



2023-2024 Budget Estimates Hearing

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Thursday 8 June 2023

Hon Maree Edwards
Speaker
Legislative Assembly

Hon Shaun Leane
President
Legislative Council



Strengthening Democracy

Increasing engagement with the people of Victoria



Supporting members

We will provide high-quality, impartial and professional services to all members of Parliament to support them fulfill their roles as elected representatives



Parliament for people

We will create greater awareness and access to Parliament through direct community engagement and education



First Nations focus

We will continue to prioritise engagement with Victoria's First Peoples to build understanding and respect for their culture and history



A contemporary workplace

We will promote leading practice, build capability and ensure a respectful safe and inclusive workplace

Supporting Members of Parliament

Supporting members of the Parliament of Victoria is the core work of the parliamentary departments.

- Induction programs for 46 new members and members taking up new roles within their respective chambers
- Onboarding and inducting 339 new electorate officers
- Handover of 51 electorate offices
- Opening the 60th Parliament, welcoming 550 members and guests to Parliament House
- Administering VIRTIPS and provided compliance support to members
- Comprehensive training and development program introduced for electorate officers
- 24 Council committee inquiries undertaken, and 26 reports tabled in 59th Parliament



Parliament for the people

Creating greater awareness and access to Parliament through direct community engagement and education.

- + • 9,300 public tour visitors
 - 2,350 group tour visitors
 - 13 architecture tours
 - 19 parliamentary gardens tours
- + • 6,906 school student visitors
 - 4,106 parliamentary role play participants
 - 5,043 online incursion school student participants
 - 70 metropolitan school visits
 - 5 regional school hub visits
- + • VCE Legal Studies panel - 122 participants across Victoria
- + • Testing closed captioning for broadcast and implementing Auslan translation for the Opening of Parliament and PAEC
- + • Parliament Prize attracted 675 student participants from 145 Victorian schools
- + • Parliament Program with Victoria University recognised with national award
- + • 37 Parliamentary interns from 6 universities
- + • Training to community members on how to make submissions to parliamentary committees
- + • Auslan Parliament Bulletin
- + • New teacher guide on democracy and representation
 - 3 tertiary engagement workshops for pre-service teachers
 - Online panel sessions, workshops and Teacher Open House events

Bringing the community to the Precinct

Celebrating International Women's Day.

Members were invited to join the Presiding Officers to celebrate International Women's Day with a community member from their electorate.

Keynote speaker Belinda Young, Victoria's Local Hero in the 2023 Australian of the Year Awards, told of her journey to create the Mums of the Hills group.



Launch of Salvation Army cookbook – *Meals to make ends meet.*

The Presiding Officers hosted the launch of the Salvation Army's cookbook which aims to help those struggling to make ends meet to put nutritious and budget-friendly meals on the table.

Meals to make ends meet offers both budget focused and healthy recipes, as well as tips for avoiding food waste, helping to make every food purchase go further.



First Nations

Continuing to prioritise engagement with Victoria's First Peoples to build understanding and respect for their culture and history.

- Publication and implementation of our Reconciliation Action Plan
- Promoting our Aboriginal Change Makers teaching resource
- Providing online learning tools for growing cultural competency of our staff

Inclusive workplace

Continuing to focus on creating an inclusive workplace.

- Improving the representation of women in the permanent Parliamentary Collection through commissioning portraits of Monica Gould, the first woman President of the Legislative Council and Judy Maddigan, the first female Speaker of the Legislative Council
- Continuing to implement the Gender Equality Action Plan
- Continuing to implement our Disability Action and Inclusion Plan



Supporting our Pacific Partners

The Parliament of Victoria is twinned with the respective Parliaments of Fiji, Nauru and Tuvalu.

- Hosted the 51st Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference on the theme Democracy's Way Forward with attendees from across the Australasian and Pacific parliaments
- Supported Nauru Parliament strategic planning workshop
- Provided committee staff to a floating budget office, to support Fiji secretariat with budget analysis

