver the Investing in Women Grassroots Grant Program, with small grants of up to **\$10,000** supporting 44 local organisations to deliver gender equality activities in their communities.



# 2024/25 Budget investment

> The 2024/25 State Budget includes investment of around \$3.6 million over four years in the Women's portfolio.

> \$1.8 million in 2024-25 to support the continuation of leadership and recognition programs for Victorian women, including women from diverse backgrounds.

> \$1.8 million over four years to support continued operation of the Queen Victoria Women's Centre. The Centre is the only Victorian Government-owned asset dedicated to connecting, supporting and providing services to women.

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## Spotlight: Our equal state

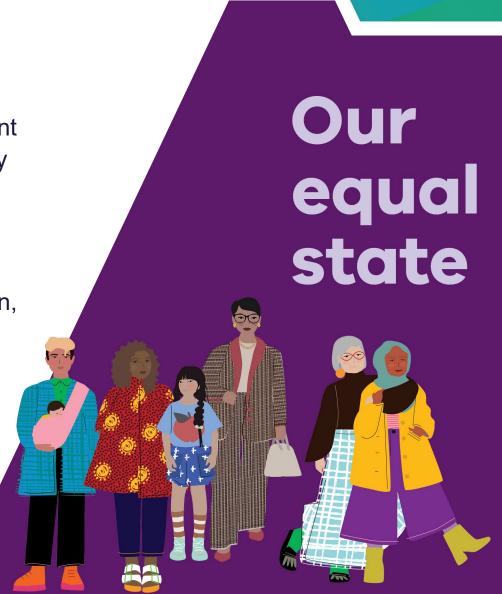
Victoria's second gender equality strategy, *Our equal state*, will drive action over the next 4 years

The strategy commits to **110 actions** to be led by **37** government portfolios, embedding a shared responsibility for gender equality across all parts of government

It takes a life course approach to gender equality – focusing on childhood and youth, adulthood and older age – to highlight the gendered gaps in choices and opportunities between women, men and gender diverse people at different ages

Our equal state makes bold commitments to improving gender equality, including halving the pay gap in the Victorian public sector in five years

It acts as our **first State Gender Equality Action Plan**, as required by the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, and we will report on progress to Parliament after two years.



# Portfolio priorities for the year ahead

- Roll out of the free pads and tampons election commitment
- Implementation of Our equal state: Victoria's gender equality strategy and action plan 2023-2027 and Gender Responsive Budgeting
- Work with government partners to release strategies to boost women's participation and equity in manufacturing and energy sectors
- Launch the second round of Victorian Women's Public Art Program to celebrate and honour the achievements of Victorian women
- Assess progress on gender equality in the Victorian public sector using information from the first Gender Equality Act progress reports
- Continued investment in women's leadership programs including inducting the next round of women into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women.

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