PAEC 2024-25 Financial and Performance Outcomes Hearing

24 November 2025 – Parliament of Victoria
Response to Questions Taken on Notice

Question 1

How many of the security incidents and threats have been against Members of Parliament and how many have been against members of staff at precinct and electorate offices? Can you please give the information regarding security incidents based on severity.

The Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) does not maintain separate data distinguishing incidents or threats directed at Members of Parliament from those aimed at others for example electorate and/or parliamentary officers.

All incidents reported at an electorate office, are considered directed at the Member, as the office represents the Member and is their workplace.

Protests held at Parliament House are not classified as threats or security incidents directed at individuals. These demonstrations are generally aimed at the institution of Parliament itself or occur because Parliament House is a common and visible venue for public protest.

Incidents are not rated on a severity scale. Severity reporting is inherently subjective, as it reflects both the perception of the individual experiencing and reporting the incident and actual or potential outcomes from the conduct. As an alternative indicator of severity, we note that in the 2024–25 reporting year, DPS escalated 26 security matters to the Victorian Fixated Threat Assessment Centre (VFTAC), a specialist unit within Victoria Police handling cases involving fixated individuals. A further 12 matters were referred to Victoria Police's Security Investigation Unit (SIU) for assessment.

Incident and protest data

LOCATION	2024–25	VFTAC referrals	SIU referrals
Precinct*	84		
Electorate offices	302		
Total	386	26	12

Precinct includes Parliament House, Ministerial Offices, 55SAP and 157 Spring St and Treasury Reserve

Question 2

Please share information about the process to identify a solution for the Parliament House perimeter security works. What risks were identified in the scoping and what solution is being implemented.

In general terms, the aim of security control measures is the mitigate the risk of an incident occurring and limit the impact of an incident should it occur. The Parliament House grounds, which almost entirely surround Parliament House, create a challenging environment to mitigate security risk – unlike for example a building with walls forming its perimeter and with defined entry and exit points.

By implementing surveillance technology around the perimeter of the Parliament House grounds, it is possible to deter potential threats and detect breaches earlier. This enables security personnel to respond more quickly to any incidents.

Question 3

How many cyber breaches were there in 2024-25? Please also provide the number of cyber-attacks on Parliament network. What are the current cybersecurity risk maturity ratings?

While a number of cyber incidents were detected (e.g. staff responding to a phishing email or the download and attempted installation of malware infected software), none resulted in unauthorised access to systems/information or destruction of data.

There are occasional spikes in the number of threats blocked, however we typically block more than 80,000 suspicious emails per day, including over 150 advanced threats such as phishing/business email compromise and malware. Our firewalls also block an average of around 4.9 million connection attempts daily.

The overarching operational risks relating to cybersecurity are both rated at 'Moderate' level. A mix of both preventative, detective and mitigating controls are continuously monitored and enhanced in response to the changing environment.

Question 4

Provide reason for Total Estimated Investment (TEI) on Electorate Office Safety and Security Upgrades has increased from $13.928m at announcement to $17.594m at 30 June 2025 (26.35% increase)?

The Electorate Office Safety and Security Upgrades project was approved in the 2020-21 Budget for the relocation of non-compliant electorate offices to new offices that meet the Electorate Office Accommodation Standards with required security overlays.

The relocation of electorate offices is now an ongoing program of works for which an annual funding of $1.222 million has been approved. As the program is delivered progressively with a funding allocation that is updated each year, the Total Estimated Investment (TEI) reflects the cumulative total over time. The increase from $13.928 million at announcement to $17.594 million as at 30 June 2025 (26.35%) is attributable to the addition of several annual funding provisions to the revised aggregate figure, which will continue to grow each year.

Question 5

Do you collect language groups and disaggregate language groups as part of booked tours data collection? What other kinds of data are you collecting?

Public (non-booked) tours
The Tours and Customer Service Unit does not presently log where public tour attendees are from, or languages spoken. The visitor management system has that functionality, but it slows down visitor registration considerably. We get some data through the optional visitor feedback forms, which shows a broad range of language groups used by visitors. This is useful to a point, but as the form is optional, it is not a reliable source of data.

Booked tours
The tour booking database does not capture languages used by tour groups.

The system records the broad category of tour group booking the tour:
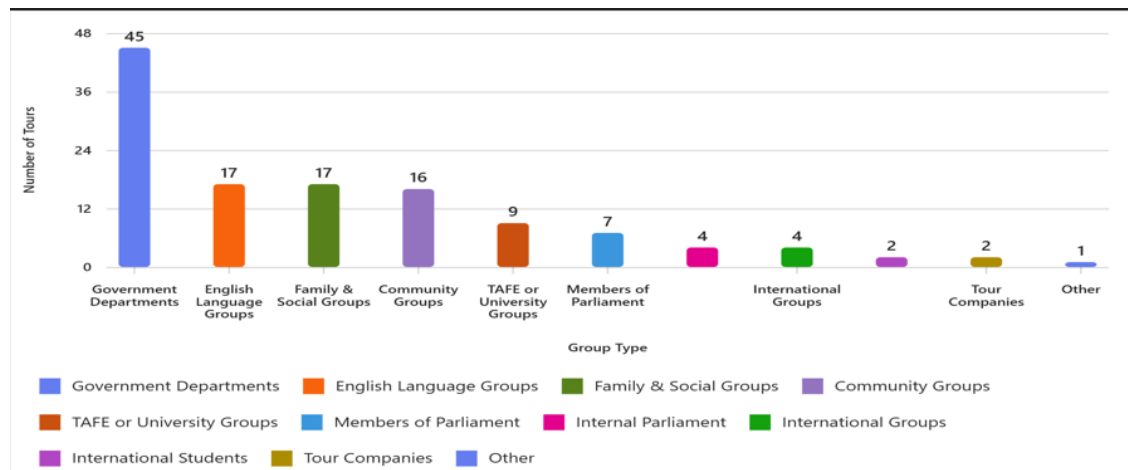
Question 6

How many people can now fit in the Legislative Assembly Gallery compared to before?

The Assembly's upper gallery capacity is now 25 adults, or 30 school children.