

# 2026-27 Victorian State Budget

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Minister for Women and Girls

18 May 2026



Families,  
Fairness  
and Housing

# Portfolio overview

**Gender inequality continues to pervade the lives of women and girls, limiting what they can achieve.**

The Victorian Government leads the nation in addressing these issues by:

- › **driving structural reform through the *Gender Equality Act 2020***, an Australian-first law embedding accountability in over 300 public sector organisations
- › **leading whole-of-government action through *Our equal state***, delivering 110 actions to improve outcomes for women and girls
- › **working to meet clear targets** to halve the gender pay gap, achieve gender parity in leadership, and increase men's participation in care
- › **delivering targeted programs** that improve women's safety, health, participation, leadership and recognition
- › **influencing system-wide change** so policies, services and investments deliver better outcomes for women and girls across Victoria

# Our equal state



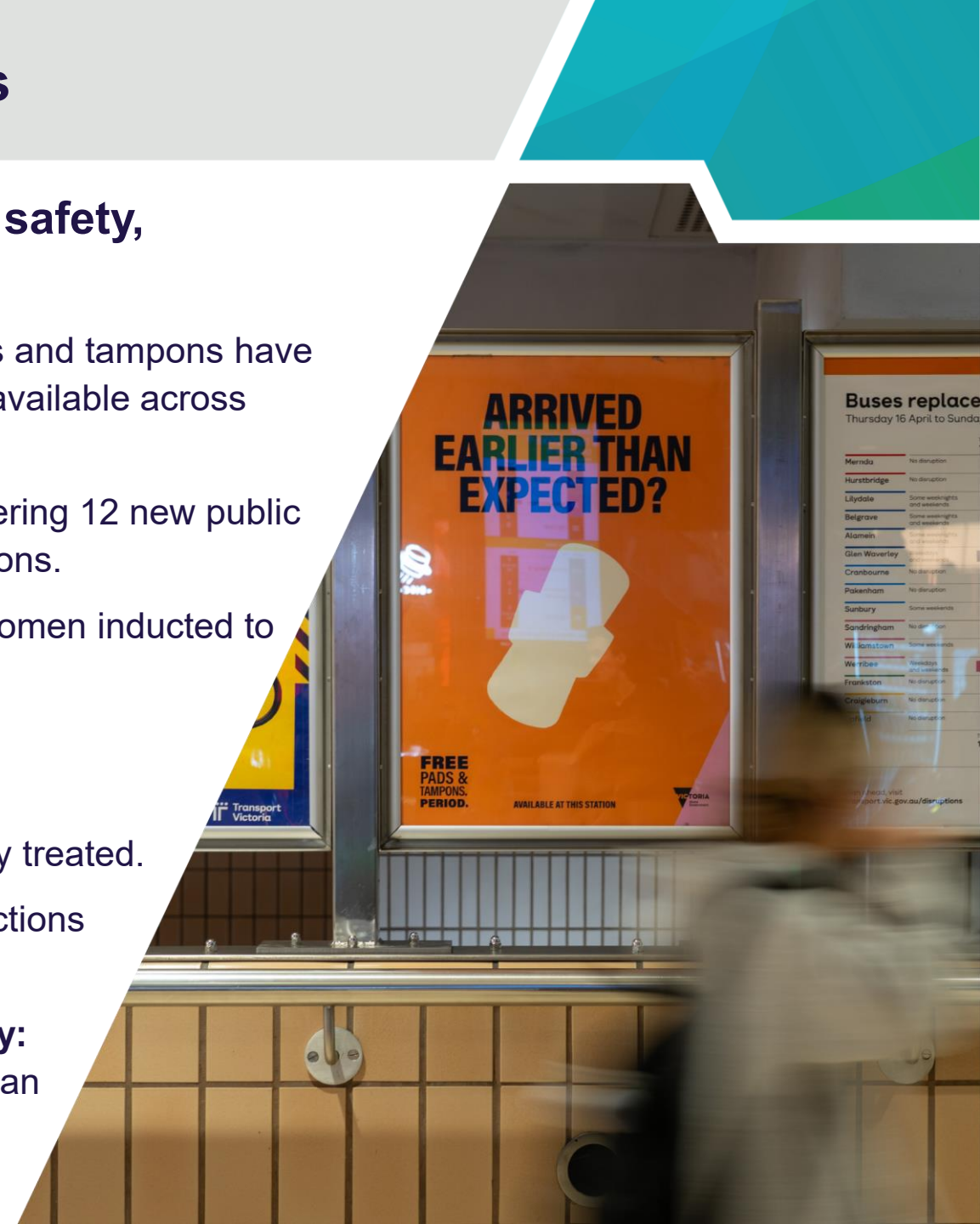
# Key achievements over the past 12 months

**We delivered practical actions to improve women's safety, health, and economic outcomes.**

- › **Reduced period poverty and cost-of-living pressure:** free pads and tampons have been dispensed over 700,000 times, with vending machines now available across Victoria.
- › **Addressed underrepresentation of women in public life:** delivering 12 new public artworks increasing the visibility of women's outstanding contributions.
- › **Recognised women's leadership and achievement:** 24 more women inducted to the Victorian Honour Roll of Women taking the total to over 790.

Through *Our equal state's* 110 actions, we are:

- › **Closing gaps in women's healthcare, through the Inquiry into Women's Pain:** ensuring women's pain is recognised and properly treated.
- › **Making women safer at work:** by strengthening workplace protections and restricting the misuse of NDAs in sexual harassment cases.
- › **Supporting workforce participation and saving families money:** with the first 18 Early Learning Centres opening so more women can participate in paid work.



## 2026-27 Budget investment

**In the 2026-27 Budget, we have made targeted investments to support women's leadership and safety.**

- › **\$120,000** to grow the next generation of women leaders
- › **\$100,000** to strengthen system responses to reproductive coercion

Whole-of-government investment to improve outcomes for women and girls, includes:

- › **\$1 billion** supporting women's health and wellbeing
- › **\$1.7 billion** supporting safety and family violence responses
- › **\$990 million** supporting economic participation and workforce equality



# Portfolio priorities for the year ahead

**In the year ahead, we are focused on delivering outcomes and strengthening accountability for gender equality.**

- › Delivering key programs to support women's access to essentials, leadership, representation, and workplace safety
- › Strengthening accountability and transparency through:
  - » publishing the two-year progress report under *Our equal state*
  - » releasing a Gender Equality Outcomes Framework
  - » sharing new insights from the Public Sector Gender Equality Commissioner, drawing on five years of nation-leading data.
- › Driving system-wide impact, embedding gender impact assessments across government decision-making.



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