

# Vicki Ward MP

## Minister for Employment

### Employment Portfolio

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

21 May 2024



Jobs, Skills,  
Industry  
and Regions

# State of the Portfolio

## Employment continues to grow strongly in Victoria despite the challenging economic environment

- ▶ The Victorian labour market remains strong:
  - ▶ Employment grew by **3.3%** over the past year with over **117,500** Victorians securing employment.
  - ▶ The unemployment rate is low at **4.2%**.
  - ▶ Labour force participation rate is high at **67.5%**.
- ▶ In particular, for women:
  - ▶ The unemployment rate for women (**4.1%**) was lower than the rate for men (**4.3%**).
  - ▶ The proportion of Victorian women in work was well above its long-run average over the past 10 years (**57.2%**), currently at **60.3%**.



# Our Achievements



## Supporting Victorians who need it most to find secure work maintains the resilience of our workforce

- ➔ Since Jobs Victoria was established in 2016 it has placed more than **71,000** people into a job, including **60,000** since mid-2020. The Jobs Victoria Mentors service is currently supporting more than **4,000** people experiencing long-term unemployment.
- ➔ The Final Report of the Commonwealth's Select Committee on Workforce Australia Employment Services highlighted the merits of Jobs Victoria model of employment services to inform long-term national reforms.
- ➔ Our Social Enterprise Strategy notes there are more than **3,500** social enterprises trading across Victoria, which employ an estimated **60,000** people and contribute **\$5.2 billion** annually to the Victorian economy.
- ➔ Victoria launched Australia's first ever dedicated social enterprise precinct at the Queen Victoria Market.

# Our Achievements (cont)



## Supporting Victorians in a variety of ways to access employment opportunities

- ➔ The Sick Pay Guarantee Pilot has trialled a nation-first approach to supporting casual and contract workers in more than **600** jobs. It has provided access to sick and carer's pay for over **130,000 workers** since its launch in March 2022.
- ➔ As sufficient evidence has now been collected the Pilot will end on 30 June 2024. Evaluation findings will be shared with the Australian Government in early 2025.
- ➔ The **\$25 million** allocated across 2022-24 for continued Yuma Yirramboi Strategy implementation.
- ➔ Including supporting **11** Traditional Owner Corporations to set their own self-determined economic development priorities and to stand up Aboriginal Economic Hubs in Bendigo, Gippsland, and Ballarat.

# Budget Initiatives

## Supporting wealth creation and achieving Aboriginal economic parity

- ▶ **\$8.6 million** is being provided over three years for programs to address economic disparity for Aboriginal communities, including Yuma Yirramboi, supporting our commitment to Closing the Gap.
- ▶ Yuma Yirramboi is the Victorian Government and Aboriginal Victorians' shared vision to generate greater individual and collective wealth for Aboriginal Victorians.
- ▶ To date, the Victorian Government has invested \$25 million dollars to support Yuma Yirramboi. This is supporting the Victorian Aboriginal business sector and Traditional Owners to build a strong and successful Aboriginal economy.
- ▶ Potential areas of focus over the next three years supported by this Budget Initiative include:
  - ▶ strengthening employment pathways for Aboriginal Victorians
  - ▶ bolstering economic development in partnership with Traditional Owner Corporations and other key stakeholders, and
  - ▶ continuing support to the Yuma Yirramboi Council of the Koori Caucus.

