



Media release

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Review of Government spending makes 39 recommendations

A report tabled in Parliament today has found the Victorian Government has made progress towards achieving its goals in a range of areas, including improving the health system, increasing the teacher workforce and meeting the State's 2025 targets for greenhouse gas reductions and renewable energy generation.

The Public Accounts and Estimates Committee (PAEC) looked at the state's financial and performance outcomes over the 2023-24 financial year.

The report contains 111 findings and 39 recommendations for the Government's consideration.

"Our recommendations have been formulated with a view to improving the accountability of departments and agencies; the reporting of public sector performance and providing the Parliament and community with some insight into the outcomes delivered in 2023-24," said Committee Chair Sarah Connolly.

"We examined a number of ongoing challenges, including access to mental health services, reducing the State's net debt, and increasing housing supply," she said.

For the general government sector (GGS) in 2023-24, \$93.1 billion was raised in revenue, and \$97.3 billion was spent. Revenue came mainly from grants (\$41.8 billion) and taxation (\$36.9 billion), while employees were the largest expense (\$36 billion).

The GGS net operating deficit was reduced by more than half, from \$8.8 billion in 2022-23 to \$4.2 billion in 2023-24, continuing the trend of decreasing net operating deficits since 2021-22. The \$2 billion raised through the COVID Debt Levy on payroll and land tax contributed to the decrease.

GGS net debt for 2023-24 was \$133.2 billion, an increase of 15.8% over the previous year. The proportion of net debt to gross state product was 21.9%.

The Government reports it has completed steps one and two of its five step fiscal strategy, and that step three, returning to operating surpluses, will be achieved in 2025-26. The remaining two steps relating to reducing debt levels as a proportion of the State's economy are expected to be achieved by the end of the current forward estimates period.

The report is available to read on the Committee's [website](#).

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