

2024-25 Victorian State Budget

Hon. Natalie Hutchins MP

Minister for Women

21 May 2024



Families,
Fairness
and Housing

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.

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VICTORIAN
HONOUR
ROLL OF
WOMEN
2023

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.



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.

Our equal state



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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Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

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