



Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Inquiry into the 2020-21
performance of the Department
of Justice and Community Safety

Rebecca Falkingham

Secretary, Department of Justice and Community Safety

Tuesday 9 November 2021



Department of Justice and Community Safety 2020-21

Our vision is a justice and community safety system that works together to build a safer, fairer and stronger Victoria

This year the department has continued to address the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic while supporting vulnerable people and promoting justice and fairness in Victoria. Our staff, agencies, community organisations and volunteers have continued to serve the Victorian community through hard work and dedication.



DJCS Financial Operations

Key financial operations and highlights



Total operating
budget of **\$8.95 billion**



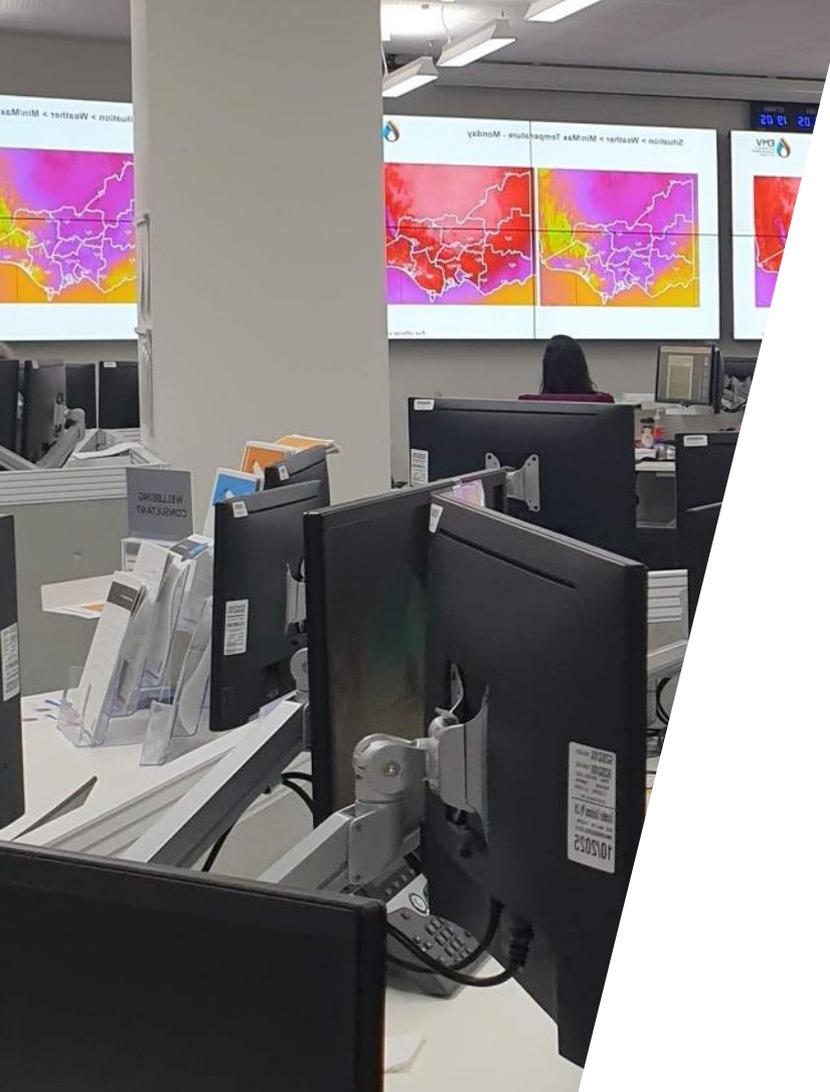
Employed **10,000+**
staff across DJCS



10 capital projects
completed valued
at **\$250 million**



15 capital projects
commenced valued at
\$480 million



Our response to COVID-19

- Ensured continued delivery of justice services to the Victorian community
- Implemented measures in Victorian correctional facilities to protect the health and wellbeing of prisoners and staff and reduce the risk of COVID-19
- Established an on-site COVID-19 vaccination program across all corrections and youth justice facilities
- Supported the health, safety and wellbeing of our employees through tailored mental health and wellbeing supports
- Mobilised state-wide operations to support Victorians to comply with CHO directions
- Established CQV, Victoria's dedicated agency that manages the COVID-19 Accommodation Program
- 38,690 people accommodated in quarantine since 1 December 2020



Supporting our community through the challenges of COVID-19

222,000 Victorians helped with their residential tenancy concerns

94% of matters raised were closed through CAV with an additional **5,853** matters closed through DSCV

73,000 agreements lodged to reduce rent with an average rent decrease of **23%**



Temporary Rental Laws

Emergency rental measures to protect Victorian tenants, landlords and the rental market from the worst impacts of the pandemic were implemented

Temporary law changes ensured the most vulnerable Victorians would not be left homeless



Residential Tenancies Amendments Act 2018 reforms

More than 130 reforms to Victoria's rental laws to create a fairer and safer rental system were made following the cessation of temporary emergency rental protections



Continued activation of the State Control Centre

- Activated for **365 consecutive days** in 2020-21
- Capability uplift in resourcing to support 24/7 coverage including an additional **48 dedicated personnel**
- Deployed dedicated emergency personnel to assist emergency relief and response in other States:
 - New South Wales flood disaster - **93 multi-agency personnel**
 - Western Australia, Tropical Cyclone Seroja - **77 personnel**



Emergency Preparedness



IGEM Reviews and Inquiries

Victorian Government responded to:

- IGEM Review of 10 years of reform in Victoria's Emergency Management Sector
- Inquiry into the 2019-20 Victorian Fire Season Phase 1 and Phase 2 Report

Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

- Victoria is leading implementation of the Australian Warning System
- Community education and engagement program for adopting the system



Victoria State
Emergency
Management
Plan



Victoria
Fire Season
Campaign



Victoria
Water Safety
Campaign



Storms and Floods – June 2021

- 9,100 requests for assistance to VICSES
- 200,000 customers left without power

Infrastructure Projects



★ CORRECTIONS AND YOUTH JUSTICE

Project	TEI*	Status
Chisholm Road Prison Project	\$1.118 billion	Construction
Dame Phyllis Frost Centre	\$188.9 million	Construction
Prison Infill Expansion Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barwon Prison • Middleton Prison • Marngoneet Correctional Centre • Metropolitan Remand Centre • Hopkins Correctional Centre • Modular Cells Manufacturing 	\$798 million	Construction (Barwon & Middleton) Procurement (MRC, Marngoneet and Hopkins)
Fulham Correctional Centre	\$78 million	Delivered in September 2020
Port Phillip Prison Medical Expansion	\$20 million	Delivered in September 2020
Cherry Creek Youth Justice Project	\$419 million	Construction

* Figures as at 30 June 2021

🎯 EMERGENCY SERVICES

Project	Status
VICSES Wangaratta Unit	Delivered in December 2020
VICSES Knox Unit	Delivered in August 2021
VICSES Emerald Unit	Delivered in November 2021
VICSES Northcote Unit	In construction, to be delivered in February 2022
VICSES Essendon Unit	In construction, to be delivered in February 2022



Victoria Police

Overall investment of \$3.89 billion

\$28.8 million

to replace the Benalla police station to ensure local police have a state-of-the-art facility to serve their community

\$51.8 million over four years

for the Redress and Restorative Engagement Scheme

\$16.5 million

to support government and police efforts to counter violent extremism

\$82.7 million

to support the Victorian Fixed Threat Assessment Centre to assess and respond to serious threats of terrorism (includes funding for Department of Health)



Corrections and Youth Justice

COVID-19 management achievements in 2020-2021



Custody response

Established isolation / protective quarantine period upon reception to custody

Arranged virtual personal visits and remote court appearances

Fast tracked commissioning of new Youth Justice infrastructure



Community response

Implemented a remote case management model for people under community supervision, and maintained face-to-face appointments where appropriate

Expanded home-based community work program for adult offenders

Continued driving activities related to bail, court and parole for young people



Youth Justice

Key achievements in 2020-2021



Continued focus on Youth Justice diversion

- **1,174** diversions of young people through the **Children's Court Youth Diversion Service**
- **34% reduction** in young people under Youth Justice supervision (2015-16 to 2020-21)
- **1,216** young people accessed/were assisted through the **Youth Support Service**
- **42% reduction** in the average daily number of Aboriginal children (2016-17 to 2020-21)



Expanded the community based Aboriginal Youth Justice Program

Re-established Balit Ngalu

Re-established 'Amplifying the Voice of Aboriginal children'



Supported young people's housing needs through Kids Under Cover



Expanded capacity for the Communities in Custody Model



Corrections

Key achievements in 2020-2021



Piloted a *Disability and Complex Needs Service* at the Dame Phyllis First Centre



Accommodated *74 men* at the *Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility* since its opening



Pre and post release support and reintegration pathways



Outcomes for Aboriginal people

Developed the operating model for the *Aboriginal Healing Unit* at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre

Commenced the *Strengthening Aboriginal Healthcare* project:

- Aboriginal Health Risk Review
- Prisoner Health Workshops
- The Torch artwork for Justice Health

Launched the *Wulgunggo Ngalu Bush Foods and Nursery Project*



Legislative Reform

- Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendment (Arbitration) Act 2021
- Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Act 2021
- Worker Screening Act 2020
- Summary Offences Amendment (Decriminalisation of Public Drunkenness) Act 2021
- Spent Convictions Act 2021



Aboriginal Justice

Aboriginal Justice Forum

In its 21-year history, the **Aboriginal Justice Forum** was held on-line for the first time with:

- 2 forums successfully held online
- 1 in-person forum held in Horsham

Dja Dja Wurrung

Funding agreement with **Dja Dja Wurrung**

- Property transfer and funding to build the Dja Dja Wurrung Corporate and Community Centre
- The Centre will enhance their ability to make decisions on and care for their country, and self-determine their future





Crime Prevention Strategy

The Victorian Government's Crime Prevention Strategy was released on 21 June 2021.

It sets out how the government will work with the community to prevent crime before it occurs.

It has four key outcomes:



Victorian community are engaged in **local solutions to prevent crime**



Fewer Victorians come into contact with the criminal justice system



More people at risk of offending are **connected to effective support**



Victorians **are safer and feel safer**



Ubuntu Empowering
Mothers Project



Thank you.

