

# Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

## Budget Estimates Hearings

The Hon. Enver Erdogan MLC  
Minister for Corrections

Thursday 15 June 2023



# Corrections system overview



**6,456**

**People in prison  
in Victoria**  
at 19 May 2023

**61%** of people in prison  
as at 19 May were  
**under sentence**

**13%** of people in prison  
as at 19 May were  
**Aboriginal**

**5%** of people in prison  
as at 19 May were  
**female**



**10,665**

**People in Victoria  
on parole, supervised  
court orders and  
reparation orders**  
at 19 May 2023

**804** **Parole** orders

**1,391** **Reparation** orders

**8,470** **Supervised court  
orders**



**5,700+**

**People employed** within  
corrections and justice  
services



**35**

**Justice Service Centers** in  
Victoria, supervising  
offenders on various court  
orders



**16**

**Facilities** in Victoria

- 11 publicly operated prisons,
- 3 privately operated prisons
- 1 transition centre
- 1 community residential facility

# Corrections system overview



**\$1.838 billion**

Total output budget for the Corrections portfolio for 2023-24.



**\$18.35 million**

Provided to the Corrections portfolio in the 2023-24 Budget **to continue critical lapsing programs in the corrections system**



**\$784 million**

Value of **major prison infrastructure projects** currently underway.



**\$42.92 million**

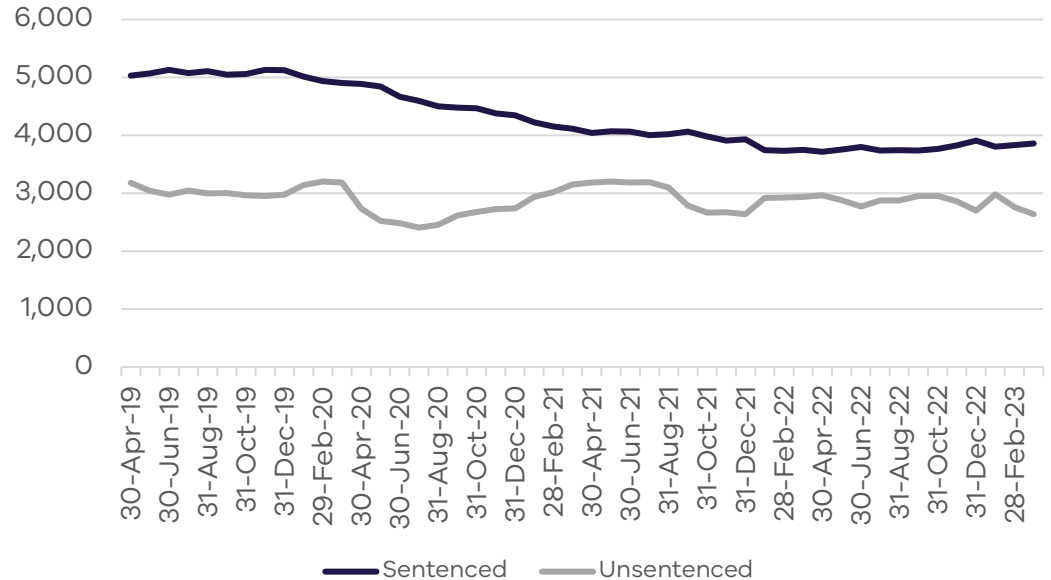
**To transition the delivery of primary health services** in women's prisons from a private provider to public health providers.

# Prison System demand

Since 2019, Government has invested in a range of crime prevention, early intervention and rehabilitation initiatives.

The impact of these initiatives, alongside the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on criminal justice system activity, has seen prison demand decrease in the past three years.

## Monthly prison population figures





# Supporting improvements to the Corrections System

The Cultural Review of the Adult Custodial Corrections System provided its report and recommendations to the Victorian Government in December 2022.

The Review recommended wide ranging reforms to improve system oversight and performance, support the workforce and improve staff conduct , Aboriginal cultural safety and supports for people in custody.

**\$42.92 million** has been allocated to support improvements to the Corrections system to transition the delivery of primary health services in women's prisons from a private provider to public health providers.

**\$18.35 million** for critical programs and supports for people in prison and on community orders to address issues and behaviours that contribute to offending and improve the responsiveness of misconduct investigations as recommended by the Cultural Review.

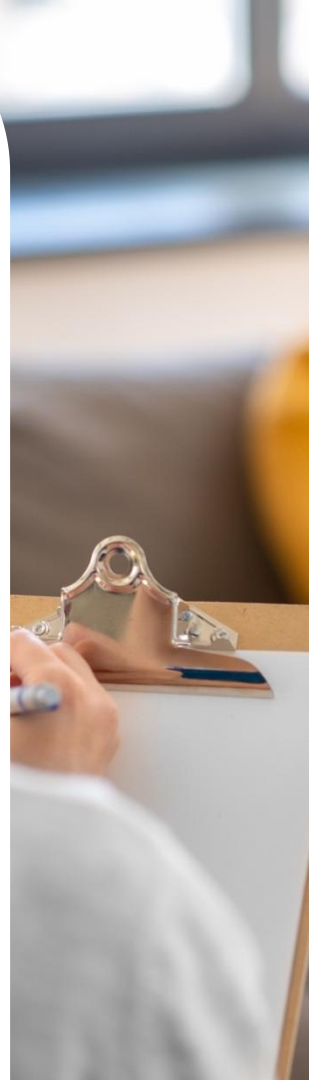
# Reducing reoffending and improving outcomes

The corrections system plays a critical role in reducing reoffending.

The 2022-23 expected outcome for the rate of return to prison within two years was **39.2 per cent**, against the target of 39 per cent. The 2022-23 expected outcome for the rate of return to corrective services within two years of discharge from a community corrections order is **10.9 per cent** – which was a strong performance, significantly exceeding the target of 14 per cent.

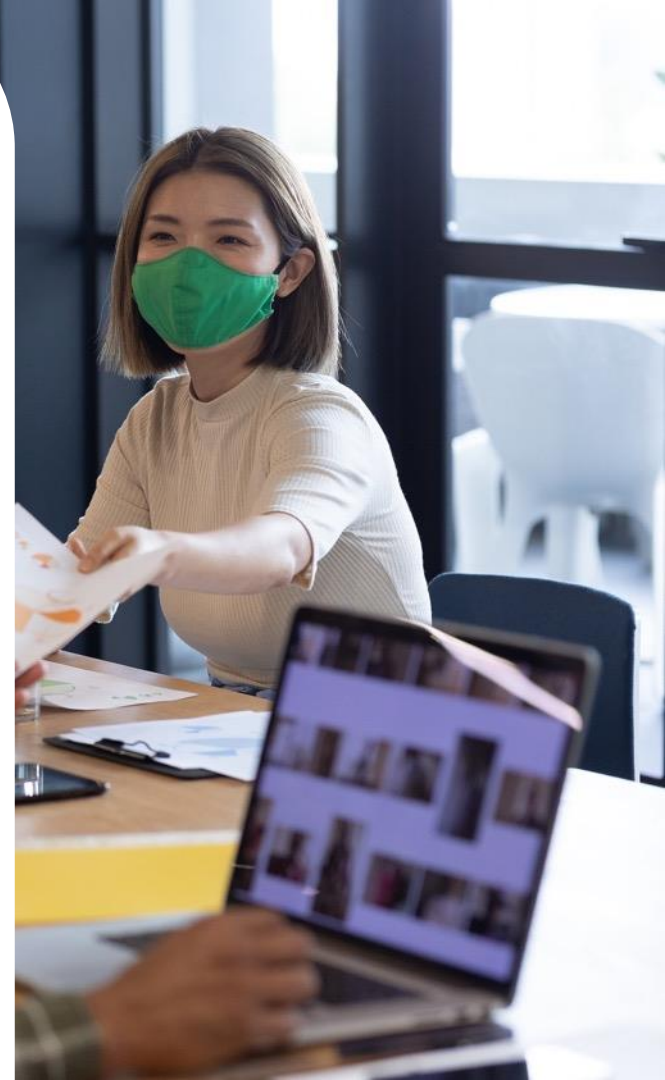
The 2023-24 Budget allocated **\$18.35 million** to continue critical lapsing programs in the corrections system. Key initiatives include:

- **\$3.28 million** to continue critical programs providing culturally safe supports to Aboriginal people in prison
- **\$4.08 million** to fund programs providing trauma informed, gender responsive supports to women in prison
- **\$1.37 million** to continue vital family violence programs in prisons.
- **\$1.57 million** to continue responding to recommendations of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System
- **\$5.69 million** to continue critical Alcohol and other Drug treatment and employment programs for people on community orders and strengthen oversight of high-risk offenders on Community Corrections Orders
- **\$1.64 million** for support services for older people in prison



# Responding to COVID-19

- DJCS has taken a proactive approach to managing COVID-19 risks in the corrections system.
- Active vaccination programs among prisoners and vaccination requirements for staff and visitors have supported an easing of restrictions in custodial facilities in 2022-23.
- The 2023-24 State Budget provides **\$34.56 million** for costs incurred in 2022-23 responding to COVID-19.
- As a result of the program as of 24 April 2023, 83 per cent of people in prison had received two doses of the vaccine and 69 per cent had received a third dose, which is 83 per cent of all prisoners currently eligible for their third dose.
- The funding has also enabled the continuation of isolation requirements for positive cases, PPE for staff and prison entrants, Rapid Antigen Tests and additional cleaning of facilities.





**Thank you.**

