

2026–27 Victorian State Budget

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Minister for Equality

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Portfolio overview

Our values mean all Victorians feel safe, are healthy, have equal human rights and can live wholly and freely

- › At least 600,000 Victorians or approximately 11.1% over the age of 18 identify as LGBTIQ+, while 18.9% of young Australians do not identify as heterosexual, and 2.3% identify as gender diverse.
- › An increase in vilification is affecting how LGBTIQ+ Victorians access support and participate in their communities.

The Equality portfolio is driving equality and inclusion for LGBTIQ+ communities by:

- › ensuring lived experience and expertise of LGBTIQ+ Victorians and the sector informs the work of government
- › building capability and capacity to deliver equitable, inclusive and accessible services
- › supporting inclusion through events and programs
- › strengthening legal protections for LGBTIQ+ Victorians
- › developing an LGBTIQ+ sector that is self-sustaining.



Highlight achievements over the past 12 months

- › In a record-breaking season over **334,500 people** attended across the entire LGBTIQ+ Midsumma festival in 2025-26.
- › In partnership with Midsumma, we delivered the fifth annual Victoria's Pride, statewide celebrations, including the iconic Street Party, Regional Activation Program and the Victorian Pride March with more than **109,000 people** in attendance.
- › Continued the delivery of critical initiatives as part of the whole of government coordination and implementation of *Pride in our future*:
 - » Pride in Ageing for older LGBTIQ+ Victorians
 - » Rainbow Tick accreditation rollout for inclusive services
 - » Three LGBTIQ+ grant programs supporting celebrations and social connection, and sector sustainability and growth
 - » Term 6 of the LGBTIQ+ Taskforce and Justice and Health and Wellbeing Working Groups, and the Expert Disability Advisory Group.
- › Implemented 2025-26 State Budget funding to continue delivery of the portfolio's major programs:
 - » QHub providing supports and safe spaces for social connection for young people in Ballarat and Geelong aimed at improving mental health and reducing suicide risk
 - » Trans and Gender Diverse Peer Support Program providing dedicated peer-led supports in response to increasing vilification against trans and gender diverse communities.



Achievements



65,448

people attending the Victoria's Pride Street Party in 2025-26.



474

trans and gender diverse people supported through Transgender Victoria's Peer Support Program in 2024-25.



+70

LGBTIQ+ grants provided in 2024-25.



102

community and mental health organisations engaged in the Rainbow Tick accreditation program since 2023.



2,325

older LGBTIQ+ people engaged in the Pride in Ageing program between April 2024 and December 2025.



12,874

students engaged with training and school visits and 199 LGBTIQ+ young people and their families supported through our Qhub program since 2023.

Continuation of the Equality reform

- › Victoria leads the nation in progressing equality for our diverse LGBTIQ+ communities through strategic, system-wide reform.
- › We will continue to strengthen the sustainability of LGBTIQ+ community organisations who provide critical services and supports, right around the state.
- › The Equality's portfolio output budget is **\$11.2 million** in 2026-27.
- › The 2026-27 State Budget allocated **\$6.5 million** over 2 years to sustain key initiatives that strengthen community connection, reduce social isolation and improve mental health and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ Victorians, including through delivery of Victoria's Pride events and the Regional Activation Programs.
- › This builds on:
 - › 2025-26 funding of **\$1.5 million** to continue delivery of QHub and the Trans and Gender Diverse Peer Support Program
 - › 2024-25 funding of **\$3.0 million** to continue whole of government coordination and implementation of *Pride in our future*, and
 - › 2023-24 funding of **\$22.55 million** to implement election commitments to make Victoria a safe, more inclusive state for LGBTIQ+ communities.



Portfolio priorities for the year ahead

- › Continue the Rainbow Tick Accreditation program to create inclusive and accessible services for LGBTIQ+ Victorians and their families.
- › Work to implement protections for LGBTIQ+ communities in the context of rising attacks and hate crimes.
- › Continue working with the LGBTIQ+ Taskforce, Health, Justice and Disability working groups to embed lived experience and expertise into government decision-making.
- › Continue our peer-led supports to trans and gender diverse Victorians through the Trans and Gender Diverse Peer Support Program.
- › Support young LGBTIQ+ people and their families through Qhub, across Ballarat, Geelong, the Surf Coast and online.
- › Support and connect older LGBTIQ+ people through implementing our Pride in Ageing program across the state.
- › Deliver Victoria's Pride, including the Street Party and Regional Activation program, and Pride March to celebrate our vibrant LGBTIQ+ communities around the state.
- › Continue to deliver vital LGBTIQ+ grant programs to celebrate visibility, build sector strength and promote inclusion.



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