

2020 COVID-19 Response Hearing

Public Accounts and Estimates Hearing

The Hon Lisa Neville MP

Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Minister for the Coordination of Environment, Water, Land and Planning – COVID 19

Tuesday 19 May 2020

Decision-making throughout the emergency is occurring in a dynamic environment, with National Cabinet formed on 13 March and providing a forum for nationally agreed approaches to assist with how Victoria has managed the public health emergency



Police Response

A force wide mobilisation and response to support the management of the public health emergency

Service delivery changes and key operations quickly established to keep police members and the community safe, and support the management of the public health emergency:

- Operation Sentinel (Supporting the CHO directions)
- Operation Ribbon (Family Violence)
- Operation Shielding (redeployment of Protective Service Officers)

Throughout the emergency, Victorians have demonstrated strong compliance with public health restrictions.

From the declaration of the state of emergency until 17 May 2020, there have been over 69,286 calls to the police assistance line and almost 7,534 online reports.

Since March, Victoria Police has conducted over 45,000 in-person and places-of-interest checks across the state.

This has led to 5,604 infringements issued for breaches of the CHO directions.



47,185

VICTORIA POLICE
COMPLIANCE CHECKS



99%

OF CHECKS
COMPLIANT



69,286
CALLS



7,534
ONLINE
REPORTS

Key COVID-19 police operations

Operation Shielding (PSOs)

PSOs working in and amongst the community:

- Enforcing Covid-19 restrictions
- Preventing and detecting other crime
- Making arrests for theft, drug trafficking, possession of imitation firearms and weapons, outstanding warrants, and serious assault
- Continue to operate at 83 metropolitan train stations from 6pm until the last train every evening.

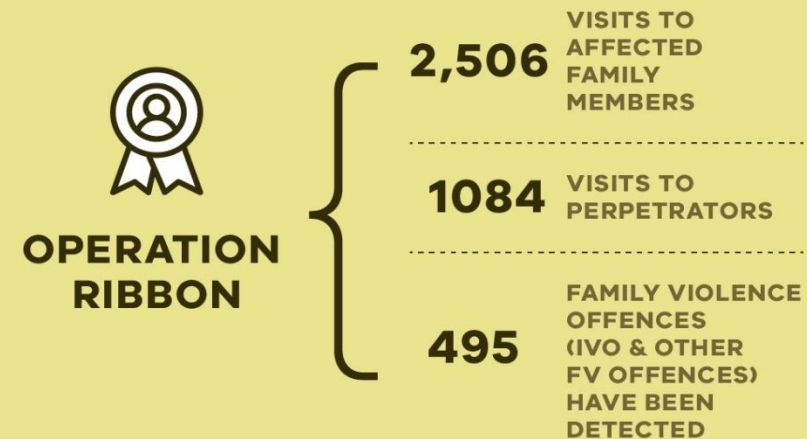
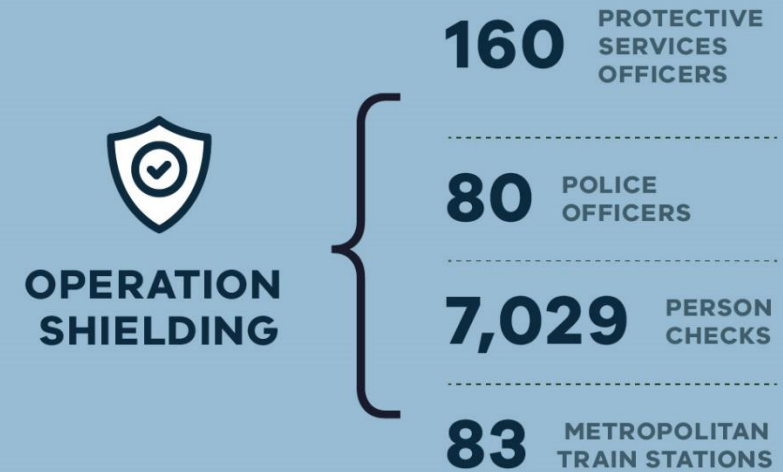
Operation Ribbon (Family Violence)

Specialist detectives from the Family Violence Investigation Units (FVIU) across the state reaching out to Victorians who are at greater risk due to the current lockdown

Active engagement with victim-survivors and known on perpetrators of family violence.

Operation Ribbon has resulted in:

- 100 persons being remanded;
- 53 persons bailed;
- 45 persons summonsed;
- 3 persons issued a penalty notice; and
- 467 persons being investigated.



State Emergency Management arrangements in place and supporting the response to the public health emergency

State of Emergency under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act declared 16 March – remade twice and still in effect until 31 May 2020.

SCC has been activated at Tier 2 since 11 March 2020 and is coordinating the efforts of 18 agencies to respond to the emergency.



**SHIFTS
UNDERTAKEN:
6,555**

**616
INDIVIDUAL
PERSONEL
ROSTERED**



**226
CONTINUOUS
NUMBER OF DAYS
THE SCC HAS
BEEN ACTIVATED**



**10,635
PASSENGERS TAKEN
TO QUARANTINE**

**18
AGENCIES
PROVIDING
SUPPORT**

This includes delivering Operation Soteria, and WoVG provision of PPE to all emergency services and non-health Victorian Government agencies.



**\$4.2M
WORTH OF PPE
PROCURED AND
DISTRIBUTED**



**2,804
RELIEF
PACKAGES**



**494
TELEPHONE
OUTREACHES**

**1.5 MILLION
SINGLE USE
GLOVES**

**29,200
SURGICAL
MASKS**

**61,000
P2 MASKS**

**130,000
LITRES
OF HAND
SANITISER**

**2,800
CANISTERS
OF SURFACE
WIPES**

**41,400
PROTECTIVE
DISPOSABLE
COVERALLS**



Assurance of Emergency Services Response during COVID-19

All emergency services agencies have continued to deliver full response to the community despite impact of COVID-19.

Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) established the Response Agency Taskforce in mid-February 2020, meeting daily with response agencies to monitor workforce impacts and establish consistent approaches.

Bushfire Recovery

Social distancing and other restrictions present challenges to the bushfire recovery effort, but critical services continue to be delivered throughout the public health emergency.

New digital platforms are being used to support community recovery activities.

Clean up of properties is accelerating.

Over \$73 million in financial assistance released to families and businesses impacted by the fires.

Recovery snapshot:

- 1,051 cases reported with the dedicated Victorian Bushfires Case Support Program
- 720 Business Advisor Program Services are either active or have been completed
- \$7.55 million in Small Business and non-profit Grants delivered
- \$17.5 million delivered through the Primary Industry Grants Program
- \$4.1 million paid to landholders for boundary fencing
- \$17.3 million in direct financial assistance to local government councils in fire affected areas

\$73M

**IN FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE
RELEASED**



\$316M

**COMMITTED
BY THE VICTORIAN
GOVERNMENT FOR
THE 2019-2020
BUSHFIRE RECOVERY**



732

**PROPERTIES
REGISTERED
WITH GROCON**

173

**PROPERTIES
COMPLETED**

Coordination of Environment, Water, Land and Planning – COVID 19

Coordination portfolio created to ensure continuity of essential services, respond to, and recover from, the public health emergency

Key initiatives to date include:

- Oversighting critical whole of government work on continuity of essential services and economic recovery
- Supporting Working for Victoria, and generating job opportunities across the state
- Ensuring hardship provisions are aligned with national principles where relevant and in place for those in need across water, local government and energy
- Supporting entities and organisations that have been hardest hit by the restrictions, including a \$14 million support package to Zoos Victoria and Phillip Island Nature Park
- Supporting land managers and councils with consistent advice on implementing health directions and making sure local government is part of the recovery effort
- Developing new ways of working with the community that keeps staff and all Victorians who rely on them, safe

