



Inquiry into the Victorian criminal justice system

Department of Justice and Community Safety

5 November 2021



About the Department of Justice and Community Safety

The **Department of Justice and Community Safety** oversees the administration of justice in Victoria, directly managing key justice services and leading policy and legislation across a range of justice and community safety portfolios. The department is responsible to five Ministers across nine portfolios, including the Attorney-General's portfolio, Emergency Services, Police, Corrections, Youth Justice, Crime Prevention, Victim Support, Consumer Affairs, Liquor and Gaming Regulation, and Workplace Safety.

Statement of Direction 2019–2023

Vision: A justice and community safety system that works together to build a safer, fairer and stronger Victoria

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| Overall outcomes | Safer and more resilient communities | A trusted justice and community safety system | Easy access to justice and safety systems and services | A fair and accessible justice system for Aboriginal people |
| Overall measures | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reducing contact with the criminal justice systemReducing crime and recidivismIncreasing resilience of communities to natural disasters and disruptive events | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increasing trust in institutions and regulatorsImproving perceptions of safety and consumer confidenceStrengthening victim-survivor support | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Delivering responsive and connected servicesMaking services easy to navigate and accessible to all Victorians | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal Victorians in the criminal justice systemEmbedding self-determination |
| Policy and delivery priorities | Integrating services and tailoring them for local communities | Prioritising Victorians in need | Focusing on victims and survivors | Strengthening stakeholder partnerships |
| DJCS supporting priorities | Ensuring a workforce that is safe and confident | Delivering evidence-based outcomes | Investing in technology and digital solutions | Driving productivity |

Protecting and supporting the community

| Key area | Victims of crime | Community safety | Responding to Aboriginal communities |
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| Key reforms | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishing a new financial assistance scheme for victims of crime• New Victims Legal Service• Victim Services Review to strengthen Victoria's Victim Support System• Ongoing funding for intermediaries program, providing support to vulnerable witnesses in court• Implementing recommendations of the Royal Commission into Family Violence, including specialist courts• Restorative justice family violence pilot• Multi-agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework• Expanding powers of the Victims of Crime Commissioner• Reform of <i>Judicial Proceedings Reports Act 1958</i>• Responding to VLRC reports on improving responses to sexual offences and stalking. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acting on the recommendations from the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants• Laws to protect frontline workers from attacks• Worker screening to protect vulnerable people, including children and people with disability• Security upgrades for Melbourne's CBD to prevent violence and vehicle-based attacks• Outlawing change or suppression practices• Statutory review of terrorism laws• Review of criminal organisations laws• Leading work on national process considering changes to defamation laws to encourage reporting alleged crimes and misconduct. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repealing public drunkenness laws• Introduction of spent convictions scheme• Stolen Generations reparations package• Traditional Owner Settlements• Early intervention and prevention projects• Place-based funding through Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committees• Restorative justice pilots• Aboriginal Wellbeing Officers• Yoo-rrook Justice Commission• A 21-year partnership under the Aboriginal Justice Agreement – 60th Aboriginal Justice Forum in November 2021. |

Addressing the root causes of crime

| Key area | Diversion, prevention and early intervention | Young people | Supporting people in custody |
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| Key reforms | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing the Common Clients framework to offer integrated services to clients• Launch of the Crime Prevention Strategy• Building Safer Communities program• Expanding specialist courts into regional Victoria• Implementing the recommendations from the Mental Health Royal Commission• Fines reform, including Work and Development Permits and Family Violence Scheme• Criminalising wage theft• Repealing restrictive laws on transgender birth certificates.• Working more closely with police, communities and support services to minimise the risk of people coming into contact with the justice system. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reform of youth justice system through a 10-year strategic plan• Koori Youth Justice Taskforce driving better outcomes• New case management framework and success in diverting children away from the justice system• Parkville Intensive Intervention Unit• Malmsbury Communities in Custody model• New Youth Justice Act• Innovative service delivery and public health management in response to the COVID-19 pandemic• Construction of Cherry Creek Youth Justice Centre. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Correctional Services expansion and reform program• Women’s rehabilitation reintegration program• Post-release supports for Aboriginal men and women• Introduction of a suite of programs to support prisoners on remand• Expansion of parenting programs and piloting family engagement and family therapy for women in custody• Cultural review of the adult custodial corrections system• Innovative service delivery and public health management in response to the COVID-19 pandemic• Education, training and employment programs. |