



# 2021-22 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Budget Estimates Hearing

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Attorney-General

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## Getting on with Justice Recovery and setting up for the future



### Modernising the justice system and delivering programs that work

- State-wide **Online Magistrates Court**
- **Online case management team** in the Children's Court
- Expansion of the **Court Integrated Services Program**
- **Drug Court Expansion Project** to regional Victoria
- Boost for online hearings following **AVL technology courtroom upgrades**



### Investing in infrastructure and new service delivery

- Development of the **Bendigo Law Courts** and **Wyndham Law Courts**, as well as the expansion of the **Sunshine Law Court**
- Delivering on the Royal Commission recommendation to roll out Specialist Family Violence Courts to all headquarter Magistrates' Courts
- **Increasing access to VCAT services** through three new community based venues, so that everyday legal matters can be resolved outside of the CBD
- **Transforming VCAT's digital services**, which will ultimately enable Victorians and businesses to resolve their matters online



### Cementing innovation into the future

- The *Justice Legislation Amendment (System Enhancements and Other Matters) Act 2021* permanently embeds several temporary COVID response measures to make the ongoing justice system more efficient





## Getting on with Justice Recovery and setting up for the future

### 2021-22 Budget initiatives

**\$210m**

**to build a more effective and accessible system and driving down court backlogs**

increasing justice system capacity, boost online services, and support a higher volume of matters moving through the courts and addressing delays caused by COVID-19

**\$51.6m**

**to support the Office of Public Prosecutions**

supporting its work prosecuting our most serious offenders, including specialist support for victims and witnesses, increased use of digital evidence and a strong focus on family violence

**\$3.9m**

**to support the Disability Advice and Response Team (DART) for the Children's Court**

providing targeted support to young people with disability in matters before the Children's Court





## Delivering vital services to keep our community safe and strengthening support for victim-survivors

2021-22 Budget initiatives

**\$77.6m** to finish rolling out Specialist Family Violence Courts across all headquarter Magistrates' Courts

taking the model to Broadmeadows, Dandenong, Geelong, Latrobe Valley, Melbourne, Ringwood and Sunshine

**\$4.5m** to support victim survivors and hold perpetrators to account

expanding legal services in the Orange Door Network and perpetrator intervention programs to identify perpetrators and change behaviour

**\$5.6m** to improve the justice system's response to family violence

delivering family violence training, specialist practice leads and embedding Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management Framework across the justice system

**\$33.2m** to enhance the Working with Children Check and National Disability Insurance Scheme

supporting the worker screening unit and checks to ensure that existing or prospective NDIS workers do not pose a risk to people with a disability



## Improving fairness, access, and delivering better outcomes for Aboriginal Victorians

2021-22 Budget initiatives

### **\$33.1m** to prevent Aboriginal Deaths in Custody

supporting programs aimed at reducing over-representation of Aboriginal people in the justice system, including:

- continuation of family violence after-hours support
- operation of Ngarra Jarranounith Place for Aboriginal men
- expanded capacity for Baroona Youth Healing
- in-prison programs for both Aboriginal men and women
- early intervention and specialist family practitioners to support under 14s at risk of contact with the justice system



**Spent Convictions legislation** passed, to ensure Victorians who have carried the unfair burden of a minor historical offence will have a better chance to turn their lives around



**Decriminalising public drunkenness** and developing a health model to respond to public drunkenness



## Improving fairness, access, and providing better outcomes for Victorians

2021-22 Budget initiatives

**\$31.1m** to legal assistance and Critical Early Intervention Support Services

supporting community legal centres and legal aid

**\$2.8m** to establish the changes or suppression (conversion) practices scheme

VEOHRC will be positioned to receive and respond to reports of suppression practices as well as play an integral role in supporting the rights of LGBTI+ Victorians

**\$2.5m** to establish the Spent Convictions Scheme

providing a framework for controlled disclosure of certain criminal records after periods without serious offending

**\$93.1m** to support the Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine

delivering critical services and upgrade medical equipment and infrastructure



## Stronger integrity across the justice system and government

2021-22 Budget initiatives

**\$87.9m** to implement all the recommendations of the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants

including \$13.5 million to establish the office of the Special Investigator, and over \$2 million to support the work of the Implementation Monitor who will independently access the progress and adequacy of implementation



Release of the **Government's response to the Royal Commission into the Management of Police Informants**



Appointment of the **Implementation Monitor**, Sir David Carruthers



Implementation well underway across all agencies, with **5 of the 54 recommendations** directed to the Victorian Government already delivered and a further **14 on track** for delivery this year





Thank you.

