

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Inquiry into 2013-14 and 2014-15 Financial and Performance Outcomes

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DHHS – Improving the health and wellbeing of Victorians

2014-15: a new department

- The department was established on 1 January 2015, combining the former Departments of Human Services and Health
- Sport and Recreation was transferred from the former Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (excluding major sporting events)
- The Office of Women's Affairs was transferred to the Department of Premier and Cabinet
- The department covers the portfolios of Health, Ambulance Services, Housing, Disability, Ageing, Mental Health, Youth, Families and Children, and Sport
- The department has over 11,000 full-time equivalent staff
- Expenses from transactions for 2014-15 were \$18.2 billion

Vision, values, purpose and functions

Vision

To develop and deliver policies, programs and services that support and enhance the wellbeing of all Victorians.

Values

We are respectful

We care for people, families and communities

We have integrity

We are accountable

We collaborate

We are innovative

Purpose and functions

The Department plays a leadership role across the Victorian health and human services system, with responsibilities for planning, policy development, funding and regulation of health and human service providers, and activities that promote and protect Victorians' health and wellbeing.

A challenging context

Operating environment

Whilst the Victorian health and human services sector is performing well, it is under great pressure from:

- a growing and ageing population
- Victoria's population growing faster than the national rate
- a reduction in Commonwealth funding under the National Health Reform Agreement and other National Partnership Agreements
- a heavier burden of chronic and complex disease, changing community expectations, with family violence and child protection issues receiving a much higher public profile
- the entrenchment of inequalities in certain population groups and geographical areas
- increasing service delivery costs
- unmet demand for sport and recreation facilities and participation

Improving the services Victorians need

Reform directions

- progressed the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- worked to improve ambulance services through the Ambulance Performance and Policy Consultative Committee
- supported the Travis Review of hospital bed capacity
- expanded the public hospital system
- initiated a range of reforms to improve the care and safety of children in out of home care
- commenced the statewide rollout of the Strengthening Risk Management program to keep women and children safe in response to family violence

A year of progress

Major achievements

- expanded the public hospital system through progressive construction phases of the La Trobe Regional Hospital redevelopment, Bendigo Hospital, Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre, Monash Children's Hospital and completion of 33 new and replacement ambulance stations
- enhanced public health and emergency health capability to meet the need for Ebola preparedness
- transitioned clients to new personalised support plans in the Barwon NDIS launch site
- funded 61 significant sporting events around Victoria, including the Stawell Gift and the Melbourne to Warrnambool Cycling Classic
- supported the creation of the Ice Action Taskforce and the delivery of the Ice Action Plan, with the Department of Premier and Cabinet