



**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**

2011-12 BUDGET ESTIMATES QUESTIONNAIRE

PART A

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

28 April 2011



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## PART A: Non-Budget-sensitive information

### 1. Strategic priorities

#### Question 1.1

What are the Department's key strategic priorities that underpin its budget for 2011-12 and over the forward estimates to 2014-15?

#### DEPARTMENT

The department's mission is to support and deliver a just, safe and fair Victoria.

The department has six key objectives:

1. Provide excellence in service delivery
2. Lead whole-of government emergency management
3. Lead whole-of-government crime prevention
4. Ensure responsible regulation
5. Manage the Justice Service Portfolio, and
6. Manage capacity and demand for correctional services.

The key priorities underpinning the budget for the department relate to implementation of the government's election commitments and managing demand pressures in the Justice Service Portfolio, addressing in particular:

- Successfully implementing sentencing reforms
- Taking a comprehensive approach to tackling crime and crime prevention
- Creating and transitioning to a new Courts Executive Service
- Establishing an independent Freedom of Information (FOI) Commissioner
- Integrating the administration of gambling and liquor licensing through the creation of the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation
- Establishing the Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation
- Ensuring correctional services has the capacity to effectively manage prisoners and offenders
- Supporting the delivery of additional police and Protective Services Officers (Transport)
- Leading or supporting the implementation of all the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission recommendations
- Supporting Emergency Services Volunteers
- Supporting the growth and development of the Racing Industry
- Supporting the establishment of a Judicial Complaints Commission
- Supporting the establishment and leading the implementation of an Independent Broad-Based Anti-Corruption Commission, and
- Supporting operations and policies that protect and promote the interests of consumers.

## VICTORIA POLICE

Victoria Police's key strategic priorities for 2011-12 are based on the priorities enunciated in *The Way Ahead 2008-2013*. These priorities are A Safer Victoria, Connecting the Community and Valuing our People.

A Safer Victoria focuses on reducing crime, especially volume crime which impacts most heavily on the community (and which includes assaults, residential burglaries and thefts of and from motor vehicles) and reducing road trauma (both fatalities and serious injuries).

Operational priorities are developed each year following a Statewide Strategic Assessment, which considers all of the emerging risks based on contemporary intelligence and community feedback. These annual operational priorities are closely linked to the strategic priorities outlined in *The Way Ahead 2008-13*.

New priorities underpinning the budget into 2011-12 and over the forward estimates relevant to Victoria Police are:

- Taking a comprehensive approach to tackling crime and crime prevention
- Accelerating delivery of 1700 additional police (includes 100 transit police)
- Delivery of 940 Protective Services Officers (Transport) (PSOT's), and
- Delivering associated infrastructure for additional Police and PSOT's.

## Question 1.2

If applicable, how do these priorities differ from the previous year?

### DEPARTMENT

The previous budget (2010/11) listed (page 135 of BP3) a number of immediate challenges facing the department including:

- Implementing the recommendations of the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission
- Restructuring the gambling industry and supporting a sustainable racing industry
- Addressing public safety and crime
- Intervening to minimise social harm from alcohol misuse
- Reducing the costs of justice and creating an engaged and unified court system, and
- Reducing the levels of disadvantage and overrepresentation of Indigenous Australians in the criminal justice system.

These challenges remain today but the approach to address them has changed with the change in government.

The government has committed to wide ranging reforms in sentencing, including:

- Reforming bail laws
- Abolition of suspended sentences
- Abolition of home detention
- Reforming double jeopardy law
- Reform of minimum sentencing for serious crime, and
- Introducing a single, comprehensive and flexible Community Correction Order.

Court reforms and addressing court demand now involves strengthening the independence of the Courts system with the establishment of the Courts Executive Service, transitioning management of Victoria's Courts out of the Department of Justice and into an independent entity and establishment of a Judicial Complaints Commission.

A comprehensive approach to community safety and crime prevention will apply, including:

- Accelerated delivery of additional police numbers
- Delivery of Protective Services Officers (Transport)
- Community Crime Prevention initiatives (grants, Neighbourhood Watch)
- Preventing and targeting crime at night hotspots in the Central Business District and regional locations
- Community education initiatives promoting responsible behaviour
- Zero tolerance approach to graffiti
- New laws to protect children from violence
- Addressing alcohol related violence, and
- Providing additional capacity in the corrections system.

The department will work with Justice Portfolio agencies and across whole-of-government to implement these new approaches.

The government has committed to implementing each and every recommendation made by the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, including additional funding for the establishment of Neighbourhood Safer Places, improving the safety of electrical assets in

areas of risk and a land buyback scheme in areas of unacceptably high bushfire risk. This requires further resources and stronger cross-departmental collaboration, with Justice providing a leading role in the whole-of-government emergency management approach.

A range of new measures will be introduced to combat public drunkenness and maintaining public order including increasing the infringement penalty for drunk and disorderly behaviour; new offences for re-entering or remaining in the vicinity of licensed premises, changes to licensing conditions, and encouraging a culture of personal responsibility in relation to alcohol.

In recognising racing as a major contributor to the Victorian economy, the Government will return 100% of unclaimed wagering dividends to the racing industry providing funding for infrastructure and other industry development projects, including facilities at racing and training venues throughout the State, including support for jumps racing and grassroots racing at picnic venues. From 1 July 2011, all wagering taxes derived from on-course totalisator (TAB) bets will be allocated back to the racing industry. The Government is also committed to licence arrangements for the new post 2012 wagering and betting licence that are no less favourable for the Victorian Racing Industry for the full term of the new licence.

In addition to these new approaches, new priorities exist in relation to freedom of information (FOI), anti-corruption, and tackling problem gambling. An independent office of the Freedom of Information Commissioner will be established to oversee administration of FOI including all internal reviews of FOI requests giving the FOI Commissioner direct power over FOI officers. An Independent Broad Based Anti-Corruption Commission will be established to increase transparency, integrity and scrutiny of government. A Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation will be established to commission research into problem gambling, contract problem gambling counselling and support services, and develop appropriate problem gambling communication and education campaigns.

## VICTORIA POLICE

Whilst *The Way Ahead 2008-2013* provides consistent priorities for Victoria Police through to 2013, the realisation of these priorities will encompass the government's focus.

The main priority shifts for Victoria Police relate to implementation, namely:

- Taking a comprehensive approach to tackling crime and crime prevention
- Accelerating delivery of 1700 additional police (includes 100 transit police)
- Delivery of 940 Protective Services Officers (Transport) (PSOT's), and
- Delivery of associated infrastructure for additional Police and PSOT's

The government's commitment to increase police numbers into 2011-12, and over the forward estimates, accelerates the deployment of additional police and now features a public transport safety focus in two ways:

1. A Protective Services Officers (Transport) (PSOT's) force to provide security after 6pm at every major metropolitan train station and regional centres, and
2. An additional 100 Police for the Transit Safety Division to patrol the train, tram and bus networks.

## 2. Budget preparation

### Question 2.1

- (a) Does your Department estimate the cost of providing input into the process of developing the State Budget?

Department – No

Victoria Police – No

- (b) If so, what are the cost centres involved e.g. preparation of budget bids; preparation, internal reviews and approvals of business cases; servicing the Budget Expenditure Review Committee?

Department – Not applicable

Victoria Police – Not applicable

- (c) If it is possible to do so, what is the Department's estimate of the cost of work undertaken as part of the preparation of the 2011-12 Budget (please provide a breakdown according to key tasks if possible). For the Department of Treasury and Finance, please provide a breakdown that differentiates between the part of the Department that provides input as a department and the part of the Department that manages the budget process as a whole on behalf of the Government.

#### DEPARTMENT

The department does not maintain a separate cost centre nor estimate the cost of providing input into the process of developing the State budget as the activity is integrated into the administrative processes right across the department from corporate to program areas.

The budget process is regarded as an essential and necessary part of managing the operations of the department, which includes effective demand management for all services.

Over the years, the department has focused on producing strategic, good quality and highly evidenced based budget bids and business cases that meet the priorities of government. The department also has a very rigorous implementation monitoring and report back program to ensure the initiatives are implemented on time and within budget.

As such, it is difficult to quantify or estimate the cost of work undertaken as part of the preparation of the budget as a stand-alone activity, i.e. it is difficult to distinguish budget specific activity from planning and general administrative activity. As such, any estimate would be unreliable for comparative purposes. The department would require very specific guidelines on how an estimate should be formed.

#### VICTORIA POLICE

As per the department's response.

- (d) What is the estimated expenditure incurred for the engagement of consultants by the Department to assist in the preparation of items considered for the State Budget for 2011-12?

**DEPARTMENT**

None. All items for the 2011-12 submissions were prepared by Department of Justice staff with no external consultants engaged.

**VICTORIA POLICE**

None. All items for the 2011-12 submissions were prepared by internal Victoria Police staff with no external consultants engaged.

**Contact details**

Department: JUSTICE

Contact Officer: PHIL D'ADAMO

Position: DIRECTOR – PLANNING PERFORMANCE AND PROJECTS UNIT

Contact Information: Telephone: (03) 8684 1530

Fax: (03) 8684 1555

E-mail: phil.d'adamo@justice.vic.gov.au

The completed questionnaire must be returned in two parts:

**PART A: by 5:00 pm, Thursday, 28 April 2011**

**PART B: by 5:00pm, Wednesday, 4 May 2011**

Please return the response (**including an electronic Word version**) of the questionnaire to:

Ms Valerie Cheong

Executive Officer

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Level 3, 55 St Andrews Place

EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Telephone: (03) 8682 2863

Fax: (03) 8682 2898

Email: paec@parliament.vic.gov.au

For inquiries on this questionnaire, please contact the Executive Officer or:

Christopher Gribbin

Ian Claessen

Senior Research Officer

Research Officer

(03) 8682 2865

(03) 8682 2861