
Government Responses to the Recommendations of PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND ESTIMATES COMMITTEE'S 66th Report on the 2005-2006 Budget Estimates

Pursuant to Section 36 of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003*, this paper provides a response to the recommendations contained in the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee's (PAEC) 66th Report.

Guide for Readers:

Following is the explanation of the format of this paper.

1 Chapter number and topic			
2 Responsibility			
1 PAEC Recommendation	2 Response	3 Action Taken to Date	4 Further Action Planned

Row 1: Indicates the number and topic of the response to the PAEC recommendations.

Row 2: Indicates the Department with primary responsibility for responding to the recommendation as outlined in the PAEC Report.

Column 1: Contains the PAEC's recommendations as published in its 66th Report.

Column 2: Indicates the Government's response to each recommendation (**Accept, Accept in part/principle, Under Review or Reject**).

Column 3: Indicates those actions relevant to the implementation of the recommendation that have been taken to date.

Column 4: Indicates the additional actions planned that are relevant to implementation of the recommendation, together with an explanation of the Government's position concerning the recommendation.

CHAPTER 2: GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE PAEC REPORT NO. 66 – 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES

RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS BUDGET ESTIMATES REPORTS

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p>• Recommendation 1 (page 93)</p>			
<p>The government reconsider recommendations nos. 1, 3, 4, 8, 15, 18, 32, 37, 49, 69, 100, 129 and 153 in the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee's Report on the 2004 05 Budget Estimates in light of the Committee's further comments in exhibit 2.2.</p>			
<p><i>59th Report – Recommendation 1</i> (page 93) The Parliamentary Departments adopt a recruitment policy that is consistent with the requirements applicable to the broader Victorian public service.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>Parliamentary departments have implemented a recruitment policy that meets the requirements of the Parliament. Following translation to the VPS career structure, all positions within Parliament have been documented and classified on the basis of VPS-wide descriptors, and all positions are appropriately advertised to attract the best possible candidates. Parliament recruitment processes meet all relevant legislative requirements.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
<p><i>59th Report – Recommendation 3</i> (page 96) The Department of Education and Training provide a consolidated statement in its Annual Report of expenditure on school capital projects and maintenance programs that separately identifies budgeted and actual expenditure directed to the construction of new schools, upgrades, modernisation and maintenance programs.</p>	<p>Reject</p>	<p>This information is publicly available in Budget Information Paper No 1, <i>Public Sector Asset Investment Program</i>. The Budget Information Paper lists major asset investment projects for the budget year as either existing or new. For existing projects continuing into the new budget year, information is provided on the total estimated investment for each project, expenditure to date, expected expenditure for the budget year and remaining expenditure. For each new project, information is provided on the total estimated investment, expected expenditure for the budget year and remaining expenditure. Budget and expenditure information on maintenance at program level would be inconsistent with the level of reporting provided in the annual report.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>

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<p><i>59th Report – Recommendation 4 (page 97)</i></p> <p>The Department of Education and Training include in the Training and Further Education output an additional quality performance measure relating to the percentage of apprentices/trainees that qualify for the completion bonus.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The Department of Education and Training is investigating whether an appropriate methodology can be developed to enable the production of data which is sufficiently robust to provide an accurate assessment of the effectiveness of the completion bonus program. It should be noted that the Department of Education and Training does not control many of the factors influencing employment decisions of apprentices, trainees and employers.</p>	<p>Once the investigation is complete, the Department of Education and Training will determine how to proceed.</p>
<p><i>59th Report – Recommendation 15 (page 145)</i></p> <p>The Department of Treasury and Finance direct all departments to explain the discontinuation of outputs and performance measures as detailed in Budget Paper No. 3 <i>Service Delivery</i>.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>Outputs and performance measures are reviewed annually for their continued relevance and robustness.</p> <p>Consistent with the Government's ongoing commitment to improve accountability and performance, the Department of Treasury and Finance requires departments to provide a summary of, and explanatory text for changes to their output structure, which is published in Budget Paper No.3, <i>Service Delivery</i>.</p> <p>Similarly, all discontinued departmental outputs and performance measures are published in an appendix to Budget Paper No.3, <i>Service Delivery</i>. The Department of Treasury and Finance encourages departments to provide explanation for changes in performance measures and targets where material or otherwise significant.</p>	<p>The Department of Treasury and Finance will continue to work together with Departments to enhance and improve the disclosure and explanation for the discontinuation of outputs and performance measures.</p>

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<p><i>59th Report – Recommendation 18 (page 152)</i></p> <p>The Department of Treasury and Finance require each department to indicate in the departmental output statements, the Minister responsible for each of the department's outputs.</p>	<p>Reject</p>	<p>In the 2005-06 Budget Papers the Ministerial portfolios that the departments supported were presented in the departmental output statements.</p> <p>Consistent with the whole of government's <i>Growing Victoria Together</i> framework, elements of individual outputs can include areas of different Ministerial responsibility. It is therefore not considered feasible to report on individual outputs in terms of specific Ministerial responsibilities. Ministerial portfolios and responsibilities can be found in departmental annual reports.</p> <p>The <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>, Section 40 requires a description of goods and services provided by the department to be published in the annual Budget Papers. The Budget Papers satisfy this requirement.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
<p><i>59th Report – Recommendation 32 (page 185)</i></p> <p>The Department of Education and Training include in the Budget Papers and its Annual Report the amount of funding separately allocated to:</p> <p>(a) primary schools; and</p> <p>(b) secondary schools.</p>	<p>Reject</p>	<p>It would be inappropriate and impractical to maintain and report on data relating to a superseded output structure.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
<p><i>59th Report – Recommendation 37 (page 202)</i></p> <p>The Department of Education and Training include in its Annual Report details of the method used to calculate the savings in maintenance derived by expending funds on capital works.</p>	<p>Reject</p>	<p>The inclusion of details on the methodology used to estimate the expected savings in maintenance, by increasing capital investment is outside the scope of current annual reporting requirements.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>

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PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p><i>59th Report – Recommendation 49 (page 251)</i></p> <p>To enable an informed assessment to be made of the quality of health services delivered by Victoria's public hospital system, that can also be further utilised for budget deliberations, the range of performance measures contained in the Budget Papers be expanded to include areas currently reported by individual public health services such as infection control, medication errors, falls and pressure wound prevention and management and continuity of care.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>Outputs and associated performance measures are reviewed and refined on an annual basis by the Department of Human Services as part of the government's budget cycle. This includes an analysis of linkages to and alignment with departmental objectives and the outcomes sought by the government. The content and structure of Budget papers is at the discretion of the Treasurer.</p> <p>Detailed performance information that enables informed judgements of the quality of acute and sub-acute patient services (elective and non-elective) provided at Victorian metropolitan and rural public hospitals is provided through a range of published reports which are available to the Victorian public. The areas reported on in these publications are reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance. Individual public health services also publish detailed reports on other areas of interest noted in the Committee's recommendation. Ongoing work is being undertaken to improve reporting and analysis at a local level to ensure adverse events are prevented or appropriately responded to.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
<p><i>59th Report – Recommendation 69 (page 298)</i></p> <p>The Department of Human Services disclose the costs associated with the Home Ownership and Renovation Assistance output in its Annual Report.</p>	<p>Accept in part</p>	<p>Home Ownership and Renovation Assistance operating costs are disclosed in the Statement of Financial Performance section of the Department of Human Services Annual Report under the heading <i>Home finance operating costs</i> and detailed information is published annually in the <i>Summary of Housing Assistance</i>.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>

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RESPONSES TO PREVIOUS BUDGET ESTIMATES REPORTS

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p><i>59th Report – Recommendation 100 (page 424)</i></p> <p>Victoria Police adopt a broader Occupational Health and Safety reporting framework that specifically identifies its progress in addressing its most significant areas of workers compensation claims.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Victoria Police has adopted the reporting framework developed by the occupational health and safety (OHS) Senior Roundtable and agreed to publish results annually. This reporting framework is designed to enable comparison with other organisations on a range of agreed key performance indicators (KPIs). The KPIs measure the most significant areas of workers compensation claims including the number, rate and duration of claims. (Refer to page 24 of the Victoria Police Annual Report 2004-05).</p> <p>A significantly more detailed reporting framework has been adopted for internal use, enabling enhanced accountability, trend analysis, monitoring and the refinement and tailoring of programs and services. This latter reporting framework is also used as a basis for regular reports to Department of Treasury and Finance.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
<p><i>59th Report – Recommendation 129 (page 534)</i></p> <p>The Department of Primary Industries expand the performance measures contained in the Budget Papers covering the Agriculture portfolio.</p>	<p>Under review</p>	<p>In preparation for the 2005-06 Budget Papers, the Department of Primary Industries reviewed and reformed its output structure to ensure that it clearly describes the Department's key activities and services and reflects the outputs delivered on behalf of Government. In doing so, it has shifted the emphasis from describing performance measures according to industry sector, and as a result measures covering the Agriculture portfolio are included across all four Department of Primary Industries outputs. As part of this review, the Department of Primary Industries ensured the performance measures were both relevant and covered sufficient scope of the services delivered, while still being measurable and reasonable in terms of administrative requirements.</p>	<p>As part of every performance reporting and budget cycle, the Department reconsiders the appropriateness and scope of performance measures to ensure they reasonably reflect the services delivered, but are still measurable and within administrative capabilities.</p>
<p><i>59th Report – Recommendation 153 (page 631)</i></p> <p>The Department of Treasury and Finance ensure public reporting on compliance and certification outcomes generated annually under the Financial Compliance Management Framework.</p>	<p>Reject</p>	<p>The Financial Management Compliance Framework is an internal reporting mechanism to assist Government in continuing to achieve best practice financial management. As such, it is considered that the publication of annual compliance and certification outcomes is inappropriate.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken by the Department.</p>

CHAPTER 4: GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE PAEC REPORT NO. 66 – 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES

PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p>• Recommendation 2 (page 118)</p>			
<p>The Presiding Officers give consideration to reinstating the practice of providing carry over funding for those parliamentary committees that can justify the retention of funds on the basis of their continuing work program.</p>	<p>Reject</p>	<p>Presiding Officers approve Parliament budgets in a manner consistent with public sector-wide principles. Across the public sector, annual carryover of budgets require the Treasurer's approval. Consistent with Government funding policy, carryovers will not be approved except in exceptional circumstances. Work programs will continue to be funded from appropriations for the year in which they are undertaken.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 3 (page 120)</p>			
<p>The annual report of the Department of Parliamentary Services contain information on the management of funds applied under the Parliament Heritage Asset Strategic Management Plan and on how the plan has led to enhanced maintenance of Parliament House as a heritage asset of Victoria.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The Department of Parliamentary Services will report progress on the implementation of the Parliament Heritage Asset Strategic Management Plan in its Annual Report.</p>	<p>Progress will be reported in annual reports.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 4 (page 120)</p>			
<p>The annual report of the Department of Parliamentary Services include information on the performance outcome of its administrative reforms in terms of improved services and adherence to the cost neutral target.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The administrative reforms have been implemented within the Department of Parliamentary Services with a cost neutral focus.</p>	<p>Any significant issues relating to the administrative reforms within the Department of Parliamentary Services will be reported within the Annual Report.</p>

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PARLIAMENTARY DEPARTMENTS

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
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• **Recommendation 5** (page 122)

<p>The Department of Parliamentary Services implement, within a reasonable timeframe, a suitable model to periodically benchmark the services of Victoria's Parliamentary Library against those of its counterparts in New South Wales and Queensland.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>Preliminary work has started on developing benchmarking protocols to compare Parliamentary Libraries. This work is taking place through the Australasian Parliamentary Libraries Association.</p>	<p>Victoria's Parliamentary Library will continue to work within the Australasian Parliamentary Libraries Association framework to agree on benchmarking protocols that will allow meaningful analysis of library services in different jurisdictions.</p>
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CHAPTER 5: GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE PAEC REPORT NO. 66 – 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
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• **Recommendation 6** (page 134)

The Department of Education and Training provide reasons in Budget Paper No.3 for discontinuing performance measures.	Accept in principle	The Department of Education and Training is holding discussions with the Department of Treasury and Finance about including footnotes in the 2006-07 Budget Papers to explain the reasons for any discontinuation of performance measures.	Subject to discussion with by the Department of Treasury and Finance, explanations for the discontinuation of performance measures will be included in the Budget Papers.
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• **Recommendation 7** (page 136)

The Department of Education and Training:			
(a) update the list of key risks to include the supply of teachers for difficult to fill vacancies; and	Reject	The Department of Education and Training's view is that, as a result of the effectiveness of current teacher supply strategies in addressing difficult to fill vacancies, this is not currently a key risk.	The Department of Education and Training will continue to monitor this issue.
(b) regularly monitor and report on the success of initiatives to address this issue.	Accept in principle	The Department of Education and Training has conducted preliminary evaluations of two of its key teacher supply initiatives, the Teaching Scholarship Scheme and Career Change Program. The two programs were modified accordingly to improve their effectiveness. Further detailed evaluations of these programs and other teacher supply initiatives are planned for 2006. Results from evaluations will be incorporated into the ongoing monitoring of these initiatives through a range of measures, including an annual survey of difficult to fill vacancies. Reports on these initiatives are included in the annual report. Other opportunities for reporting on the success of these initiatives are being explored.	The Department of Education and Training will continue to monitor and report on this issue.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p>• Recommendation 8 (page 137)</p>			
<p>The Department of Education and Training ensure the initiatives contained in the Teacher Supply and Demand for Government Schools statement are adequate to address the current and future level of hard to fill vacancies.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The Department of Education and Training has conducted preliminary evaluations of two of its key teacher supply initiatives, the Teaching Scholarship Scheme and Career Change Program. The two programs were modified accordingly to improve their effectiveness. Further detailed evaluations of these programs and other teacher supply initiatives are planned for 2006.</p> <p>The findings of these evaluations will be considered as part of internal workforce planning.</p>	<p>The Department of Education and Training will continue to monitor this issue.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 9 (page138)</p>			
<p>The Department of Education and Training include the capacity to provide key workforce supply and demand data (such as actual number teaching by subject; attrition rates by subject; and graduates employed by secondary teaching subject area) as part of the proposed human resources management system upgrade.</p>	<p>Under review</p>	<p>As part of internal workforce planning and the human resources management system upgrade, the Department of Education and Training is examining workforce data and data gaps and the feasibility of collecting additional workforce data.</p> <p>The recommendations of PAEC will be considered as part of this process.</p>	<p>The Department of Education and Training will continue to focus on data issues as part of its ongoing workforce planning.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 10 (page139)</p>			
<p>The Department of Education and Training publicly report on the general level of unmet school maintenance and particularly the level of unmet urgent maintenance.</p>	<p>Reject</p>	<p>The Department of Education and Training undertakes maintenance audits to provide schools with professional advice so that they might better plan and implement their maintenance programs. This process provides schools with an accurate and detailed list of urgent maintenance items, as well as a detailed listing of other items which may be planned for completion in future years. As the responsibility for maintenance is managed at the individual school level, the Department of Education and Training does not collate information on outstanding maintenance.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>

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• **Recommendation 16** (page 148)

<p>The Department of Education and Training provide regular reports on its website on the progress and status of major initiatives.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The Department of Education and Training's main website (det.vic.gov.au) provides the latest news on a range of departmental initiatives. This site has been used to include Information on the Blueprint for Government Schools, the Review of the Education and Training Legislation and the review of School Governance in Victorian Government Schools.</p> <p>The two key publications for the school workforce and parents (Education Times and Parent Update) also provide information on the implementation of significant initiatives in the education and training portfolio.</p> <p>In addition, the Department of Education and Training's annual report provides comprehensive information on major initiatives.</p> <p>The Department of Education and Training believes this approach provides more relevant and timely information than the quarterly or half yearly progress reporting proposed by the PAEC.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
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CHAPTER 6: GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE PAEC REPORT NO. 66 – 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p>• Recommendation 17 (page 174)</p>			
<p>The Victorian Government continue its liaison with the federal government to bring about early formal negotiations with the states and territories on an amended Home and Community Care agreement.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Department of Human Services has taken an active role in the Commonwealth's Community Care Review, and the consequent renegotiation of the Home and Community Care (HACC) agreement. From mid-2005, attention shifted to proposals from the Council of Australian Governments health working group on the future architecture of HACC and aged care. Victoria's input into this process has been recognised as valuable and empirically well grounded.</p>	<p>The Department of Human Services will continue to play a pro-active role in proposing improved inter-governmental arrangements for delivering HACC services. In national forums, the Department of Human Services will continue to advocate the need for the future of HACC to be planned in relation to aged residential care, disability, and sub-acute health services.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 18 (page 176)</p>			
<p>The Department of Human Services widen its performance information on the use of unmatched Home and Community Care funding to provide more specific information on service expansion outcomes and qualitative user feedback.</p>	<p>Accept in part</p>	<p>When allocated to Victoria's 500 Home and Community Care (HACC) providers, State unmatched HACC funds for recurrent service provision are pooled with matched funds. Tracking each agency's use of the unmatched recurrent funds, as an identifiable component of an agency's total HACC budget, would impose unreasonable administrative costs on agencies and on Department of Human Services regional management and would significantly detract from service delivery.</p> <p>The HACC Minimum Data Set (MDS) is used by Department of Human Services as a means of monitoring the outputs of the HACC program and the demographic characteristics of HACC clients. The MDS monitors outputs delivered as a result of matched funds, unmatched State funds, home-care funds from the Department of Veteran Affairs, local government own-source contribution, and client fees.</p>	<p>Department of Human Services plans to further develop data on the components of unmatched HACC funds as allocated to agencies at regional level, and on the proportion of aggregate HACC outputs (hours by service type) attributable to these funds.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 19 (page 178)</p>			
<p>The Department of Human Services monitor the impact of land tax exemptions on the Aged Care portfolio and include information in its annual report on the outcomes.</p>	<p>Accept in part</p>	<p>The Department of Human Services continually monitors closures of Support Residential Services, and establishment of new SRS together with compliance with quality requirements. The Department of Human Services does not have any role in monitoring provision of Commonwealth Government's residential aged care sector, but does monitor movements in the availability of Commonwealth-funded aged care places, particularly in the inner city.</p>	<p>Department of Human Services will continue to monitor of levels of residential aged care provision. Reporting in the Department of Human Services annual report reflects performance information in respect of departmental operations and services.</p>

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PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p>• Recommendation 20 (page 179)</p>			
<p>The Department of Human Services establish performance information to supplement the public sector residential aged care policy and to enable external reporting on the policy's effectiveness in meeting intended outcomes.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>An integrated performance measurement and reporting framework is under development and will be progressively rolled out over 2006-2007. The framework includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a suite of quality of care indicators – being trialled in 2005-06 across a number of public sector aged care services. • a suite of business performance indicators – under development in 2005-06. • Department of Human Services reports through Budget Paper No.3, <i>Service Delivery</i> on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – compliance with accreditation standards; and – compliance with certification standards – funding has been allocated to enable capital development to be undertaken of all sites progressively to enable them to meet certification standards. All but one service currently meet the 2008 standards. 	<p>Quality of Care Performance Indicators:</p> <p>An education and training package will be developed in 2006 that will support the roll out of these indicators across all public sector residential aged care service sites in Victoria. The first quality of care report is expected from January 2007.</p> <p>Business Performance Improvement:</p> <p>In 2006, Stage 2 of this initiative will introduce a consistent statewide set of business and performance indicators across all public sector aged care services. This will assist each organisation to monitor and benchmark their performance with regard to their peers on an ongoing basis.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 21 (page 180)</p>			
<p>The Department of Human Services, in conjunction with the Office of Children, conduct an across-the-board review of existing performance measures, to ensure a greater focus on outcomes and critical areas of responsibility.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The Office for Children reviews performance measures for the Juvenile Justice and Youth Services output group on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>An analysis of juvenile justice performance measures and information reporting is currently underway. This work will include consideration of outcomes measures and be informed by performance measures in other juvenile justice jurisdictions.</p> <p>A research proposal is to be commissioned to review the merit of using recidivism as the principal measure of juvenile justice outcomes and to provide a new analysis of recidivism of juvenile justice clients based on a longitudinal view.</p> <p>Joint work is planned with the Department of Justice to focus on offenders in the 18-21 year old age group.</p>	<p>A major initiative of the Office for Children will be development of the Children's Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework, which, through strong evidence bases and linkages to priority outcomes within the framework, will lead to more positive outcomes for children, parents and families.</p>

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• **Recommendation 22** (page 182)

The Department of Human Services:			
(a) introduce a management reporting framework for the custodial component of the juvenile justice system to allow for the systematic analysis of incidents and the implementation of an appropriate policy and program response;	Accept in principle	An enhanced statewide system for management and reporting of incidents was introduced by Department of Human Services in September 2005 and is currently being implemented in juvenile justice custodial services.	No further action will be taken on this recommendation.
(b) develop a quality assurance program to safeguard the integrity of incident reporting information; and	Accept in principle	A quality assurance framework has been built into the incident management and reporting system.	No further action will be taken on this recommendation.
(c) closely monitor the effects of the increase in the age jurisdiction of the criminal division of the Children's Court (from 17 to 18 years) on the number and type of offenders entering the juvenile justice system.	Accept in principle	The Office for Children will closely monitor the effects of the increase in the age jurisdiction of the criminal division of the Children's Court.	No further action will be taken on this recommendation.

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• **Recommendation 23** (page 184)

<p>The Department of Human Services conduct a resourcing review of juvenile justice facilities that takes into account the risks posed by the type of client in the system as well as the impact of the changed age limit of the Children's Court on the client profile.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The introduction of the age change was accompanied by increased bed capacity through the construction of a new 26-bed unit, and funding for additional juvenile justice workers.</p> <p>A budget build has been completed for each centre, as the basis for funding allocation for 2005-06, and includes the increased funding associated with the age change.</p> <p>A workforce planning project has commenced, which will focus on strengthening recruitment, induction, professional development and ongoing support for custodial workers in order to build capacity and competency within the system.</p> <p>Juvenile justice custodial services is currently focused on building competency in specific areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for all staff on managing sexualised behaviour in clients; • Training for all staff in working with young people with disabilities; • Recruitment of a disability specialist worker for juvenile justice centres; and • Training in restraint and managing difficult and violent behaviour. <p>The work plan arising from the Victorian Juvenile Justice Rehabilitation Review includes a pilot of violence related programs, to address violent behaviour in young people in custody.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
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• **Recommendation 24** (page 186)

<p>The Department of Human Services undertake independent annual audits of key aspects of the management and operation of juvenile justice facilities.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The Systems Review of juvenile justice custodial services completed in September 2005 recommended the examination of the external review process undertaken by Corrections Inspectorate, and the introduction of a robust accreditation process.</p> <p>During early 2006 Department of Human Services will meet with the Corrections Inspectorate with a view to developing a review process that would commence in 2006-07.</p> <p>Department of Human Services is currently implementing the Service Excellence Framework (SEF) across all regions and juvenile justice community services. The SEF is based on the Australian Business Excellence Framework, which utilises a process of self-assessment and validation to identify opportunities for quality improvement.</p> <p>The SEF is designed to cover all aspects of organisational management in a structured and straightforward way. The framework connects and assesses functioning in relation to juvenile justice community services mission, objectives and values and generates a planning process for service improvement. The SEF covers leadership, effective communication, service integration, client outcomes, strategic management, knowledge management, workforce and partnerships.</p> <p>The SEF has three levels (essential, developmental and organisational learning) that will be implemented over a number of years. The levels require each juvenile justice centre to undergo a self-assessment cycle that is validated by staff from other areas of the Department of Human Services.</p> <p>Each centre will incorporate any opportunities for improvement into its business planning cycle.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
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• **Recommendation 25** (page 186)

<p>The Department of Human Services conduct a strategic workforce analysis aimed at addressing any gap between preferred and actual workforce capabilities, including the degree to which the workforce profile takes into account the diversity of offenders at the juvenile justice centres.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The workforce planning project has commenced and will focus on strengthening recruitment, induction, professional development and ongoing support for custodial workers to build capacity and competency within the system. The project will undertake an initial workforce analysis and will consider the points raised by the Committee.</p> <p>The development of a leadership strategy to further target the competency of supervisors and unit managers to provide leadership and support to custodial workers is also underway.</p> <p>The development of a centralised human resources support for custodial services, to improve performance and grievance management, and employee relations is also underway.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
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• **Recommendation 26** (page 189)

<p>In relation to the Family Support Innovation Projects, the Department of Human Services:</p> <p>(a) examine, at an individual project level, factors that have led to certain projects having outcomes not as good as those of other projects, and then incorporate any lessons learnt from this examination in a continuous improvement strategy; and</p>	<p align="center">Accept</p>	<p>The Department of Human Services continues to closely monitor the performance of individual Family Support Innovation projects. This monitoring has informed the broad development of the projects as they have been expanded into new locations across the State. Each year the service specifications for newly funded projects are updated to reflect the learning from prior year projects. Projects not achieving expected performance levels are subject to routine regional performance monitoring arrangements which, in a number of cases, have led to discussions with the relevant community service organisation(s) and resulted in changes to the service approach employed in individual projects.</p> <p>A Family Services service model review will also be undertaken in 2006 in preparation for the new legislation requirements and obligations that will flow from the new Child, Youth and Families Act 2005. This new Act introduces a range of new provisions that will impact upon the delivery of family support services, including the Family Support Innovation Projects.</p> <p>The evaluation of the projects has also been extended for a further year and will be completed by the end of 2006 and will include specific consideration of the factors that may contribute to project effectiveness. Department of Human Services also notes comments from the evaluators that significant care needs to be taken in drawing concrete conclusions from relatively 'short-run' child protection data, particularly in areas with low population levels. This reflects the high volatility and seasonality of child protection data at local area level.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
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(b) monitor workforce outcomes in areas such as staff turnover and absenteeism	Accept in principle	Department of Human Services routinely monitors workforce outcomes in areas such as staff turnover and absenteeism, however a certain degree of caution is required in analysing child protection workforce data at a local area level. The child protection workforce is organised and monitored at a regional or sub-regional level whereas most of the Family Support Innovation Projects operate at a single local government area level. It is therefore difficult to draw firm associations between the performance of a Family Support Innovation Project at local level and a child protection workforce operating at a regional or sub-regional level.	No further action will be taken on this recommendation.
<p>• Recommendation 27 (page 190)</p>			
The Department of Human Services review their performance targets for the 2006-07 budget so they reflect an expected increased level of performance flowing from the implementation of new initiatives.	Accept in principle	The Committee's recommendation is noted and will be included in the Department of Human Services' considerations when the Budget Paper No.3, <i>Service Delivery</i> targets are finalised for 2006-07.	No further action will be taken on this recommendation.

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• **Recommendation 28** (page 191)

<p>The Department of Human Services examine whether out-of-home care placements are keeping pace with the demand for these services and what additional incentives may be needed to increase the availability of foster care.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The Out of Home Care service system is under increasing pressure due to the combination of more children requiring placements and a concurrent fall in the number of available carers. Carer attrition is a common problem across child welfare jurisdictions. In Victoria we are investing in this area in a range of ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recent increases in carer reimbursements; • recent increases in client expense funding; • ongoing work to improve recognition of carers, through initiatives such as the annual Home Based care forums, increased funding for the Foster Care Association of Victoria, and, most importantly, inclusion of carers in decision making processes via the Looking After Children framework; • inclusion of carers as a key source of evidence around compliance with home based care standards as part of the Quality Assurance Strategy for out of home care; • the family and placement services sector development plan has surveyed carers and will provide valuable information on issues of importance to them which community service organisations and Department of Human Services need to address; and • a new model of caregiver training and assessment has been developed, training for which will commence in 2006. This model will provide one consistent, high quality approach to carer training, and will better equip carers for their role. 	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
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• **Recommendation 29** (page 193)

<p>The Department of Human Services, in conjunction with the Child Protection Service, develop a targeted improvement strategy to address significant concerns that have been consistently raised in the Victorian Child Death Review Committee's annual report relating to the adequacy of risk assessments and the lack of clarity between service providers at case closure in terms of their roles and responsibilities for the ongoing support of the child and family.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Risk Assessments</p> <p>The Victorian Child Death Review Committee (VCDRC) in 2004 and 2005 noted inadequate risk assessment, especially including the episodic approach to risk assessment and the failure to recognise the cumulative nature of significant risk factors. The Office for Children acknowledges this concern and is working to address this issue through a number of initiatives.</p> <p>The Victorian Risk Framework (VRF) and accompanying Specialist Assessment Guides are the key tools developed to guide Child Protection practitioners to complete risk assessments. These tools are under review to ensure they remain relevant and accessible to practitioners.</p> <p>The new <i>Children, Youth and Families Act 2005</i> highlights the child's developmental needs and is more purposefully child-centred. Extensive statewide training that will include emphasis on assessment of cumulative harm will occur prior to the Act's implementation in October 2006. The Act provides for earlier intervention with families who are experiencing stress and where neglect issues are reported. Referrals to the Family Support Innovation projects can be made at this earlier stage to provide ongoing support and stop multiple, episodic child protection involvements.</p> <p>The Child Protection and Juvenile Justice Professional Development Unit provides an extensive orientation program for all new practitioners, which includes training in risk assessment as a key priority. Risk assessment training is also incorporated into other specialist training, for example, working with parents caring for high risk infants. The training unit also provides training for team leaders and managers to ensure they are skilled in supporting practitioners to conduct comprehensive risk assessments.</p> <p>.../cont</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
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		<p>Roles and Responsibilities</p> <p>Lack of clarity about service providers' roles and responsibilities at case closure, including monitoring and possible re-notification, has been an important theme in child death inquiries (CDI) reports and was noted by the VCDRC. The Office for Children acknowledges this concern.</p> <p>Although each family is considered individually at case closure, the benefit of holding a case conference to determine community service providers' roles and responsibilities and to reach an agreed safety plan should be routinely considered.</p> <p>The <i>Children, Youth and Families Act 2005</i> supports community responsibility for protecting children and providing for their wellbeing as do other protocols developed with community agencies and sectors, for example drug treatment services, mental health services, medical services for vulnerable children, and the enhanced Maternal Child Health Service. All of these documents stress the need for clear roles and responsibilities to be established.</p> <p>Cases involving high risk infants require endorsement of the High Risk Infant (HRI) Manager prior to closure and this extra scrutiny is designed to ensure these vulnerable clients have community supports in place prior to closure. High risk adolescents have a similar, intensive management system that engages community supports both when the young person is a client and after closure.</p> <p>Families referred to the Innovation Projects have detailed plans developed with the community sector to support and monitor their family situation which also provide clarity on service providers' roles and responsibilities at the point of case closure.</p>	

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• **Recommendation 32** (page 209)

<p>The Department of Human Services closely monitor implementation of the Victorian Government's affordable housing strategy, to ensure that affordable housing options are available to people with a disability. The department's annual report should also include information of progress in implementing the strategy over the next four years.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>People with a disability have been identified as a key target group for the Government's affordable housing strategy.</p>	<p>Information on the implementation of the Government's affordable housing strategy will be included in the Department of Human Services Annual Report.</p>
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• **Recommendation 33** (page 211)

<p>The Department of Human Services in conjunction with the Minister for Planning, ensure the new building codes include works to deliver accessible housing.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>All new properties built under the Office of Housing Construction Standards 2001 incorporate adaptable housing features from Australian Standard AS 4299 Adaptable Housing 1995. The Construction Standards ensure that, where practicable, new public housing stock is appropriately designed and constructed to be accessible and easily modified for people with major disabilities.</p>	<p>Wider coverage of construction standards in the private housing market requires alignment with the federal Disability Discrimination Act. The Government is currently assessing the outcome of research undertaken by the Australian Building Codes Board and the Building Commission in this regard.</p> <p>This is primarily a responsibility of the Minister for Planning.</p>
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• **Recommendation 34** (page 212)

<p>Regarding the provision of accommodation to the disability services sector, the government keep under review the adequacy of funding provided to reduce the numbers of individuals on the Disability Service Needs Register, who are classified as urgent and high priority.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The number of people seeking accommodation support on the Service Needs Register has reduced, due to a range of strategies designed to provide a broader range of more appropriate support in the community.</p> <p>Measures to meet demand for shared supported accommodation have been effective and include the creation of vacancies through people moving out of shared supported accommodation, the substitution of shared supported accommodation with tailored packages of support linked with housing options, and provision of early intervention and support for carers.</p> <p>People have been supported to pursue options to live independently in the community and, to date, 100 former residents have moved (or are preparing to move) from shared supported accommodation into the community. The movement of people out of shared supported accommodation creates additional vacancies, which can then be backfilled with people on the Service Needs Register requiring 24-hour support in a shared accommodation setting.</p>	<p>New and innovative accommodation options will be made available through the Disability Housing Trust and the Affordable Housing Strategy. Through the Disability Housing Trust, 20 new housing opportunities will be established by the end of June 2006, and 80 new housing opportunities will be established by the end of December 2007.</p> <p>Disability Services will continue to provide supports that are individualised and community based.</p>
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• **Recommendation 35** (page 215)

<p>The Department of Human Services:</p> <p>(a) disclose in its annual report instances of a material nature where information provided by non-government disability support providers through the self assessment process is not consistent with findings from the department's independently commissioned strategic reviews. The department should also report the actions taken to address these discrepancies;</p>	<p align="center">Reject</p>	<p>The program of strategic reviews was a specific initiative to inform an approach to continuous quality improvement that was complementary to broader legislative reform. It is considered that the Disability Services Commissioner, proposed in the Disability Bill, will have power to disclose through its annual report, service providers that have failed to take reasonable action to rectify matters raised through the complaints process.</p> <p>This recommendation is addressed through the proposed legislative reform and other quality improvement initiatives implemented by the Department of Human Services.</p> <p>Department of Human Services has recently introduced a "<i>Monitoring framework for the health, housing and community sectors.</i>" The implementation of this framework provides a structure for Department of Human Services Regions and Divisions to monitor funded organisations. The Monitoring Framework is made up of three core components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ongoing Core Monitoring 2. An annual Desktop Review 3. Possible Service Review (with Action Plan). 	<p>In the future, it is anticipated that reviews will be initiated as part of a tiered approach to quality improvement. Where risk issues emerge as part of the Department of Human Services' "<i>Monitoring Framework for the health, housing and community sectors</i>", strategic reviews may occur. Disability Services is currently developing an independent monitoring mechanism that complements the Department of Human Services monitoring framework.</p>
<p>(b) ensure acquittals for recurrent funding are provided by the non-government sector within the required timeframe;</p>	<p align="center">Accept</p>	<p>It is current practice to ensure that acquittals for recurrent funding are provided within the required timeframe.</p>	<p>Refer to recommendation 35 (a).</p>
<p>(c) require, as a condition of funding over a certain limit, grantee organisations to disclose in their annual reports the level of remuneration paid to board members and senior management; and</p>	<p align="center">Reject</p>	<p>Department of Human Services is not able to mandate the disclosure of remuneration paid to board members and senior management in grantee organisations' annual reports as a condition of funding as separate governing legislation determines the annual reporting requirements of individual agencies.</p>	<p>Refer to recommendation 35 (a).</p>

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<p>(d) ensure that an effective program of strategic reviews of funded disability support providers is in place to complement the self assessment process that is well targeted.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>This recommendation is supported in principle. Refer to recommendation 35 (a).</p>	<p>Refer to recommendation 35 (a).</p>
<p>• Recommendation 36 (page 218)</p>			
<p>To ensure the functional independence of people with disabilities is not compromised by unacceptable delays waiting for aids and equipment, the Department of Human Services develop timeliness benchmarks for monitoring the efficiency of the Aids and Equipment program.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>DHS acknowledges the importance of the timely supply of essential aids and equipment and reviews performance measures on an ongoing basis. To ensure the timely supply for those most in need, the Aids and Equipment Program has developed and implemented priority criteria. The criteria ensure all applications are prioritised into one of three categories. The categories are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'No Waiting' which includes the supply of oxygen, equipment repairs, ongoing supply of continence aids and the reissue of available equipment; • 'High Urgency' where the provision of equipment is essential to client and carer safety and the capacity of the client to remain at home; and • 'Low Urgency' for all other applications. <p>These criteria ensure that applications are assessed and prioritised based on individual client need rather than a particular equipment type and also sets a benchmark for the provision of equipment and services in the critical 'No Waiting' category.</p> <p>The existing timeliness measure for Aids & Equipment relates to the percentage of applications responded to, with either delivery of equipment or written acknowledgement, within ten working days. Timely processing of an application aims to reassure individuals that their application has been received and provides them with a contact for further inquiries on the application's progress.</p>	<p>The demands on the Aids and Equipment Program are increasing over time as the population ages and people with a disability and the frail aged are choosing to live in the community rather than in residential settings.</p> <p>Government has committed \$7.55 million over four years to enhance the capacity of the program to respond to demand.</p> <p>In addition the Aids and Equipment Program is to be reviewed in 2006 to consider the effective delivery of aids and equipment services into the future.</p>

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• **Recommendation 37** (page 220)

<p>The Department of Treasury and Finance ensure changes made to the output structure of a department (due to the consolidation of outputs from the previous year), are disclosed in the budget papers. This includes reporting the expected outcome and target for total output costs, to enable meaningful analysis of the budget to occur for output costs between the current and previous year.</p>	<p>Accept In-principle</p>	<p>The Department of Treasury and Finance reports on all material changes made to departmental output structures in Budget Paper No.3, <i>Service Delivery</i>. Any changes to the structure of outputs are identified in departmental output statements, with an explanation for the change.</p> <p>The output cost summary table in Budget Paper No.3, <i>Service Delivery</i> sets out each department's current year budget, the previous year's published and revised budget, and explanations for variations between years. Where there are discontinued departmental performance measures and outputs they are reported in an appendix of Budget Paper No.3, <i>Service Delivery</i>.</p>	<p>The Department of Treasury and Finance will continue to work together with departments to enhance and improve the disclosure of output structure changes from one year to another.</p>
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• **Recommendation 38** (page 226)

<p>The Department of Human Services evaluate the causes of the decline in home visits by general practitioners to persons aged 65 and over and the decline's impact on the number of primary care type patients using public hospital emergency departments.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>Home visits to the elderly by general practitioners are funded through Medicare and are the responsibility of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA). Victoria does not have access to the detailed Health Insurance Commission data in order to be able to analyse trends in this area.</p> <p>However, Victoria does monitor the volume of primary care type patients presenting to emergency departments. It has been actively negotiating with the Commonwealth to introduce initiatives such as the after hours general practice clinics co-located with hospital emergency departments, general practice services within Community Health Centres and General Practice Panels for Residential Aged Care Facilities to ease the pressure on emergency departments.</p> <p>The decline in home visits to the elderly by general practitioners has been discussed on a number of occasions at the Victorian Advisory Committee on General Practice (VACGP), which the Department of Human Services is a member of, along with the Commonwealth and General Practitioner's groups. These discussions have mostly focused on general practitioner's visits to nursing homes and a research project on the issue (led by the state office of DoHA) which was undertaken in Victoria. This contributed to the General Practitioner Panels initiative launched by the Commonwealth designed to get general practitioners more involved in residential aged care. Visits to residents in their own homes has not received the same level of attention, however our understanding would be that the view in general by general practitioners is that home visiting is an inefficient way of providing a service.</p>	<p>While the data in the PAEC report shows that the elderly are bigger users of hospitals and emergency departments (ED), there is no confirmed link to the decline in home visiting. A number of potential reasons for the decline exist, including remuneration and workforce changes, however without specific work in this area it is not possible to conclude on the matter. The high levels of care required by the frail elderly with chronic and complex conditions may also impact on diversion of the elderly to EDs. Previous research has highlighted shortfalls in elderly care skills within the general practitioners workforce (resulting in the elderly diverting to EDs for their care).</p> <p>Any Department of Human Services evaluation in this area would need to be coordinated with Commonwealth activity due to their responsibility for the general practitioners workforce and its funding through the Medical Benefit Scheme.</p>
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• **Recommendation 39** (page 228)

<p>The Department of Human Services include in its annual report a commentary on movements in waiting times for elective surgery in key specialties.</p>	<p>Reject</p>	<p>Time to treatment for elective surgery in key specialties is provided in the biannual <i>Your Hospitals</i> report. The <i>Your Hospital</i> website also provides the time to treatment at the more detailed procedural level. This is updated quarterly. The <i>Your Hospitals</i> report and website both provide regular detailed public hospital system performance information and data and are more appropriate vehicles for reporting hospital performance than the annual report. To publish this data again in the annual report would be a duplication and out-of-date.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
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• **Recommendation 40** (page 231)

<p>The Department of Human Services investigate why a significantly higher number of people presenting to emergency departments in 2004-05 needed to be admitted to an inpatient bed.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Department of Human Services monitors emergency department activity and emergency admissions on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>The increase in the number of patients presenting to hospital emergency departments who are admitted to a ward is principally due to the increase in the number of short stay observation beds available for patients, many of whom would have otherwise been admitted within the emergency department and remained on a trolley for long periods.</p> <p>The Department of Human Services has been working with Health Services to implement new models of care designed to improve emergency patients access to inpatient beds and reduce the number of people that spend extended periods in emergency departments. As part of this program there has been a significant increase in short stay observation beds.</p>	<p>Observation beds will continue to be expanded which will continue to impact on the proportion of emergency patients that require admission to an inpatient bed. This will be associated with a reduction in the proportion of patients that spend extended period in the emergency department.</p>
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• **Recommendation 42** (page 238)

<p>To complement the information contained in the budget papers, the Department of Human Services consider including the following suggestions in future reporting of health outcomes:</p>		<p>The Department of Human Services currently maintains a regime of continuous reporting and publication of health outcomes as described below.</p> <p>Since 2001, the Victorian Population Health Survey annual reports describe the self-reported health status of Victorians.</p> <p>Department of Human Services uses an internationally accepted standard question in the Victorian Population Health Survey to evaluate self-reported health status.</p> <p>Australian life expectancy figures are published by Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Victorian state, regional and local government area estimates of life expectancy are reported annually on www.health.vic.gov.au/healthstatus and are comparable to national estimates of life expectancy.</p> <p>Victorian Burden of Disease Study provides estimates of morbidity and mortality (DALY). For technical reasons, trend analyses are not possible. Morbidity rates imply knowledge of chronic disease incidence or prevalence. This data is not generally available.</p> <p>The Department of Human Services is currently working on a report on the health status of Victorians. It is intended that this be published via a website and would include appropriate commentary on public health interventions.</p>	
<p>(a) include objective quantitative data on the health status of Victorians rather than reliance on opinion-based data;</p>	<p>Reject</p>		<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
<p>(b) provide a breakdown of the proportion of Victorians in each individual category of 'excellent', 'very good' or 'good' rather than presenting this information in aggregate form;</p>	<p>Reject</p>		<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>

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(c) define the criteria for assessing health as 'excellent', 'very good' or 'good';	Reject		No further action will be taken on this recommendation.
(d) provide the Australian average life expectancy for comparative purposes;	Reject		No further action will be taken on this recommendation.
(e) conduct a trend analysis that stratifies morbidity rates among illness groups and age groups; and	Reject		No further action will be taken on this recommendation.
(f) include a commentary on how the health of Victorians depicted by the indicators correlates with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="129 794 510 858">(i) the effectiveness of public health initiatives; <li data-bbox="129 866 510 1058">(ii) activity-based indicators such as the volume of patients admitted and treated by public and private hospitals and visits to general practitioners; and <li data-bbox="129 1066 510 1129">(iii) waiting lists for elective surgery. 	Reject		No further action will be taken on this recommendation.

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<p>• Recommendation 43 (page 240)</p>			
<p>The Department of Treasury and Finance compile asset initiatives for each department alphabetically and by portfolio, to make it easier to interpret the budget and differentiate between ministerial responsibilities for capital projects. This should also apply to asset and output initiatives disclosed in the budget papers according to significant policy statements such as A Fairer Victoria and those that relate to government wide initiatives.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>Department's new output and assets initiatives are reported as an appendix to Budget Paper No.3, <i>Service Delivery</i>, organised by department with initiatives in alphabetical order. New output and asset initiatives for policy statements and whole of government initiatives are separately reported in this appendix.</p> <p>The Department of Treasury and Finance also annually reports on the progress of asset investments in Budget Information Paper No.1, <i>Public Sector Investment Program</i>. This report includes all new projects approved in the current budget and all existing projects. Presented in summary by each department or entity is the project's description, total estimated investment, expenditure to date, estimated expenditure to financial year end and any remaining expenditure.</p>	<p>For the 2005-06 Budget Update, policy statements and whole of government initiatives were reported by department. This practice will continue in the 2006-07 Budget Papers, to make it easier to identify the individual department initiatives included in each policy statement and/or whole of government initiative.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 44 (page 241)</p>			
<p>The Department of Human Services provide on its website details on the budget and timelines for the Royal Children's Hospital redevelopment when finalised.</p>	<p>Under review</p>	<p>Department of Human Services has established a website specifically for the Royal Children's Hospital Redevelopment Project which includes timelines for the redevelopment.</p>	<p>The Royal Children's Hospital website is to be updated in early 2006 to include details of project timelines. Further consideration will be given to disclosing budget details to be included in the Project Brief released to bidders around September 2006 on the website.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 45 (page 243)</p>			
<p>The Department of Human Services:</p> <p>(a) take a lead role in disclosing a consolidated financial statement in its annual report that shows the total costs incurred in the launch and promotion of the opening of the Austin and Mercy complex; and</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The Department released the <i>Your hospitals</i> report for the six month period ending June 2005, in September 2005, which disclosed that the open day was part of an extensive information program to ensure people in the region knew all they needed to about the new hospitals.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>

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(b) for the opening and promotion of major events, prepare an expenditure statement in a timely manner to enhance public accountability.	Accept in principle	For the opening and promotion of similar sized health capital works events, the Department of Human Services plans to prepare an expenditure statement in a timely manner to enhance public accountability.	
<p>• Recommendation 46 (page 245)</p>			
The Minister for Health hold discussions with the federal government, to seek the inclusion of mental health into the Australian Health Care Agreement, thereby securing a greater share of funding for mental health.	Accept	<p>Victoria supports initiatives to ensure that the Commonwealth government provides a substantial increase in funding for public mental health services, including through the Australian Health Care Agreement.</p> <p>The Victorian Minister for Health met with the Commonwealth government to discuss possibilities for Commonwealth/ State government cooperation in mental health on 13 December 2005. As a result of this meeting further work will be done with the Commonwealth government on more efficient and effective use of existing services and funding through mechanisms such as pooling of funds and reducing service barriers.</p> <p>Victoria is also supporting the inclusion of mental health on the Council of Australian Governments agenda in order to progress discussions on Commonwealth government funding contributions at the national level.</p>	The Department of Human Services will continue with current directions in this area.
<p>• Recommendation 47 (page 247)</p>			
The Department of Human Services ensure it has adequate systems in place to monitor the effectiveness of mental health services provided in de-institutionalised, non-hospital settings.	Accept	<p>The Department of Human Services has a mental health service performance reporting framework which is consistent with recently developed national requirements for monitoring public mental health services. Using this framework, service performance is monitored on a number of levels across both hospital and community settings.</p> <p>The Department of Human Services has also implemented collection of outcome measurement in public mental health services. Over time, this will allow changes to client outcomes as a result of their use of mental health services to be tracked.</p>	The Department of Human Services will continue with current directions in this area.

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• **Recommendation 48** (page 253)

<p>The Department of Human Services evaluate the effectiveness of its strategies for reducing waiting periods for restorative dental care and dentures.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>A four-year strategy to increase the provision of public dental services and reduce waiting times was launched in 2004-05. Monitoring of waiting times for non-urgent care has show improvements in this area since 2004-05:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denture waiting times reduced from 35 months in June 2004 to 28 months in June 2005; and • General care waiting times reduced for the first time since the Commonwealth Dental Health Program was cut in 1996, from 29 months in June 2005 to 28 months in June 2005. <p>Urgent needs are assessed within 24 hours of contacting a clinic and urgent dentures are provided well within the target of three months.</p>	<p>The Department of Human Services will continue to review and evaluate the four-year strategy and its components.</p>
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• **Recommendation 49** (page 259)

<p>The Department of Human Services develop a financial and performance reporting framework for the Go for your life initiative. Relevant information should be audited and published on the department's web site and in its annual report.</p>	<p>Reject</p>	<p>The Department of Human Services publishes annual output statements as part of the annual reporting framework. These are fully audited by the Auditor-General's office. The obesity and diabetes prevention component of the <i>Go for your life</i> initiative is reported within the Public Health Advancement output.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
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• **Recommendation 50** (page 264)

<p>The Department of Human Services progressively inform Parliament, through its annual report, on the implementation of the Building More Homes Together program, including the program's social and financial outcomes.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Department of Human Services' Annual Report for 2004-05 contains information on the implementation of the <i>Building More Homes Together</i> program as part of meeting the objective of 'Providing timely and accessible human services'. The 2004-05 Annual Report highlights that the Department has allocated \$20 million to this initiative and anticipates construction to be complete by 2008. As part of the program's implementation, the Department called for development proposals in 2004-05, which it is currently considering.</p>	<p>The Department of Human Services will continue to progressively comment on implementation of the <i>Building More Homes Together</i> program as necessary.</p>
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CHAPTER 6: GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE PAEC REPORT NO. 66 – 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
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• **Recommendation 51** (page 267)

<p>The Department of Human Services ensure information included in its annual report on implementation of the Strategy for Growth in Housing for Low Income Victorians enables Parliament to readily assess the strategy's effectiveness in achieving intended outcomes.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Department of Human Services' Annual Report for 2004-05 contains information on the implementation of the <i>Strategy for Growth in Housing for Low Income Victorians</i> (Strategy) as part of meeting the objective of 'Providing timely and accessible human services'. The 2004-05 Annual Report highlights that changes made to the <i>Housing Act 1983</i> provide the framework for the registration and regulation of housing associations and other registered community housing providers.</p> <p>The 2004-05 Annual Report also reports the registration of two housing associations (Loddon Mallee Housing Limited and Supported Housing Limited), with others expected to achieve registration in early 2005-06. In addition, the 2004-05 Annual Report records the funding of Loddon Mallee Housing Services Limited for the development of 92 units of affordable rental accommodation in regional Victoria. Further, the 2004-05 Annual Report lists the appointment of an Acting Registrar of Housing Associations as a key highlight for the year.</p> <p>In early 2005-06, an additional three Housing Associations were registered (Melbourne Affordable Housing, Community Housing (Vic) Ltd and Port Phillip Housing Association). The Victorian Government also announced a funding package of \$74.5 million for Housing Associations in October 2005. This funding will be leveraged by all five Housing Associations to purchase or develop over 430 new housing units for a range of client groups, including singles, older persons, couples and families, and people with a disability and highlights a new era of affordable housing for Victorians.</p>	<p>The Department of Human Service will continue to progressively comment on implementation of the <i>Strategy for Growth in Housing for Low Income Victorians</i> as necessary.</p>
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CHAPTER 6: GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE PAEC REPORT NO. 66 – 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
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• **Recommendation 52** (page 272)

<p>The Department of Human Services widen its performance measurement regime for housing waiting times and vacancy management.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The Department of Human Services currently has a comprehensive performance measurement regime for housing waiting times and vacancy management.</p> <p>In terms of housing waiting times, the Department of Human Services currently monitors a number of factors that can impact on waiting times including geographical demand and supply, dwelling types and availability of affordable alternatives in the private market. The Office of Housing also undertakes ongoing reviews of its waiting list to ensure the eligibility of applicants.</p> <p>The Waiting List Confirmation Project conducted between June 2002 and February 2004, confirmed and updated waiting list application details to ensure that only eligible applicants remained on the waiting list. Ongoing rolling reviews of the waiting list are now conducted utilising regional processes. These regional processes ensure that the waiting list is maintained to allow for allocations of properties in a timely manner and to ensure continuous validation of applications.</p> <p>As part of vacancy management, the Department of Human Services undertakes regular vacancy monitoring internally to ensure that houses are promptly re-tenanted. An intensive program of statewide monitoring of vacancies that are above target turnaround times, commenced in early March 2005. Current internal stock assessment processes are also being reviewed to ensure prompt decisions are made on whether vacant properties are to be re-tenanted, refurbished or replaced.</p>	<p>The Department of Human Services will continue to use its comprehensive performance monitoring regime for housing waiting times.</p> <p>The Department of Human Services will continue the intensive program to monitor vacancy rates and vacancy turnaround times through its comprehensive internal performance regime.</p>
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CHAPTER 7: GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE PAEC REPORT NO. 66 – 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES

DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
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• **Recommendation 53** (page 295)

<p>The Department of Infrastructure discuss with the federal government what action could be taken to facilitate a greater level of certainty for investors regarding greenhouse abatement requirements when making investment decisions relating to future power stations in Victoria.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The main channel for the Department of Infrastructure to engage the Federal Government is through the auspices of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Ministerial Council for Energy (MCE).</p> <p>Following a meeting on 10 February 2006, COAG agreed to a new plan for collaborative action on climate change. Among the principles for policy development, COAG agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses to climate change will promote business certainty within the limits created by the uncertainties of climate change; and • Action on climate change requires a comprehensive policy framework which includes action to promote changed patterns of investment, technology innovation and take up, adaptation, demand management and improved energy efficiency. Within that framework, jurisdictions will pursue policies which respond to their individual needs and which are within their constitutional responsibilities. <p>Through the COAG framework, Department of Infrastructure will work with the Federal Government to further develop these policy principles.</p> <p>Informally, staff from Department of Infrastructure have regular dialogue with staff from various Federal Government departments and agencies, and discuss a number of initiatives designed to provide investor certainty such as the Victorian Renewable Energy Target (VRET) and the Energy Technology Innovation Strategy (ETIS).</p>	<p>Victoria is continuing to work with other states and territories to develop a National Emissions Trading Scheme. If the Federal Government changes its policy and formally recommences discussions with the States, then the work undertaken to date on the design of the Scheme can be used by the Federal Government.</p> <p>A Green Paper on the design of a scheme is due for release in mid 2006.</p>
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DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
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• **Recommendation 54** (page 300)

<p>The Department of Infrastructure commission a research project that investigates the risks, costs and benefits of using alternative energy resources that are available to Victoria. This exercise should draw on overseas experiences. A discussion paper, reflecting the outcome of the research, should be released to the public for debate on this issue.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The Department of Infrastructure has commissioned a number of research projects that analyse the risks, costs and benefits of using alternative energy. Overseas experiences are commonly explored in projects of this type.</p> <p>The <i>Greenhouse Challenge for Energy</i> position paper, and the issues paper, <i>Driving Investment in Renewable Energy in Victoria</i> are two recent examples of public papers, jointly issued by Department of Infrastructure and the Department of Sustainability and Environment, that develop policy pertaining to use of alternative energy resources.</p>	<p>Through the Energy Technology Innovation Strategy (ETIS), opportunities to support the research and development of renewable energy technologies will be sought. Department of Infrastructure is co-chair with the Department of Industry, Innovation and Regional Development on the ETIS interdepartmental committee.</p>
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• **Recommendation 55** (page 309)

<p>The Department of Infrastructure release a record card on the telecommunications purchasing and management strategy, which details:</p> <p>(a) progress of the implementation of the strategy against budget and timeframes;</p> <p>(b) benefits achieved from the strategy compared to initial estimates;</p> <p>(c) telecommunications costs savings achieved by the government, including method for costing these savings, compared to initial estimates; and</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>Accept</p> <p>Accept</p>	<p>The Telecommunications Purchasing and Management Strategy (is constantly under review to assess progress against the project's original objectives.</p>	<p>In line with best practice, a benefits realisation study will be conducted. This should cover the majority of areas identified by the committee. A summary of this will be available publicly.</p> <p>Refer to recommendation 55 (a).</p> <p>Refer to recommendation 55 (a).</p>
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CHAPTER 7: GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE PAEC REPORT NO. 66 – 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES

DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
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• **Recommendation 58** (page 333)

<p>Regarding outcomes to be delivered from the Regional Fast Rail project, the budget papers and the annual report of the Department of Infrastructure, disclose performance information on actual journey times achieved and time savings compared to targets for both express services and stopping services on each of the four lines. The method used to calculate time savings should also be fully disclosed.</p>	<p>Accept in part</p>	<p>The new V/Line timetable, incorporating the full complement of faster and more frequent services and with the new trains operating up to 160km/h, is scheduled for introduction mid this year once all the new trains are available for service and the new automated safety system is complete.</p> <p>The time savings previously provided to PAEC were calculated by comparing the target express travel times with the fastest journey times in the V/Line timetables which were in operation on the four lines in July 2001. Travel time targets were not set for stopping services.</p> <p>The target journey times will not be achieved until the new timetable and trains running up to 160km/h come into operation, so until that time it is not possible to calculate actual time savings compared to the express travel time targets.</p> <p>Timeliness measures and targets for metropolitan and country rail services are already included in the budget papers and annual report and will continue to be reported.</p>	<p>A special report on the achievement of Regional Fast Rail targets will be considered for publication in V/Line's 2005-06 Annual Report.</p>
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DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
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• **Recommendation 59** (page 339)

<p>The Department of Infrastructure:</p> <p>(a) continue its efforts to improve the reliability of passenger services to those who use the train network; and</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>DOI is working with Connex and V/Line to ensure that operational performance meets public expectations. Operational performance includes both service delivery and punctuality.</p> <p>Performance on the metropolitan rail network is expected to improve largely as a result of initiatives jointly undertaken by DOI, Connex and Connex drivers to counter the impact of the driver shortage including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intensified driver recruitment programs; • extension of the retention bonuses program for drivers at, or approaching, retirement age; • additional direct recruitment into V/Line Passenger to reduce the number of drivers transferring from Connex; and • work practice changes, including use of supervisors and driver trainers to drive peak service trains. <p>Operational performance was also significantly affected in 2005 by simultaneous works at Flinders Street and Southern Cross (formerly Spencer Street) railway stations as well as by construction work for the Yarra Pedestrian Precinct Link footbridge. The major rebuilding of infrastructure on the Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong and Latrobe Valley Regional Fast Rail corridors also impacted on V/Line services. As these major works are completed it is expected that the performance of both the metropolitan and V/Line networks will continue to improve.</p>	<p>Connex and V/Line are continuing to review their operational performance with the assistance of DOI to identify further areas where they can generate performance improvements.</p> <p>In particular low cost, high impact infrastructure reliability works are being identified and undertaken.</p>
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CHAPTER 7: GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE PAEC REPORT NO. 66 – 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES

DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p>(b) consider ensuring penalties collected from private operators not complying with contractual obligations (in terms of the punctuality of train services) be used to help fund measures designed to minimise disruption to passenger services.</p>	<p>Accept in part</p>	<p>The Government has sought to re-invest the Operational Performance Regime (OPR) payments on projects to improve public transport services and amenities for passengers. These projects include, but are not limited to, measures designed to minimise disruption to passenger services. Projects that have been and are being undertaken with funding available from OPR payments include:</p> <p>Train Driver Retention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government has worked closely with Connex, V/Line and the Rail, Tram and Bus Union (RTBU) on measures to deal with driver shortages, including offering drivers who are eligible to retire a retention bonus to remain driving on the network. <p>Computerised Scheduling System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of an automated rostering and scheduling system to improve flexibility of train operations and enable better timetable planning. <p>Train Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to the doors and traction motors of Comeng trains to improve their reliability. <p>Tram Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to on-board passenger amenity, passenger communication and rolling-stock upgrade to increase reliability. <p>Z3 bogie overhaul</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional to an existing program to extend the life of tram bogies. <p>Racecourse Road height detection system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project will reduce service disruptions from frequent accidents caused by over-height trucks pulling down the network overhead. 	<p>It is the Government's intention that penalties paid to it by operators should generally be re-invested in improved services and amenities for public transport users.</p>

CHAPTER 8: GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE PAEC REPORT NO. 66 – 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES

DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION, INDUSTRY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p>(c) examine whether the setting of performance targets is at a sufficiently high level to encourage continuous improvement and drive improved departmental performance.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>As part of its ongoing evaluation process, Department of Innovation Industry and Regional Development is mindful of the need for performance targets to reflect continuous improvement</p>	<p>The Department of Innovation Industry and Regional Development will continue to seek to set performance targets that encourage continuous improvement where appropriate.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 63 (page 365)</p>			
<p>The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development develop an ongoing strategy of progressively introducing an outcomes focus into its planning, management and reporting processes, as well as upgrading its program evaluation capabilities.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Department of Innovation Industry and Regional Development has implemented a multi-faceted Departmental Evaluation Framework with the aim of integrating monitoring and evaluation into program design; improving the quality, quantity and outcomes of evaluation; improving internal evaluation capabilities; and ensuring adequate resources for evaluation.</p>	<p>Department of Innovation Industry and Regional Development is in the process of developing a policy and program design framework that will support continued development of its outcomes focus in planning, management and reporting.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 64 (page 367)</p>			
<p>The Department of Innovation Industry and Regional Development develop a structured post-project review method so project-specific and cross-project issues can be identified for consideration as part of a continuous improvement process aimed at increasing the benefits to the state from its investment in Science Technology and Innovation projects.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Science Technology and Innovation outcome monitoring tool, developed to support measurement of the economic impact of the State's investment in Science Technology and Innovation, provides a structured post-project review method.</p>	<p>The Science Technology and Innovation outcome monitoring tool will be applied across a broader range of projects.</p>

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DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION, INDUSTRY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p>• Recommendation 67 (page 371)</p>			
<p>The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development develop its in-house capacity to conduct formative evaluations as part of a continuous improvement strategy.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development has implemented a multi-faceted Departmental Evaluation Framework with the aim of integrating monitoring and evaluation into program design; improving the quality, quantity and outcomes of evaluation (including formative evaluation); improving internal evaluation capabilities; and ensuring adequate resources for evaluation.</p>	<p>The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development will examine its internal evaluation capability as part formative evaluation of its Evaluation Framework in 2006-07.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 68 (page 371)</p>			
<p>The Minister for Manufacturing and Export make representations to the federal government on the need for tax incentives for research and development as part of a comprehensive government and industry response to increasing Australia's investment in research and development.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Minister for Manufacturing and Export has made representations to the Federal Government on the need for tax incentives for research and development.</p> <p>The issue was discussed further with stakeholders at the National Manufacturing Summit in December 2005 which was convened by the Minister for Manufacturing and Export.</p>	<p>The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development expects that relevant policy suggestions will be forthcoming within the Strategic Action Plan for manufacturing which is to be developed in 2006 by the new National Manufacturing Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, both being key outcomes from the Summit. Science Technology and Innovation expects that the Minister for Manufacturing & Export will make further representations to the Federal Government based on those policy suggestions.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 69 (page 375)</p>			
<p>The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development:</p> <p>(a) periodically monitor the extent to which government organisations comply with the new fair payment policy, and outline in its annual report, the impact of the policy on small businesses; and</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development has commissioned a review of the first 12 months of the operation of the fair payments policy. The review is expected to be completed by late February 2006. It examines compliance with the policy and makes recommendations for future monitoring and reporting arrangements.</p>	<p>Future action will be subject to the results/ outcomes of the review.</p>

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DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION, INDUSTRY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p>(b) help finalise the proposed whole of government small business charter to improve the quality of services to small businesses.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development has established a Small Business Service Charter Pilot Project to assist the Office of the Small Business Commissioner develop and implement small business service charters within Government, consistent with the <i>Small Business Commissioner Act 2003</i>. The primary purpose of the project is to pilot the introduction/incorporation of a specific Small Business Service Charter within The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development. The proposed charter contains the Government's fair payments policy.</p>	<p>The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development will assist the Office of the Small Business Commissioner finalise small business service charter resource materials for other agencies, to facilitate the introduction of these charters within Government.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 70 (page 376)</p>			
<p>The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, in conjunction with agencies such as Regional Development Victoria, review its performance measures in the 2005 06 Budget Papers to improve the public reporting of outcomes in the 2006 07 Budget Papers.</p>	<p>Accept in part</p>	<p>The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, in conjunction with agencies such as Regional Development Victoria, continues to work on improved reporting on programs consistent within the scope of Budget Papers.</p>	<p>The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development will continue to examine the feasibility of developing improved performance measures.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 71 (page 378)</p>			
<p>Regional Development Victoria: (a) develop a program to progressively work towards introducing an outcomes focus to its planning, management and reporting activities; and (b) implement the evaluation framework within this broader organisational context.</p>	<p>Accept in part Accept in part</p>	<p>Regional Development Victoria continues to examine the feasibilities of introducing outcomes focus on its planning, management and reporting activities. Regional Development Victoria has commenced work on adoption of appropriate evaluation frameworks for appropriate programs.</p>	<p>The Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development is in the process of developing a policy and program design framework that will support continued development of its outcomes focus in planning, management and reporting.</p>

CHAPTER 8: GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE PAEC REPORT NO. 66 – 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES

DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION, INDUSTRY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p>• Recommendation 72 (page 379)</p>			
<p>Regional Development Victoria strengthen internal control processes to ensure that all future grant payments are made in accordance with legislative authority.</p>	<p>Accept in part</p>	<p>Regional Development Victoria has, in conjunction with DIIRD, reviewed administrative arrangements for grant payments.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 73 (page 381)</p>			
<p>The government's impending ten year strategy for the tourism and events industry clearly articulate goals, planned actions and a measurement framework for evaluating the progress of the strategy's effectiveness.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>A Final Report is under consideration. It is based on the following key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Upon Existing Strengths; • Developing New Strengths; • Focusing on Long-Term Growth Opportunities; and • Improving the Interface between Government and Industry. <p>These Recommended Strategic Responses outlined in this final report were endorsed by a high level Reference Group and also by the findings of an extensive stakeholder consultation process.</p>	<p>A Project Implementation Schedule that delivers on these Strategic Responses is currently being drafted for Ministerial approval.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 74 (page 383)</p>			
<p>Tourism Victoria externally report on the tourism outcomes for Victoria arising from the 2006 Commonwealth Games.</p>	<p>Accept in part</p>	<p>Tourism Victoria currently reports to the Office of Commonwealth Games Coordination and M2006 every two months on each of the following key areas of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Tourism Marketing Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product Development; • National Marketing; • International Marketing; • Media and Broadcast Leverage; and • Visitor Services 	<p>Tourism Victoria will provide a final report to Office of Commonwealth Games Coordination at the conclusion of all activities.</p> <p>As part of the Tourism Marketing Strategy, Tourism Victoria is undertaking a Global Broadcast Impact Study to determine the exposure generated for Melbourne and Victoria in eight global markets, including Australia, by the Games.</p>

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
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• **Recommendation 75** (page 407)

<p>The Department of Justice introduce and report on revised performance targets for fine and fee collection to measure the impact of:</p>			
<p>(a) any action taken to upgrade management practices within the Sheriff's Office in response to the May 2005 Auditor-General's report; and</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>Department of Justice is in the process of revising relevant performance targets for fine and fee collection in light of the Auditor General's report and the Whole-of-Government infringement system changes currently being implemented through a series of legislative changes.</p>	<p>Monitoring of the effect of the Infringement system changes will commence in July 2006.</p>
<p>(b) infringement system reforms introduced by the government.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>		<p>The Department of Justice annual report will provide comment on the efficiencies and effectiveness of the Sheriff's Office in executing warrants</p> <p>Refer to recommendation 75 (a).</p>

• **Recommendation 76** (page 408)

<p>The Department of Justice:</p>			
<p>(a) continue to take the lead in seeking a way for the Auditor-General to conduct performance audits of the courts' administrative functions; and</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The Attorney General and the Courts Consultative Council are considering a draft performance audit protocol which is yet to be finalised.</p>	<p>Further action is subject to responses being provided to the Courts Consultative Council by relevant jurisdiction heads.</p>
<p>(b) finalise the necessary protocols before the next budget.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>		

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• **Recommendation 80** (page 416)

Consumer Affairs Victoria include in its annual report the outcomes of bringing the credit advisory services in-house.	Accept	Assessment is being undertaken for inclusion of information in the Annual Report.	Information to be included in Annual Report.
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• **Recommendation 81** (page 421)

The government include in the budget papers a measure showing annual percentage movements in Victoria's prisoner recidivism rates.	Reject	<p>The recidivism measure is the percentage of prisoners who return to prison within two years of release from imprisonment.</p> <p>An outcome measure, recidivism is not relevant to output performance reporting, or inclusion in Budget Paper No.3, <i>Service Delivery</i> (which is forward looking as distinct from historical).</p> <p>Annual percentage movements in Victoria's prison recidivism rates are reported in the Australian Government Productivity Commission <i>Report on Government Services</i>. For latest five years recidivism data, see <i>Report on Government Services 2006, Justice Preface, page C.12</i>.</p>	Consideration is being given to publishing a recidivism measure in the Department of Justice's annual report as well as the Productivity Commission annual <i>Report on Government Services</i> .
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• **Recommendation 82** (page 421)

The Department of Justice include in its annual report information on the effectiveness of its multiple strategies for lowering prisoner re-offending, including how these strategies contribute to changes in recidivism rates.	Accept	No action taken to date.	Department of Justice will provide in its annual report information on the effectiveness of strategies to lower prisoner re-offending, including details of evaluation outcomes and assessed overall impacts.
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• **Recommendation 83** (page 424)

<p>The Department of Justice progressively monitor and report in its annual report, action taken to implement recommendations in the Auditor-General's 2003 performance audit report Assessing the needs of Victorian prisoners to ensure that all audit issues are adequately addressed.</p>	<p align="center">Accept</p>	<p>Since tabling in Parliament of the Auditor-General's 2003 Performance Audit Report assessing the needs of Victorian prisoners, Department of Justice has monitored the implementation of recommendations contained in the report.</p>	<p>Department of Justice will report on implementation of actions in its annual report.</p>
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• **Recommendation 84** (page 427)

<p>The Department of Justice incorporate in its annual report a signed certification from the Director of the Corrections Inspectorate that identifies for that particular period:</p> <p>(a) the major findings arising from the Corrections Inspectorate's review activities, and the Inspectorate's assessment of actions taken by the prison operators to rectify the identified problems; and</p>	<p align="center">Reject</p>	<p>The Corrections Inspectorate considers the recommendations impractical as in a typical year the Inspectorate could make in excess of 100 findings and recommendations arising from its review and inquiries functions. The Inspectorate does not categorise findings or recommendations as major/ minor and would not be prepared to do so as it expects Corrections Victoria to address all findings and recommendations as matters of importance. Further, a number of findings and recommendations deal with highly sensitive security issues and personal information pertaining to identified prisoners, offenders and staff which could not be published.</p> <p>The Corrections Inspectorate will continue to report in the Department of Justice annual report, identifying the key reviews undertaken by the Inspectorate during the year and the outcomes of these reviews.</p> <p>... /cont</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
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PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
		<p>The Corrections Inspectorate is an independent unit of Department of Justice reporting through the Executive Director, Community Operations & Strategy to the Secretary. It is completely separate and independent of line management for Corrections.</p> <p>Established in July 2003, the Inspectorate is tasked with keeping a close watch on the corrections system, reporting independently to the Minister on standards of service delivery.</p>	
(b) any impediments to the Corrections Inspectorate's independence and its freedom to operate impartially.	Reject	Refer to above.	No further action will be taken on this recommendation.
<p>• Recommendation 85 (page 431)</p>			
The Victorian Government explore avenues for encouraging gaming venue operators to allocate a larger proportion of gaming revenue to the provision of gifts and sponsorships to their local communities to ensure the community receives the maximum benefit from revenue earned from gaming machines.	Accept	<p>The Office of Gaming and Racing is reviewing the current requirements in relation to Community Benefit Statements during the first half of 2006.</p> <p>The Responsible Gambling Ministerial Advisory Council has been consulted on the terms of reference for the review.</p> <p>Community and industry stakeholders, including the Responsible Gambling Ministerial Advisory Council, will be consulted as part of the review.</p>	The Government will consider the findings of the Office of Gaming and Racing review once available.

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• **Recommendation 86** (page 432)

<p>The government consider commissioning research to quantify average gambling losses in Victoria as a percentage of total household final consumption expenditure, where at least one member of the household engages in some form of gambling.</p>	<p>Reject</p>	<p>The Government agrees that accurate information on average gambling losses as a percentage of total household final consumption expenditure would be of value in developing further measures to deal with problem gambling and to encourage responsible gambling. However, due to methodological difficulties with obtaining such information, and as similar data is already available the Government is not intending to commission such research in the near future.</p> <p>The only way to obtain data on gambling losses as a proportion of household consumption is via a survey. Such data is always bound to be unreliable due to recall errors and a tendency to underestimate gambling expenditure by survey respondents.</p> <p>Data on household expenditure, including gambling expenditure, is already available through the five-yearly Household Expenditure Survey (HES) conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Both the ABS and the Productivity Commission have noted that the HES data is unreliable because it relies on the subjective responses of the Survey respondents.</p> <p>A more accurate and objective measure for quantifying gambling losses in Victoria is average gambling expenditure as a proportion of household disposable income. This data is published annually as part of the Australian Gambling Statistics (collected and distributed by the Queensland Government).</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
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• **Recommendation 87** (page 434)

<p>The government report on the impact of its wide ranging gaming initiatives on community behaviour and the achievement of government objectives.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Department of Justice published a research report "Evaluation of Harm Minimisation Measures in Victoria" in December 2005.</p>	<p>Further information on the impact of gaming initiatives will become available through two research projects planned under the new Victorian gambling research agenda: a longitudinal study tracking gambling behaviour over a five year period, and a prevalence study measuring the proportion of Victoria's adult population who are problem gamblers or at risk over time.</p>
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CHAPTER 9: GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE PAEC REPORT NO. 66 – 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
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• **Recommendation 90** (page 443)

Victoria Police ensure future movements in crime statistics on family violence offences are adequately explained in its annual report, so Parliament can assess the extent to which expected outcomes from current initiatives are realised.	Accept in principle	The Victoria Police Annual Report 2004-05 (pages 36 and 37) included an analysis of the statistical impact of the introduction of the Code of Practice for the Investigation of Family Violence (CoPIFV). This analysis included commentary on the CoPIFV impact on the number of Intervention Orders, the number of Family Violence Incidents and the number of charges laid by Police.	Victoria Police will include a similar, detailed analysis of future movements in crime statistics relating to family violence offences in its next annual report. Victoria Police will examine ways in which the reporting undertaken in 2004-05 might be enhanced for 2005-06 so that Parliament can better assess the extent to which expected outcomes are being realised.
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• **Recommendation 91** (page 444)

Victoria Police encourage early development by the Australian Bureau of Statistics of a National Crime Reporting Standard for the recording of assault and sexual offences, to assist assessments of Victoria's performance in these areas relative to other jurisdictions.	Accept in principle	An initial workshop to find a way forward for dealing with differences in recorded crime statistics across Australian jurisdictions was held in November 2005. Statisticians from all Australian jurisdictions participated, together with the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Draft recording principles and draft recording rules were discussed and agreed upon at the workshop. The development of a template to assist in the mapping of offences categories was commenced, together with a process to assist in scoping the costs to jurisdictions involved in implementing a National Crime Reporting Standard.	A further workshop is scheduled to be held in Melbourne in March 2006 to progress the development of uniform counting rules, finalise a draft National Crime Reporting Standard and further consider the implementation costs identified.
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• **Recommendation 92** (page 446)

Victoria Police include within the performance framework developed for forensic services measures of the extent to which forensic services contribute to wider benefits to the justice system.	Under review	<p>The Victoria Police Forensic Services Department presently utilises a detailed reporting framework to plan and monitor the delivery of all forensic science services. Regular reporting to the Executive against the annually revised framework enhances management accountability as well as the identification and analysis of trends and the refinement and tailoring of particular services.</p> <p>As is suggested in the Committee's Report (page 83), Victoria Police is committed to eliminating DNA backlogs as quickly as possible, focusing on increasing DNA testing throughput and achieving greater efficiency in the management of its forensic resources.</p>	<p>Victoria Police will give consideration to the provision of more detailed performance information regarding DNA testing throughput, backlog reduction and efficiency gains in its Annual Report 2005-06.</p> <p>Further investigation will be undertaken regarding the Committee's re-iterated request for performance data on the number of court matters affected by delays in forensic testing and other potential impacts on the wider justice system.</p>
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PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p>• Recommendation 93 (page 450)</p>			
The government evaluate the desirability of expanding analyses that quantify the economic impact of major events that are staged on a recurring basis in Victoria.	Accept	The Auditor General has advised that his Office will be conducting a performance audit on State investment in major events in Victoria. It is understood that this audit will include a review on the economic impact quantification of major events staged in Victoria.	It is understood that this audit will commence after the M2006 Commonwealth Games.
<p>• Recommendation 94 (page 452)</p>			
The Department of Justice evaluate, after a sufficient lead time, the outcomes realised from government funding in terms of enhancing the growth and development of the Victorian country racing industry.	Accept	The Government is currently reviewing its funding commitment to the Victorian racing industry (including country racing) as part of its 2006 budget deliberations.	<p>The current funding commitment to the Living Country Racing Program concludes in 2006-07, at which time the outcomes of the program will be evaluated.</p> <p>The Racing Community Development Fund, which is in its second year of operation, will be reviewed in the context of the Government's consideration of its ongoing funding commitment.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 95 (page 453)</p>			
The Department of Justice, in conjunction with Tourism Victoria, quantify the tourism benefits expected to accrue from implementing Victoria's Racing Tourism Plan 2005 07, together with costing details, so that the cost effectiveness of the plan can be measured in future years.	Accept	No action taken to date.	Department of Justice will work together with Tourism Victoria to quantify the tourism benefits expected to accrue from implementing Victoria's Racing Tourism Plan 2005-07.

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PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
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• **Recommendation 96** (page 455)

<p>In the event of any prolonged delays in the planning for recycled water connection and site drainage collection at the Cranbourne Training Centre and Cranbourne Racecourse, the government consider an alternative site for a demonstration project to ensure potential water conservation measures are implemented and alternative sources are identified in a timely manner to minimise the impact of the drought on country racecourses.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>All infrastructure and planning processes connected with the Cranbourne project are in place, pending a funding application by the racing industry.</p>	<p>The Government will continue to work with the racing industry to ensure that water management issues are addressed in a timely and efficient manner.</p>
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• **Recommendation 97** (page 458)

<p>The government ensure that the racing industry is adequately compensated for the 2005 06 budget initiative to increase the annual health benefit levy from \$1,533.33 to \$3,033.33 on each electronic gaming machine.</p>	<p>Accept in part</p>	<p>During 2005-06 the Government will provide an additional \$3.5 million to the Victorian racing industry in order to offset the impact on the industry of the recent increase the annual health benefit levy.</p>	<p>Future compensation for the Victorian Racing industry will be considered as part of the 2006-07 budget process.</p>
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CHAPTER 10: GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE PAEC REPORT NO. 66 – 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES

DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
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• **Recommendation 98** (page 470)

<p>The Department of Premier and Cabinet, in conjunction with Arts Victoria, review the performance measures for the Arts and Cultural Development output group to ensure they:</p> <p>(a) are more informative in terms of the outcomes achieved and improve the reliability and robustness of the methods used to assess quality;</p>	<p>Accept in part</p>	<p>The Department of Premier and Cabinet reviews performance measures annually.</p> <p>Arts Victoria is currently undertaking an Output Framework Review which includes the development of Key Performance Indicators, which are consistent across all the Arts Portfolio Agencies and which comprehensively measure all the activities and services provided to the Victorian community.</p> <p>The work of the Output Framework Review will inform the performance measures included under three of the four outputs in the Arts and Cultural Development Output Group: Creating Place and Space Portfolio Services and Policy Arts Portfolio Agencies.</p> <p>The Arts Development and Access output, including its performance measures, was the outcome of a review in 2001-02 as part of the whole of government Management Reform Program.</p> <p>The Arts and Cultural Development Output Group included revised descriptions of each output in 2004-05 to reflect the priorities of <i>Creative capacity +</i>.</p> <p>Arts Victoria reports against the measures of progress of <i>Creative capacity +</i> through the annual publication Art-look, including reporting occurring relative to baseline data where relevant</p> <p>(available on www.arts.vic.gov.au).</p>	<p>It is anticipated that the Output Framework review will be completed in time to inform the 2007-08 Budget Papers.</p>
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CHAPTER 10: GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE PAEC REPORT NO. 66 – 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES

DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p>(b) reflect the priorities and measures of progress contained in the Creative Capacity + Arts for all Victorians framework, with performance reporting occurring relative to established baseline data where relevant; and</p>	<p>Accept in part</p>		<p>It is anticipated that the Output Framework review will be completed in time to inform the 2007-08 Budget Papers.</p>
<p>c) establish new data collection methods relating to the new performance measures</p>	<p>Accept in part</p>		<p>It is anticipated that the Output Framework review will be completed in time to inform the 2007-08 Budget Papers.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 99 (page 471)</p>			
<p>To guide future budget discussions with the Victorian Government, Arts Victoria commission a study to benchmark the level of funding provided to major cultural institutions in other states in comparison with Victoria.</p>	<p>Reject</p>	<p>A study of Victoria's cultural institutions compared to similar institutions interstate and overseas, which included comprehensive financial and non-financial information, was completed in 2003-04 as part of the Review of Arts Agencies.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 100 (page 472)</p>			
<p>The National Gallery of Victoria keep under active review its decision to close the Federation Square and St. Kilda Road sites on certain weekdays, particularly in light of any subsequent improvements in its financial position.</p>	<p>Accept in part</p>	<p>The one-day-week closing of the galleries is a recognised international museum practice in renowned art galleries and museums. It is the practice of many North American and European galleries including the Louvre and Musée d'Orsay in Paris and the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and Guggenheim in New York.</p> <p>The National Gallery of Victoria is open seven days a week, and the public can access its collections in one or other of the buildings; and both are open for education programs of pre-booked school groups every day.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>

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PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p>• Recommendation 101 (page 473)</p>			
Arts Victoria, in conjunction with key cultural institutions, give increased prominence in the 2006-07 Budget Papers to reporting on the stewardship of cultural assets.	Accept in principle	Arts Victoria is currently undertaking an Output Framework Review which includes the development of Key Performance Indicators, which are consistent across all cultural agencies and which comprehensively measure all the activities and services provided to the Victorian community.	It is anticipated that the Output Framework review will be completed in time to inform the 2007-08 Budget Papers.
<p>• Recommendation 102 (page 475)</p>			
The State Services Authority and the Victorian Auditor General's Office agree on protocols to ensure that the Auditor-General's Office is consulted on the development of the State Services Authority's annual plan and informed of progress in the plan's implementation.	Reject	The State Services Authority (SSA) and the Auditor General's office have independent and quite distinct functions. Whilst the SSA is a new entity, it continues and consolidates a variety of functions that have been performed in the public sector over a long period. The SSA acts as an adviser to Government, providing a whole of Government perspective, while the Auditor General performs a regulatory and audit function on behalf of the Parliament. The SSA's responsibilities relate particularly to workforce planning for the public sector and Whole of Government service delivery; the Auditor General does not have an analogous function in these areas. However, as an autonomous agency, if the SSA believes its independence and effectiveness would be enhanced by closer liaison with the Auditor General's office it is free to pursue such a course.	State Services Authority to liaise with the Auditor General's office if required.
<p>• Recommendation 103 (page 476)</p>			
The Department of Premier and Cabinet establish a longitudinal study involving Australian and New Zealand School of Government graduates to continuously improve the delivery and coverage of the program, particularly given the strategic workforce planning needs of the Victorian public sector.	Accept in part	Whilst the department recognises the importance of such a study, given the number of jurisdictions that the participants of the course cover, the Department believes that this type of study would need to be undertaken by the Australian and New Zealand School of Government. Additionally given privacy concerns, it is felt that the Australian and New Zealand School of Government is better placed to conduct such a survey as part of its alumni.	No further action will be taken on this recommendation.

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PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
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• **Recommendation 104** (page 478)

<p>The Department of Premier and Cabinet upgrade performance reporting frameworks to include more comprehensive reporting of whole of government outcomes across the Victorian public sector, with clear linkages to the activities of all public sector agencies and regular progress reporting of results.</p>	<p>Accept in part</p>	<p>Growing Victoria Together (GVT) is a high level strategy document that is not intended to directly link individual government activities to statewide outcomes. The experience of other jurisdictions indicates that implementing a framework that directly links government activity to outcomes is a long term and complex process. The Department of Premier and Cabinet is committed to continuously improving whole of government performance reporting through the GVT framework and public progress reporting in the annual budget papers.</p> <p>In Victoria, non-departmental government entities, such as the Environmental Protection Authority, contribute to GVT outcome reporting where appropriate. All public sector agencies are required to report under the current performance management framework, through a combination of the budget and other governance arrangements.</p> <p>In September 2005, Department of Premier and Cabinet established an Implementation Unit, which will monitor and report to Government on the achievement of Government's strategic policy objectives and commitments, including GVT.</p>	<p>Growing Victoria Together indicators and data sets will continue to be refined as appropriate. The Implementation Unit will continue to develop monitoring and reporting processes for key Government commitments.</p>
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DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p>• Recommendation 105 (page 491)</p>			
<p>To maximise the cash management return from the significant cash reserves held in the Projects Trust Account, the Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Treasury and Finance monitor the likely services to be funded from this account in the immediate term, and examine whether there is scope for placing any funds not immediately required into short term investments.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The Project Trust Fund is monitored at a detailed and summary level by the Department of Primary Industries on a monthly basis. The Trust does not have borrowing or investing powers therefore the existing balance cannot be invested for the benefit of the Fund. The Department of Treasury and Finance, however, can invest any funds standing to the credit of the fund as part of the Department's investment activities of cash reserves held by the State. The State would receive the interest on such investments. As part of the ongoing monitoring arrangements of this Fund, the Department of Treasury and Finance will consider cash balance investment options.</p>	<p>All projects funded through this Trust Account will be closely monitored. It is expected that the cash balance of this Fund will reduce as a number of major projects are delivered during 2005-06.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 106 (page 491)</p>			
<p>To facilitate adequate transparency and accountability of the activities of the Projects Trust Account, the government's annual financial report and the Department of Primary Industries' annual report disclose relevant details of the income, expenditure and balance of this trust account.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The Department of Primary Industries' Annual Report includes Trust Account cash and investment balances in accordance with the Financial Reporting model issued by the Department of Treasury and Finance.</p>	<p>The Department will continue to comply with the reporting requirements issued by the Department of Treasury and Finance.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 107 (page 493)</p>			
<p>The Department of Primary Industries annual report disclose details relating to the redevelopment of the Melbourne Wholesale Markets, comparing expenditure against budget and progress against timelines.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Department of Primary Industries currently has available data on the redevelopment of the Melbourne Wholesale Markets and will make this information available for inclusion in its annual report.</p>	<p>Include high level commentary in annual report.</p>

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• **Recommendation 108** (page 493)

<p>Regarding the costs of moving the cool stores of leaseholders from Footscray to the new Epping site as part of the relocation of the Melbourne wholesale markets, the Department of Primary Industries make publicly available, when finalised, details of the compensation package and the mechanism for compensating existing tenants.</p>	<p>Under review</p>	<p>No decision has been made regarding the Melbourne Market Relocation Project which would lead to any breach of commercial leases. Therefore there is no need to pay compensation.</p>	<p>Analyse key decisions to determine impact on existing commercial leases.</p>
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• **Recommendation 109** (page 497)

<p>The Department of Primary Industries and the Department of Infrastructure ensure all key contractual documents are signed before capital works commence, or public private partnership arrangements are structured with sufficient flexibility to ensure project delivery continues to be on time and budget.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Department of Primary Industries response.</p> <p>All relevant contracts with the appointed Concessionaire – PPP Solutions (Showgrounds) Pty Ltd – were executed on 22 June 2005, with financial close occurring on 30 June 2005.</p> <p>The Concessionaire is well advanced in the construction of the redeveloped Showgrounds and is currently on schedule to hand-over the new Showgrounds facilities to the Showgrounds Joint Venture in time for the 2006 Royal Melbourne Show to be staged – as usual – in September of this year.</p> <p>Department of Infrastructure response.</p> <p>The Department of Infrastructure does ensure that all appropriate contractual documents are executed before capital works being undertaken through normal capital contracting or public private contracting arrangements. However, under some contractual arrangements, including public private partnership arrangements, the need to commence early works may require separate documentation to be prepared to supplement the normal contractual documents. These arrangements are only entered into where it is essential to ensure project delivery continue to be on time and budget and where the state would not be taking on any additional risk of any form that it would not have contemplated under the full contractual commitment.</p>	<p>No further action is planned, as the Joint Venture's rights and remedies are fully contained in the contracts that were executed on 22 June 2005. The project is expected to be delivered on time and on budget.</p>
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• **Recommendation 110** (page 502)

<p>In the event that Victoria experiences severe drought conditions, the Department of Primary Industries disclose in its annual report information on the effectiveness of the drought relief measures implemented.</p>	<p align="center">Accept</p>	<p>Department of Primary Industries's Drought Response Management Team has monitored unfolding seasonal conditions, reported regularly to the Central Government Response Committee, assisted industries with EC applications and provided input to National Drought Policy. With improved seasonal conditions the frequency/intensity of these activities has diminished since Spring 2005.</p>	<p>The arrival or otherwise of good autumn rains will determine whether or not 2005-06 constitutes a severe drought. If average autumn rains are received, the year could not be described as a severe drought. Regardless of how the season finishes, comment on drought assistance measures such as EC support and the Municipal Rate Subsidy scheme will be included in the Department of Primary Industries Annual Report.</p>
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• **Recommendation 111** (page 505)

<p>To ensure the measures employed to control the fox population in Victoria remain relevant and effective, the Department of Primary Industries:</p> <p>(a) continue to monitor the extent to which the number of foxes is reduced each year, to assess whether a greater level of funding needs to be directed at addressing the risk to Victoria's agriculture industries;</p>	<p align="center">Reject</p>	<p>Fox populations are dynamic and are correlated with habitat suitability. The degree to which populations are reduced is directly dependant on the area and frequency of control effort. Phase two of the Enhanced Fox Management Program demonstrated that landholder interest in broadscale-integrated control is limited especially in periods not directly related to lambing. The impact of this is that reinvasion rates from adjacent territories are high and no long-term reduction in fox numbers is achieved because of increased juvenile fox survival rates.</p>	<p>The Enhanced Fox Management Program evaluation indicates that participation in group baiting schemes is low and is in general restricted to periods adjacent to lambing in the Autumn- Winter period. There are however, a proportion of landholders who remained committed to fox control in their own right. The government in response to this group of landholders has through its provincial statement announced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • programs to increase access to fox baits; • an intention to achieve legislative reform to ensure that 1080 baits are available to landholders through agribusiness into the future; and • develop partnerships between the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) and hunting organisations with the aim of increasing the wider communities contribution to fox control.
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• **Recommendation 114** (page 512)

<p>The Department of Primary Industries arrange for a comprehensive audit of all sites subject to the state's royalty regime to determine the full extent of revenue foregone as a result of the underpayment of royalties. The government should then act to recover those amounts legally owing to the state.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>As highlighted in the initial desktop review of the extractives sector the majority of sites examined are complying with the State's royalty regime.</p> <p>The initial focus of the new royalty audit program is on those areas that are most likely to yield additional revenue including brown coal, Kaolin mining and selected sites within the extractives sector.</p>	<p>The Department of Primary Industries will continue to develop and refine the royalty audit program to ensure a high level of compliance with the State's royalty regime and will endeavour to review as many sites as possible.</p>
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• **Recommendation 115** (page 512)

<p>The Department of Treasury and Finance monitor the cost effectiveness of the new royalty audit program administered by the Minerals and Petroleum Regulation Branch of the Department of Primary Industries, to evaluate whether to allocate additional financial resources to expand this area of compliance activity across the minerals and petroleum sector.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Department of Treasury and Finance believe that Department of Primary Industries is the department in the best position to continue to, in the first instance, review and assess the effectiveness of the royalty audit program.</p> <p>Department of Primary Industries will continue to review and assess the effectiveness of the royalty audit program. If results indicate that additional resources are required to address compliance issues the Department will put forward submissions to the Department of Treasury and Finance for additional funding where appropriate. It is expected that any submission for additional funding would obviously need to be prioritised by Government in relation to other areas requiring new funding within Government. This would also depend on the State's capacity to fund any increase in compliance funding.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
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• **Recommendation 116** (page 515)

<p>Annual reporting by the Department of Primary Industries include a progressive report on the actual and planned outcomes of the state's major mineral, exploration and petroleum investments that have been attracted to those areas subjected to geoscience mapping projects. Such reporting should feature the benefits derived from the successful promotion of Victoria's gold exploration potential.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Department will highlight within the Annual Report for the Department of Primary Industries exploration and development investment attracted to areas subject to the release of new geoscience data. A lot of information about Victoria's new mineral and petroleum projects is currently available through the Department's web site and through the Department's <i>Discovery</i> publication. The Department of Primary Industries will continue to use these vehicles to promote successful outcomes for the State. It should also be noted that within the minerals and petroleum sector there can be significant lags between the release of new geoscience information and the attraction of new exploration investment. The assessment of new geoscience information and the development of new exploration programs by industry generally exceeds 12 months from the release of new geoscience data.</p>	<p>Department of Primary Industries will report on the benefits derived from new exploration and development investment generated by the minerals and petroleum sector within the Department's Annual Report.</p>
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CHAPTER 12: GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE PAEC REPORT NO. 66 – 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES

DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
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• **Recommendation 117** (page 524)

<p>The Department of Sustainability and Environment provide a more informative response to future requests for detailed information from the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee.</p>	<p>Under review</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
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• **Recommendation 118** (page 533)

<p>In drawing on the Audit Act 1994 provisions that relate to the examination of performance indicators, the Department of Sustainability and Environment consider whether its internal audit should examine whether the department's performance measures are relevant to the department's objectives, and appropriate for assessing performance, and whether they produce accurate information.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>Performance Measures were last audited by the Department of Sustainability and Environment 's internal auditors in 2002. The Performance Measures that are published in Budget Paper No. 3, <i>Service Delivery</i> are reviewed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment annually to assess their appropriateness for reflecting accurate information.</p> <p>Budget Paper No. 3, <i>Service Delivery</i> measures are one of a number of effective indicators of annual progress towards long-term Departmental Objectives.</p> <p>Over the past two years the Department has replaced its framework of Departmental Objectives with an Outcomes Framework. The new Outcomes Framework is presented in the <i>DSE Corporate Plan 2005-08</i>.</p> <p>The Department of Sustainability and Environment Outcomes Framework has provided the Department with long-term goals for its key portfolio responsibilities and will continue to be developed over the next few years.</p> <p>A key element of the framework is the identification of strategic performance indicators and targets. These will help the Department of Sustainability and Environment to identify outputs which provide the most effective means for achieving our short, medium and long term goals.</p> <p>Whilst the Corporate Plan contains a range of performance indicators and targets, additional measures are being developed as part of the Department's strategic planning processes.</p>	<p>The Department has developed some performance measures to reflect its delivery of Departmental Outcomes. These have been published in the Departments current Corporate Plan 2005-08 (which is available on the Department of Sustainability and Environment website).</p> <p>The Department is continuing to develop its performance measures to measure Departmental Outcomes and will publish these in future Corporate Plans.</p> <p>Delivery of the Departmental Outcome Performance measures are expected to be reported in future annual reports after a full suite of performance measures have been developed.</p> <p>The Department of Sustainability and Environment is also developing a database containing outcome targets and output activity. The database draws the connection between outputs and their impact on outcomes.</p>
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DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
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• **Recommendation 119** (page 536)

<p>(a) To complement the government's release of its Towards Zero Waste strategy, the Department of Sustainability and Environment develop a monitoring framework for reviewing the effectiveness of programs designed to minimise both household and industry waste; and</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p><i>Towards Zero Waste</i> sets overall targets for waste reduction and resource recovery in Victoria. In addition, <i>Towards Zero Waste</i> sets targets and identifies strategies and actions for the three main waste streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal • Commercial and Industrial • Construction and Demolition <p>The targets contained in <i>Towards Zero Waste</i> were developed following systematic research, consultation, modelling and analysis of solid waste streams, trends in solid waste generation, current levels of resource recovery, sectoral waste management, emerging waste technologies, and, spatial analysis.</p> <p>The Government, through the Environment Protection Authority and Sustainability Victoria currently collects annual data sets on municipal and industrial waste generation to provide the basis for review and evaluation of the strategies effectiveness. This information will support the setting up of an effective monitoring framework.</p>	<p>The strategy's progress review in 2009-10, to be undertaken by Department of Sustainability and Environment, will analyse Victoria's progress towards achieving the targets and actions. The review will assess emerging approaches and technologies and their respective economic, environmental and social benefits and costs.</p> <p>The assessment as to whether the strategy's targets require adjustment will be a key feature of the review process. Similarly, the review will also assess the suitability and performance of the existing mix of regulations, targets, levies and other regulatory instruments, such as potential landfill prohibitions for key waste types and/ or streams.</p>
<p>(b) the department finalise environmental policy formulation in a timely manner, to minimise delays in meeting government expectations and maximise outcomes.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Environmental Sustainability Framework is now in the implementation stage. Department of Sustainability and Environment has established a capability for formulating policy on sustainability partnerships, resource efficiency and waste.</p> <p>Department of Sustainability and Environment has improved the alignment of its policy work across the portfolio and across government. This has resulted in the provision of timely policy formulation that is closely aligned to Government priorities and key deadlines.</p> <p>Climate change policy is being progressed in accordance with directions set out in the Victorian Greenhouse Strategy Action Plan Update. Policy and program directions are being reviewed and updated in light of developments in science and policy at the national and international levels.</p>	<p>Continuing consultation and analysis will ensure that the framework continues to reflect government outcomes and progress with a minimum of delay.</p> <p>A program for stakeholder engagement and community education will support implementation of the framework.</p> <p>A process for developing cross government policy input will be implemented to underpin delivery of the Government's Environmental Sustainability Objectives.</p>

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DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

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• **Recommendation 120** (page 538)

<p>(a) to inform the Parliament and the community on the suitability of the Yarra River for swimming and the extent of any additional funding initiatives that may need to be considered in future budget deliberations, the Department of Sustainability and Environment's annual report disclose trend data of stream condition, with an emphasis on water quality in urban areas; and</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Yarra Watch program launched in March 2005 provides public information via the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) website on the suitability of the Yarra River for swimming and boating.</p> <p>EPA are exploring an enhanced program aimed at ensuring improvements are more visible on the Yarra; implementing more enforcement for pollution where needed; and investigating and identifying solutions for improving the condition of the Yarra River. This proposal will be subject to availability of new funding.</p> <p>Stream conditions in Victoria have been reported by Department of Sustainability and Environment through the Index of Stream Conditions 2005. Additionally, Melbourne Water reports on the condition of rivers and creeks every few years, it was last published in 2004. Melbourne Water also reports on water quality for urban waterways as part of their annual report.</p> <p>The Yarra River Action Plan launched in January 2006 has reported on trends and impacts on the river over time.</p>	<p>Yarra Watch program to be reviewed after one year of operation and enhanced as necessary.</p> <p>Additional programs will be undertaken subject to availability of new funds.</p> <p>Index of stream conditions is reported every five years in accordance with the Victorian River Health Strategy.</p> <p>The Yarra Coordinating Committee will prepare a progress report on implementation of the plan in 12 months.</p>
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DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p>(b) the Department of Sustainability and Environment consider whether new research needs to be undertaken before 2008 to establish the causes of Yarra pollution and solutions.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>New research is underway with Environment Protection Authority leading investigations into bacterial levels and sources and contaminants in fish and sediments.</p> <p>The Yarra River Action Plan, launched in January 2006, outlines a number of priority projects of nearly \$600 million to tackle sources of pollution and to improve the Yarra, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce stormwater pollution • Improve sewage management • Litter awareness campaigns and infrastructure • Develop regional plans to improve water quality • Address rural run-off • Monitoring and communicating the health of the river • Involving the community • Healthy river flows • Managing Yarra River quality 	<p>Further research will be undertaken on causes and impacts of any identified water, sediment and fish pollution and solutions available.</p>
<p>Recommendation 121 (page 540)</p>			
<p>(a) The Department of Sustainability and Environment's annual report disclose financial and performance information that will enable assessments of the efficient and effective use of government funding directed at the state's Bushfire Recovery Strategy and initiatives;</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The outcomes of the Bushfire Recovery Initiative have already been reported in the 2004-2005 Annual Reports for the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Parks Victoria and the Department of Primary Industries.</p> <p>An evaluation of the Bushfire Recovery program and a final report have been completed and published.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken by the Department.</p>

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PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p>(b) The Department of Sustainability and Environment ensure there are no delays in completing the recovery works associated with the bushfires in the summer of 2002-03; and</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>All works under the Department of Sustainability and Environment, the Department of Primary Industries, and Parks Victoria control are now complete and all funds are spent. Insurance claimed was significantly less than originally expected.</p> <p>The upgrade of water authority infrastructure by North East Water has been incorporated into its business plan, and this will be completed in 2008 as scheduled.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
<p>(c) The Department of Treasury and Finance ensure for capital projects that have been ongoing for a number of years and have significant expenditure remaining, that appropriate explanations are contained in the government's information paper on its Public Sector Asset Investment Program.</p>	<p>Accept in part</p>	<p>The purpose of Budget Information Paper No.1 <i>Public Sector Asset Investment Program</i> is to provide an accurate and complete aggregated view of only approved and existing capital projects. An overview of each initiatives' total estimated investment, expenditure to date, estimated expenditure to financial year end, and any remaining expenditure is reported for each departmental project.</p> <p>The Department of Treasury and Finance encourages departments to provide more details on capital projects in their annual reports, and considers departmental annual reports the most appropriate and practical document to report any additional level of detail.</p>	

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• **Recommendation 122** (page 544)

<p>The Department of Sustainability and Environment's annual report include a status report section that discloses outcomes of long term programs, such as the River Redgum rescue plan.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Department of Sustainability and Environment Annual Report provides highlights of achievements relating to the key projects/programs/strategies that the department was implementing in the previous year. In the 2004-05 Annual report, highlights for each Department of Sustainability and Environment output were provided in sections organised around the Department of Sustainability and Environment Outcomes Framework. In some instances, cases studies focussing on the results of particular programs provided additional information on achievements and progress.</p> <p>As well as the annual report, some Department of Sustainability and Environment programs/strategies publish progress reports. For instance, the <i>Victorian Greenhouse Strategy Action Plan Update 2005</i> provides both the next steps for the Greenhouse Strategy and commentary on achievements. The <i>Our Water, Our Future</i> document <i>Progress Towards Securing Our Water Future 04-05</i> also provides a report on achievements and outlines the next steps for this important program. The Department of Sustainability and Environment web site is regularly updated with material relating to progress in implementing our major programs.</p>	<p>Further work on the Department of Sustainability and Environment Outcomes Framework will lead to the development of a departmental data base of key performance indicators relating to outputs and outcomes. This will assist in the production of future annual reports which highlight effectiveness as well as output delivery.</p>
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DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
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Recommendation 123 (page 546)

<p>The Department of Sustainability and Environment consider including a performance measure in the budget papers that covers the numbers of stock reported lost to wild dogs.</p>	<p>Reject</p>	<p>There have been a number of programs implemented by Department of Sustainability and Environment and its predecessors to manage the impact of wild dogs.</p> <p>Budget Paper No. 3, <i>Service Delivery</i> is an accountability document relating to the measurement of products and services delivered by the department on behalf of Government. As such, those measures and targets included in it must be achievable by the department. It is clear that there are a number of factors impacting on the numbers of stock reported lost to wild dogs that Department of Sustainability and Environment is not accountable for and therefore it is inappropriate that this be included as an output performance measure.</p> <p>In general, this type of information could be reported in policy documents, annual reports, etc, to provide an indication of success (or otherwise) of the delivery of Department of Sustainability and Environment outputs.</p> <p>Please refer to Department of Treasury and Finance's Budget and Financial Management Guide No.9 for more on specifying outputs, measures and targets.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
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PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
Recommendation 126 (page 554)			
<p>As part of the reporting on progress made against the government's commitment to achieve the water recycling target of 20 per cent by the year 2010, public reports disclose any changes in the definition of water recycling that lead to major variations in performance between successive years.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>There have been no definitional changes to water recycling that have led to major variations in performance against the target between successive years.</p> <p>Metropolitan water authorities are on track to achieve the 20 per cent target by 2010.</p>	<p>Metropolitan water authorities are continuing to develop water recycling proposals that reduce detrimental discharges to oceans and bays that provide alternative supplies to potable, river and groundwater usage in the Melbourne metropolitan region.</p> <p>The Government will continue to report regularly on progress against the Growing Victoria Together and White Paper targets.</p>
Recommendation 127 (page 555)			
<p>The government ensure a rigorous project management regime is in place to govern the Wimmera Mallee pipeline project through the tendering and construction phases.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>A project governance structure has been agreed to ensure that a rigorous project management regime is implemented.</p> <p>A Project Council made up of high level Government representatives and led by an independent Chair on behalf of the Secretary of Department of Sustainability and Environment, has been established to oversee and monitor the management of the project, ensure effective project governance and ensure appropriate use of Government funds.</p> <p>A Project Control Group, made up of representatives from Goulburn Murray Water Board and Department of Sustainability and Environment together with external experts where appropriate, has been established to manage the overall delivery of the project.</p> <p>A Project Director was appointed in November 2005 and is currently implementing project management and project control systems in accordance with national standards of project management.</p> <p>A Probit Advisor and Probit Auditor have also been appointed to oversee the tendering process.</p>	<p>Continuous oversight of project progress by the Project Control Group and Project Council to ensure the Project is delivered in accordance with the Department of Sustainability and Environment end to end project management framework and the broad facets of project management defined by the Australian Institute of Project Management.</p> <p>The Gateway Review process will be applied to the project to ensure rigour around the tender process. Due to the size and scale of the project, a modified Gateway Review 3 (procurement strategy review) process was agreed with Department of Treasury and Finance whereby this review would be undertaken in two stages – firstly, a high level strategy review to confirm the overall procurement strategy and secondly, a more detailed review to confirm the tender and contract documentation in accordance with this strategy.</p>

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Recommendation 128 (page 556)

<p>The government ensure the salinity management strategies identified in the community based land and water management (salinity) plans are kept under review when resource priorities are evaluated for next year's budget. As part of this process, the extent of additional areas to be protected from salinity by surface and sub-surface drainage need to be assessed against other catchment priorities.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Land and Water Management (Salinity) plans are reviewed by Catchment Management Authorities and government every five years. Prioritising where investment is most required is an important part of the review process.</p> <p>Annual review of the additional areas to be protected by salinity is done through the Regional Catchment Investment Plan process. This integrated approach to natural resource management investment considers salinity protection against other catchment priorities.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
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Recommendation 129 (page 557)

<p>The Department of Sustainability and Environment ensure that an outcome focused approach is adopted for disclosing the effectiveness of how environmental contributions from water authorities have been spent.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>In October 2005, the Government released a progress report on the implementation of Our Water Our Future reform program. This report outlined how the Government had invested its first year of the environmental contribution (44.6 million) and details of the major implementation achievements.</p>	<p>Consistent with legislative requirements the Government will continue to report on how the environmental contribution is invested.</p>
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DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
Recommendation 130 (page 561)			
<p>The Department of Sustainability Environment ensure the exceptional circumstances announced to justify ministerial intervention in the state's planning system continue to be relevant through the development of the projects.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Department of Sustainability Environment will continue to ensure that all relevant conditions of statutory approvals made by the Minister are complied with.</p> <p>Under the Incorporated Document of the Melbourne Planning Scheme (approved by Amendment C101), the Minister for Planning has to date endorsed the partial demolition of the rear of the MCG Hotel to commence restoration works of the two front hipped roof forms (11.7 metres from the southern property boundary). Thakral Pty Ltd. the owner of the Hilton hotel is currently refurbishing internal floors /rooms of the hotel.</p> <p>On 21 July 2005, a notice of appeal was lodged by the East Melbourne Group to the Court of Appeal against the decision of Justice Morris (regarding Amendment C101). A hearing date has not been set.</p> <p>Permit 05/322 was issued 22 December 2005 for the demolition and reconstruction of the existing porte-cochere vehicle entry area, the front of house ground floor glazing and canopy, forming part of the overall refurbishment of the hotel foyer-lobby and restaurant areas.</p>	<p>Thakral Pty Ltd to date has submitted two Application 05/345 for renovation and extension of Mosspennoch into six dwellings and the development of a six storey multiple dwelling building adjacent to the Hilton Hotel is currently being considered by the Minister for Planning.</p> <p>Thakral states in documents attached to a current planning permit application, "that the application is made on the basis that the plans vary sufficiently from the Incorporated Document; that they are not considered generally in accordance with this document and as such a planning permit is required."</p>
Recommendation 131 (page 564)			
<p>The Department of Treasury and Finance ensure the budget papers explain material instances where payments have been brought forward to the previous year resulting in the expected outcome being less than the output cost target for that year.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The Department of Treasury and Finance encourages departments to provide explanations in the budget papers for changes in output costs and other performance measures, where material or otherwise significant. Final end of year outcome results are published in departmental annual reports, including where appropriate explanations for any significant variations compared with the budget target</p>	<p>The Department of Treasury and Finance will continue to work with departments to improve the disclosure and explanations of changes in output costs and other performance measures.</p>

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Recommendation 132 (page 575)

<p>The Department of Sustainability and Environment maintain records of expenditure by region for the Liveable Cities and Sustainable Regions output and disclose this information in its annual report.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Department of Sustainability Environment does not have the systems in place to capture the geographical (regional) data of each payment due to the volume of payments that are made.</p> <p>Department of Sustainability Environment will review processes to see if initially we can produce and report on information on the grants that are paid regionally with a view to over time assessing the viability of putting in place a system to record all payments.</p>	<p>Following the completion of the Review on the viability of providing grant information Department of Sustainability Environment will publish the information in the 2005-2006 Annual Report</p>
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DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY AND FINANCE

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p>• Recommendation 133 (page 578)</p>			
<p>The Department of Treasury and Finance evaluate the ongoing need to retain trust accounts with static balances, and close trust accounts if they are no longer warranted.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Department of Treasury and Finance acknowledges that it has been some time since trust accounts were systematically reviewed.</p> <p>Guidelines have been issued to departments stating that trust accounts are to be closed if their ongoing existence cannot be justified.</p>	<p>The Department of Treasury and Finance will continue to work with departments to encourage them to close trust accounts that are no longer warranted.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 134 (page 583)</p>			
<p>The Department of Treasury and Finance actively monitor savings achieved in the implementation of the City Precinct Strategy Plan, to ensure the net benefit to the Victorian Government from this consolidation is maintained and not eroded by rising accommodation costs.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Government departments and agencies pay current market rentals for office accommodation. These are regularly monitored and compared with the current market conditions and are reviewed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the relevant leases agreements.</p> <p>Government endeavours to negotiate rentals less than the market level at the time of entering into new lease agreements.</p>	<p>The Department will regularly monitor and compare accommodation costs with the current market conditions and negotiate the most cost effective outcome when rentals are reviewed in accordance with the relevant lease agreements.</p>
<p>• Recommendation 135 (page 586)</p>			
<p>The Department of Treasury and Finance focus its improvement initiatives for performance management and reporting by having clear links between departmental objectives and higher level government outcomes, and by ensuring the early involvement of the Auditor General in performance statements audits.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The Government's resource allocation model is designed to guide and facilitate more effective budget decision making, measurement and reporting against the State Budget.</p> <p>Within this framework, Growing Victoria Together (GVT) is a long term vision for Victoria that articulates what is important to Victorians and the priorities of the Government. GVT is high level statement which provides a guide to department's strategic planning to ensure a broad alignment between department's objectives, the delivery of outputs and the Government's priorities.</p> <p>Departmental objectives flow out of departmental planning processes and reflect departmental responses to Government's desired outcomes.</p> <p>... /cont</p>	<p>The Department of Treasury and Finance and the Department of Premier and Cabinet will continue to work on initiatives to better improve the performance management and reporting information provided to Government.</p>

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DEPARTMENT FOR VICTORIAN COMMUNITIES

PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
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• **Recommendation 139** (page 611)

<p>In conjunction with other key stakeholders, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria co-ordinate an analysis of key trends and outcomes emerging from the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Key Indicators 2005 Report to explore the potential for improving the coverage and effectiveness of Victoria's indigenous affairs policies and programs.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>An analysis of key trends and outcomes in Victoria particularly in comparison with other states has been undertaken and published in <i>The Victorian Government Indigenous Affairs Report July 2002 – June 2004</i>.</p> <p>Regarding the headline indicators, the <i>Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Report 2005</i> states "given their nature, these could not be expected to change rapidly, or in response to individual policy measures". Council of Australian Governments has agreed that the indicator framework will be important in measuring the effectiveness of the government programs, at all levels, in addressing Indigenous disadvantage over the longer-term.</p> <p>Many current Government initiatives in Indigenous affairs target the Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage 'strategic areas of action' which have been identified for their potential to have a significant and lasting impact in reducing disadvantage. It may take some time before improvements in the headline indicators are achieved to demonstrate the Government's progress as acknowledged in the <i>Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage Report 2005</i> report.</p> <p>The Secretaries' Group for Aboriginal Affairs has been established to oversight development of strategic initiatives to improve outcomes for Indigenous Victorians and to measure progress against the key indicators for <i>Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage</i>.</p>	<p>The Government in partnership with Victoria's Indigenous communities has developed the Victorian Indigenous Affairs Framework as a whole of government approach to addressing Indigenous disadvantage. The Framework aims to achieve partnership across government and between government and Indigenous communities with particular emphasis on improving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes for Indigenous people; • Coordination of government programs; • Input and direction by Indigenous communities; and • Approaches to service delivery. <p>The future development work planned for the Framework is planned to include an agreed process for whole of government reporting to show progress in the medium term. The Secretaries' Group will oversight this work.</p>
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• **Recommendation 142** (page 632)

<p>The Department for Victorian Communities ensure that the financial information in the final whole of Games Special Purpose Report is audited.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The financial information included in the <i>Games Special Purpose Report</i> is compiled from the audited accounts of Government departments, agencies and other organisations contributing funding to the Commonwealth Games. Because the Commonwealth Games is not a financial entity, the Auditor-General is not required to audit the <i>Special Purpose Report</i> as in the case of Government entity annual reports. The Auditor-General has indicated he will conduct an audit of the End of Games financial report.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
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• **Recommendation 143** (page 633)

<p>The Department for Victorian Communities report in the post-Games report on all Games initiatives, regardless of whether funding was provided directly to the agencies, or through the Commonwealth Games output.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Office of Commonwealth Games Coordination will continue to report against the whole of Games budget announced by the Government in March 2003 including all funding provided directly or indirectly, to other departments and agencies for Games initiatives.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
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• **Recommendation 145** (page 637)

<p>The Department for Victorian Communities, in the context of the review of performance measures, ensure these measures cover key result areas from the Jobs for Victoria Strategy such as provision of sustainable employment for program participants.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p><i>Workforce Participation Partnerships</i> seeks to achieve sustainable employment outcomes for eligible jobseekers. The program guidelines state that a sustainable employment outcome is the placement of a jobseeker into employment for a minimum of 16 weeks.</p> <p>Department for Victorian Communities has an ongoing program to review the suitability and quality of reported performance measures to ensure meaningful reporting on program outcomes. Employment Programs performance measures are reviewed as part of this program.</p>	<p>Employment Programs will consider inclusion of performance measures relating to sustainable employment in relation to <i>Workforce Participation Partnerships</i>.</p>
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• **Recommendation 146** (page 646)

<p>The Department for Victorian Communities establish a sound framework for measuring the effectiveness of the Refugee Support Package.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Department for Victorian Communities is working closely with DHS to establish ongoing information sharing mechanisms for the implementation of the two Refugee Support Package components, including developing protocols for reporting program outputs.</p> <p>The Department for Victorian Communities has incorporated a number of effectiveness measures in the program framework for the Refugee Brokerage Program, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference Group: an expert group of refugee community and service representatives has been established and will provide ongoing advice on the delivery of the program, including the coverage of key community needs across the target regions; • Project Workplans: funding to each target region is governed by a comprehensive workplan, which include both quantitative measures (e.g. number of clients supported or number of cross-cultural training sessions) and qualitative measures (e.g. community engagement in the project), through which the effectiveness of the approaches taken by the provider will be monitored; and • Local Partnerships: Department for Victorian Communities is negotiating local partnerships to govern each grant and will actively participate in regular governance meetings with local partners, including conducting an annual performance review workshop. 	<p>In addition to the ongoing grant management and monitoring activities for the two components of the Refugee Support Package, Department for Victorian Communities will develop and support a network structure involving the Refugee Brokers and Refugee Health Nurses, as appropriate, which will provide feedback on the local implementation of the program, including developing good practice case-studies.</p>
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• **Recommendation 147** (page 650)

<p>The Department for Victorian Communities advise Parliament, via its annual report, on the expenditure of funds allocated to promote physical activity under the 'Go for your life' campaign and on the results of its evaluations of the effectiveness of this campaign.</p>	<p>Accept in part</p>	<p>A quantitative measure of projects funded under the 'Go for your life' Physical Activity Grants program has been added to the Department for Victorian Communities's Output Performance Measures and will be reported against in the Department for Victorian Communities's annual report.</p> <p>Evaluation of the effectiveness of the 'Go for your life' media campaign is the responsibility of the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Healthy and Active Victoria Secretariat (located in the Department of Human Services).</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
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• **Recommendation 148** (page 651)

<p>Future announcements on the proposed national ice sports centre outline construction timelines, the allocation of risks and the state's financial commitment to the project.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Following a public call for proposals and progressive short-listing of private sector proposals, the Minister has announced that a preferred proponent and site has been selected.</p> <p>The preferred proponent is made up of a consortium which includes ING Real Estate, Ice Sports Australia and the Australian Olympic Committee's Olympic Winter Institute. The proposed site for the development is at Waterfront City in Docklands.</p> <p>The Government is now working through the detail of the preferred proponent's development proposal.</p> <p>As part of this process, the Government has requested confirmation from the developer of private sector backing, with the development of the facility contingent upon the preferred developer securing their investment finance.</p> <p>Following confirmation of their investment finance, the developer will be able to confirm their construction timelines and the risk allocation and financial contribution can be confirmed.</p>	<p>Subject to the proponent securing their finance, it is proposed that a development agreement would be executed with construction commencing shortly after.</p>
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PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p>• Recommendation 149 (page 655)</p>			
The Department for Victorian Communities disclose new hypothecations of Community Support Fund revenue in the budget papers.	Under review	Changes to legislation, administered by the Department for Victorian Communities, are disclosed within the Department's Annual Report which includes changes in legislated hypothecations. Changes to hypothecation are also subject to Parliamentary approval and thus disclosed.	As the disclosure of changes of hypothecations would impact a number of departments and disclosures within the Budget Papers the matter will be examined in consultation with the Department of Treasury and Finance.
<p>• Recommendation 150 (page 655)</p>			
The Department of Treasury and Finance direct departments to detail in the budget papers the key initiatives and programs funded from the Community Support Fund.	Accept in principle	<p>The estimated impact of Community Support Fund (CSF) expenditures is incorporated as part of the output cost summary table for each department published in Budget Paper No.3, <i>Service Delivery</i>. The Department of Treasury and Finance encourages departments to consider providing footnotes in the budget papers where appropriate to indicate CSF funded government initiatives.</p> <p>The Department for Victoria Communities' Annual Report currently contains an appendix listing CSF funding approvals made during the financial year and provides details including the name of the legal entity receiving CSF funding, the name of the project and the grant amount.</p>	No further action will be taken on this recommendation.
<p>• Recommendation 151 (page 660)</p>			
The Department for Victorian Communities, in conjunction with the Office of Women's Policy, develop a robust means of assessing the quality of advice provided to stakeholders and report aggregated results in the budget papers.	Accept	Department for Victorian Communities has an ongoing performance measure program to review suitability and quality of reported performance measures to ensure more meaningful reporting. Office of Women's Policy performance measures are reviewed as part of this program.	No further action will be taken on this recommendation.

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• **Recommendation 152** (page 661)

<p>The Department for Victorian Communities in conjunction with the Office of Women's Policy, sponsor discussions between the Australasian Evaluation Society and departmental representatives aimed at adopting a set of standards to apply to future evaluations; and</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>A process to standardise program evaluation formats across the Department is already underway. It consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • common data sets – scope / definition and counting rules • standardising programs / grant input data • Including evaluation advice in grant processes • Increasing geo-spatial mapping capacity. <p>The approach is consistent with the work of the Australasian Evaluation Society.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
<p>(b) consider the adoption of department wide standards for all future evaluations.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>As stated above, the Department is implementing a process to standardise evaluation formats.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>

• **Recommendation 153** (page 662)

<p>The Office of Women's Policy, in consultation with other government agencies, coordinate the establishment of an evaluation strategy for the Safety and Justice: A New approach to Family Violence in Victoria strategy, in conjunction with the planning and development phases of this initiative.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>DVC has commenced planning an evaluation strategy in consultation with other Government agencies for the New Approach to Family Violence in Victoria strategy.</p>	<p>No further action will be taken on this recommendation.</p>
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PAEC Recommendation	Response	Action Taken to Date	Further Action Planned
<p>(b) actively promote the value of the new www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au website and increase website access targets in the 2006 07 Budget Papers.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>The Office for Youth has developed a communications plan that addresses both internal and external communications activities with respect to <i>youthcentral</i>. The communications plan is centred on the following five channels of communications that work together in an integrated and mutually supportive approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online environment • Traditional marketing and communications • Stakeholder relationships • Media opportunities • Special projects <p>The Department for Victorian Communities and the Office for Youth will consider increasing the targets for 2006-07.</p>	<p>The communications plan will be implemented in 2006-07.</p>