

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
Inquiry into the 2024-25 Financial and Performance Outcomes

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by: JADE BENHAM

Question: What is the year-by-year breakdown of the amount of money that has been paid out [under the Stolen Generations Reparations package as of 30 June 2025]?

Reply:

As at 30 June 2025, the Department of Justice and Community Safety has made a total of \$68.04 million in financial reparations payments to eligible applicants to the Stolen Generations Reparations Package. Eligible applicants to the Stolen Generations Reparations Package are entitled to receive a flat financial reparations payment of \$100,000.

Applicants with a terminal or critical illness may apply for an Advance Payment of \$20,000 while their application is being assessed. Applications for an Advance Payment require evidence of a terminal or critical illness certified by a medical practitioner.

The year-by-year breakdown of money paid to eligible applicants to the Stolen Generations Reparations Package as at the end of Financial Year is set out in the table below:

End of Financial Year	Cumulative Total (\$)
2022-23	37,060,000
2023-24	55,145,714
2024-25	68,040,000

Please note that these figures have been provided on an accrual's basis. This means that expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate regardless of when money has been received or paid.



Emma Cassar PSM
Secretary
Department of Justice and Community Safety

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
Inquiry into the 2024-25 Financial and Performance Outcomes

QUESTION ON NOTICE


Asked by: AIV PUGLIELLI

Question: What is the average daily out-of-cell hours for each prison [as at 30 June 2025]?

Reply:

The table below shows the average daily time-out-of cells in hours across all Victorian prisons during 2024-25.

Prison	Average daily time-out-of cells (hours)
<i>Open prisons</i>	
Beechworth Correctional Centre	13.7
Judy Lazarus Transition Centre	15
Langi Kal Kal Prison	13.8
Tarngower Prison	14.8
<i>Secure prisons</i>	
Barwon Prison	7.7
Dame Phyllis Frost Centre	9.0
Fulham Correctional Centre	11
Hopkins Correctional Centre	8.8
Karreenga Annexe	9.2
Loddon Prison	9.1
Marngoneet Correctional Centre	9.0
Melbourne Assessment Prison	7.8
Metropolitan Remand Centre	7.8
Middleton Annexe	9.4
Port Phillip Prison	10.9
Ravenhall Correctional Centre	11.6


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QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by: JADE BENHAM

Question: What was allocated to pay the chief commissioner wages in 2024–25? Given that Shane Patton was on the books until June and we had Nugent as an acting chief commissioner, were we paying three chief commissioners at the same time?

Reply:

The total paid to persons acting in or substantively as the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police in 2024-25 is reflected in the Victoria Police Annual Report 2024-25.

At no point were three Chief Commissioners being paid for the role at the same time.



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QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by: AIV PUGLIELLI

Question: Have any additional duty lawyers been given to Victoria Legal Aid to take into account increased demand [since the March reforms]?

Reply:

Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) was funded \$14.464 million over 2 years from 2025-26 to support implementation of the March reforms. This funding supports more duty lawyers and more casework done by private lawyers representing people who are eligible for legal assistance. Most duty lawyer services for people facing remand are provided by in-house VLA lawyers.

Asked by: AIV PUGLIELLI

Question: [Have any additional duty lawyers been given to the] community legal centres?

Reply:

Community legal centres (CLCs) with criminal law practices including bail and remand work have been funded a total of \$5.638 million over 2 years from 2025-26 to support anticipated increased demand for their services and programs following the March reforms. The funding provided will help CLCs provide support to their clients before they appear in court and during their proceedings.

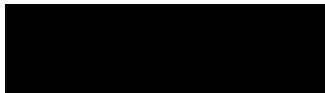
Asked by: AIV PUGLIELLI

Question: [Have any additional duty lawyers been given to the] Victorian Aboriginal Legal Services as well?

Reply:

The Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS) was funded a total of \$16.528 million over 2 years from 2025-26 to employ 17.5 additional lawyers to support the anticipated increased demand for their services and programs following the March Bail Reforms. This funding comprises of:

- \$7.344 million over 2 years to support an uplift of 13 lawyers for VALS' Criminal Legal Practice
- \$3.265 million over 2 years to support an uplift of 4.5 lawyers for Balit Ngulu, VALS' dedicated youth practice
- \$5.919 million to meet rising demand and increase legal staff under the Custodial Notification Service (CNS), which operates 24/7 where Victoria Police are required to notify VALS when an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person is taken into custody.



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QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by: ROMA BRITNELL

Question: Provide a breakdown for CFA/SES/FRV for pumpers, tankers etc of how many appliances and ages.

How many single cabs in operation that require firefighters to ride on outside of truck?

Reply:

As at 30 June 2025, CFA has 2,260 firefighting appliances ranging in age from 0-40 years. Appliance breakdown by type is outlined below:

	TOTAL
Pumpers	219
Pumper tankers	44
Tankers	1,997
TOTAL	2,260

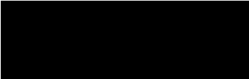
The number of CFA single cab vehicles in operation is 627 as at 1 December 2025. All CFA single cab tankers are fitted with a rear deck occupant seating area incorporating a roll over protection system and seatbelts that comply with relevant Australian Design Rules.

As at 30 June 2025, FRV has 212 appliances. Appliance breakdown by type is outlined below:

	TOTAL
Primary appliances	156
Aerial appliances	25
Specialist appliances	31
TOTAL	212

As at 30 June 2025, VICSES has 245 rescue vehicles ranging in age from 0 to 25 years. Appliance breakdown by type is outlined below (*includes both unit-owned and state-owned vehicles*):

Vehicle Type	TOTAL
Light Rescue Vehicle	52
Medium Rescue Truck	116
Heavy Rescue Truck	77
TOTAL	245


Emma Cassar PSM
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Department of Justice and Community Safety

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QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by: Roma Britnell

Question: Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) says that they are using a redundancy system for MMR network or FRV portable radio faults. Do you know what the back-up systems are and if they have been trialled? ... It is about the radios that have faults, and we want to know if you have got a back-up system and if they have been trialled.

Reply:

The Metropolitan Mobile Radio (MMR) network is a strong and stable network, enabling our frontline responders to communicate to each other during emergencies.

FRV have always had appropriate mechanisms in place to address any communication issues which can occur due to the unpredictable nature of the environments they operate in.



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QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by: ROMA BRITNELL

Question: What was the budget breakdown for 2024–25, and what is the budget breakdown for the base funding for FRV, CFA, SES, Triple Zero, the state control...?

... Are you able to provide those breakdowns and also what the 2024–25 base funding is on notice for us? I understand they may be hard figures to come up with.

Reply:

Each year, the Victorian Government works with Emergency Services Organisations (ESOs) to understand their resource requirements. ESO budgets are subject to change throughout the financial year due to government policy decisions, the release of contingency funds, responses to declared emergency events, and reform in the sector.

The final quantum of funding provided by the Government is reconciled as of 30 June annually and reported through the ESOs' audited annual reports. For 2024-25, VICSES's annual report outlines \$87.67 million in grants in 2024-25 which includes appropriation funding received from the Department of Justice and Community Safety, and other departments and authorities.

Fire Rescue Victoria, Country Fire Authority, and Triple Zero Victoria have not yet published their 2024-25 annual report.



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QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by: JADE BENHAM

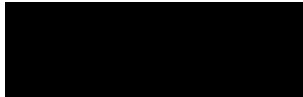
Question: Is there any advice of those briefings [on recommendations to the Minister to help support the Harness Racing industry in the 2024-25 financial year]?

Reply:

In 2024–25, the Victorian Government provided Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) with an operating grant of \$13.38 million. This funding was provided as part of a broader 2023–24 package to provide financial support to enable HRV to implement a restructuring strategy, which is still underway.

During 2024–25, the Department of Justice and Community Safety (the department) provided advice to the Minister for Racing on an HRV application for grant funding from the Victorian Racing Industry Fund (VRIF). HRV was subsequently awarded a \$3 million grant to continue the VicBred program, which aims to provide incentives to owners and breeders to re-invest in Victorian bred horses. Funding for this initiative was provided to HRV in June 2025.

The department will continue to provide advice to the Minister for Racing on all relevant issues surrounding Harness Racing Victoria.



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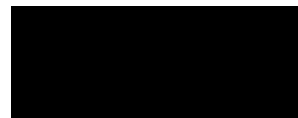
QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by: AIV PUGLIELLI

Question: What is the number of [validated] businesses in our state that are selling illicit tobacco [as of 30 June 2025]?

Reply:

- The Department of Justice and Community Safety (the department) shares the concerns expressed by the community and stakeholders regarding sales of illicit tobacco, arson attacks and other crimes linked to the illicit tobacco trade.
- There have been a range of estimates in recent years, with some unverified media reports. As noted by the PAEC Inquiry into Vaping and tobacco controls, the clandestine nature of the illicit tobacco trade makes it inherently difficult to quantify the exact number of businesses selling illicit products.
- The introduction of the tobacco business licensing scheme will facilitate intelligence and information collection by the department and will support Victoria Police and other agencies to disrupt illicit tobacco supply chains.
- Victoria Police, along with partner law enforcement agencies, is continuing to target and prosecute serious and organised crime involved in the importation and supply of illicit tobacco.



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Department of Justice and Community Safety

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QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by: AIV PUGLIELLI

Question: Is there an estimated timeframe for completing that work [regarding the recommendations made in the Integrity and Oversight Committee's Inquiry into the Operation of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*]?

Reply:

In line with the Government's response to the Integrity and Oversight Committee's report on the operation of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, review and consideration of the Committee's recommendations remains ongoing.



Emma Cassar PSM
Secretary
Department of Justice and Community Safety

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
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QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by: ROMA BRITNELL

Question: Can you provide the number of children aged 10 to 12 and aged 13 to 17 who have been in the youth justice system in the 2024–25 period who are also in the child protection system, please?

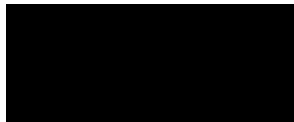
Reply:

The data the Department of Justice and Community Safety has available to answer this question is sourced from the Annual Youth Justice Survey of Young Persons Records 2024-25. All data that is collected from this survey, completed by Youth Justice case managers, is taken as at a snapshot date of 2 June 2025.

Of the Youth Justice records surveyed on 2 June 2025, there were 524 males and 53 females subject to youth justice custodial and community supervision.

Of these:

- One child aged 10-12 had current and/or previous child protection involvement
- 212 children aged 13-17 had current and/or previous child protection involvement
- 25 children aged 13-17 were residing in residential care (this excludes young people detained in custody or in hospital/rehabilitation on the survey date).



Emma Cassar PSM
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Department of Justice and Community Safety

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QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by: ROMA BRITNELL

Question: Has the department filled the four Local Government Inspectorate vacancies reported by the *Herald Sun*?

Reply:

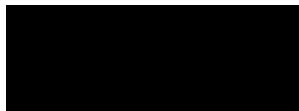
As the Local Government Inspectorate is an Administrative Office, staffing decisions are the responsibility of the Chief Municipal Officer as the Administrative Office Head. The Department of Justice and Community Safety has engaged with the Chief Municipal Inspector who has advised that these vacancies remain.

Asked by: ROMA BRITNELL

Question: Were any contractors or staff let go by the Local Government Inspectorate in the 2024-25 period?

Reply:

The Department of Justice and Community Safety has engaged with the Chief Municipal Inspector, who has advised that no contractors or staff were let go by the Local Government Inspectorate in 2024-25.



Emma Cassar PSM
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Department of Justice and Community Safety

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QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by: AIV PUGLIELLI

Question: How many lockdowns [and isolated episodes] occurred for both corrections and youth corrections facilities for the year 2024 and the figure for the year 2025?

Reply:

Adult custodial system

The total number of lockdowns at adult corrections facilities was:

Public Prisons Lockdowns – Corrections Victoria	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24
Total no. of lockdown events	2,950	1,898

A prison lockdown event is reported as any unit or area where prisoners are restricted or locked down for more than 15-minutes. Locations may have multiple events on the one day or a single event which lasts the whole day in rare circumstances.

There are several reasons for lockdowns including security lockdowns, emergency counts, special lockdowns for unforeseeable events, natural disasters and staff absences and/or shortages.

Youth Justice

The total number of isolation episodes at Youth Justice custodial facilities can be found on the Department of Justice and Community Safety website here [Youth justice reviews and reporting | Department of Justice and Community Safety Victoria](https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/justice-system/youth-justice/youth-justice-reviews-and-reporting): <https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/justice-system/youth-justice/youth-justice-reviews-and-reporting>


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QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by: JADE BENHAM

Question: What would the operating costs of a limited operation model [for Malmesbury Youth Justice Centre] have been during the three years it was closed?

Reply:

The Department of Justice and Community Safety is unable to provide retrospective speculative operating costs of a limited operating model at the Malmesbury Youth Justice Precinct over the period of its closure.

The Victorian Government recently announced that an initial 30 rooms will be opened as part of a new model at the Malmesbury Youth Justice Centre. This model will be for a lower-risk cohort aged 17 years and over, freeing up more custodial beds at Cherry Creek and Parkville Youth Justice Centres for serious high-risk offenders. 114 staff members will be recruited to support the opening of these rooms at Malmesbury. The cost will be \$141 million from 2025-26 over five years to reopen Malmesbury.



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QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by: RICHARD WELCH

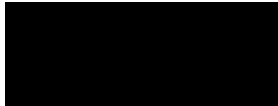
Question: When was the department advised that it would not be a blanket ban [regarding the reforms introduced in the Justice Legislation Amendment (Police and Other Matters) Bill 2025 in respect to face masks at protests]?

Reply: The Justice Legislation Amendment (Police and Other Matters) Bill 2025 would amend the *Summary Offences Act 1966* to empower a police officer to direct a person to cease wearing their face covering where the police officer reasonably believes that a person has committed or intends to commit an offence at a public protest.

The Department of Justice and Community Safety consulted with a range of legal, human rights and faith groups, and Victoria Police on options for implementing the Victorian Government's commitment to address dangerous and radical conduct by introducing a ban on face coverings at protests.

The approach to implementing a direction to cease wearing a face covering has been carefully developed to balance the rights of Victorians to engage in peaceful protest, while ensuring police are appropriately empowered to respond to dangerous or extreme conduct at public protests to better maintain community safety.

Alongside existing powers, these reforms will enable police officers to proactively intervene where protestors use face coverings to conceal their identities whilst engaging in acts of hatred, intimidation and other criminal conduct, including the use of balaclavas by Neo-Nazi groups.



Emma Cassar PSM
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Department of Justice and Community Safety

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QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by: AIV PUGLIELLI

Question: Of the current remand population [as at the date of the hearing, 27 November 2025], how many people are charged with violent offences?

Reply:

The total number of people on remand in prison as at 27 November 2025 who had at least one charge for a violent offence was 2,331 (85% of all remandees).

Asked by: AIV PUGLIELLI

Question: [Of the current remand population, as at the date of the hearing, 27 November 2025], how many were for nonviolent property offences and how many for other nonviolent offences?

Reply:

The number of people on remand who had a non-violent property offence as their most serious recorded charge was 85 (3% of all remandees).

The number of people on remand who had a non-violent offence (excluding property) as their most serious recorded charge was 748 (27% of all remandees).

The total number of people on remand in prison as at 27 November 2025 who had at least one charge for a non-violent property offence was 1858 (68% of all remandees).

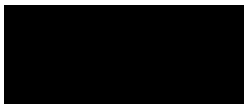
The total number of people on remand in prison as at 27 November 2025 who had at least one charge for a non-violent offence (excluding property) was 2432 (89% of all remandees). These people frequently have co-occurring violent offence charges.

Asked by: AIV PUGLIELLI

Question: [Of the current remand population, as at the date of the hearing, 27 November 2025], how many people are currently on remand solely for alleged breaches of bail conditions?

Reply:

The number of people on remand who had a breach of bail as their most serious recorded charge was 9 (0.3% of all remandees).



Emma Cassar PSM
Secretary

Department of Justice and Community Safety

Received 15 December 2025

Portfolio:	Police
Witness:	Chief Commissioner of Police, Mike Bush CNZM
Committee member:	Ms Jade Benham
Page of transcript:	19

Relevant text:

Jade BENHAM: Yes, thank you. I have some more questions around the Aboriginal youth cautioning program. The police annual report 2024–25 mentions the programs and the outcomes, but it does not publish the full review report. [Why has the operational review of the AYCP not been publicly available? And is there a commitment to releasing that information?](#)

Mike BUSH: I do not have the answer to that – I am very happy to take it on notice – other than to say that it is very successful and it is growing. I cannot see a reason not to.

Response:

Victoria Police is currently finalising the organisational response to the review of the Aboriginal Youth Cautioning Program (AYCP). Once this is complete, Victoria Police will engage with the Aboriginal community before sharing with the broader public is considered. This is to ensure clarity around how Victoria Police will respond to the review and work with Aboriginal community stakeholders to enhance the AYCP.

Portfolio:	Police
Witness:	Chief Commissioner of Police, Mike Bush CNZM
Committee member:	Ms Jade Benham
Page of transcript:	16

Relevant text:

Jade BENHAM: You will take that on notice. Thank you very much. [Can I also ask about, in 2024–25, the air wing’s contracted flying hours.](#) Are they broken down per month or annually?

Mike BUSH: Both.

Jade BENHAM: Both. [What are they annually?](#)

Mike BUSH: I do not have the figure in front of me. I am happy to provide that on notice.

Jade BENHAM: And [could you provide monthly as well?](#)

Mike BUSH: Sure.

Jade BENHAM: [Do you know the details of how many surplus contracted flying hours we end up with every month, and do they roll over?](#)

Mike BUSH: We definitely have that data, yes.

Jade BENHAM: And you will supply that on notice?

Mike BUSH: Yes.

Response:

2024–25 Total Airwing Contracted Flying Hours

Period	Contracted Hours
Annual	6000
Monthly	500

2024–25 Surplus Contracted Flying Hours

Month	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25	Apr-25	May-25	Jun-25
Surplus contracted flying hours	177.7	142.7	168.7	193.5	147	150.7	173.5	199.9	163.6	98.5	110.7	128.9

Note: There were no roll over of hours

Surplus hours can be attributed to a number of factors, such as weather impacting operational activities, maintenance or repair of the aircrafts, and staffing shortages.

Portfolio:	Police
Witness:	Chief Commissioner of Police, Mike Bush CNZM
Committee member:	Mr. Aiv Puglielli
Page of transcript:	36

Relevant text:

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Thank you. On another matter, I will ask about the continuing practice of decanting, which to my understanding is shuffling people across prisons and police cells. [How many prisoners were being decanted across the state during the reporting period?](#)

Mike BUSH: I cannot give you the exact number, but I do acknowledge that occurs and it is in terms of making sure that we have places for those people. It is an unfortunate practice, but it must exist to ensure that we have beds for those people. In terms of giving you the exact numbers, that would require quite a piece of work, but if you need it, we will engage in it.

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Thank you so much. Can I get a sense: [has that practice escalated over the reporting period?](#)

Response:

For the 2024–2025 financial year, there was a total of 43 decants between police cells. This has increased from eight (8) decants between police cells in 2023–2024.

Portfolio:	Police
Witness:	Chief Commissioner of Police, Mike Bush CNZM
Committee member:	Mr. Aiv Puglielli
Page of transcript:	41

Relevant text:

Aiv PUGLIELLI: No worries. Thank you. On another matter, are Victoria Police meant to offer medical attention if someone is injured at a protest?

Mike BUSH: That would apply anywhere. We are here to keep people safe, and if people are injured, whether it is at a protest or anywhere else, all our staff are qualified or certified in first aid. They would administer as they would anywhere, as long as it is safe for them to do so in that environment.

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Right. Thank you. [How many times did that occur during the budget period?](#)

Mike BUSH: I doubt we have that data at all over that year. I doubt we have the ability to collect it.

Aiv PUGLIELLI: You do not have the ability?

Mike BUSH: I doubt we record that. I can make inquiries, and if we do, I will provide it. But I am quite confident we do not record that data to the detail you would require.

Aiv PUGLIELLI: [Why would that not be recorded?](#)

Mike BUSH: I cannot tell you.

Aiv PUGLIELLI: No worries. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

Response:

Police will administer first aid as long as it is safe to do so. As this forms a regular part of the police response, this data is not recorded separately.

Portfolio:	Police
Witness:	Chief Commissioner of Police, Mike Bush CNZM
Committee member:	Mr. Aiv Puglielli
Page of transcript:	38-39

Relevant text:

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Nothing further to add? Okay. Thank you. I will move on. Can I ask: *how many times were police called out to incidents where drug use was a factor during the 2024–25 period?*

Mike BUSH: I would definitely have to take that on notice, but I cannot give you any assurance that we actually hold that data.

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Okay. Thank you. *Is there any indication that you can give to the committee of typically how many officers would be called out in those incidents?*

Mike BUSH: Called out? You mean –

Aiv PUGLIELLI: So if there is a call-out and it is an incident occurring where drug use is a factor, how many officers typically would be called out in that scenario?

Mike BUSH: In terms of calls for service, so responding to calls for service?

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Yes.

Mike BUSH: Again, we can look into that for you, but I cannot give you an assurance that we hold that specific data.

Response:

Incidents where drug use is a factor is too broad a request, and therefore Victoria Police is unable to provide a response.

There is no typical number of officers called out to these incidents. They could range from one patrol unit containing two members through to multiple units depending on the situation.

Portfolio:	Police
Witness:	Emma Catford, Deputy Secretary, Corrections and Justice Services
Committee member:	Mr. Aiv Puglielli
Page of transcript:	35

Relevant text:

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Thank you, Chair. Good morning. Just to start us off, there has been some reporting that people in our state are spending entire jail terms in police cells. Can I ask: [over the reporting period, how many people in Victoria completed their entire sentences in police cells rather than prisons?](#)

Emma CATHFORD: I think we might need to take that question on notice in terms of the specifics.

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Okay. Thank you.

Emma CASSAR: If it is helpful, we understand the absolute pressure on police cells and certainly the commissioner and I are having conversations about what we can do to alleviate that and to move people through quickly. I visited the custody centre last week to see how things were tracking, and I am sure the police commissioner and I will have more to say about that very soon.

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Okay. And for the committee’s consideration, we would assume you are tracking this data. Correct?

Emma CATHFORD: If I may, we do. Between ourselves and Victoria Police, we are obviously watching how long people are in a police cell for through the court process and depending on their circumstances, whether they are bailed, receive a sentence et cetera. It is quite dynamic with respect to how many people are, depending on their journey.

Aiv PUGLIELLI: Okay. Thank you. [Is it possible also to find out for the budget period how many people were held for more than 14 days in police cells?](#)

Emma CATHFORD: I believe between us we should be able to answer that question.

Response:

For the 2024–2025 financial year:

- 58 people completed their entire sentence in Police Custody.
- 94 people were held in Police Custody for more than 14 days.

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee
Inquiry into the 2024-25 Financial and Performance Outcomes

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by: JADE BENHAM

Question: Will the [Wirkara Kulpa] performance framework be made publicly available so that we can see targets and things, or can you provide that on notice?

Reply:

Wirkara Kulpa (the Strategy) is Victoria's first Aboriginal Youth Justice Strategy, developed with the wellbeing, voice and aspirations of Aboriginal children and young people at its centre. The Strategy is focused on supporting Aboriginal children and young people to remain outside the youth justice system and to live culturally rich, connected and self-determined lives.

The development of the Strategy was led by the Aboriginal Justice Caucus (AJC) under the umbrella of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement (AJA) and is a key initiative of *Burra Lotjpa Dunguludja* (AJA4) and the *Youth Justice Strategic Plan 2020-2030*.

To support implementation of the Strategy, Youth Justice (YJ) worked with the Centre for Evaluation, AJC and the Youth Collaborative Working Group (Youth CWG) throughout 2024 to co-design the Wirkara Kulpa Performance Measurement Framework (the Framework). The Framework was formally endorsed by the Youth CWG and AJC in December 2024.

The Framework aligns with Aboriginal Data Sovereignty principles, drawing on existing data sources and introducing new reporting mechanisms. The Framework will include an annual Wirkara Kulpa Action and Outcome Progress Report (Annual Report), to be used as an internal performance-tracking tool.

The Framework provides a structured approach for tracking progress against all 22 outcomes and 75 actions within Wirkara Kulpa, using a set of indicators and measures. These targets, indicators and measures collectively represent the steps taken to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people and the basis for assessing whether those outcomes are being achieved.

The *Youth Justice Act 2024* (YJ Act) requires the Secretary of the Department of Justice and Community Safety (Department) to publish prescribed information annually on the Department's website, including the steps taken to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people and whether those outcomes are being achieved. Publication of the Framework and its associated reporting processes will enable the Department to meet its statutory obligations under the YJ Act.

A full list of the Framework's measures is included at [Attachment A](#).


Emma Cassar PSM
Secretary
Department of Justice and Community Safety



WIRKARA KULPA
ABORIGINAL YOUTH
JUSTICE STRATEGY
2022 - 2032

Attachment A - Wirikara Kulpa Performance Measurement Framework - Targets, indicators and measures

To monitor the progress of the 22 outcomes in the Wirkara Kulpa strategy, a combination of indicators and measures will be used. For this framework targets, indicators, and measures are defined as follows:

- **Indicator:** An indicator is a quantitative metric that provides evidence of whether a certain trend is being achieved and is used to track performance over time. Indicators include a desired direction of change to assess performance towards outcomes.
- **Measure:** A measure is a quantitative or qualitative aspect of performance that can be used to gauge progress on a particular process or outcome. It represents a single data point collected to assess the proportion, amount, or degree of something (the direction of change is not set). Measures enable increased understanding to support planning and prioritisation.
- **Target:** A target is a specific goal or objective that is aimed to be achieved within a certain timeframe.

Please note: Attachment A only includes the indicators, measures and targets established in the Wirkara Kulpa Performance Measurement Framework (Framework), not the full Framework report itself.

Table 1 – Outcome indicators and measures for DOMAIN 1: Empowering Aboriginal children and young people, and families to uphold change

Outcome	Indicator / measure	Type
1.1.1 Aboriginal children and young people and families are involved in planning and decision making at every stage	Increase in Aboriginal young people and their families reporting that they were included in decision making for their case plan	Indicator
	Proportion of cultural plans that include the voice of Aboriginal children and young people in relation to decision making	Measure
	Number of trained 'trusted workers' who can support case management and review panels for Aboriginal Children and young people	Measure
1.1.2 Aboriginal children and young people have greater roles in leadership, governance and decision making	Increase in Aboriginal children and young people participating in youth justice leadership councils, youth advisory groups and other regional forums.	Indicator
	Allocation of funding for Koorie Youth Council (KYC) to develop a model for Aboriginal children and young people's voice and participation in Youth Justice	Measure
1.2.1 Aboriginal children and young people feel valued and respected	Proportion of Aboriginal children and young people report feeling valued and respected in the youth justice system	Indicator
	Increase in the proportion of Aboriginal young people in custody who are attending school, and or vocational education greater than or equal to 90% of the time	Indicator
1.2.2. Provide more strengths-based mentoring programs for Aboriginal children and young people in custody and community through Aboriginal organisations and Elders	Increase in the proportion of participants across funded programs who report feeling more connected to Elders and mentors in community	Indicator
	Number of Elders and respected persons supporting young people in custodial and community-based settings	Measure

Table 2 – Outcome indicators and measures for DOMAIN 2: Protecting cultural rights and increasing connection to family, community, and culture

Outcome	Indicator / measure	Type
2.1.1 Aboriginal children and young people are more connected to culture, family, and community	Increase in the proportion of Aboriginal children and young people in youth justice detention feeling more connected to culture	Indicator
	Proportion of cultural plans in youth justice detention which are implemented in line with strengths and an understanding of the views of young people (see also 3.3.1)	Measure
2.1.2 Programs, services, spaces, and environments are culturally safe and responsive	Increase in the proportion of participants across funded programs who report increased knowledge about needs based available services and supports	Indicator
	The built environment in custodial settings is culturally responsive and provides access to cultural spaces for Aboriginal young people (e.g. access to the cultural garden)	Measure
2.2.1 Families are supported to address justice issues and minimise the effects of justice system involvement	Increase in the proportion of participants across funded programs who report they are better able to identify unacceptable behaviours (e.g. racism, family violence)	Indicator
	Increase in the proportion of participants across funded programs who report an increased understanding of trauma and its impacts	Indicator
	Proportion of Aboriginal children and young people alleged offender incidents flagged as family incident related	Measure
	Increase in the proportion of Aboriginal children and young people/families who have support from AYJ program workers and/or legal support from Aboriginal-led services	Indicator

Table 3 – Indicators and measures for DOMAIN 3: Diverting young people and addressing over-representation

Outcome	Indicator / measure	Type
3.1.1 The youth justice system is child and adolescent centred and age appropriate	Number of new youth justice-related policies and legislation developed with Aboriginal community oversight from initial phases	Measure
	Number of new youth-justice related policies and legislation developed with specialist input about child development and child safety (including age specific and appropriate evidence bases utilised to develop/ inform practice)	Measure
3.2.1 Fewer Aboriginal children and young people become involved with the youth justice system, including from the child protection system	Victorian Justice Target: By 2031, close the gap in the rate of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people aged 10-17 under youth justice supervision. Milestone 1: Reduce the average daily number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people (10-17 years) under youth justice supervision by at least 39 by 2025-26	Target
	Count of Aboriginal children and young people under youth justice supervision by sex, age, Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee (RAJAC), custodial/ community, and remand/ sentenced	Measure
	Decrease in the rate of Aboriginal children and young people unique alleged offenders (10-17)	Indicator
	Decrease in the rate of Aboriginal children and young people first-time unique alleged offenders (10-17)	Indicator
	Number of Aboriginal children and young people alleged offenders processed by police, by sex, age, RAJAC, and offence subdivision	Measure
	Average days spent in custodial and community settings (remand, sentenced, community unsentenced, community sentenced), including comparison between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children and young people	Indicator
	Proportion of Aboriginal children and young people in youth justice who are also a client of Child Protection	Measure
3.2.2 More Aboriginal children and young people are diverted from the youth justice system	Increase in the number and proportion of Aboriginal and young people engaged in early intervention and diversion programs (for example the Children's Court Youth Diversion Service, the AYJ Program, and intensive case management)	Indicator
	Proportion of Aboriginal first-time alleged offenders cautioned by police, by sex, age group (under 13; 14-17), and RAJAC	Measure
	Counts and proportions of Aboriginal children and young people alleged offender incidents with charges laid, heard charges, and proven charges (compared to the non-Aboriginal population)	Indicator
	Number of Aboriginal children (under 17) and young people (18+) transferred to adult prison by Youth Parole Board	Measure
	Number of Aboriginal Community Liaison Officers working with Aboriginal children and young people by RAJAC region	Measure
3.2.3 Fewer Aboriginal children and young people are in the community-based youth justice system	Decrease in the daily average number and rate per 10,000 population of Aboriginal children and young people under community supervision	Indicator
	Number of Aboriginal children and young people under youth justice community supervision who successfully complete community supervision/orders	Measure
3.2.4 Fewer Aboriginal children and young people enter custody	National Agreement on Closing the Gap target: From 2018-19 to 2030-31, reduce the rate (per 10,000) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (10-17 years) in detention by at least 30 per cent. Milestone 2: Reduce the rate (per 10,000) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people (10-17 years) in detention on an average day by at least 1.5 by 2025-26	Target
	Decrease in the proportion of Aboriginal children and young people on remand	Indicator
	Increase in the proportion of Aboriginal children and young people who applied for parole and progressed to a parole or re-parole suitability assessment	Indicator
3.2.5 Fewer Aboriginal children and young people return to youth justice supervision	Decrease in the proportion of Aboriginal youth offenders who return to youth justice supervision within two years of release (including a comparison to the non-Aboriginal population)	Indicator
	Rate of return to sentenced supervision for Aboriginal Children and Young People	Measure

3.2.6 More young people have safe and stable living arrangements	Status of safe and stable living conditions reported for Aboriginal children and young people in the Youth Justice Annual Client Survey (including a comparison to non-Aboriginal populations)	Measure
	Number of Aboriginal children and young people in youth justice moving from unstable living (rough sleeping, couch surfing) to more stable living arrangements (public housing, community housing, private rental)	Measure
	Increase in the proportion of Aboriginal children and young people with stable living arrangements (public housing, community housing, private rental) when they transition from custody to community	Indicator
3.3.1 Aboriginal children and young people's risks and needs are addressed	Proportion of participants across funded programs who report feeling culturally safe, welcome, and comfortable when attending program	Measure
	Proportion of Aboriginal young people diagnosed with a disability receiving individualised support in custody and community settings	Measure
	Proportion of Aboriginal young people with an active mental health diagnosis receiving individualised support in custody and community settings	Measure
	Proportion of staff who report competency in understanding the needs of Aboriginal LGBTIQ+ young people's needs in custody or community settings, based on the annual staff pulse survey	Measure
3.3.2 Aboriginal children and young people access programs that are evidence based, culturally safe and responsive	Proportion of funded programs designed and delivered with Aboriginal community oversight	Measure
	Increase in the proportion of participants across funded programs who report increased cultural knowledge and connection because of participation	Indicator
	Increase in the proportion of participants across funded programs who report improved connection to their community	Indicator
3.3.3 More Aboriginal children and young people are provided with supported transition from custody into the community	Increase in the proportion of Aboriginal young people sentenced to custody who are engaged in pre-release leaves and programs	Indicator
	Proportion of Aboriginal participants who complete transitional support programs (such as the Youth Through Care program, Aboriginal Intensive Support Program, and Community-Based Aboriginal Youth Justice Program)	Measure

Table 4 – Indicators and measures for DOMAIN 4: Working towards Aboriginal-led justice responses

Outcome	Indicator / measure	Type
4.1.1 Aboriginal organisations are supported and enabled to deliver youth justice programs and services	Frequency of data sharing by AYJ with Youth CWG	Measure
	Number of new Aboriginal youth justice-related funding decisions made with Aboriginal community oversight from initial phases	Measure
	Proportion of Aboriginal-led funded programs for Aboriginal children and young people with long-term funding	Measure
	Proportion of funded programs for Aboriginal children and young people allocated to Aboriginal Organisations	Measure
	Proportion of Youth CWG partners who agree that there has been open, transparent communication and information sharing between the partnership and the community in the past 12 months	Measure
	Proportion of Youth CWG partners who agree that partners have shared power and ownership of progressing actions in the past 12 months	Measure
4.1.2 Aboriginal community led justice services are accessed by Aboriginal children and young people and their families in their communities	Increased proportion of Aboriginal children, young people and their families accessing Aboriginal youth justice programs by region and statutory/ diversion status.	Indicator

Table 5 – Indicators and measures for DOMAIN 5: Creating a fair and equitable system for Aboriginal children and young people

Outcome	Indicator / measure	Type
5.1.1 The youth justice workforce is culturally aware and responsive	Proportion of youth justice staff who have received cultural awareness training which includes consideration of the impacts of intergenerational trauma	Measure
	Proportion of youth justice DJCS and funded program staff who identify as Aboriginal	Measure
	Proportion of cultural awareness training delivered to youth justice staff by Aboriginal-led organisations	Measure
5.1.2 The youth justice system is free from racism and discrimination, and values gender and sexual diversity	See 3.3.1 and 5.2.1	
5.2.1 The system is accountable for protecting the health, wellbeing, and rights of Aboriginal children and young people	Proportion of youth justice funding administered by AYJ received by Aboriginal Organisations	Measure
	Decrease in the unique number of Aboriginal young people in youth justice custody subject to episodes of isolation and frequency/period of isolation episodes (including comparison to non-Aboriginal populations)	Indicator
	Number of reported incidents of self-harming behaviour by Aboriginal children and young people in custody and subject to community supervision	Measure
	Summary of Aboriginal children and young people complaints of mistreatment and responses to resolve complaints	Measure
	Proportion of Aboriginal children and young people in youth justice with a history of drug/alcohol use or misuse receiving individualised support in custody and community settings	Measure
	Rate of young people in custody reporting they receive culturally safe health care	Measure

