

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Inquiry into the 2026 -27 Budget Estimates

The Hon. Paul Hamer MP
Minister for Corrections

Friday 22 May 2026



Key statistics



6,650

People employed across the corrections system (as of 30 April 2026).



7,442

People in prison in Victoria (as of 30 April 2026).



8,152

People in Victoria on parole, supervised court orders, court reparation orders (as of 30 April 2026).



40.7%

Proportion of people in prison **on remand** (as of 30 April 2026).



18

Facilities in Victoria:

- 13 publicly operated prisons (including 1 transition centre, 1 subacute health unit).
- 2 privately operated prisons
- 1 residential facility.
- 2 post sentence residential facilities.



35

Community Corrections locations throughout Victoria.

Reconfiguring Victoria's prison system to meet demand

New investment has enabled Corrections Victoria to ramp up in response to community safety reforms.



Growth in the prison population

- Since changes to bail laws in March 2025, the prison population has grown by about 19%.
- Since June 2025, 1,808 prison beds have been opened.



Recruiting and supporting custodial staff

- Hiring more frontline corrections workers through initiatives including an expanded recruitment strategy and the \$8,000 sign on bonus.
- More than 726 prison officers have been recruited year to date across the public prison system.



Investing in our corrections system



Corrections outputs in 2026-27 is forecast to be \$2.0 billion

- **\$1.7 billion** for Prisoner Supervision and Support to ensure safe, secure and humane containment of prisoners.
- **\$274.4 million** for Community Based Offender Supervision to ensure effective supervision of offenders in the community.



Total estimated capital expenditure in 2026 -27 of \$122.0 million

- **\$8.8 million** for prison system capacity expansion and security upgrades.
- **\$113.2 million** for men's prison system capacity.



\$42.8 million over 2 years to continue programs

- Funding to continue programs that provide rehabilitative and transitional supports, including:
 - supporting people on remand and under short sentences.
 - critical disability supports.
 - reducing reoffending through supporting strong family relationships.
 - for the Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility.

Investment in housing and transitional supports



Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility (MCRF) provides housing and transitional support program for men exiting prison.

- Since opening in 2020, has supported **334** men.
- Those supported by MCRF are **30% less likely to re-offend** compared to non-MCRF residents.
- Awarded the **2025 Community Corrections Award** by the International Corrections and Prisons Association.



Delivering a better corrections system

2024-25 Report on Government Services



Average daily time
out of cells (hours)

- Victoria – 10.1
- NSW – 8
- National average – 8.9



Participation in
education and training

- Victoria – 28.7%
- NSW – 14.8%
- National average – 24%



Participation in
employment

- Victoria – 91.5%
- NSW – 85.7%
- National average – 80.4%

Reoffending rates are below the national average

Victoria's approach to providing meaningful rehabilitation through employment, education, and behaviour change programs is working.



Rate of return to prison (2024 –25):

- Victoria – **36.8%**
- National average – **44.5%**



Rate of return to corrective services within 2 years of discharge from a Community Corrections Order (2024 –25):

- Victoria – **10.8%**
- National average – **24.7%**



Thank you.

