

# 2025–26 Victorian State Budget

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Minister for Equality

3 June 2025



Families,  
Fairness  
and Housing

# Portfolio overview

**Our vision is that all Victorians feel safe, are healthy, have equal human rights and can live wholly and freely**

- › 11.1 percent or approximately 600,000 Victorians identify as LGBTIQ+, while 18.9 percent of young Australians do not identify as heterosexual, and 2.3% are gender diverse.
- › Increasing vilification and discrimination is impacting how LGBTIQ+ Victorians participate in civil and economic life in our State.

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

- › ensuring lived experience and knowledge of LGBTIQ+ Victorians and the sector informs the work of government
- › building capability and capacity to deliver equitable, inclusive and accessible services
- › increasing LGBTIQ+ visibility to inform decision making
- › 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 partnership with Midsumma, the fourth Victoria's Pride Street Party celebrations were delivered as well as Pride March and Regional Activation Program, with attendance of 113,000 people across all events
- › The Unsaid Says a Lot campaign was launched to raise awareness, reduce discrimination and strengthen inclusion and safety for members of the trans and gender diverse communities.
- › Implemented 2024-25 funding to deliver election commitments:
  - » Pride in Ageing for older LGBTIQ+ Victorians
  - » Rainbow Tick accreditation rollout for inclusive services
  - » Three LGBTIQ+ grant programs to support sector growth
  - » Whole of government coordination and implementation of *Pride in our future*
- › Delivered Qhub: needed safe spaces for social connection supports for young people in Ballarat and Geelong to prevent suicides and improve mental health, and
- › In response to increased vilification, the Trans and Gender Diverse Peer Support Program to provide dedicated supports.



# Achievements



**+113,000**

people at Victoria's Pride statewide celebrations and Pride March in 2025



**+25,000**

regional Victorians attended Victoria's Pride regional events in 2024-25.



**+70**

LGBTIQA+ grants provided in 2023/24.



**461**

trans and gender diverse people supported through Transgender Victoria's Peer Support Program in 2023-24.



**2 QHubs**

supporting 150 LGBTIQA+ young people and their families and 7,000 students engaged with training and school visits since 2023.



# Continuation of the Equality reform

- › We have embedded state-wide improvements to inclusion through systemic reform and strengthened the sustainability of LGBTIQ+ community organisations who provide vital targeted services.
- › The Equality's portfolio output budget is **\$10.5 million** in 2025-26.
- › The 2025-26 State Budget provides funding of **\$1.5 million** for the Equality portfolio to continue to deliver:
  - » QHub
  - » Trans and Gender Diverse Peer Support Program
- › This builds on:
  - funding provided through 2024-25 to continue whole of government coordination and implementation of *Pride in our future*, and
  - the Victorian Government's 2023-24 State Budget investment of **\$22.5 million** to implement election commitments to make Victoria a safe, more inclusive state for LGBTIQ+ communities.



# Portfolio priorities for the year ahead

- › Boost community and health organisations that can provide LGBTIQ+ inclusive services by delivering the Rainbow Tick accreditation to another 40 organisations
- › Continue rolling out 'The Unsaid Says A Lot' our award-winning campaign to combat discrimination experienced by trans and gender diverse communities
- › Provide dedicated trans and gender diverse people through the Trans and Gender Diverse Peer Support Program
- › Support and connect older LGBTIQ+ people through implementing our Pride in Ageing program across the state
- › Deliver annual state-wide LGBTIQ+ celebrations and Pride season, building on the success of Victoria's Pride
- › Bring together regional and rural-based LGBTIQ+ communities and promote greater visibility and inclusion across Victoria through the Regional Activation Program
- › Continue to deliver vital LGBTIQ+ grant programs to celebrate visibility, build sector strength and promote inclusion.



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Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

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