

2025-26 Victorian State Budget

The Hon. Natalie Hutchins MP

Minister for Women

5 June 2025



Families,
Fairness
and Housing

Portfolio overview

The Women's portfolio:

- › Leads whole-of-government strategic policy to drive gender equality
- › Delivers policy and programs to support women's leadership, economic participation, health, wellbeing and safety
- › Implements and oversees the *Gender Equality Act 2020*
- › Influences reforms and investment across government to prioritise outcomes for women.

The 2025/26 State Budget invests \$1 million over 2 years

in the Women's portfolio, to continue celebrating Victorian women's achievements and community leadership through the Victorian Honour Roll of Women.



Key achievements over the past 12 months

- › Marked one year of **Our equal state: Victoria's second gender equality strategy, and action plan**, with whole-of-Victorian-government investments including:
 - » Continuing to support families with Free Kinder for three and four-year-olds.
 - » Launching 5 of 20 new women's health clinics increasing access to free and comprehensive care.
 - » Reformed legislation to enshrine gender responsive budgeting.
 - » Launched ***Making it equal: Victoria's women in manufacturing strategy* to attract and retain more women in the manufacturing industry.**
- › Began rolling out **free pads and tampons** through vending machines located in public places across the state.
- › Launched a second round of the ground-breaking **Victorian Women's Public Art Program** to increase the visibility of women's achievements.
- › Inducted **21 women** into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women.
- › The Commissioner released **insights from 2023 workplace gender equality audits**.
- › Announced Melbourne as the host of the **Women Deliver's Global Conference in 2026**.



Spotlight: Free Pads & Tampons in public places

Pads and tampons aren't a luxury. They are essential to health and wellbeing. Victorians should be able to access them whenever and wherever they need to.

- › Our nation-leading \$23 million commitment to provide free pads and tampons across Victoria is now in its delivery phase.
- › As at 3 June, 185 vending machines have been installed across Victoria, providing over 38,000 packets of period products to Victorians who need them.
- › The program is providing access to products across metropolitan, regional and rural areas, which is reducing period poverty by providing cost-of-living relief.



Portfolio priorities for the year ahead

- › Continue roll out of the free pads and tampons election commitment
- › Construct 6 new public artworks honouring women in locations across metropolitan and regional Victoria
- › Support women in the workplace at work through the Safe Workplaces for Women initiative
- › Support the next generation of women leaders in Victoria with our leadership programs, along with inducting the next round of women into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women
- › Welcome more than 6,500 delegates from across the world to Melbourne for the Women Deliver Conference in 2026
- › Ongoing implementation of *Our equal state: Victoria's gender equality strategy and action plan 2023-2027*
- › Address gender inequality in the public service by working with the Commissioner for Gender Equality in the Public Service to improve outcomes on our key targets of leadership, pay and parental leave



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