

Summary: Vic Budget 2024–25

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Background

In 2023, VACCHO put forward a budget submission to the Victorian Government on four projects that had been prioritised in consultation with Members. VACCHO working with the Department of Health and Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions to submit four budget bids. A summary of these bids is on VACCHO's [website](#).

The four bids totalled \$54,504,000 over 4 years. The first three bids were submitted with the Department of Health and the fourth one was with Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions as it is responsible for medical research. The four bids were:

- Dandenong and District Aborigines Co-operative Ltd – new land purchase, business case development and transition support (\$24m over 2 years)
- Removing systemic barriers to better the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal Victorians, which focussed predominantly on technological capability for our Members (\$10m over 2 years)
- Statewide rollout to Members of the Culture and Kinship program (\$10m over 4 years)
- Victorian Aboriginal Health, Medical and Wellbeing Research Accord (\$10.5m over 3 years).

Key documents referenced

Most of the information below comes from Budget Paper 3: Service Delivery and comes from that document unless stated otherwise. Other papers reviewed are Budget Paper 4: State Capital Program, Budget Paper 5: Statement of Finances and the Budget Overview.

Key findings

VACCHO's Budget Submission

Budget bid	Amount requested	Amount received	Comment
Dandenong and District Aborigines Co-operative Ltd land purchase	\$24m over 2 years	\$0	
Removing systemic barriers (including Cultural Safety Accreditation and CMS project among other projects)	\$10.5m over 2 years		A funding line item of \$10.8million called 'Aboriginal Health in Aboriginal Hands' was included in the budget to deliver on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cultural safety accreditation of hospitals - Culture + Kinship - CMS project. The breakdown of the funding envelope is being discussed with the Department.
Culture + Kinship program	\$10m over 4 years		
Research Accord	\$10m over 3 years	\$4.5m over 4 years, \$1.1m p/a	
Total	\$54.5m over 4 years	\$15.3m	

Aboriginal Affairs Overview

The total of \$60.2m for new initiatives in 2024/25 is equal to 1% of total new initiatives totalling \$6,092,500,000. (Pg 1)

The Budget Overview Paper advises that the Government will expend \$273 million to support Aboriginal families and communities, alongside Truth and Treaty work (page 5). There is no breakdown of how this will be spent and it could be an aggregate of existing and new spending. If so, it amounts to 0.3% of total expenditure of \$98,276,000,000 (page 7 of Statement of Finances Budget Paper 5).

A table describing the funding for Aboriginal initiatives is on the next page and descriptions in the sections for the relevant department. The Social procurement support funding noted will continue the Government's partnership with Kinaway Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce and Social Traders to support Government's social procurement framework. (pg. 6)¹.

WHOLE OF GOVERNMENT – ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS

Output initiatives

Table 1.3: Output initiatives – Aboriginal Affairs (\$ million)

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Aboriginal Affairs					
Aboriginal Health in Aboriginal Hands: Strengthening cultural safety and supporting culture and kinship	..	2.6	3.2	3.0	2.0
Delivering a Victorian Truth and Justice Process	..	6.3	0.5	..	..
Delivering safe and self-governing Aboriginal Trusts	..	2.4	..	..	..
Enabling joint management of Barmah National Park	..	2.2	..	..	..
EPPC Yuma Yirramboi – Stage 1	..	2.9	2.9	2.9	..
Implementation of marra ngarrgoo, marra goorri: the Victorian Aboriginal Health, Medical and Wellbeing Research Accord	..	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Improving outcomes for indigenous children	..	8.9	14.9	14.1	13.1
Increased Traditional Owner access to water and decision making in water management	..	9.7	10.6	10.6	10.4
Self-determined justice diversion and family violence supports	..	5.3	5.4	5.6	..
Social procurement support	..	0.4	..	..	..
Specialist alcohol and other drug services for Aboriginal Victorians	..	1.6	..	..	..
Supporting paediatric care through the Victorian Aboriginal Health Service	..	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
Supporting representation and participation of First Nations young people	..	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Supporting Victoria's Aboriginal Cultural Heritage System	..	15.6	15.6	10.8	..
Total output initiatives ^(a)	..	60.2	55.7	49.5	28.1

Note:

(a) Table may not add due to rounding.

¹ Page numbers refer to the Service Delivery Budget Paper (Paper 3) unless stated

Department of Health

Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing

\$10.8m over 4 years has been allocated to 'Aboriginal Health in Aboriginal Hands: Strengthening cultural safety and supporting culture and kinship', which relates directly to VACCHO's budget submission. The Paper on pages 3 and 4 advise this funding will:

- Begin implementation of a cultural safety accreditation scheme in public hospitals
- Expand Culture and Kinship program
- Expand VACCHO's Client and Case Management System

It is unknown how much will be allocated to each activity. This funding comes through the Government's Early Intervention Investment Framework.

Funding to continue (\$1.6m over 1yr) for the Aboriginal Metropolitan Ice Partnerships program. (pg.6) This appears to be the only Aboriginal-specific AOD funding identified.

VAHS received \$4.1m over 4 years for Paediatric care. (pg.6)

The Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre Alliance received \$7.4m over four years to better respond to complex care needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and culturally diverse people who are diagnosed with cancer. (pg.50)

\$28.8m over three years for Maternal Child Health services, which will include an unspecified amount for Aboriginal Maternal and Child Health programs and associated services. (pg.51)

One-year funding of \$3.8m allocated to suicide prevention initiatives to "continue preventing and responding to suicide among groups disproportionately impacted by suicide including...Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people". Programs include Strong Brother Strong Sister, Yarning Safe N Strong, Youth Live4Life, LGBTIQ+ aftercare, and the Peer CARE Companion Warmline service. (pg.52)

Other major announcements

The overview is on page 46 detailing new expenditure. Hospitals will receive \$1.838bn in 24-25.

\$18.3m over two years will support 12 women's health organisations across Victoria to provide preventative health promotion and education, with a particular focus on sexual and reproductive health, cervical cancer screening, chronic illness, and family violence.

\$10m is provided for a grants program to support provision of primary healthcare by General Practitioners. No other information is provided. (pg. 49)

\$55m is provided through Registered Undergraduate Student of Nursing or Midwifery positions, nurse practitioner development, transition to practice support and capability development resources for nurses and midwives in regional Victoria. (pg 50)

Harm reduction services received \$58.7m over four years for a Statewide Action Plan to address alcohol and other drug related harms as well as support for a statewide overdose prevention and response helpline, naloxone dispensing units, and provides funding to the community health sector to improve access to pharmacotherapy services. (pg.50) Appears to be metro-Melbourne focused.

Clinical mental health will receive over \$30m for new initiatives (see pg 46 overview). Community mental health and wellbeing programs will receive \$2.8m one-year funding to continue statewide community mental health programs that provide specialist support to cohorts experiencing mental ill health. (pg.51)

\$41 million to deliver maternal, child and fertility healthcare to more families and bubs (pg.46)

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES, FAIRNESS AND HOUSING

Output initiatives

Table 1.11: Output initiatives – Families, Fairness and Housing (\$ million)

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Child Protection and Family Services					
Civil claims costs for historical institutional child abuse and care leavers	21.8	88.3	1.3	..	..
Commission for Children and Young People	..	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.3
Delivering child protection and care services	..	95.5	13.3	9.5	9.8
Improving outcomes for children and young people in home-based care	..	11.6	8.6	8.9	9.3
Strong Families, Safe Children	..	132.5	65.1	..	..
Victorian Redress for historical abuse and neglect in institutional care	165.0	..	..	..	..
Victorian Social Investment Model	..	1.0	..	..	..
Community Participation					
Strengthening food security across Victoria	..	3.5	..	..	..
Disability Services					
Continuing support for Victorians with disability	..	24.0	..	..	..
Disability and Social Services Regulation	..	21.6	5.7	5.9	6.1
Family Violence Service Delivery					
Driving down family and sexual violence	..	10.4	10.1	10.4	10.7
Family violence victim survivors supports	..	35.8	36.2	..	..
Safer families: Central Information Point service	..	12.0	12.3	..	..
Housing Assistance					
Breaking the cycle of homelessness	..	42.3	49.9	54.6	50.1
Modernising the delivery of public housing maintenance	2.0	13.0	2.3	0.7	0.7
Social housing community support	..	1.1	..	..	..
LGBTIQ+ Equality Policy and Programs					
Equality for LGBTIQ+ communities	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.9	..
Support to Veterans in Victoria					
Community recognition, assisting veteran community organisations, and supporting wellbeing for Victoria's veterans	..	1.9	2.0	1.0	..
Women's Policy					
Queen Victoria Women's Centre	..	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5
Women's leadership and recognition	..	1.8	..	..	..
Youth					
Innovative support to re-engage young people	..	3.6	..	..	..
Total output initiatives ^(a)	189.3	503.5	210.6	94.5	89.4

Note:

(a) Table may not add due to rounding.

Aboriginal affairs

The Koorie Youth Council will receive funding \$1.6million over four years.

Other major announcements

Families and Children

- \$24m in 24-25 will support people with disability including supporting people ineligible for NDIS, autism assessment, parenting, improving mainstream support. (pg.39)
- This year's Budget delivers a further \$39 million for the Labor Government's Respectful Relationships program. (pg.16)
- \$129 million to continue the statewide rollout of our early education reforms, including universal Three-Year-Old Kinder and supporting families with Free Kinder
- \$19 million to help kinders renovate and upgrade their facilities and learning spaces
- \$6.8 million to triple our free Glasses for Kids program
- \$6 million to continue our Get Active Kids vouchers – providing up to \$200 to eligible families to help with the cost of their kids' sport. (pg.62)
- \$165 million to deliver redress for Victorians who experienced abuse and neglect as children in institutional care prior to 1990 (pg.38)

\$374 million to protect children and support their families, including:

- \$198 million for early intervention services to help keep families together and prevent children and young people entering care
- \$128 million to support the child protection workforce to keep children safe and help those families who are most in need
- \$38 million to support carers providing home-based care for children and young people. (pg. 36)

Housing

- \$5.3 billion Big Housing Build, 9200 homes already being built, creating 800,000 new homes – page 33
- And for residents in public housing, a further \$19 million investment will improve response times for repairs and maintenance, through a modern and user-friendly system – page 33
- This Budget also provides \$700 million to extend the Victorian Homebuyer Fund – page 33
- \$197 million for homelessness support and crisis response services – page 43

*All located on page 2 and 3 [2024-25+State+Budget+-+Budget+Overview.pdf](#)

A further \$6.3 million will support the Primary School Nursing Program, which provides free support and care for families of kids in primary school, and \$14 million to offer mental healthcare in schools.

Department of Premier and Cabinet

Aboriginal affairs

- \$6.8m over two years (\$6.3m in 2024-25) will extend the Yoorrook Justice Commission (pg.3).
- \$31.2m over two years (\$15.6m in 2024-25) towards supporting Victoria's Aboriginal Cultural Heritage System (pg.3).
- \$2.4m in 2024-25 towards delivering safe and self-governing Aboriginal Trusts (pg.3)

Other major announcements

- \$2m will be provided in 2024-25 to increase anti-discrimination measures (pg.73). No further details are provided as to what these measures will look like.

Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions

Aboriginal affairs

In relation to the Accord, the budget papers say very little other than "funding is provided to support delivery of the Accord." (pg. 5)

\$8.7m for the Yuma Yirramboi Strategy to address economic disparity and support Closing the Gap, Self-determination and Treaty readiness. (pg. 4)

Other major announcements

\$230m will be provided in 2024-25 to increase free access to TAFE, fund student support services, fund apprenticeships and provide a new HR system for TAFEs. \$245m will be provided in 2025-26.

Department of Justice and Community Safety

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**Output initiatives****Table 1.18: Output initiatives – Justice and Community Safety** (\$ million)

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Advocacy, Human Rights and Victim Support					
Family violence risk assessment and information sharing schemes	..	0.6	..	..	..
Operationalising a new financial assistance scheme for victims of crime	..	71.9	..	..	..
Supporting and safeguarding vulnerable Victorians	..	5.2	5.1	5.3	..
Emergency Management Capability					
Country Fire Authority – New urban pumpers			..	0.9	0.9
Emergency management information and warnings systems	..	..	0.4	0.4	0.4
Emergency management radio network ^(a)	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc	tbc
Fire Rescue Victoria – New aerial platform pumpers			0.3	0.7	0.7
State Control Centre Workforce			8.1	8.3	8.3
VICSES volunteer training and facilities	..	4.6	1.2	0.6	0.6
Water safety	..	4.5	4.6	..	..
Policing and Community Safety					
Justice system costs associated with court programs	1.1	12.1	12.3	13.0	13.6
Youth Crime Prevention and Early Intervention Project	..	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7
Prisoner Supervision and Support					
Supporting the corrections system to improve community safety	..	19.8	18.4	7.1	7.3
Public Prosecutions and Legal Assistance					
Community sector legal support and early intervention services		8.7	9.0	5.5	5.6
Safeguarding public prosecution services		11.1	11.2	9.1	..
Racing, Gambling, Liquor and Casino Regulation					
Preventing and responding to gambling harm		40.1	41.1	41.8	42.7
Youth Justice Community Based Services					
Enhanced Youth Justice bail supervision and support		7.9	11.6	11.3	..
Youth Justice Custodial Services					
Continuing to support a safe and stable Youth Justice system	..	8.5	8.7	8.9	9.2
Total output initiatives ^(b)	1.1	196.3	133.7	114.5	91.1

Note:

*(a) Funding is not reported at this time as commercial arrangements are still to be finalised.**(b) Table may not add due to rounding. Annual totals exclude estimated expenditure for initiatives with a 'tbc'.*

Aboriginal Affairs

\$16m is provided to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to reduce interactions with the justice system and support Aboriginal women and families experiencing family violence through:

- diverting Aboriginal boys and young men aged 10 to 25 from the justice system through the Bramung Jaarn program
- providing specialist after-hours family violence support for Aboriginal victims and perpetrators of family violence
- continuing the Ngarra Jarranounith Place residential diversion program for Aboriginal men
- providing vulnerable Aboriginal women with culturally appropriate family violence support
- delivering Aboriginal youth diversion programs aimed at increasing participants workforce capacity. Funding for this initiative is linked to the Early Intervention Investment Framework.

It should be noted that the Victorian Government has increased funding to bail supervision and support by \$30.8 mill from 2024 to 2027, which is nearly double what has been given to self-determined justice diversion and family violence supports.

Other major announcements

\$88.1 million from 2024 to 2027 – DJCS funding towards Advocacy, Human Rights and Victim Support. \$72m of this is to assist victims of crime (pg 66).

\$212 million to continue to strengthen our justice system, prevent crime and reduce reoffending, with:

- \$112 million to support the work of our alcohol and drug courts in their use of intensive, individualised and evidence-based treatment programs to address the underlying issues that cause or contribute to offending
- \$34 million to trial electronic monitoring of serious, high-risk young offenders on bail
- \$28 million to connect young people in or at-risk of entering the justice system with education
- \$6.6 million to expand the Youth Crime Prevention and Early Intervention Project to more suburbs – a project run by Victoria Police in Brimbank and Wyndham that is helping young people at risk of offending.

Department of Education

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Output initiatives

Table 1.7: Output initiatives – Education (\$ million)

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28
Additional Supports for Students with Disabilities					
Students with Disabilities Transport Program	..	32.8	..	..	..
Early Childhood Sector Supports and Regulation					
Early childhood intervention services for non-permanent residents	..	2.9	..	..	..
Kindergarten Building Blocks improvement and inclusion grants	..	5.0	13.1	0.9	..
Strengthening participation of CALD children in early childhood education	..	2.0	3.6	3.8	..
Kindergarten Delivery					
Best Start Best Life and Three-Year-Old Kindergarten	..	128.6	..	..	..
Promoting Equal Access to Education					
Education support for students at risk	..	8.8	9.6	10.2	8.1
English as an Additional Language	..	22.6	21.5	0.7	0.7
Improving curriculum choice for rural and regional students	..	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.6
Place-based education and wellbeing programs	..	1.7	3.8	3.4	2.8
School Saving Bonus	..	281.6	2.7	2.7	..
Supporting senior secondary completion in non-school settings	..	12.8	18.2	20.7	19.2
Victorian African Communities Action Plan	..	3.4	3.5	3.4	1.7
School Education – Primary and Secondary					
Active Schools	..	20.9	31.2	31.8	31.9
Advanced professional training to teachers and leaders	..	..	10.3	..	..
Community language schools	1.3	1.9	1.9	2.2	3.1
Primary Mathematics and Science Specialist program	..	5.2	10.3	5.3	..
Respectful Relationships for children and youth	..	10.4	10.0	9.3	9.4
School enrolment-based funding	58.9	119.2	122.2	125.2	128.4
Senior Secondary Pathways Reform	..	17.2	19.0	1.4	..
Strengthening ongoing support for Tech Schools	..	0.7	1.8	1.8	9.7
Strengthening school performance program	..	10.6	11.1	11.3	..
Student Excellence Program	..	8.5	8.5	..	..
Support for regional and small schools' outside school hours care	..	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.6
Supporting delivery of early years literacy assessment	..	4.0	4.2	..	..

Aboriginal Affairs

Funding for young people will increase Aboriginal-led decision making in education, improve educational outcomes and share knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, communities and cultures. (pg. 5)

Family Violence

The Government has summarised all funding related to family violence in the Budget Overview. This totals \$211m and is spread among multiple departments.:

- \$42 million for perpetrator case management, helping to keep perpetrators in view and keep victims safe, as well as creating specialised programs for diverse cohorts, including Aboriginal Victorians.
- \$39 million to continue our landmark Respectful Relationships program, which aims to help prevent violence before it starts by teaching young people how to develop respectful and healthy relationships.
- \$38 million for specialist support, including case management and support packages for victim survivors on temporary visas.
- \$30 million to operate refuges and provide emergency accommodation for families escaping violence.
- \$24 million in the Central Information Point to help frontline family violence practitioners work together and share information to keep women and children safe.
- \$16 million to support Aboriginal women and families experiencing family violence, and culturally appropriate youth justice diversion and family violence support to reduce First Nations peoples' interactions with the justice system.
- \$9.2 million to strengthen and upskill the workforce, including staff at Sexual Assault Services Victoria and training for workforces who interact with victim survivors.
- \$6.8 million for financial counselling services for family violence victim survivors, providing support to stabilise their financial position and recover from abuse.

(budget overview pg 52)

Capital Budget

[Budget Paper 4: State Capital Program](#)

Aboriginal Affairs

- \$10 million to upgrade the wastewater infrastructure at the Framlingham Aboriginal Trust and replace the jetty at Lake Tyers (pg.13).

Other major announcements

- \$1.6 billion to build and upgrade facilities at the Austin Hospital, the Monash Medical Centre and the Northern Hospital, including funding from the 2023-24 Budget Hospital Infrastructure Delivery Fund (pg.7).
- \$118 million to upgrade infrastructure at The Alfred, to sustain the delivery of high-quality health services for patients (pg.7).
- \$75 million to upgrade and replace critical engineering infrastructure and medical equipment across a number of hospitals (pg.7).
- \$36 million to establish a Community Health Hub in the City of Melbourne to address alcohol and other drug related harm (pg.7).
- \$24 million to purchase and fit-out a quadra scanner in the Paula Fox Melanoma and Cancer Centre (pg.7).
- \$15 million to upgrade ICT infrastructure to protect health services from cyber-attacks (pg.7).
- \$10 million to improve the quality and amenity of mental health and alcohol and other drugs facilities across Victoria (pg.7)
- \$5.4 million to construct a mental health, alcohol and other drugs emergency department hub, integrated with the new emergency department being delivered as part of the current Ballarat Base Hospital Redevelopment (pg.7).

	New / Existing projects	\$ 2024/25	\$ 2025/26	Notes
Whole of Govt	New	\$175m	\$2.4bn	
Whole of Govt	Existing	\$76.4bn	\$24.7bn	
Dept Health	New	\$9.2m	\$215.4m	
Dept Health	Existing	4.7bn	2.3bn	
DFFH	New	-	\$1.1m	*One new project centred around Family Violence victim survivors supports (pg.60).
DFFH	Existing	\$47.3m	\$69.4m	*\$48.3m is described as 'other' projects being undertaken in addition to existing projects which totalled \$21m (pg.60).