

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee  
**Inquiry into the 2025-26 Budget Estimates**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Portfolio: Health Infrastructure**

**Hearing: 4:05pm Friday 6 June 2025**

**Witnesses**

Melissa Horne MP, Minister for Health  
Infrastructure

Jenny Atta, Secretary, Department of Health

Nicole Brady, Deputy Secretary, System  
Planning, Department of Health

Priscilla Radice, Chief Executive Officer,  
Victorian Health Building Authority; and

Kevin Devlin, Director General, Victorian  
Infrastructure Delivery Authority

**Legend**

All questions are in **red text**.

The responses to the questions, including source details **black text**.

## PAEC Inquiry into the 2025-26 Budget Estimates

**QUESTION: Nick McGOWAN:** Thank you. Thank you, Minister. Just to clarify, because I am not sure I heard correctly: you said, of the \$870 million, that \$20.7 million has been spent on Craigieburn. Is that correct?

**Melissa HORNE:** I might ask Priscilla to just clarify.

**Priscilla RADICE:** Yes, we generally keep the program, when we are working through that program of works, at a program level as we work through those dollar figures across that large program of work. I can take on notice the exact dollar figure for you, but we are still delivering that program of work and, as you talked through, Phillip Island towards the end of this year. So we are managing the community hospitals at a program level.

**Nick McGOWAN:** Okay. And Cranbourne as well, Phillip Island – you can provide those breakdowns to us, can you?

**Priscilla RADICE:** I will work through, on notice, the exact detail that we give you for each hospital as we work through at program level.

**SOURCE:** Transcript – page 9

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ASKING QUESTION:** Nick McGowan

**HEARING DATE & TIME:** 4:05pm Friday 6 June 2025

**Responsible Division/Agency:** VHBA

### RESPONSE

#### Answer:

The figure provided to the Committee does not reflect the total expenditure at Craigieburn Community Hospital. Community Hospitals are funded at a program level. The program model comprises a rolling program of works across hospitals and as such, total investment for each individual hospital is not the best way to consider the program as delivery experts work across multiple projects to achieve best results for each community.

Releasing total investment figures on a hospital-by-hospital basis has the potential to compromise the state's ability to drive the remaining commercial outcomes for the community hospital program, negotiate on future contracts and achieve the best value for money for the state.

#### Source Reference:

N/A

**QUESTION: Jade BENHAM:** Great. Thank you, Minister. Could you also please provide a breakdown of the services for Phillip Island community hospital, which was also promised to be open and operational in 2024?

**Melissa HORNE:** Look, I do not have a list in front of me, sorry, of what Phillip Island –

**Jade BENHAM:** Could you take that on notice?

**Melissa HORNE:** I can tell you it is on track to be completed by the end of the year, and certainly we can provide you with a list of what those services are.

**Jade BENHAM:** So you will provide that for us?

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**Melissa HORNE:** Sure.

**SOURCE:** Transcript – page 7

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ASKING QUESTION:** Jade Benham

**HEARING DATE & TIME:** 4:05pm Friday 6 June 2025

**Responsible Division/Agency:** VHBA

**RESPONSE**

**Answer:**

Information on services included in the Phillip Island Community Hospital is in the public domain. Please note that questions on service delivery are best directed to the Minister for Health.

**Source Reference:**

[www.vhba.vic.gov.au](http://www.vhba.vic.gov.au)

**QUESTION: Aiv PUGLIELLI: Can I ask: can Aboriginal community-controlled health organisations access funding through the RHIF and the MHIF?**

**Melissa HORNE:** I will have to get back to you on the specifics of that, but you may be aware that we made a commitment in this year's budget to the Dandenong Aboriginal health centre. I have got to say, it really was so pleasing to be able to do that. Having had a number of conversations with Aunty Jill about what was needed for the Aboriginal community, it was really important. And seeing pretty much the parlous state of the health services down in Dandenong, it was really pleasing to be able to deliver that outcome for that community.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Thank you. And if you are taking that away on notice, can I also ask, if possible, if there is a breakdown of how many ACCHOs have applied for each of those funds over the last five years, what proportion were successful and what proportion of spending that then amounts to? If you can find it, that would good.

**Melissa HORNE:** I do not have that information to hand.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** That is okay. Thank you. Do you have visibility of how many grants are given out annually to the Aboriginal community infrastructure program?

**Kevin DEVLIN:** Not specifically.

**Melissa HORNE:** No, not specifically. It is just there is a grants program that is allocated.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Okay. Is that something you can provide on notice?

**Melissa HORNE:** We can certainly go away and have a look.

**Priscilla RADICE:** We can break that down for you.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Thank you – particularly the number for the 2024–25 financial year would be great. Just staying on these two funds, can I ask how much of the MHIF and the RHIF was allocated to community health services for 2024–25?

**Melissa HORNE:** I do not believe that we have that granular level of detail.

**Kevin DEVLIN:** We do not have that breakdown.

**Priscilla RADICE:** We do not have it on us, but we should be able to provide it to you.

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**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Sure. Yes. That is all right. Thank you. And again, if there is a dollar figure for what proportion that was of the overall funding, that would be great to know.

**Priscilla RADICE:** We will provide what we can in that space. There are a range of different grant programs, and some are suitable for some applicants and not for others. So we will be really clear around which grant programs are actually suitable for which applicants.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** Thank you. Just on those applications, is there a prescribed set of guidelines that is used to assess those applications? If so, can that be provided to the committee?

**Priscilla RADICE:** So there are guidelines that are worked through with the Department of Health, and there is a full committee that works through the assessment that has been made on a statewide basis, because you need to prioritise across a range of different applications. There are very set, careful criteria, in terms of the type of asset that it is, its need in that local area, what the alternatives are and where it is at end of life. There are a range of things to come together, and that is done with experts from across the system as a committee.

**Aiv PUGLIELLI:** So is there an exhaustive list of those criteria that you can provide?

**Priscilla RADICE:** It depends on the circumstances. So we will provide the overarching criteria.

**SOURCE:** Transcript – page 12

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ASKING QUESTION:** Aiv Puglielli

**HEARING DATE & TIME:** 4:05pm Friday 6 June 2025

**Responsible Division/Agency:** VHBA

**RESPONSE****Answer:**

Information on the criteria for the grants programs administered by VHBA are publicly accessible. ACCHOs may apply for and be awarded grants funding under these programs if they meet the program criteria. Once the grants allocations are finalised, they are placed on the VHBA website.

**Source Reference:**

<https://www.vhba.vic.gov.au/resources/grant-programs>