

DEPARTMENT OF JOBS,  
SKILLS, INDUSTRY  
AND REGIONS

RESPONSES TO  
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

2023-24 FINANCIAL AND  
PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Hearing:	DJSIR
Witness:	Ms Lill Healy
Committee Member:	Mr Nicholas McGowan MLC
Page/s of transcript:	8

**Relevant text:**

**Nick McGOWAN:** There was an additional Treasurer’s advance for \$6.61 million, and that was to support TAFEs to continue delivering services to meet skill demands. That is on page 25 of the questionnaire. It says it covered transition costs. Can you give any further detail to what that actually means?

**Lill HEALY:** Mr McGowan, the transition costs across a number of TAFEs as they reorganise their businesses are a response from government to support those workforce transitions. Again, they are one-off costs.

**Nick McGOWAN:** I am not quite sure I know – what does that mean ‘they got’? What did we get? What did the taxpayer get?

**Lill HEALY:** I will take the detail on notice.

**Answer:**

TAFEs routinely make adjustments to their staffing profile to ensure they have the staff they need to deliver government priorities and provide training that meets the needs of their communities. These decisions are the responsibility of the executive management and board at each TAFE. The Victorian government has made provision to provide support for workforce adjustments where relevant, and this funding was used to support TAFE decisions to right-size workforces in areas of low demand. Any such actions are undertaken in line with relevant industrial agreements.

## Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Hearing:	DJSIR
Witness:	Ms Danni Jarrett
Committee Member:	Mr Nicholas McGowan MLC
Page/s of transcript:	8-9

### **Relevant text:**

**Danni JARRETT:** Subject to Moderna commencing manufacturing of its vaccines at the facility, the government would undertake a standard evaluation of its investment in this project given it has provided funding support towards it, so the timing of that is really a question in terms of once it gets the TGA approval to commence commercial-scale manufacturing.

**Nick McGOWAN:** In terms of that TGA approval, have they sought fast-track approval from the TGA, do we know?

**Danni JARRETT:** I am not aware that you can seek fast-track approval, but the submission for TGA approval is in train.

**Nick McGOWAN:** Can you just double-check that for us, because I do know that certainly during the COVID period almost every jurisdiction on earth had a dual-track system, the conventional and the fast track. I would be keen to know whether they are going through the conventional or somewhat abridged version.

**Tim ADA:** We can take that on notice, Mr McGowan.

### **Answer:**

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) does not have a 'fast-track' approval process for a facility/site manufacturing licence. Rather, the TGA takes a risk-based approach in prioritising onsite inspections and manufacturers must demonstrate compliance with good manufacturing practice (GMP) requirements before a manufacturing licence is issued.

Construction of Moderna's mRNA manufacturing facility in Clayton, Victoria was delivered on schedule and the facility is now operational. To support a timely licensing process, Moderna engaged early with the TGA on the facility licensing process, and has been highly responsive to the TGA's inspection processes and requests for information.

For vaccine products, various approval pathways are available. Further information is available from the TGA website at [www.tga.gov.au](http://www.tga.gov.au).

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Hearing:	DJSIR
Witness:	Dr Xavier Csar
Committee Member:	Mr Danny O'Brien MP
Page/s of transcript:	17

**Relevant text:**

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Yes. Okay. I will ask that question, Dr Csar: how many people who took redundancies reapplied when they were able to and are now working in the department? I am happy for you to take it on notice if you do not have it.

**Xavier CSAR:** I will have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

35 Regional Development Victoria staff accepted separation packages through the 2023-24 workforce transition process.

1 (one) former Regional Development Victoria staff member who accepted a separation package through the 2023-24 workforce transition process has secured subsequent employment with the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions.

Any re-employment in the Department is in accordance with the conditions of individual separation packages.

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Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Hearing:	DJSIR
Witness:	Dr Xavier Csar
Committee Member:	Mr Danny O'Brien MP
Page/s of transcript:	19

**Relevant text:**

**Danny O'BRIEN:** Right. So that will depend on how much money is taken up. Okay. Can you provide on notice perhaps, Dr Csar, a breakdown by local government area of Tiny Towns funding? I think there is probably a list, but I am not sure how detailed it is. Would you be able to provide that to us on notice?

**Xavier CSAR:** I can take that question on notice. There are several hundred projects.

**Answer:**

**Tiny Towns – Round 1 funding by local government areas**

	Total grant amount	Number of projects
<b>Barwon South West</b>		
Borough of Queenscliffe	\$50,000	1
Colac-Otway Shire Council	\$280,972	8
Corangamite Shire Council	\$245,000	6
Glenelg Shire Council	\$117,638	6
Greater Geelong City Council	\$162,216	6
Moyne Shire Council	\$128,666	6
Southern Grampians Shire Council	\$60,315	2
Surf Coast Shire Council	\$30,000	1
Warrnambool City Council	\$50,000	1
<b>Gippsland</b>		
Bass Coast Shire Council	\$119,488	3
Baw Baw Shire Council	\$169,367	5
East Gippsland Shire Council	\$493,564	14
Latrobe City Council	\$65,098	3
South Gippsland Shire Council	\$303,828	13
Wellington Shire Council	\$75,286	3
<b>Grampians</b>		

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Ararat Rural City Council	\$50,000	1
Ballarat City Council	\$128,000	3
Golden Plains Shire Council	\$61,551	2
Hepburn Shire Council	\$260,091	8
Hindmarsh Shire Council	\$132,903	3
Horsham Rural City Council	\$124,139	6
Moorabool Shire Council	\$120,240	3
Northern Grampians Shire Council	\$158,694	4
Pyrenees Shire Council	\$87,692	3
Yarriambiack Shire Council	\$180,330	4
<b>Hume</b>		
Alpine Shire Council	\$236,353	5
Benalla Rural City Council	\$9,988	1
Greater Shepparton City Council	\$28,500	2
Indigo Shire Council	\$277,889	9
Mansfield Shire Council	\$204,125	6
Mitchell Shire Council	\$21,411	2
Moira Shire Council	\$100,000	2
Murrindindi Shire Council	\$87,050	3
Strathbogie Shire Council	\$82,000	2
Towong Shire Council	\$92,074	3
Wangaratta Rural City Council	\$50,000	1
Wodonga City Council	\$50,000	1
<b>Loddon - Mallee</b>		
Buloke Shire Council	\$198,635	5
Campaspe Shire Council	\$75,335	2
Central Goldfields Shire Council	\$249,113	7
Gannawarra Shire Council	\$9,712	1
Greater Bendigo City Council	\$188,020	5
Loddon Shire Council	\$82,000	2
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	\$204,114	8
Mildura Rural City Council	\$30,712	1
Mount Alexander Shire Council	\$99,709	2
Swan Hill Rural City Council	\$87,975	3
<b>Metro - Eastern</b>		
Yarra Ranges Shire Council	\$198,600	5

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<b>Metro - Northern</b>		
Nillumbik Shire Council	\$132,367	4
<b>Metro - Southern</b>		
Cardinia Shire Council	\$228,936	7
Casey City Council	\$100,920	3
Mornington Peninsula Shire Council	\$101,754	4
<b>Metro – Western</b>		
Wyndham City Council	\$50,000	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$6,932,370</b>	<b>212</b>

## Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Hearing:	DJSIR
Witness:	Ms Danni Jarrett
Committee Member:	Mrs Beverley McArthur MLC
Page/s of transcript:	25

### **Relevant text:**

**Bev McARTHUR:** Okay. How many phone calls come to the Victorian Small Business Commission?

**Tim ADA:** I will just see if Ms Jarrett has got a response that, Mrs McArthur. Just bear with us just a moment. I am not sure we have got that specific data point, but I am happy to take that on notice.

**Bev McARTHUR:** Thank you so much. Of the calls or emails to that office, how many are about the cost of doing business or land tax? Maybe you will need to take that on notice as well.

**Danni JARRETT:** For the Small Business Commission?

**Bev McARTHUR:** Yes.

**Danni JARRETT:** Most of the disputes largely relate to rental disputes that often small businesses will have.

**Bev McARTHUR:** Disputes? I am talking about phone calls coming into your office.

**Tim ADA:** So we have – just a question of clarification – the Victorian Small Business Commission, which has some quite specific responsibilities around mediation. More generally, we have a Business Victoria hotline. I am happy to take the question on notice around the number of calls and whether we can provide any information around the nature of those calls.

### **Answer:**

As reported in the 2023-24 Victorian Small Business Commission (VSBC) Annual Report tabled in Parliament on 31 October 2024, the VSBC received 6,610 phone calls.

The VSBC does not have the capacity to retrospectively review the content of phone calls in search of specific topics (such as land tax). The monthly reports provided to the VSBC by its contact centre show that the most frequent topics of phone calls received during financial year 2023-24 included:

- The role of the VSBC.
- Commercial dispute inquiries under the *Small Business Commission Act 2017*.
- Mediation inquiries.
- Repairs and maintenance dispute inquiries under the *Retail Leases Act 2003*.
- Retail lease security deposit dispute inquiries.



## Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Hearing	DJSIR
Witness:	Ms Danni Jarrett
Committee Member:	Mrs Beverley McArthur MLC
Page/s of transcript:	28

### **Relevant text:**

**Bev McARTHUR:** Well, there is minimal reporting in the annual report, and did the VSBC provide any funding to support chambers of commerce in the regions or greater Melbourne?

**Tim ADA:** So the VSBC will not have, for the reasons I said earlier, given their more narrow mediation-focused mandate, but Small Business Victoria, which is a business unit of the department, has recently concluded a grants round providing support for a number of chambers. I will just see if Ms Jarrett has got any more detail on that.

**Danni JARRETT:** Thank you, Secretary. Most of the support that has been provided to chamber associations is primarily based in metropolitan Melbourne. That was primarily in response to applications that we received for that funding support.

**Bev McARTHUR:** Can we get a list of those that have applied for funding?

**Danni JARRETT:** A list of those that have applied?

**Bev McARTHUR:** Yes.

**Danni JARRETT:** We can provide you with that.

**Tim ADA:** Whether we can provide the list of those that have applied, but those that have successfully received support, let us see what we can provide.

### **Answer:**

Grants made in the Small Business portfolio in 2023-24 are listed on page 17 of *Appendix 13 - Grants and related assistance* of the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) Annual Report and include grants to business organisations.

DJSIR, through Small Business Victoria, recently offered grants to business organisations in Victoria through the Multicultural Business Chambers and Trader Groups program, via a competitive process delegated to the department. Noting that the Victorian Small Business Commission doesn't administer grant programs.

DJSIR releases information about successful applicants where funding is provided based on agreed funding terms.

Agreements have been entered into in 2024-25 with 10 successful applicants to receive grant funding under this program, as follows:

- Afro Aussie Women in Business
- Australia Sri Lanka Business Council
- Australian South Asian Centre
- Ballan & District Chamber of Commerce

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- Bridge Road Main Street
- Business Wodonga
- Cinespace
- Commerce Ballarat
- Drycleaning Institute of Australia
- Jackson Court Traders Association.

## Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Hearing:	DJSIR
Witness:	Ms Danni Jarrett
Committee Member:	Mr Aiv Puglielli MLC
Page/s of transcript:	34/35

### **Relevant text:**

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Thank you. In the 2023–24 budget there was \$1.5 million provided to support Victoria’s defence and space industry and supply chains that secure major defence contracts through advocacy, advisory and capability development, with a further \$2.5 million budgeted for 2024–25. Can you provide to the committee a list of the companies that benefited from this funding for 2023–24 and 2024–25 and their projects and the products that they manufacture?

**Tim ADA:** Are you in a position to –

**Danni JARRETT:** I can provide you with an overview, but we would not be in a position to be able to provide you with the details of all of the products that they deliver or develop as a result of –

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Even on notice?

**Danni JARRETT:** A lot of that information is, as you would appreciate, commercial in confidence with regard to their competitiveness and the nature of the contracts that they have with defence, and by extension, then, the arrangement that we have with them would be bound by similar standards of confidentiality.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Perhaps can I ask for the elements that are not commercial in confidence? Could you seek to take on notice and provide those to the committee?

**Tim ADA:** We will see what we can provide, Mr Puglielli.

### **Answer:**

The funding amounts have supported broader industry development, including:

- Delivery of the Small Medium Enterprise (SME) uplift programs such as the Smart Enough Factory Program to bolster SMEs’ capability to participate in defence and ancillary supply chains. The program assisted 16 recipients in the 2023-2024 Financial Year to undertake Industry 4.0 upgrades to their businesses.
- Support for Victorian SMEs to participate in the Defence Industry Study Course (DISC) and build their defence readiness. Placements for 5 recipients in 2023-2024 and 5 recipients in 2024-2025 have been supported.
- Support for facilitating Victorian business participation in key defence trade shows such as Indo Pacific (November 2023), Land Forces (September 2024) and Avalon Airshow (February – March 2023), where more than 130 Victorian SMEs can participate.
- Continued support for the Defence Science Institute, which facilitated placement of 22 industry internships in 2023 – 2024.
- Establishment of, and support for, the Victorian Defence and Space Network (VDSN), a networking and industry engagement forum of approximately 400 Victorian companies.

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- Support for the Defence Council of Victoria to provide expert advice and Government.
- Support for the Victorian Defence Industry Advocate in their role as a high-level representative of Victoria's defence industry interests at a national level.

## Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Hearing:	DJSIR
Witness:	Ms Danni Jarrett
Committee Member:	Mr Aiv Puglielli MLC
Page/s of transcript:	35/36

### **Relevant text:**

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Thank you. Has the department undertaken a review of all financial and non-financial investments, tenders, contracts and programs with companies and other governments to identify and disclose these entities to our government if they are found to render aid or assistance to the ongoing campaigns of the Israeli Ministry of Defense in the occupied Palestinian territories? Has that review taken place?

**Tim ADA:** Let me make a couple of observations – and Ms Jarrett might want to add. We have very few, as I understand it, agreements with defence companies currently. For many years the state has partnered with I guess primes and manufacturers. We have relatively few – as I understand it, Ms Jarrett – contracts with defence companies at the moment. A good number of defence companies, both multinational and homegrown companies, are active here in the state of Victoria. I do not believe those contracts that we hold with subsidiaries, for example, of Israeli businesses – the nature of our agreements with these are for research and development purposes. We are not aware of any products that have been produced as a result of that research and development. The nature of the state's support is for the purpose of research and development in collaboration with Victorian universities. I think it is fair to say, Ms Jarrett, that we are not aware of any outcomes of that particular agreement that might have contributed to the broader conflict in the Middle East.

**Danni JARRETT:** That is right, Secretary. I think, just to add also to the earlier comments around most of the support that we provide to Victorian businesses in the defence sector, essentially it is engineering companies that will do a mix of defence work or contracting into larger defence contracts that the Commonwealth releases or procures, as well as civilian projects. That funding really goes to supporting those companies to build their capability as largely advanced manufacturing companies.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Can I ask, in that case, are you prepared to undertake a review per the specifications I have outlined and come back to the committee?

**Tim ADA:** I think we can take that question back and talk with the responsible minister, Mr Puglielli. Obviously the review you propose would not be an insignificant undertaking. We would want to talk to the relevant minister, and I am certainly happy to do that.

### **Answer:**

The Department has not undertaken a review of financial and non-financial tenders, contracts and programs with companies and governments and their relationship to the Israeli Ministry of Defense.

The export of defence materiel from Australia is regulated by the Australian Government with strict controls.

Information regarding defence exports is typically not shared with state governments and is often kept confidential.

## Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Hearing:	DJSIR
Witness:	Ms Danni Jarrett
Committee Member:	Mr Aiv Puglielli MLC
Page/s of transcript:	36

### **Relevant text:**

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Thank you. Do you have to hand the total sum of the money that has been granted under that fund since November 2021?

**Tim ADA:** While Ms Jarrett is looking for that, Mr Puglielli, I think 22 projects have been supported by the fund. Ms Jarrett might just have the number. Please bear with us.

**Danni JARRETT:** Just over \$1.3 million has been approved for those 22 projects.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Thank you. And this may need to be on notice, but if possible – if a disaggregation of that money that was provided per grant recipient per project could be broken down and provided to the committee, that would be much appreciated.

**Danni JARRETT:** We will take that on notice also.

### **Answer:**

The following businesses have previously agreed to be part of media releases after receiving grants under the Supply Chain Uplift Program as part of the Victorian Land Systems Fund:

As listed on the Premier of Victoria's website

- Amiga Engineering
- Integra Systems
- Total Precision
- Smart Think.

As listed on the Hanwha Defence Australia website

- Amiga Engineering
- Anywise Consulting
- Brockman Engineering
- Copamate
- Corvus Technology Solutions
- Diamond Defence
- ElectricMotor Power
- NanoCube
- Parish Engineering
- Secure Bits
- Sutton Tools
- Tickford Racing.

The amounts provided to individual companies under the Victorian Land Systems Fund - Supply Chain Uplift Program are commercial-in-confidence and not able to be disclosed.

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Hearing:	DJSIR
Witness:	Ms Claire Febey
Committee Member:	Mr Aiv Puglielli MLC
Page/s of transcript:	37

**Relevant text:**

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Okay. Thank you. Just a question when you are ready: has the NGV ever entered NDAs with staff?

**Claire FEBEY:** I am not aware of anything.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Are you able to maybe take on notice to review if that has ever been the case?

**Claire FEBEY:** Certainly.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Thank you. These might be follow-ons. Could you provide the total number of current NDAs with staff – just the number, not the contents necessarily, per their NDAs? Also the total number of current NDAs with senior management.

**Tim ADA:** Sorry, just to avoid any misunderstanding, are you talking about non-disclosure agreements?

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Yes, NDAs. Not the contents of those agreements, just the number.

**Tim ADA:** Yes, sure.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** And to follow on again, the total number of former NDAs with staff. Thank you.

**Claire FEBEY:** Thanks.

**Answer:**

NGV has advised the Department that it has not entered into NDAs with members of staff. This advice included consideration of records for the last ten years.

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Hearing:	DJSIR
Witness:	Mr Peter Betson
Committee Member:	Mr Aiv Pugielli MLC
Page/s of transcript:	37

**Relevant text:**

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** We were previously informed by the minister that in 2022 and 2023 7 per cent of Always Live programming was for international acts. In 2024 we were informed it was 14 per cent international acts. Are you able to provide the total amount of government funding for Always Live that has been provided for each of those years I have mentioned, so 2022, 2023 and 2024?

**Peter BETSON:** It was \$20 million over two years in 2022–23 and 2023–24. It was \$20 million over the two years for Always Live.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Thank you, and then of that funding are you able to provide the committee what percentage went towards international acts for those years?

**Peter BETSON:** Let me have a look. I have got information in relation to local artists in 2023, three-quarters of which were Victorian; 37 per cent of venues in regional Victoria. I would have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The percentage of the Always Live budget directed towards international acts was as follows:

- 29% in 2022
- 42% in 2023
- 29% in 2024.

Funding directed to international acts reflect their capacity to contribute to Always Live outcomes and the additional costs of hosting international performances. In this respect, Always Live delivers a program to maximise tourism visitation and spend, create opportunities for collaboration between international and Victorian live music communities, and support Victoria's brand as a live music capital and its live music sector.



## Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Industry, Trade and Investment
Witness:	Danni Jarret
Committee Member:	Aiv Puglielli
Page/s of transcript:	37 -38

### **Relevant text:**

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** On notice is fine. That is okay. Yes, that is all right. Thank you. On another matter, in 2023–24 the department set a target of Victoria attracting 31 per cent of all international student enrolments in Australia, however, for the first time in five years the proportion was below 30 per cent. The department’s explanation for the shortcoming referenced enduring impacts of COVID-19 on market share and growth, including multiple missed intakes of international students resulting from prolonged border closures. Can I just clarify whether border closures means international or domestic border closures?

**Danni JARRETT:** International.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** International, thank you. Are you able to provide the committee with an estimate of the net overall impact in Australian dollars of this decrease on the Victorian higher education sector and the Victorian economy?

**Tim ADA:** Of the decline in market share?

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Pardon me, the decrease in student enrolments.

**Danni JARRETT:** I am looking at the decrease. We might need to take – if you are looking at what is the cost of those international border closures, the impact of that goes on the –

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** It is more the cost of the decrease of the enrolments, really.

**Danni JARRETT:** We can provide that to you on notice.

**Tim ADA:** Let us see what we can provide.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Thank you. And in that response you are welcome to provide if there are any other factors that might have driven this decrease. Thank you.

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**Danni JARRETT:** Not specifically to your question, but I think just to correct a perception perhaps in terms of the impact and the growth of international students. Since 2022 there has been an increase of 77.4 per cent in terms of the international education sector to the state’s economic revenue. So that represents \$14.8 billion in export revenue to Victoria in 2023. So your point as you made it was that there was a drop as a result of the international border closures, but we have in fact seen a growth in international students since then.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Okay, thank you. That is much appreciated. I understand the department in terms of its reporting has reported expenditure on more than 50 completed reviews, studies and evaluations, but only four of those have been published. Is there a reason for this?

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**Answer:**

The department does not have economic modelling on the impact of the decrease in international student enrolments in Victoria between 2019 and 2023.

In 2023, there were around 287,150 international student enrolments in Victoria across all education sectors (higher education, Vocational Education and Training (VET), English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS), non-award, and schools). While this figure has increased since 2020, enrolments in 2023 were 7% below the approximately 307,290 international enrolments in Victoria across all education sectors in 2019.

The disruption to the international student pipeline as a result of COVID-19 and international border closures has continued to impact the recovery pace of enrolments, with varied impacts across jurisdictions, source countries and subsectors.

The impact has a long tail because of the long lead times between the recruitment of international students and their arrival onshore (often 18-24 months), and students usually study for multiple years. As such, each missed intake of international students has a knock-on effect on overall enrolment volume for around 2-3 years.

In 2023, Victoria's international education sector generated \$14.8 billion in export revenue (note that this includes fees and goods and services associated with students in higher education, VET, ELICOS, non-award and schools). This is above the pre-pandemic export value of \$13.6 billion in 2019.

The sector's export value is likely to have grown faster than enrolments in 2023 due to the increased cost of goods and services consumed by international students while studying in Australia.

**Victorian international enrolments and education-related travel export value by calendar year, 2019 to 2023**

Calendar year	International enrolments	Export value
2019	307,290	\$13.6b
2020	282,540	\$10.5b
2021	227,020	\$6.9b
2022	222,200	\$8.4b
2023	287,150	\$14.8b

Sources: Australian Government Department of Education, International Student Data - full year data (based on data finalised in December 2023); Australian Bureau of Statistics, International Trade: Supplementary Information, Calendar Year, Table 3.

## Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	Sports and Experience Economy
Witness:	Peter Betson
Committee Member:	Avi Puglielli MP
Page/s of transcript:	38

### **Relevant text:**

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** A quick one while I have got time: Lynall Hall Community School – there were two netball courts that were promised, long overdue, as part of the 2022 election campaign, yet there is still no upgrade, no plan, but increased cost, and they are worried that they are only going to get one court upgraded and the other will be left to the school to pay for. Can you confirm for the committee: will both those courts be upgraded?

**Tim ADA:** Just remind us of the project name.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** It is Lynall Hall Community School, their netball courts.

**Tim ADA:** Unless it is – it may well be a question for the education department, given it is a school.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Yes, it is VSBA, but I am aware it is DJSIR money, so that is why I have just queried it here today.

**Danny O'BRIEN:** A precedent – you could fund the Mirboo North stadium, which is also the education department. Well done, Mr Puglielli.

**Peter BETSON:** It could be a community sport funded project. I will take that on notice.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Yes, I believe my note has DJSIR output initiative investment to community sport and active recreation infrastructure. That may be why I have –

**Tim ADA:** Let us check.

**Peter BETSON:** That would be one of our outputs, so I am happy to take that on notice and provide you with that information.

### **Answer:**

The 2023-24 State Budget 2023-24 provided up to \$1 million to upgrade netball courts at the Lynall Hall Community School.

Further planning is required to confirm the scope, cost and timelines for the project.

The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions is working with the Victorian School Building Authority (VSBA) who will undertake site investigations, designs, and cost estimates to inform the scope to be delivered within the available budget.

To progress this, the VSBA has released the tender for the Principal Design Consultant/Architect engagement for the project. The tender will close for submissions on Thursday 5 December 2024.

Once a preferred consultant has been appointed and investigations completed, the project scope will be confirmed in consultation with the school.

Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Portfolio:	DJSIR
Witness:	Tim Ada
Committee Member:	Aiv Puglielli MP
Page/s of transcript:	38-39

**Relevant text:**

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Okay, thank you. That is much appreciated. I understand the department in terms of its reporting has reported expenditure on more than 50 completed reviews, studies and evaluations, but only four of those have been published. Is there a reason for this?

**Tim ADA:** We, I think, Mr Puglielli, identified about 60 reviews that we have undertaken. They are included in the questionnaire, as you say. I think four have been publicly released and another eight are proposed to be released. They are just not quite complete yet. The lion's share of them are lapsing program evaluations. The department has a significant lapsing program component to the way it is funded. They are appended to cabinet submissions, so the convention has been that government has not released the material that is appended to cabinet submissions. And then the lion's share of the studies relate to the internal function of the department; for example, there was a review of corporate services inside the organisation. But to go back to your question, four have been made public, and the intention is that in the near term as those reviews would be finished another eight would be made public.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Just to dot i's and cross t's here, could you provide a breakdown on notice maybe to the committee of that full list and the rationale for each as to why it has not been published?

**Tim ADA:** I will see what we can provide.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Thank you. Much appreciated. Thanks, Chair.

**Answer:** Please refer to **Attachment 1 - PAEC QoN - Reviews and Studies - Q26 Questionnaire** which contains the full list of reviews and studies undertaken by DJSIR in 2023 -2024 and rationale for each entry. The intention is that 12 of the reviews and studies will be made available.

## Attachment 1 - PAEC QoN - Reviews and Studies - Q26 Questionnaire

DJSIR

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/agency responsible)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL If no, why	Response for PAEC
2023 Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix economic assessment <b>Portfolio:</b> Tourism, Sport and Major Events <b>Output:</b> Tourism and Major Events	Y - <a href="https://djsir.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/2230244/7200b5f401c30cb20b9904792efdb99a927f0962.pdf">https://djsir.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0017/2230244/7200b5f401c30cb20b9904792efdb99a927f0962.pdf</a>	N/A
Aboriginal Tertiary Scholarship Program – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Employment <b>Output:</b> Jobs	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
Apprenticeship Support Officer Evaluation – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Skills and TAFE <b>Output:</b> Training, Higher Education and Workforce Development	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
Benchmarking Analysis Report on Singapore and Victoria <b>Portfolio:</b> Economic Growth <b>Output:</b> Trade and Investment	N – Internal departmental report	This report is not intended for release as it was for internal purposes to identify opportunities for Victoria that could inform trade and investment strategies, and ensure that Victoria maintains its international competitiveness.
Big Build Apprenticeships Model (BBAM) – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Skills and TAFE <b>Output:</b> Training, Higher Education and Workforce Development	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
Building Opportunity and Economic Prosperity for Victorian Aboriginal Communities Program – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Employment <b>Output:</b> Jobs	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.

\*Under section 6.1 of the Resource Management Framework, where lapsing program evaluations are prepared for consideration by a Cabinet committee for the purpose of budget deliberations, they are Cabinet in Confidence. It is ultimately a decision for government regarding any subsequent public release of the program evaluation information following any budget deliberations.

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/agency responsible)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL if no, why	Response for PAEC
Business Events Fund – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Tourism, Sport and Major Events <b>Output:</b> Tourism and Major Events	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
Collingwood Yards Evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Creative Industries <b>Output:</b> Creative Infrastructure and Facilities	N – Internal departmental report	This report is intended for internal government use only and is not planned for public release. It represents just one of several inputs into the government’s decision-making process.
Community Bushfire Recovery Program – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Agency:</b> Regional Development Victoria <b>Portfolio:</b> Regional Development <b>Output:</b> Regional Development	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
Contract Management (department-wide) – Audit report <b>Portfolio:</b> N/A <b>Output:</b> N/A	N – Internal departmental report	This report supports the internal operations of the department.
Corporate Services delivery model <b>Portfolio:</b> N/A <b>Output:</b> N/A	N – Internal departmental report	This report supports the internal operations of the department.
Creative Industries programs <b>Portfolio:</b> Creative Industries <b>Output:</b> Creative Industries Access, Development and Innovation	N – Internal departmental report	For the Victorian Premier’s Literary Awards and Victoria Premier’s Design Awards: This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*. APAM and multi-year funding: These were internal process reviews to support future programs/projects of a similar nature and to assist in business case development for future funding.
Creative Infrastructure Strategy <b>Portfolio:</b> Creative Industries <b>Output:</b> Creative Infrastructure and Facilities	N – Internal departmental report	This report is intended for internal government use only to inform the next Creative State Strategy and is not planned for public release.

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Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/agency responsible)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL If no, why	Response for PAEC
Creative State 2025 – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Creative Industries <b>Output:</b> Creative Industries Access, Development and Innovation	N – Review not finalised	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
Cultural Facilities Maintenance (CFM) Fund – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Creative Industries <b>Output:</b> Creative Infrastructure and Facilities	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
Digital Jobs, Digital Jobs for Manufacturing and Summertech LIVE – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Jobs and Industry <b>Output:</b> Jobs	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
Evaluation of the Victorian Universities Support Package: Stakeholder Consultation Report <b>Portfolio:</b> Skills and TAFE <b>Output:</b> Training, Higher Education and Workforce Development	N – Internal departmental report	This report includes stakeholder consultation outcomes that will inform a broader evaluation of the Victorian Universities Support Package, which is proposed to be undertaken in 2025-26.
Fair Jobs Code – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Jobs and Industry <b>Output:</b> Jobs	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
First Peoples creatives and workers in touring, engagement and mobility sectors of the Creative Industries <b>Portfolio:</b> Creative Industries <b>Output:</b> Creative Industries Access, Development and Innovation	N – Review not finalised	This report is still in development and is intended for internal government use only as a working document to inform the next Creative State Strategy.
Get Active Kids Voucher (GAKV) Program – Audit report <b>Portfolio:</b> Community Sport <b>Output:</b> Sport and Recreation	N – Internal departmental report	The purpose of this audit report is for internal decision making for the purpose of improving program processes and controls.

\*Under section 6.1 of the Resource Management Framework, where lapsing program evaluations are prepared for consideration by a Cabinet committee for the purpose of budget deliberations, they are Cabinet in Confidence. It is ultimately a decision for government regarding any subsequent public release of the program evaluation information following any budget deliberations.

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/agency responsible)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL If no, why	Response for PAEC
Getting Victorians Back to Work package – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Employment <b>Output:</b> Jobs	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
Gippsland Migration Study <b>Agency:</b> Regional Development Victoria <b>Portfolio:</b> Regional Development <b>Output:</b> Regional Development	Y – <a href="https://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/2331465/Gippsland-Migrant-Recruitment-and-Retention-Charter.pdf">https://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/2331465/Gippsland-Migrant-Recruitment-and-Retention-Charter.pdf</a>	This study was published on 29 November 2024.
Grants Management – Tourism and Event Strategy and Reform– Audit report <b>Portfolio:</b> Tourism, Sport and Major Events <b>Output:</b> Tourism and Major Events	N – Internal departmental report	This report is not intended to be published as its purpose is to guide improvement in internal processes and controls.
Implementation Review of Partners in Wellbeing Embedded Mental Health Support <b>Portfolio:</b> Small Business <b>Output:</b> Industry, Small Business and Medical Research	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
International Education –Lapsing Program Evaluations <b>Portfolio:</b> Economic Growth <b>Output:</b> Trade and Investment	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
Invest Victoria website user experience research Project <b>Portfolio:</b> Economic Growth <b>Output:</b> Trade and Investment	N – Review not finalised	This review was undertaken to inform the technical scope for the Invest Victoria website redevelopment.
Jobs for Victoria Package – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Employment <b>Output:</b> Jobs	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.

\*Under section 6.1 of the Resource Management Framework, where lapsing program evaluations are prepared for consideration by a Cabinet committee for the purpose of budget deliberations, they are Cabinet in Confidence. It is ultimately a decision for government regarding any subsequent public release of the program evaluation information following any budget deliberations.



Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/agency responsible)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL If no, why	Response for PAEC
Jobs Victoria Mentors Services program – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Employment <b>Output:</b> Jobs	N – Review not finalised	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
Liquid Hydrogen Facility for Vocational Training– Site Feasibility Study <b>Portfolio:</b> Skills and TAFE <b>Output:</b> Training, Higher Education and Workforce Development	N – Internal departmental report	This study supports TAFE planning and is not intended to be released.
Local Sport and Infrastructure Fund (LSIF) / Country Football and Netball Program (CFNP) – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Community Sport <b>Output:</b> Sport and Recreation	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
Malaysia Student Experience Report <b>Portfolio:</b> Economic Growth <b>Output:</b> Trade and Global Engagement	N – Review not finalised	The intention is to release the report to Victorian education providers who are either active in, or have an interest in undertaking business activities in Malaysia.
Menstruation matters for participation in sport and active recreation <b>Portfolio:</b> Community Sport <b>Output:</b> Sport and Recreation	N – Review not finalised	The report is in development and planned to be released in 2025, as part of the Change Our Game Research Grants Program.
Misinformation in Emergencies <b>Agency:</b> Emergency Management <b>Portfolio:</b> Regional Development <b>Output:</b> Regional Development	N – Internal departmental report	This study will support future service delivery and is not intended to be released.
Off the Sidelines Increasing Women’s Visibility in Regional Sports Media <b>Portfolio:</b> Community Sport <b>Output:</b> Sport and Recreation	N – Review not finalised	The report is in development and planned to be released in 2025, as part of the Change Our Game Research Grants Program.

\*Under section 6.1 of the Resource Management Framework, where lapsing program evaluations are prepared for consideration by a Cabinet committee for the purpose of budget deliberations, they are Cabinet in Confidence. It is ultimately a decision for government regarding any subsequent public release of the program evaluation information following any budget deliberations.

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/agency responsible)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL if no, why	Response for PAEC
Office for Women in Sport and Recreation (OWSR – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Community Sport <b>Output:</b> Sport and Recreation	N – Review not finalised	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
Operational Infrastructure Support (OIS) Program Reporting <b>Portfolio:</b> Medical Research <b>Output:</b> Industry, Small Business and Medical Research	Y - 2021–22 (2023) report: <a href="https://aamri.org.au/news-events/aamri-news/aamri-ois-report-2021-22/">https://aamri.org.au/news-events/aamri-news/aamri-ois-report-2021-22/</a>	N/A
Preventing Violence Through Sport – Mid Program Review <b>Portfolio:</b> Community Sport <b>Output:</b> Sport and Recreation	N – Review not finalised	This report is intended for internal government use only and is not planned for public release. It represents one of several inputs into the government’s decision-making process.
Ready for Growth – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Small Business <b>Output:</b> Industry, Small Business and Medical Research	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
Regional Partnerships Program – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Creative Industries <b>Output:</b> Creative Industries Access, Development and Innovation	N – Review not finalised	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
Regulatory review of professional and amateur boxing and combat sports <b>Portfolio:</b> Community Sport <b>Output:</b> Sport and Recreation	N – Internal departmental report	This report is intended for internal government use only and is not planned for public release. It represents just one of several inputs into government decision-making processes.
Report for the International Education Advisory Council (IEAC) Innovation in Transnational Education Working Group <b>Portfolio:</b> Economic Growth <b>Output:</b> Trade and Global Engagement	N – Internal departmental report	There is currently no intention to release the report as it was for internal purposes to identify opportunities for Victoria that could inform strategies to bolster transnational education opportunities, and ensure that Victoria maintains its competitiveness in the national and global landscape.

\*Under section 6.1 of the Resource Management Framework, where lapsing program evaluations are prepared for consideration by a Cabinet committee for the purpose of budget deliberations, they are Cabinet in Confidence. It is ultimately a decision for government regarding any subsequent public release of the program evaluation information following any budget deliberations.

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/agency responsible)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL If no, why	Response for PAEC
Review of Industry Advisory Groups and support mechanisms <b>Agency:</b> Victorian Skills Authority (VSA) <b>Portfolio:</b> Skills and TAFE <b>Output:</b> Training, Higher Education and Workforce Development	N – Internal departmental report	This review is not intended for release and was produced to inform internal development work in the VSA.
Review of Professionalised Volunteer Support Delivery Models <b>Portfolio:</b> Community Sport <b>Output:</b> Sport and Recreation	N – Internal departmental report	The report was undertaken to inform the development of the Community Sport Volunteer / Workforce Strategy to be completed in 2025 and is not intended for public release.
SAFE: Active outdoor recreation for culturally and linguistically diverse women <b>Portfolio:</b> Community Sport <b>Output:</b> Sport and Recreation	N – Review not finalised	The report is in development and planned to be released in 2025, as part of the Change Our Game Research Grants Program.
Sheba ARC Evaluation Exercise <b>Portfolio:</b> Economic Growth <b>Output:</b> Industry, Small Business and Medical Research	N – Internal departmental report	The report isn't intended for public release as it was prepared specifically for evaluating collaborative health services partners. Those partners shared the cost of the evaluation report and are currently preparing next steps. With agreement from research partners there may be an opportunity to release the Report publicly in the future.
Sick Pay Guarantee – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Employment <b>Output:</b> Jobs	N – Review not finalised	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
Skilled and Business Migration Program Client Satisfaction Survey <b>Portfolio:</b> Jobs and Industry <b>Output:</b> Jobs	N – Review not finalised	The Client Satisfaction Survey is an internal document not intended for public release.

\*Under section 6.1 of the Resource Management Framework, where lapsing program evaluations are prepared for consideration by a Cabinet committee for the purpose of budget deliberations, they are Cabinet in Confidence. It is ultimately a decision for government regarding any subsequent public release of the program evaluation information following any budget deliberations.

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/agency responsible)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL If no, why	Response for PAEC
Small Business Support Toolkits – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Small Business <b>Output:</b> Industry, Small Business and Medical Research	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
Sustainable Victorian Institute of Sport Initiative – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Tourism, Sport and Major Events <b>Output:</b> Sport and Recreation	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
TAFE Demonstration Project Model – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Skills and TAFE <b>Output:</b> Training, Higher Education and Workforce Development	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
The Conversation of Sport: Representation of Women in Sports News Coverage <b>Portfolio:</b> Community Sport <b>Output:</b> Sport and Recreation	Y - <a href="https://changeourgame.vic.gov.au/leadership-centre/the-conversation-of-sport-are-women-visible-in-sports-news-coverage">https://changeourgame.vic.gov.au/leadership-centre/the-conversation-of-sport-are-women-visible-in-sports-news-coverage</a>	N/A
The Conversation of Sport: Representation of Women in Sports News Coverage – Phase 2 <b>Portfolio:</b> Community Sport <b>Output:</b> Sport and Recreation	N – Review not finalised	The Report is in development and planned to be released in 2025. This will be used to inform sector engagement.
The Victorian Digital Technology Sector Survey, Report and Factsheet <b>Portfolio:</b> Jobs and Industry <b>Output:</b> Jobs	Y - <a href="https://djsir.vic.gov.au/priorities-and-initiatives/digital-economy">https://djsir.vic.gov.au/priorities-and-initiatives/digital-economy</a>	N/A

\*Under section 6.1 of the Resource Management Framework, where lapsing program evaluations are prepared for consideration by a Cabinet committee for the purpose of budget deliberations, they are Cabinet in Confidence. It is ultimately a decision for government regarding any subsequent public release of the program evaluation information following any budget deliberations.

Name of the review (portfolio(s) and output(s)/agency responsible)	Publicly available (Y/N) and URL If no, why	Response for PAEC
Value of Women and Girls in Sport and Recreation, Community Sport <b>Portfolio:</b> Community Sport <b>Output:</b> Sport and Recreation	N – Review not finalised	The Report is in development and planned to be released in 2025. It will be made public to inform sector engagement.
VET Development Centre Alignment Review <b>Agency:</b> VSA <b>Portfolio:</b> Skills and TAFE <b>Output:</b> Training, Higher Education and Workforce Development	N – Review not finalised	The review is not intended to be released, noting it has informed internal development work within VSA.
Victorian Skills Plan Initial Impact Assessment <b>Agency:</b> VSA <b>Portfolio:</b> Skills and TAFE <b>Output:</b> Training, Higher Education and Workforce Development	N – Internal departmental report	The report is not intended to be released noting it has informed internal development work within VSA.
Visitor Economy Recovery and Reform Plan – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Tourism, Sport and Major Events <b>Output:</b> Tourism and Major Events	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
Youth Aquatic Accreditation Program – Evaluation and market research <b>Portfolio:</b> Community Sport <b>Output:</b> Sport and Recreation	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
Yuma Yirramboi Program – Lapsing program evaluation <b>Portfolio:</b> Employment <b>Output:</b> Jobs	N – Internal departmental report	This is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program*.
2023 Creative Neighbourhoods Report <b>Portfolio:</b> Creative Industries <b>Output:</b> Creative Infrastructure and Facilities	N – Internal departmental report	The report is still in development and will be ready for publication in 2025, subject to Government approvals.

\*Under section 6.1 of the Resource Management Framework, where lapsing program evaluations are prepared for consideration by a Cabinet committee for the purpose of budget deliberations, they are Cabinet in Confidence. It is ultimately a decision for government regarding any subsequent public release of the program evaluation information following any budget deliberations.

## Questions taken on notice and further information agreed to be supplied at the hearings.

Hearing:	DJSIR
Witness:	Ms Lill Healy
Committee Member:	Mrs Beverley McArthur MLC
Page/s of transcript:	28, 29, 42, 43

### **Relevant text:**

**Bev McARTHUR:** Ernst & Young was meant to be paid \$1.3 million for an evaluation of the Jobs Victoria package. Only \$306,000 was spent in 2023–24; no future expenditure is expected. How does the department explain the discrepancy between the allocation and the \$306,000 spend?

**Tim ADA:** It may well be because one of those numbers relates to expenditure in 2023–24, but I might ask Ms Healy. Did you want to –

**Bev McARTHUR:** And also could we have a copy of the final evaluation?

**Lill HEALY:** Could you just repeat the question to me?

**Bev McARTHUR:** They also paid Ipsos \$100,000, so maybe you could go to that too on notice.

**The CHAIR:** Apologies.

**Lill HEALY:** Are these the internal –

**Tim ADA:** Jobs Victoria evaluation.

**Lill HEALY:** Yes. So the evaluation – I will take it on notice.

**Bev McARTHUR:** Thank you so much.

....

**Tim ADA:** Sorry, Mr Hilakari. Chair, on Jobs Victoria, Ms McArthur asked a question earlier about the Jobs Victoria evaluation. We have just got a response to that now if you are prepared to take that.

**The CHAIR:** One less on notice. I love it.

**Tim ADA:** Ms McArthur, I think you asked a question about the \$1.3 million evaluation of the Jobs Victoria program. That was a 2021 budget initiative. That was quite a significant COVID-era response that the government made – a \$619 million investment. The evaluation was commissioned in 2022–23, take away 1.3. The reference to 300,000 in 2023–24 was the final milestone payment for that evaluation. So that is the answer to your question.

**Bev McARTHUR:** Thank you, Secretary.

### **Answer:**

The Jobs Victoria evaluation is not publicly available. It is an evaluation of a lapsing Government program, which has been provided to Government for the purpose of future budget deliberations and is therefore considered Cabinet in Confidence. It is ultimately a decision for government regarding public release of the program evaluation following budget deliberations.

The IPSOS market research for the Sick Pay Guarantee Pilot commenced in 2023-24. Final payments will be made in 2024-25 as the market research is completed.