

2025–26 Victorian State Budget

Vicki Ward MP
Minister for Equality

3 June 2025



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.



Accessibility statement and publisher information

To receive this presentation in another format email DFFH PAEC <dffhpaec@dffh.vic.gov.au>.

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

© State of Victoria, Australia, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, June 2025.

Except where otherwise indicated, the images in this presentation show models and illustrative settings only, and do not necessarily depict actual services, facilities or recipients of services. This presentation may contain images of deceased Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

In this presentation, 'Aboriginal' refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. 'Indigenous' or 'Koori/Koorie' is retained when part of the title of a report, program or quotation.

Available at <<https://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/inquiries/inquiry-into-the-2025-26-budget-estimates/hearings>>.