



2022-23 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Budget Estimates Hearing

The Hon. Natalie Hutchins
Minister for Corrections

Wednesday 18 May 2022



Corrections system overview



6,000+

People employed
within corrections
and justice services



6,675

People in prison in
Victoria
at 9 May 2022



9,517

People in Victoria
on parole, supervised
orders, court reparation
orders at 9 May 2022



44%

Of people in prison
as at 9 May are
on remand



15

Facilities in Victoria –
**11 publicly operated
prisons, 3 privately
operated prisons,
1 transition centre**

Corrections system overview



\$1.826
billion

Total output budget
for the Corrections
portfolio for 2022-23



\$75
million

Provided to the Corrections
portfolio in the 2022-23 Budget
to reduce future justice demand
and keep the community safe



\$2.1
billion

Value of major prison
infrastructure
projects currently
underway



\$54
million

Provided in the 2022-23 Budget
for the Corrections COVID-19
response



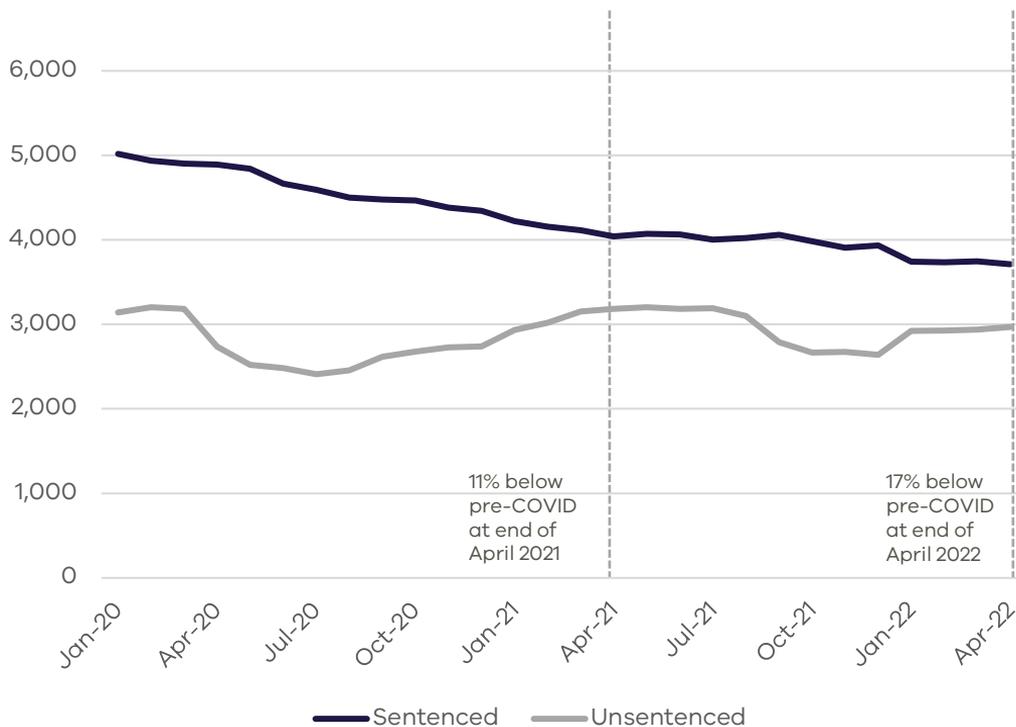


System demand

Prison demand has **decreased** over the past two years.

The increase in proportion of unsentenced prisoners has been due to the falls in the number of sentenced prisoners

End of Month Prison Population Figures by Warrant Status



Budget in 2022-23

A total of \$165 million was provided for initiatives in the Corrections portfolio, including:



Reducing reoffending

- Initiatives to reduce reoffending and support people in prison, including:
 - rehabilitation and reintegration support
 - disability supports
 - family programs
 - employment and mentoring opportunities
 - Improved oversight of people on CCOs.



Support for ageing people in prison

- **\$2.5 million** to deliver supports to the ageing prison population:
 - personal care services
 - aged care consult service and specialist aged care transition service.



Youth Forensic Mental Health Service

- **\$1.5 million** to plan and design a youth forensic mental health service in correctional centres.
- The service will cater to young people aged between 18 and 25.

Budget in 2022-23

A total of \$165 million was provided for initiatives in the Corrections portfolio, including:



Western Plains Correctional Centre

- **\$39.5 million** to secure and maintain the Western Plains Correctional Centre and prepare for operationalisation.
- Construction of the Centre is on track to be completed in the second half of 2022.



Responding to COVID-19

- **\$54.3 million** for costs incurred in 2021-22 responding to COVID-19 in prisons. Includes measures to:
 - prevent and control COVID-19 transmission in custodial facilities
 - mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 restrictions on prisoners.



Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility

- **\$21 million** to continue providing short term accommodation and transitional support for men exiting the prison system at the Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility.

Reducing reoffending

The corrections system plays a critical role in reducing reoffending.

The 2021-22 expected outcome for the rate of return to prison within two years is **37.7 per cent**; 5.9 points lower than the 2020-21 result (43.6 per cent) and a better result than targeted (41 per cent).

The 2022-23 Budget allocated \$75.4 million for initiatives to reduce reoffending and support people in prison. Key initiatives include:

- **\$3.6 million** to support the **Women and Mentoring program**.
- **\$21.1 million** for **rehabilitation and reintegration** support for sentenced prisoners
- \$8.3 million to continue the **Prison Disability Support Initiative** to support the rehabilitation of prisoners with disability and their transition back into the community
- \$3.4 million to expand the **Family Visits Program** to men's prisons which encourages repairing relationships and assists with reunification of family units
- \$7.7 million for **employment hubs** at minimum and medium security facilities to support people at all stages of the employment journey
- \$1.4 million for **improved oversight** of people on Community Corrections Orders.





Keeping the system safe

The prison and community corrections systems have **continued to manage COVID-19 safely**, with the health and wellbeing of staff and offenders at the core of the approach. This includes:

- Rolling out an on-site custodial COVID-19 vaccination program for staff and people in prison
- Providing additional wellbeing support for people in quarantine
- Enhanced use of IT for visits

84%

Proportion of people in prison who have received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine

As at 10 May 2022

84%

Proportion of eligible people in prison who have received three doses of COVID-19 vaccine

As at 10 May 2022

83%

Proportion of eligible Aboriginal people in prison who have received three doses of COVID-19 vaccine

As at 10 May 2022

30,000+

Vaccines delivered by the custodial on-site COVID-19 vaccination program

between 7 June 2021 and 10 May 2022

18,000+

Wellbeing support sessions in public and private prisons

between 1 July 2021 and 9 May 2022

340,000+

Video visits conducted

between 1 May 2020 and 28 February 2022 across public and private prisons



Thank you.

