Victoria State Government
Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions

Annual Report 2023/2024

We acknowledge the traditional Aboriginal owners of country throughout Victoria, their ongoing connection to this land and we pay our respects to their culture and their Elders past, present and future.

Contents

[01 – Overview 2](#_Toc181005982)

[Secretary’s Foreword 2](#_Toc181005983)

[Accountable Officer’s Declaration 3](#_Toc181005984)

[About the department 3](#_Toc181005985)

[About us 3](#_Toc181005986)

[Our purpose 3](#_Toc181005987)

[Changes to the department during 2023–24 4](#_Toc181005988)

[Departmental realignment 4](#_Toc181005989)

[Portfolio and machinery of government changes 4](#_Toc181005990)

[Direct costs attributable to machinery of government changes 5](#_Toc181005991)

[Subsequent events 5](#_Toc181005992)

[Ministers 9](#_Toc181005993)

[Executive Board 10](#_Toc181005994)

[Audit and Risk Committee 11](#_Toc181005995)

[Legislation administered by the department 12](#_Toc181005996)

[Entities 12](#_Toc181005997)

[Departmental groups at 30 June 2024 14](#_Toc181005998)

[Corporate Services 14](#_Toc181005999)

[Creative Victoria 14](#_Toc181006000)

[Economic Policy, Projects and Coordination 15](#_Toc181006001)

[Industry, Trade and Investment 15](#_Toc181006002)

[Regional Development and Outdoor Recreation 16](#_Toc181006003)

[Skills and Employment 16](#_Toc181006004)

[Sport and Experience Economy 17](#_Toc181006005)

[Achievements 2023-24 – aligned to DJSIR’s Strategic Plan 17](#_Toc181006006)

01 – Overview

# Secretary’s Foreword

Over the 2023–24 financial year, the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) delivered programs, services and projects that supported Victorians, bolstered Victoria’s economy and helped build a more prosperous, inclusive and globally connected future for our state.

The department’s people worked hard to deliver the significant achievements outlined in this 2023–24 Annual Report amidst changing economic conditions, a dynamic geo-political environment, and the sustained need for skilled workers in priority sectors.

Our support of Victorian businesses and sectors to create jobs and attract investment was underpinned by a focus on the training system and workforce development.

We also worked to further enhance participation in sports and outdoor recreation and grow our visitor economy and creative industries across the state.

Innovation continues to be a key focus, including our world-class life sciences sector, and we have continued to support local jobs, manufacturing and employment through active partnerships with our portfolio entities, and industry and community stakeholders.

As the state continues on the path to Treaty, we strengthened our investment in Aboriginal economic development through skills and training pathways, Traditional Owner partnerships and targeted grants.

Machinery of Government (MoG) changes announced during the period saw the Medical Research portfolio join the department, and the Suburban Development portfolio transition to the Department of Transport and Planning. At 30 June 2024, DJSIR supported 11 ministerial portfolios and 9 ministers.

Our people are passionate about serving Victoria and Victorians. Together, we are building the productive capacity of our economy to help business and industry thrive, supporting Victorians to participate fully in our economy and communities, and growing Victoria’s prosperity through jobs and skills.

We carry out this work guided by the values of accountability, integrity and respect.

I thank our team members for their contribution to the department’s achievements during 2023–24, and for their unwavering commitment to delivering positive outcomes for all Victorians.

## Accountable Officer’s Declaration

In accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994*, I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions for the year ending 30 June 2024.

**Tim Ada**  
Secretary

# About the department

## About us

Established on 1 January 2023, the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR) brought together government portfolios focused on building a prosperous future for our state and its people, our businesses and industries, and our communities and regions.

As at 30 June 2024, our work supported 9 ministers spanning 11 portfolios; with the department operating across metropolitan Melbourne, regional Victoria and 23 international offices. We also oversee a significant number of public entities, including public corporations, regulatory authorities and specialist boards and work closely with many government, industry and community stakeholders.

Our values of Accountability, Integrity and Respect underpin everything we do.

# Our purpose

The Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions is focused on growing Victoria’s prosperity, building the productive capacity of our economy and increasing participation. We do this by creating more opportunities for people through jobs and skills; helping businesses to thrive; and building vibrant communities and regions.

For Victoria, this means:

**Growing prosperity by creating more opportunities for people through jobs and skills**

We’re helping people access the training and supports they need to find and succeed in work. As Victoria’s demand for skilled workers increases, we’re bringing employers, Victoria’s TAFE Network, universities, other training and education providers and employment services together so business and industry have access to a world-class workforce and more Victorians can achieve their education and employment aspirations.

We’re also supporting Aboriginal self-determination through employment and economic development and finding new ways to grow greater participation through Victoria’s social economy.

**Supporting the productive capacity of our economy to help businesses and industries thrive**

We’re helping businesses and industries grow, adapt and transition. By strengthening Victoria’s business environment and global connections, we’re attracting investment, helping build new industries and supporting the expansion of Victorian businesses into international markets. We’re fostering research, innovation and commercialisation, digital and creative economies, and advanced manufacturing. We’re also working to cement Victoria’s position as Australia’s leading tourism and major events destination.

**Increasing participation and supporting vibrant communities and regions**

We’re creating the conditions that support vibrant and resilient regions and supporting Victorians’ participation in the economy, community, the creative industries, sport and recreation. Our tailored, place- based approach enhances connectedness, boosts liveability, leverages local economic strengths and opportunities, and improves access to community infrastructure. Our relationships across government, communities and businesses aspire to ensure the benefits of a robust economy are available to all Victorians – supporting a stronger and fairer society.

Underpinning all our work is recognition that we are in an active sovereign relationship with First Nations, and we’re committed to continual development of the skills we need to support a fair Treaty process that can realise positive outcomes for all Victorians.

# Changes to the department during 2023–24

## Departmental realignment

DJSIR realigned its department structure in August 2023 to capture efficiencies following Machinery of Government (MoG) changes and to align with 2023–24 State Budget outcomes.

The realignment consolidated the number of groups within the department.

## Portfolio and machinery of government changes

On 18 July 2023, the Victorian Government announced it would not proceed with hosting the 2026 Commonwealth Games. The 2 related portfolios were retired on 20 July 2023.

On 2 October 2023, the Premier of Victoria announced MoG changes as a result of Ministerial portfolio changes.

**Changes effective 1 February 2024**

* The Medical Research portfolio transferred from the Department of Health to DJSIR.

The Suburban Development portfolio transferred from DJSIR to the Department of Transport and Planning.

**Change effective 30 June 2024**

On 18 June 2024, the Governor in Council issued an order under section 11(b) of the *Public Administration Act 2004* to abolish Invest Victoria as an Administrative Office of DJSIR, which came into effect on 30 June 2024. Invest Victoria continues as a business unit of the department.

# Direct costs attributable to machinery of government changes

In December 2022 and October 2023, the government issued administrative orders restructuring some of its activities via Machinery of Government (MoG) changes. As result of the MoG changes, the department incurred the following additional direct costs since 1 January 2023:

| Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions | **Costs incurred** | **Anticipated future costs (1 July 2024 onwards)** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Relocation | 21,174 | – |
| IT and records management | 2,180,632 | 1,128,370 |
| **Total** | **2,201,806** | **1,128,370** |

Anticipated future costs attributable to the MoG changes mainly relate to Network, Infrastructure and Data systems migrations.

There were no direct costs attributable to the MoG changes that have been incurred by the entities that are consolidated into the department’s annual report pursuant to section 53(1)(b) of the *Financial Management Act 1994.*

# Subsequent events

In August 2024, the Australian Securities and Investment Commission approved the voluntary deregistration of Victoria 2026 Pty Ltd under the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry And Regions – Organisational Chart

as at 30 JUNE 2024

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Minister Natalie Hutchins**  Minister for Jobs and Industry  DJSIR Coordinating Minister | **Minister Colin Brooks**  Minister for Creative Industries | **Minister Ben Carroll**  Minister for Medical Research | **Minister Steve Dimopoulos**  Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events  Minister for Outdoor Recreation | **Minister Tim Pallas**  Minister for Economic Growth | **Minister Ros Spence**  Minister for Community Sport | **Minister Natalie Suleyman**  Minister for Small Business | **Minister Gayle Tierney**  Minister for Skills and TAFE  Minister for Regional Development | **Minister Vicki Ward**  Minister for Employment |

|  |
| --- |
| **Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions**  **Secretary** Tim Ada |

| Regional Development and Outdoor Recreation  Deputy Secretary Beth Jones\* | Skills and Employment  Deputy Secretary Lill Healy | Sport and Experience Economy  Deputy Secretary Peter Betson | Industry, Trade and Investment^  Deputy Secretary Danni Jarrett\*\* | Economic Policy, Projects and Coordination  Deputy Secretary Julian Lyngcoln | Corporate Services  Deputy Secretary Heather Ridley |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Regions  Executive Director Anthony Schinck | Office of TAFE Coordination and Delivery  Chief Executive Officer Xavier Csar  TAFE Partnerships and Implementation  Executive Director Susan Thomas  TAFE Service Delivery  Executive Director David Miller | Community Sport and Recreation  Executive Director Georgia McCann | Industry Development and Manufacturing Sovereignty  Executive Director Nanette Fitzgerald  Program and Engagement Delivery  Executive Director Anthony Sherry | Aboriginal Economic Development  Associate Deputy Secretary Hans Bokelund | Strategic Communications  Chief Communications Officer Jacqui Berry |
| Cross Border Commissioner  Brett Davis | Apprenticeships Victoria  Executive Director James Montgomery | Strategic Infrastructure and Sport Economy  Executive Director Luke Mason | Medical Research, Innovation and Technology  Executive Director Connie Crisafi | Delivery Coordination  A/Executive Director Megan Smart | People and Culture  Executive Director Annie Reeves |
| **Emergency Management and Outdoor Recreation**  Executive Director Rachaele May | **Policy and Strategy**  Executive Director Teresa Fels | **Policy and Coordination**  Director Nancy Krause | Investment and Engagement  Executive Director Brad Ostermeyer  Defence, Aviation and Aerospace  Executive Director Teresa Tufano | Priority Projects  Director Caitlyn Hammond | Finance, Investment and Procurement  Chief Financial Officer and Executive Director Daniel Rodger |
| **Place based Strategy, Insights and Coordination**  Executive Director Jeremy Levine | **Training Operations and Assurance**  Executive Director Ryan Collins | **Tourism and Events Strategy and Reform**  Executive Director Natalie Phillips | **Policy, Strategy, Talent and Migration**  A/Executive Director Loga Chandrakumar | Economic Policy  Director Graeme Maddern | Information Technology and Workplace Services  Executive Director Cassandra Highfield |
| **Priority Projects and Business Performance**  Executive Director David Burns | **Employment**  Executive Director Laura Trengove | **Tourism Infrastructure and Entities**  Executive Director Adrian Browne | **Small Business Victoria**  Executive Director Ylva Carosone | Data and Analytics  Director Cheng Yang | Legal and Legislation  A/General Counsel And Executive Director Adrian Shavitsky |
|  | **Adult, Community and Further Education, Higher Education and Workforce**  Executive Director Laura Lo Bianco-Smith |  | **mRNA Victoria**  A/Chief Executive Officer Phoebe Dunn | Design and Evaluation  Director Sue Heistein | Strategy, Performance and Governance  Executive Director Kim Mcginnes |
|  | **Strategic Skills Projects**  Executive Director Meena Naidu |  | **Trade, Global Engagement and International Education**  Executive Director Fiona Letos | **Social Services Workforce Reform**  Directors  Kate Phillips Maxie Porter-Heubeck |  |
|  |  |  | **CarbonNet**  Executive Director Donna Findlay |  |  |
|  |  |  | **Industry, Trade and Investment Services**  Executive Director Daniel Bisignano |  |  |
|  |  |  | **Office of The Lead Scientist**  Lead Scientist Amanda Caples |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Latrobe Valley Authority**  Chief Executive Officer Chris Buckingham | **Victorian Skills Authority**  Chief Executive Officer Craig Robertson | **Creative Victoria**  Chief Executive Claire Febey |

\* Also Chief Executive Officer of Regional Development Victoria

\*\* Also Chief Executive Officer of Invest Victoria

^ 7 Commissioners for Victoria report to this group.

Visit [Global Vic](http://www.global.vic.gov.au) for further details.

## Ministers

The department supported 9 ministers across 11 portfolios. As at 30 June 2024, they were:

| Minister | Role |
| --- | --- |
| The Hon. Natalie Hutchins MP | Minister for Jobs and Industry Coordinating Minister |
| The Hon. Colin Brooks MP | Minister for Creative Industries |
| The Hon. Ben Carroll MP | Minister for Medical Research |
| Mr Steve Dimopoulos MP | Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Minister for Outdoor Recreation |
| Mr Tim Pallas MP | Minister for Economic Growth |
| The Hon. Ros Spence MP | Minister for Community Sport |
| The Hon. Natalie Suleyman MP | Minister for Small Business |
| The Hon. Gayle Tierney MP | Minister for Skills and TAFE Minister for Regional Development |
| Ms Vicki Ward MP | Minister for Employment |

The department also provided, via Ministers, advice and support to parliamentary secretaries. As at 30 June 2024, they were:

| Parliamentary Secretary | Role |
| --- | --- |
| Ms Bronwyn Halfpenny | Parliamentary Secretary for Jobs |
| Ms Katie Hall | Parliamentary Secretary for Creative Industries |
| Mr Paul Hamer | Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development |
| Ms Michaela Settle | Parliamentary Secretary for Regional Development |

## Executive Board

The DJSIR Executive Board (EB) is the department’s primary governance body. The EB is a forum for the collective stewardship of the department and is responsible for supporting the Secretary to deliver on the department’s remit.

At 30 June 2024, members of EB were:

| Parliamentary Secretary | Role |
| --- | --- |
| Tim Ada | Secretary |
| Jacqui Berry | Chief Communications Officer |
| Peter Betson | Deputy Secretary, Sport and Experience Economy |
| Claire Febey | Chief Executive Officer, Creative Victoria |
| Lill Healy | Deputy Secretary, Skills and Employment |
| Danni Jarrett | Deputy Secretary, Industry, Trade and Investment |
| Beth Jones | Deputy Secretary, Regional Development and Outdoor Recreation |
| Julian Lyngcoln | Deputy Secretary, Economic Policy, Projects and Coordination |
| Annie Reeves | Executive Director, People and Culture |
| Heather Ridley | Deputy Secretary, Corporate Services |
| Daniel Rodger | Chief Financial Officer |
| Tim Ada | Secretary |
| Jacqui Berry | Chief Communications Officer |

## Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) is an independent body established in accordance with the Standing Directions 2018 under the *Financial Management Act 1994*. The Secretary appoints all committee members based on their qualifications and experience to ensure that the committee can adequately discharge its duties. The department’s Chief Finance Officer and the Chief Audit Officer are standing invitees to all ARC meetings; the ARC meets at least 5 times each year, with the authority to convene additional meetings, as circumstances require.

The ARC provides the Secretary with independent assurance on the department’s:

* financial and performance reporting
* risk oversight and management
* systems and processes in relation to integrity, audit, strategic and emerging risks, and internal controls

legislative and policy compliance.

**In 2023–24, the ARC members were:**

| Name | Role | Period |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Peter Lewinsky AM | Chair and Independent Member | 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 |
| Pam Mitchell | Independent Member | 1 July to 30 November 2023 |
| Patricia Neden | Independent Member | 1 July to 30 November 2023 |
| Nanette Fitzgerald | Executive Director, Industry Development and Manufacturing Sovereignty | 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 |
| Max Coffman | Deputy CEO, Creative Victoria | 15 December 2023 to 30 June 2024 |
| Deirdre Blythe | Independent Member | 1 December 2023 to 30 June 2024 |
| Carole Alt | Independent Member | 1 December 2023 to 30 June 2024 |
| Peter Lewinsky AM | Chair and Independent Member | 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 |
| Pam Mitchell | Independent Member | 1 July to 30 November 2023 |
| Patricia Neden | Independent Member | 1 July to 30 November 2023 |
| Nanette Fitzgerald | Executive Director, Industry Development and Manufacturing Sovereignty | 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 |
| Max Coffman | Deputy CEO, Creative Victoria | 15 December 2023 to 30 June 2024 |
| Deirdre Blythe | Independent Member | 1 December 2023 to 30 June 2024 |

# Legislation administered by the department

The department’s [website](djsir.vic.gov.au) details DJSIR-administered legislation from 1 January 2023 onwards.

# Entities

**Creative Industries portfolio**

* Arts Centre Melbourne
* Australian Centre for the Moving Image
* Docklands Studios Melbourne
* Film Victoria (trading as VicScreen)
* Geelong Arts Centre
* Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation
* Melbourne Recital Centre
* Museums Victoria
* National Gallery of Victoria
* State Library Victoria

The Wheeler Centre

**Economic Growth portfolio**

* Breakthrough Victoria

LaunchVic

**Jobs and Industry portfolio**

* Defence Council Victoria

Office of the Local Jobs First Commissioner

**Outdoor Recreation portfolio**

* Game Management Authority

Victorian Fisheries Authority

**Regional Development portfolio**

* Latrobe Valley Authority
* Office of the Cross-Border Commissioner
* Regional Development Victoria

Victoria 2026

**Skills and TAFE portfolio**

* Adult, Community and Further Education Board
* AMES Australia
* Bendigo Kangan Institute
* Box Hill Institute
* Chisholm Institute
* Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE (GOTAFE)
* Holmesglen Institute
* Melbourne Polytechnic
* South West Institute of TAFE
* Sunraysia Institute of TAFE (SuniTAFE)
* TAFE Gippsland
* The Gordon Institute of TAFE
* VET Development Centre
* Victorian Skills Authority
* William Angliss Institute

Wodonga TAFE

**Small Business portfolio**

Victorian Small Business Commission

**Tourism, Sport and Major Events portfolio**

* Australian Grand Prix Corporation
* Kardinia Park Stadium Trust
* Melbourne and Olympic Parks Trust
* Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Trust
* Melbourne Convention Bureau
* Melbourne Cricket Ground Trust
* Professional Boxing and Combat Sports Board
* Puffing Billy Railway Board
* State Sport Centres Trust
* Victorian Institute of Sport

Visit Victoria

# Departmental groups at 30 June 2024

## Corporate Services

The Corporate Services group (CSG) partnered with and advised the department on corporate operational matters, enhancing the department’s ability to deliver on government priorities effectively and efficiently.

The group harnessed expertise across multiple disciplines including people and culture, finance, investment and procurement, strategic communications, legal and legislation, strategy, performance and governance, and information technology and workplace services. CSG’s collective knowledge supported the department’s strategic objectives and compliance, fulfilling the department’s legislative obligations and responsibilities.

## Creative Victoria

Creative Victoria championed and supported the state’s creative industries, growing the $40.3 billion creative economy for the benefit of Victorians.

It invested in the people, organisations, events and projects that make Victoria the creative state.

The group backed the career development of creative workers, supported the sustainability of creative organisations, and ensured that Victorians have access to creative and cultural opportunities, wherever they live. Underpinned by the principle of First Peoples first, and with self-determination embedded in policies and programs, the group helped platform First Peoples creative leadership and supported the growth of a strong First Peoples creative sector. Creative Victoria also oversaw the state’s $7 billion plus portfolio of creative and cultural facilities, assets and collections, including Victoria’s iconic public cultural institutions which welcomed more than 11 million visitors this year.

## Economic Policy, Projects and Coordination

The Economic Policy, Projects and Coordination group brings together advanced capabilities in economics and public policy, data and modelling, program design and evaluation, project management, delivery and assurance. The group worked in partnership across the department, bringing its deep understanding of the Victorian economy, expertise in policy, program design and continuous improvement to support new initiatives. The group provided leadership in economic policy, including input to the government’s economic strategy. It also played a significant coordination role, enabling cross-cutting initiatives to be developed and delivered successfully.

The group also had portfolio responsibilities for Aboriginal economic development. The group drove the implementation of the Yuma Yirramboi strategy – a coordinated plan to support parity in economic opportunities, prosperity and social outcomes for

Victoria’s Aboriginal communities within a generation. Aboriginal culture and language are central to the strategy’s aspirations and the group worked to strengthen these through structured investment and capacity building. The group’s commitment to the Treaty process, including work to get the department Treaty ready, will enable valuable contribution to state-wide Treaty negotiations.

## Industry, Trade and Investment

The Industry, Trade and Investment (ITI) group worked closely with businesses locally and globally to grow Victorian jobs, drive innovation and increase Victoria’s international competitiveness. ITI championed Victoria as a destination of choice for trade and international investment, international education and innovation.

The group harnessed specialist knowledge of key industries and global markets to develop Victoria’s priority sectors, boost trade activities, enhance productivity and contribute to economic growth.

It did this by forming trust-based relationships with businesses – from global enterprises to small businesses and startups; connecting the state to global opportunities, including through the Victorian Government Trade and Investment (VGTI) network; facilitating new investment and business expansion; developing and attracting world-class talent; supporting key industry and manufacturing capabilities; supporting Victorian businesses to excel in global markets; strengthening the state’s medical research and digital ecosystems and its linkages with industry; accelerating the growth and impact of Victoria’s research translation and commercialisation capabilities; and advocating for a competitive, fair and inclusive business environment.

## Regional Development and Outdoor Recreation

The Regional Development and Outdoor Recreation (RDOR) group led place-based policy, programs, projects and engagement to support prosperous and inclusive communities across regional Victoria, including in cross-border areas. RDOR had a strong role in activating networks; building partnerships; realising outcomes that boost local economic and community resilience; and bringing the lived experience of communities into government decision making. The group worked with community stakeholders, industry and all levels of government to facilitate economic opportunities and job creation, help navigate population growth and support coordinated responses to industry transitions including those related to energy and forestry.

RDOR also coordinated the department’s emergency management preparedness, response and recovery activities and seeks to build resilience to natural disasters and emergencies. The group coordinated outdoor recreation functions including those related to game hunting, fishing and boating, working closely with the Victorian Fisheries Authority and the Game Management Authority.

## Skills and Employment

The Skills and Employment (S&E) group worked to give Victorians the opportunity to access the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to participate in today’s workforce, prepare for the jobs of the future and achieve their educational and employment aspirations. It worked with businesses to ensure they have access to the skilled workers they need, and partnered with local community organisations to encourage innovative ways to create inclusive job opportunities. The group’s responsibilities included making sure that Victorians are supported to seek safe, secure, fair and sustainable jobs in priority sectors such as the clean economy.

The group oversaw the Victorian Vocational Education and Training (VET) system with a specific focus on ensuring delivery of quality outcomes through TAFEs across the state through the Office of TAFE Coordination and Delivery, informed by the group’s partnership with the Victorian Skills Authority.

S&E collaborated with other governments across Australia to steward a national quality training system including apprenticeships and drive better outcomes through the higher education system. The group partnered with universities to meet government priorities, supported the Adult, Community and Further Education Board to drive better pathways through preaccredited training and led employment related program delivery with a focus on the people and places that need the most support.

The group’s strong working partnership with the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association aimed to improve skilling outcomes for Aboriginal learners and was guided by the Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan 2016–2026. This informed and underpinned all the work of S&E and was supported by the Closing the Gap policy initiative in the National Skills Agreement.

## Sport and Experience Economy

The Sport and Experience Economy group worked to create positive experiences and strengthened Victoria’s profile through sport, tourism and events, from local communities to the international stage.

It supported vibrant and resilient tourism and events sectors that drive sustainable and inclusive economic growth; facilitated innovation and new investment; and strengthened Victoria’s reputation and status as a leading destination for tourism, sport and events.

The group also worked to inspire and enable Victorians to be more active and participate in sport and recreation. This benefited the Victorian community by improving overall health and wellbeing, creating stronger and more inclusive communities, delivering economic growth and jobs, and enhancing liveability across Victoria.

# Achievements 2023-24 – aligned to DJSIR’s Strategic Plan

1. Create jobs and attract investment

* Stimulated the creation of 5,378 jobs and capital expenditure of $805 million in the Victorian economy
* Awarded grants to 15 projects with a total value of up to $3.45 million, creating 143 new full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs through Round 1 of the Manufacturing Growth Program
* Delivered the pilot Talent Finder service, providing investors with targeted services to assist with identifying and recruiting suitable staff to establish and grow their operations in Victoria, resulting in support provided for 11 investors
* Engaged with 1,507 firms, providing advice to support investment, innovation linkages and insights into key areas such as energy transition, supply chain and digital technology
* Released the *Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Action Plan* to the public to position the state as an attractive location for new investment, research and development, and manufacturing and commercialisation of the AAM, drones and zero- emission aviation sector
* Supported IDT Australia Ltd to establish a new commercial contract design and manufacturing organisation facility in Boronia, which will produce a new, innovative class of cancer treatments and create 25 new highly skilled jobs
* Secured an investment from major global animal health company Zoetis Australia of $350 million including capital investment to help establish sovereign manufacturing capabilities, the creation of up to 95 jobs and the acquisition of the majority of the former CSL site at Poplar Road, Parkville
* Supported Lyka Pet Food to open its new $16 million flagship manufacturing facility and national distribution centre in Dandenong South. The facility will boost Victoria’s growing food manufacturing sector and create 100+ local jobs
* Supported Orora Beverage with its $90 million investment to expand beverage can manufacturing operations in Dandenong South, creating up to 18 new jobs, and the expansion of its Ballarat facility
* Hanwha Defence Australia secured the contract with the Australian Government Department of Defence to provide 129 Redback Infantry Fighting Vehicles. When combined with the company’s contract for Self-Propelled Howitzers, these projects will create over 1,000 jobs and $170 million in capital expenditure over the lifetime of the project (which commenced in 2022) at the Hanwha Armoured Vehicle Centre of Excellence (H-ACE) in Geelong
* Secured a 10-year partnership with global biotechnology leader BioNTech to establish a clinical-scale mRNA manufacturing facility at La Trobe University’s Bundoora campus and an mRNA Innovation Centre to support the commercialisation of local research and help fast-track new therapies from the lab to patients, including a clinical cancer program to bring personalised therapies for hard-to-treat cancers for up to 4,000 Australians
* Commenced the Commissioning, Qualification and Validation phase of Moderna’s vaccine manufacturing facility, a significant milestone for regulatory approval
* Released *Connecting Victoria to the World – Trade and Investment: A Year in Review 2022– 23*, highlighting successful trade facilitation, international student sector support and investment attraction outcomes secured by Global Victoria, Study Melbourne and Invest Victoria
* Progressed delivery of the Nyaal Banyul Geelong Convention and Event Centre Precinct in the Barwon region – the centrepiece of the Geelong City Deal. Construction will support 1,450+ jobs
* Delivered the final stages of the Alpine Resorts Support Package aimed at each of the Alpine Resort Management Boards (now Alpine Resorts Victoria) across the Hume region. The funding supported infrastructure and events to maximise the snow season, as well as grow the green season visitor economy
* Supported the employment of 1,523 apprentices and trainees who were employed through Group Training Organisations (GTOs) on Big Build projects
* Supported the employment of 530 apprentices and trainees employed directly on 2 TAFE demonstration Big Build projects (New Footscray Hospital and North East Link)
* Supported the TAFE network and industry by providing incentives to employ 200 TAFE teachers as part of the TAFE Teacher Incentive Program
* Supported practical placement officers across the TAFE network to reduce the mandatory work placement backlog by 50%. Since reporting began on 30 June 2022, the backlog has improved by 92%

Supported the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) in the delivery of the initial business case for the State Electricity Commission Centre of Training Excellence (SEC CoTE) and commenced work on the full business case. The CoTE will deliver on a key election commitment and help supply the skilled workforce for the renewable energy sector.

1. Identify and address current and future skills needs

* Created an integrated labour and training model, and *Strategic Workforce Planning Guide* following a Whole-of-Victorian Government stocktake of workforce development plans and related initiatives to improve the prioritisation, alignment and coordination of workforce development activities across government
* Helped to address critical workforce shortages and future skills needs across priority Victorian industries by nominating 3,300 skilled migrants through Victoria’s 2023–24 Skilled Visa Nomination Program, including:
* 800+ skilled migrants nominated to live and work in Victoria’s regions to assist in meeting regional skills needs
* 350+ skilled migrants nominated to address current and future skills needs in priority Victorian industries such as advanced manufacturing, engineering, infrastructure, information technology and renewable energy
* 650+ skilled migrants nominated to work in Victoria’s health, social services and education sectors
* Supported 538 business owners and investors by nominating them for business and investor visas, and provided tailored assistance to link their businesses to Victorian Government services
* Supported 895 skilled professionals living in Victoria to obtain assessment of their overseas qualifications to assist them to undertake further work and study
* Assisted 1,087 mid-career workers to reskill and move into jobs in the digital economy through the Digital Jobs Program (Rounds 8 and 9). The program has supported 5,148 workers since Round 1, with 59% of participants women, 63% speaking more than one language and 40% over the age of 40
* Supported Victoria’s manufacturing sector to build critical digital skills, with 466 manufacturing workers across 200 manufacturing businesses supported to undertake training through the Digital Jobs for Manufacturing Program
* Supported 16 defence and manufacturing businesses to increase their Industry 4.0 capabilities through DMTC’s Smart Enough Factory Program
* Supported 5 businesses to attend the Defence and Industry Study Course 2024. The 7-month course is delivered by Defence and attended by Australian Defence Force members, defence industry and Australian Government and state agencies
* In partnership with LaunchVic, the Australian Medtech Manufacturing Centre provided $1 million in funding and leveraged a further $2 million in investment to 20 medtech scale-ups to accelerate their pathway to market through the Medtech Market Growth Program
* Australian Medtech Manufacturing Centre supported the Victorian Medtech Skills and Devices Hub (VMH) to train Victoria’s medtech manufacturing workforce in a new state-wide partnership with industry delivered by University of Melbourne, RMIT University and Swinburne University. The VMH published the *Medical Technology Skills-Education Gaps Roadmap*, delivered 8 short courses addressing the top skills gaps and enabled 50+ industry placements
* Delivered 2 pilot courses from the intermediate mRNA medicines manufacturing course, via the Monash Centre for Advanced mRNA Medicines Manufacturing and Workforce Training. Course delivery is on track to commence later in 2024
* Contributed to the development of skills and training responses to support delivery of workforce reform activities recommended by the *Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System and Victoria’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Workforce Strategy 2021–2024*
* Extended eligibility for government-subsidised training to ensure equitable access. Eligibility for Free TAFE was also extended, so students studying in Free TAFE priority pathways could train fee-free in selected pathway courses. Students studying a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care can continue their Free TAFE studies in a diploma course at a TAFE of their choice
* Revised payment rates for Free TAFE to better reflect the cost of quality training delivery in 2023. Other price-based measures were also introduced to support TAFE financial sustainability
* Included Literacy and Numeracy Support as a Free TAFE short course from mid-2023, to provide targeted foundation support to TAFE learners to engage with and complete their training. Since July 2023, 7,000+ students have enrolled in Literacy and Numeracy Support at TAFE
* Funded the delivery of free or low-cost place-based foundation skills programs by Learn Locals to 28,013 learners in 2023–24, through the Adult, Community and Further Education Board (ACFE Board)
* Invested in the Victorian training and skill development ecosystem with 17 new grants across the Workforce Training and Innovation Fund, Regional and Specialist Training Fund and Workforce Skill Set Fund
* Implemented a range of initiatives to improve access to, and the quality of, pre-accredited training provision including the development of toolkits and protocols to assist providers to better target hard-to-reach learners including Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) and Koorie learners
* Led engagement through intergovernmental fora on key Australian Universities Accord reforms. Victoria contributed to the development of the *National Action Plan* addressing gender-based violence in higher education. DJSIR remains closely engaged with the Australian Government on implementation of the action plan
* Free TAFE benefitted 175,000+ students from 2019 to June 2024, saving students $503+ million in fees. Free TAFE has enabled more people to commence a course including:
* 101,000+ women
* 16,000+ students with a disability
* 50,000+ culturally and language-diverse students
* 45,000+ students studying in regional Victoria
* 42,000+ unemployed
* Provided $3 million to support TAFE network institutes to improve cyber security resilience, undertake critical IT upgrades, and negotiate and centralise common Information and Communication Technology (ICT) contracts for implementation of new work placement and asset management platforms
* Delivered the *Victorian Skills Plan* for 2023 into 2024 – building on the inaugural plan’s actions and detailing state-wide and regional skill challenges. The plan contained 7 actions highlighting the need for an inclusive VET system that prepares learners for the jobs of tomorrow with qualifications that are fit-for-purpose
* Developed projections of how many workers will enter the labour market in the next few years – and the future skills need – across Victoria’s regions, industries and occupations. The projections are published in the Victorian Skills Authority Employment Projections Dashboard and are widely used by government, industry, TAFEs, training providers, students and careers advisors
* Monitored the outcomes of government-funded VET through the annual Student Satisfaction Survey and Employer Satisfaction Survey. This included understanding employment outcomes after the course, for example occupations and industries of employment, and whether students secured jobs in areas of skills need
* Supported the VET Development Centre (VDC) to develop and deliver professional learning across Victoria. In 2023 the VDC recorded over 5,000 registrations for Victorian Government funded programs
* Delivered the annual Victorian Training Awards and Learn Local Awards programs. In 2023, the Victorian Training Awards received the highest number of nominations in its 70-year history. Winners of many award categories went on to represent Victoria in the Australian Training Awards where Victoria claimed multiple wins including Outstanding Achievement in the VET and Skills Sector Award, Gold awards for Industry Collaboration and Small Employer of the Year and Silver for Large Training Provider of the Year
* Provided high quality information about VET courses, training providers and support services to 21,800 enquiries from Victorians (an increase of 26% from the previous year) through the TAFE and Training Line
* Provided careers and skilling advice in 2023 to 25,000+ Victorians wanting to enter the workforce, transition to a new job, start training, re-skill or upskill through Skills and Jobs Centres (SJCs) located across Victoria
* Supported 70 women through the 2023–24 Change Our Game Professional Development Scholarships Program, providing opportunities to strengthen specialist skills and placing them in the best position to obtain and thrive in leadership roles

Supported 100+ participants through the 2023–24 Change Our Game Women in Sports Media Program to strengthen their industry knowledge, skills and networks to shape careers in front of and behind the camera.

1. Strengthen the business environment and develop key industries

* Undertook 9 comprehensive evaluations in 2023–24 across a range of topics including creative spaces to support artists, medtech manufacturing, industry investment, international education, supporting Aboriginal economic development, and events
* Delivered the Victorian Manufacturing Showcase with 80+ exhibitors and 1,000+ attendees
* Delivered the government’s Ethical Clothing Australia (ECA) election commitment to support ECA’s operations to ensure textile, clothing and footwear manufacturers comply with strict standards including paying workers fairly and providing safe working conditions
* Supported Victoria’s food, pharmaceutical and packaging manufacturing sectors with major and industry events including the Australian Processing and Packaging Exhibition (10,500+ attendees), foodpro 2023 (9,000+ attendees) and the Monash Food Innovation Centre Forum
* Launched the *Made in Victoria Steel Supply Chain Directory*, showcasing the capabilities of 36 Victorian steel manufacturers to facilitate local procurement of Victorian made steel products
* Provided support through the Timber Supply Chain Resilience Package to 120+ timber product manufacturers who are transitioning following the end of native timber harvesting in Victoria
* Delivered the government’s election commitment to strengthen the Fair Jobs Code by lowering the application threshold to $1 million. The Code acknowledges suppliers and businesses participating in Victorian Government contracts or significant business expansion grants who are compliant with all applicable employment, industrial relations and workplace health and safety obligations
* Issued 2,225 Fair Jobs Code pre-assessment certificates, achieving a milestone of 4,500+ pre-assessment certificates issued since the Fair Jobs Code came into effect in December 2022
* Supported establishment of the Australian Centre for AI in Medical Innovation at La Trobe University’s Bundoora campus
* Supported the successful establishment of Moderna’s Regional Research Centre for Respiratory Medicines and Tropical Diseases, and Moderna’s Headquarters for Australia, New Zealand, South-East Asia & Oceania in Melbourne in August 2023
* Delivered grant funding to 15 research projects through Round 3 of the mRNA Victoria Research Acceleration Fund to fast-track RNA-based vaccine and therapeutics research, development and manufacturing in Victoria
* Managed 57 mRNA Victoria research grant projects including the development of mRNA therapeutics for genetic brain disease, and lipid nanoparticle delivery of gene therapy in inflammatory disease
* Uplifted Victorian small businesses by providing free business advisory services, capability building webinars and online learning resources to 6,460+ participants, empowering them to start, develop and grow
* Celebrated 14 years of the Small Business Bus delivering business support services to businesses across all 79 Victorian local government areas, including providing advice and sharing information with 1,130 business owners or intenders across 170 metropolitan Melbourne and regional locations
* Provided essential, trusted and timely information and tools to Victorian small businesses through Business Victoria digital channels, receiving 5.4 million visits and 142,020 subscribers, helping small businesses to save time and money and enabling them to thrive and grow
* Delivered integrated wellbeing support, financial counselling and business advice in 3,950+ sessions to 245+ unique small business owners through the Partners in Wellbeing Helpline uplifting the mental health and wellbeing of small business owners
* Supported business organisations to embed 8 mental health clinicians to provide sector-specific wellbeing support and advice on creating mentally healthy workplaces to small businesses impacted by floods, bushfires and power outages, ensuring impacted business communities continued to rebuild
* Implemented key elements of the Supporting our Multicultural Traders and Precincts Initiative, including targeted grants to trader groups and the launch of the Multicultural Business Chambers and Trader Groups Program to build business activation across the state
* Delivered the Business-Friendly Council Approvals Pilot in partnership with 7 Victorian councils, implementing enhancements to the end-to-end regulatory approvals journey for businesses seeking council permits
* Provided support to 36 Victorian defence and space businesses, research organisations and entities to exhibit on the Victorian Government Pavilion at the Indo Pacific 2023 International Maritime Exposition from 7 to 9 November 2023
* Mobilised the Victorian Defence and Space Network to enable critical engagement, sharing of information and maximise opportunities for Victorian defence and space businesses
* Opened the Cremorne Digital Hub to drive the growth of Victoria’s digital innovation ecosystem, including launching the online Digital Talent Pathways Platform, providing access to 24 in-demand digital tech courses and better connecting job seekers with digital tech employment options
* Partnered with the Australian Women in Security Network to deliver the Victorian Women in Security Program, providing opportunities for up to 90 Victorian women to expand their cybersecurity technical and leadership skills to support their career development
* Sponsored the Australian Information Security Association to deliver the Australian Cyber Conference, the southern hemisphere’s largest cybersecurity conference, which attracted 5,300+ delegates to Melbourne
* Delivered the eighth and final Digital Innovation Futures (DIF) Festival with 300 events and around 20,000 participants, including a live 24-episode webinar series profiling Victorian innovators attracting 4,200+ viewers
* Awarded 8 businesses funding to expand their research and development (R&D) capabilities as part of the $15 million Made in Victoria – Industry R&D Infrastructure Fund
* Supported the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation to launch *marra ngarrgoo, marra goorri*: the Victorian Aboriginal Health, Medical and Wellbeing Research Accord. The Accord aims to improve the ethical standards of health, medical and wellbeing research that impacts Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Victoria
* Provided funding to support 10 Victorian medical research projects and leveraged $3 million in co-contribution funding via Round 7 of the Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund
* In partnership with veski, delivered 12 Victorian fellowships for Victorian emerging science leaders to support their travel for international collaborative projects and 3 Inspiring Women fellowships to support Victorian female leaders planning for, experiencing or returning from a career break
* Supported site planning for the Australian Institute for Infectious Disease, a $650 million institute which will co-locate the University of Melbourne, the Doherty Institute and the Burnet Institute into a purpose-built facility in Parkville
* Supported development of the Cumming Global Centre for Pandemic Therapeutics, a $75 million Victorian Government commitment over 10 years to be complemented by a donation of $250 million from Melbourne-based, Canadian philanthropist Geoff Cumming
* Supported the development of the Doherty Clinical Trials Ltd facility, Australia’s first clinical trial facility specifically commissioned to deliver human challenge trials which was launched in March 2024
* Supported the establishment of the ANDHealth Connected Health Innovation & Commercialisation Centre (CHICC), providing a centre of excellence in the commercialisation of evidence-based smart devices, digital health and digital medicine companies
* Delivered the 2023 AusBioInvest Conference, which included business partnering, presentations and 26 private and public companies presenting investment pitches to 300+ registered delegates including private investors, venture capitalists and global pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies from 13 countries
* Supported the BioMelbourne Network to deliver a key package of 2 symposiums, 4 forums and a masterclass for Victorian biotechnology and medical technology companies, as well as establishing an online repository of 100+ recorded events providing online access to their 4,712 members across 225 organisations
* Commenced construction of Stage 2 of the Ballarat West Employment Zone. Approximately 130 hectares of industrial land has been supplied to date
* Delivered the 2nd annual TAFE Network Conference at Melbourne Polytechnic in Preston on 14–15 March 2024, bringing together leaders from across the Victorian TAFE network
* Updated the *TAFE Network Asset Strategy* to guide the prioritisation of asset investments and completed the TAFE Network Asset Condition Assessment Program to improve the information government holds about the TAFE asset base
* Selected Bendigo Kangan Institute as the delivery partner and operator of the new Melton TAFE campus following an expression of interest process
* Completed a strategic asset plan as an initial stage of master planning the Prahran campus. This included community and stakeholder engagement. Engaged Development Victoria to lead a subsequent stage of master planning
* Completed capital projects including the $40 million Melbourne Polytechnic Collingwood Campus Modernisation, the $67.6 million Chisholm Institute Frankston Redevelopment Stage 2 and the $10.7 million GOTAFE Institute Archer Street Campus Redevelopment
* Supported the TAFE network to increase delivery of very high need courses by 16.4% in 2024 compared to the same period in 2023
* Supported Whole-of-government initiatives for TAFE diversity, inclusion and equity, including for LGBTIQA+ staff and students, inclusion of people with disability, initiatives relating to gender equity and family violence, and support for Indigenous self-determination
* Established 16 disability transition support officer positions across the TAFE network to provide specialised and intensive support to students with a disability who are wanting to transition from secondary school to a TAFE environment
* Launched the *Conversation of Sport: Representation of Women in Sports News Coverage* which found only 15% of sports news coverage in Victoria was focused on women’s sport in 2022–23. The report contained recommendations for ecosystem-level change, spotlighting opportunities for individuals and organisations in media and sports administration
* Continued to deliver initiatives of the Visitor Economy Recovery and Reform Plan and Experience Victoria 2033:
* Delivered the $3 million Visitor Servicing Fund to help industry deliver exceptional visitor information tools, such as in-person customer service and online technology that connects visitors to attractions and local businesses
* Worked in partnership with the Australian Government and industry to deliver the Choose Tourism Grant Program with $1.4 million provided to address critical tourism workforce and skills shortages in Victoria
* Launched a new *Guide to Tourism Investment*, which provides step-by-step advice for investors and industry to progress projects through the investment lifecycle for tourism infrastructure projects
* Delivered the Visitor Economy Community Engagement Pilot Program to build the capacity of industry and local government to engage with their communities when delivering tourism initiatives
* Established 8 Visitor Economy Partnerships as a key deliverable of the reform of the regional tourism network
* Continued to support Victoria’s tourism industry to prepare for and recover from extreme weather events, such as bushfires and floods, through the ongoing Tourism Crisis Management Program
* Commenced implementation of the $170 million Regional Tourism and Events Fund, including new rounds of the Regional Tourism Investment Fund (to support new infrastructure projects) and the Enabling Tourism Fund (to support regional and rural infrastructure projects)
* Launched the updated Regional Events Fund, to be delivered in conjunction with Visit Victoria
* Supported the 12 Visitor Economy Partnerships and Regional Tourism Boards as part of the Regional Tourism Industry Strengthening Program
* Supported the Australian Grand Prix Corporation to deliver another record attendance at the 2024 Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix with an estimated crowd of 452,055, beating the previous record set in 2023 by 7,000+ people
* Supported, with Visit Victoria, the delivery of 31 major events funded by the Major Events Fund, including the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces Pharaoh exhibition at the NGV, RISING Festival and White Night in Ballarat
* Supported, with the Melbourne Convention Bureau, 19 international business events through the Business Events Fund, including the Lions International Convention 2024 and International Congress of Genetics 2023
* Worked with Visit Victoria to support 50 events through the Regional Events Fund, including Lost Trades Fair in Bendigo, Swan Hill Food and Wine Festival and Chill Out Festival in Daylesford

Enforced ticket scalping provisions for 21 declared major events by removing 8,500+ ticket listings from secondary ticketing platforms and issuing 25 penalty infringement notices for breaches of the Major Events Act 2009.

1. Strengthen Victoria’s global connections

* Delivered a program of 21 trade missions globally, including 2 inbound missions that supported 460+ Victorian businesses and generated $46+ million in immediate export sales
* Supported 2,816 Victorian businesses to engage in international markets and generated $1,019 million in export sales for the state
* Secured BioNTech’s Australian and New Zealand headquarters in Melbourne, including a commitment towards establishing the Australian headquarters of BioNTech’s AI company InstaDeep. BioNTech’s Early Warning system was also secured for collaboration and development opportunities for Victorian researchers
* Supported 6 international airlines to establish air services to Victoria, including China Southern Airlines, Sichuan Airlines, Air India, Turkish Airways, China Eastern Airlines and Asiana Airlines
* Supported the International Expert-in-residence Program, delivered through the ANDHealth CHICC
* Delivered the *Food and Fibre Export Report* showcasing the record high $19.6 billion in food and fibre exports from Victoria in 2022–23 and providing valuable insights about trends and markets of focus to exporting businesses
* Established the new $10 million Food and Fibre Export Program which provides support for new and established Victorian food and fibre exporters to enter and expand in priority markets through targeted trade activity
* Implemented Victoria’s *International Education Recovery Plan 2025* through delivery of international student wellbeing and support programs, advocacy for international student employment outcomes and improved global connections across offshore markets
* Delivered 3 inbound familiarisation tours for school counsellors, education agents and scholarship bodies from North Asia, Latin America and South Asia including site visits to Victorian university and TAFE campuses
* Delivered 3 outbound missions, including a TAFE delegation to Vietnam, an education mission to China, and a university delegation to Latin America to raise awareness of Victoria’s education capabilities, foster partnerships and build commercial opportunities with key stakeholders
* Delivered a range of employability, entrepreneurship and leadership-focused initiatives to 3,400+ international students through the Study Melbourne Empowered series
* Facilitated grants for 13 projects under the Study Melbourne Inclusion Program for improved wellbeing and inclusion of international students
* Delivered 6 Student Experience Network events, attended by 220+ industry stakeholders, addressing critical issues such as international student accommodation, wellbeing and employability
* Provided information, legal referrals and complex casework support to approximately 2,000 international students through the Study Melbourne Hub
* Promoted the new International Student Travel Pass, improving the accessibility and affordability of public transport in Victoria for international students by offering discounts on 3, 6 and 12-month passes for eligible international students in Melbourne and regional Victoria. Around 5,500 passes were sold, and 17 institutions signed up to the program
* Welcomed approximately 7,400 visitors at our offshore Study Melbourne hubs in Kuala Lumpur, Ho Chi Minh City and Shanghai (physical) and South Asia (hybrid). Hosted 185 events, including pre-departure briefings, employability seminars and career talks to support Victoria’s current and prospective students and alumni
* Promoted *Victoria’s Commitment to Action: Improving International Student Employment Outcomes*, collaborating with 27 employers to promote post-study pathways for global talent while addressing Victoria’s skills shortages in select industry sectors
* Hosted Victoria’s first International Student Careers Fair, connecting 1,000+ Victorian international students with around 30 employers from a range of industries including engineering, IT, management and commerce
* Partnered with Global Citizen to deliver the Global Citizen NOW: Melbourne Summit in March 2024, bringing together around 400 thought leaders from across Australia and Asia Pacific to drive action on the urgent issues facing the region and the world. The initiative also supported 32 outstanding young leaders from across the region to scale up their work and celebrated their contributions at the Global Citizen Nights music event attended by 2,000+ people
* Delivered Melbourne EdTech Week to strengthen Victoria’s credentials as a leader in EdTech, including the Melbourne EdTech Summit and EduTECH International Congress and Expo, attended by 10,000+ in-person
* Delivered the 2023 Victorian International Education Awards Program to recognise and showcase excellence amongst Victoria’s international students and providers
* Developed and launched the ‘My Choice, My Melbourne’ brand campaign targeting prospective international students and their influencers in 7 key international markets to support Melbourne and Victoria’s global positioning as a premium study destination
* Continued to reach and engage international education audiences through Study Melbourne’s comprehensive digital ecosystem comprising a collective social media community of 644,397 followers; the Study Melbourne website which recorded 15+ million user sessions in 2023–24
* Global Victoria continued to engage and grow its 30,000+ audience through high-quality digital content and social media
* Supported the engagement of Victorian ministers and businesses with key international initiatives including the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit, the Victoria-Belgium Economic Forum and the Australia India Leadership Dialogue
* Supported 217 women from 194 organisations to build their export and leadership capabilities, develop their networks and showcase their world-class capabilities to international audiences across 7 Global Victoria Women activities
* Led the delivery of the Victorian Government’s sponsorship of the 60th anniversary of the Australia Japan Joint Business Conference, attended by 300+ delegates from Japan and another 450 from across Australia
* Signed a Letter of Intent with France, providing Victoria with a competitive edge to pursue stronger trade and investment ties with a key European partner
* Hosted 44 Victorian Government roundtables with Australian ambassadors, high commissioners and their deputies, supporting strong collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

WorldSkills held the 2024 Global Skills Competition at multiple TAFEs across Melbourne and regional Victoria, with participants from 19 countries.

1. Build prosperous and liveable regions and communities

* Commenced planning and delivery of the Regional Sports Infrastructure Program to deliver 15 new and redeveloped community sports venues in regional Victoria
* Implemented the $35 million Jobs Victoria Mentors program in 5 locations. Jobs Victoria Mentors services placed 1500+ people experiencing long term unemployment into work in 2023–24
* Announced the new Kids Active Travel Program which will inspire healthy lifestyles for young Victorians by supporting 4 projects in Hume, Melton, Geelong and Bendigo to encourage active travel to and from primary school
* Jobs Victoria Priority Workforce Projects successfully supported more than 2,500 people to stay in earn and learn jobs for 6 months or more. These projects delivered meaningful results for jobseekers by partnering with employers that are experiencing workforce shortages in priority sectors such as aged care, construction and the clean economy
* Provided access to sick and carer’s pay for 130,000+ casual and contract workers in 600+ occupations through the Sick Pay Guarantee Pilot
* Jobs Victoria’s successful employment model was recognised in the Australian Government’s Parliamentary Inquiry into Workforce Australia Employment Services
* Delivered the Kangaroo Harvesting Program, which ensures kangaroo harvesting is ecologically sustainable, humane and only undertaken by authorised people. Collaborated with DEECA and the Game Management Authority (GMA) to help facilitate various activities outlined in Victoria’s *Kangaroo Harvest Management Plan (2021–2023)*
* Launched the Purpose Precinct at the Queen Victoria Market, Australia’s first dedicated social enterprise precinct featuring 100+ local social enterprises including a new kitchen to create fresh jams and chutneys from unsold market produce
* Completed construction of the $140 million transformation of the Geelong Arts Centre – now Australia’s largest regional performing arts centre – including delivering First Peoples codesigned spaces
* Progressed the Twelve Apostles Precinct Redevelopment project. With a focus on establishing a new worldclass Visitor Experience Centre, planning and design work is progressing in partnership with the future operator, Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority, and traditional owners Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation
* Completed the $142 million redevelopment of Kardinia Park Stadium, securing the venue’s status as Australia’s best regional stadium
* Completed the Bendigo Airport Terminal Redevelopment project in the Loddon Campaspe region
* Delivered the government’s $2.5 million election commitment to support the Lake Wendouree and Victoria Park Link Lighting project. A total of 225 lights were installed around the Lake Wendouree Steve Moneghetti Track and 7 lights along Morrison Street, linking Lake Wendouree to nearby Victoria Park
* Delivered 18 events for the Festival of Big Ideas in June 2024, attracting 700+ participants. The festival aims to harness the creative energy of industry leaders, government, the education sector and community to generate compelling ideas that will put Gippsland front and centre and help shape the region’s future
* Supported response, relief and recovery from bushfires and severe weather events from December 2023 to February 2024. This included ensuring food and grocery supply continuity and supporting economic recovery where required. Ararat Rural City Council and South Gippsland Shire Council both received a $200,000 recovery grant from the Tiny Towns Fund in response to fire and storm events in early 2024
* Facilitated 5 job expos in the Latrobe Valley, connecting 1,450+ job seekers with 209 employers looking to fill more than 700 vacancies
* Partnered with Gippsland Trades and Labour Council to deliver the Inclusive Employment Workforce Training Program. In 2023–24 the program assisted 83 young Gippslanders experiencing barriers to employment, with 29 now in full-time employment, 38 in part-time or casual jobs and 16 in apprenticeships
* Delivered Stage 2 of the Mildura Riverfront Powerhouse Redevelopment. This project has transformed the historic Powerhouse building into a vibrant community and tourism hub with social enterprises, retail and farmers’ market style spaces. The project created 123 new jobs during the project period and 10 new ongoing jobs

Supported the 142nd Stawell Gift Carnival, attracting 900+ competitors from across Australia and 10,856 attendees. Promoted the Grampians region to 1.1+ million viewers through a live national broadcast.

1. Enhance participation in the creative industries, sport and recreation

* Victoria’s Creative Agencies received 11.2 million visitors in 2023–24 and continued to attract visitors to the state with a range of innovative and groundbreaking programs, with achievements including:
* A record-breaking year for State Library Victoria which welcomed 2.65+ million visitors through its doors – the highest number ever recorded in the library’s 168-year history
* Museums Victoria’s Titanic exhibition attracted 300,000+ attendances including 100,000+ international, interstate and regional visitors and 42,000 children
* The NGV Triennial attracted 1+ million visitors over the summer, making it one of the most popular exhibitions in the NGV’s history
* Invested in innovative infrastructure projects including ‘Making Space,’ a Victorian-first grant program that supported 7 infrastructure projects to improve access for deaf and disabled creatives and audiences
* Through the Creative Spaces and Places Program, provided grants to 8 LGA-led projects and 8 First Peoples projects in regional and outer metropolitan areas to create secure and accessible workspaces for creative workers and organisations
* Supported 9 Victorian-based National Performing Arts Partnership organisations including Geelong’s Back to Back Theatre which received the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement in Theatre at the 2024 Venice Biennale – the first Australian company to win the award
* Delivered 30+ live music events to support community recovery and boost local businesses and jobs for local musicians and creative workers in flood-impacted regional communities through the $1 million Live Music Flood Recovery program
* The Victorian Digital Screen Rebate Pilot generated $119 million and 1,147 jobs for Victorians in 2023–24
* Attracted a record-breaking 110,000 attendees and a global online audience of 1 million to the Melbourne International Games Week which commenced in late September 2023
* Met key milestones in the delivery of the $1.7 billion Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation including commencing major upgrades to Arts Centre Melbourne’s State Theatre and 77 Southbank Boulevard deconstruction works to make way for The Fox: NGV Contemporary
* Supported the operations of the GMA and the Victorian Fisheries Authority to create sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities for Victorians and provide regulation and compliance services
* Supported delivery of the 2024 recreational duck and quail hunting seasons, including settings for duck and quail seasons, and wetland closures and openings during duck season
* Commenced implementation of the government’s response to the Select Committee Inquiry into Victoria’s Recreational Native Bird Hunting Arrangements Report
* Led development of a regulatory impact statement, including proposed regulations for public consultation in July 2024 for the remake of the Wildlife (Game) Interim Regulations 2023. The proposed regulations include reforms arising from the government’s response to the Select Committee Inquiry into Victoria’s Recreational Native Bird Hunting Arrangements
* Delivered the following government investments in major stadia and state sport facilities:
* Completed the $225 million Marvel Stadium upgrade with the new Stadium Square and City Edge plazas, providing improved connectivity between Melbourne CBD and Docklands and activating the precinct 7-days a week
* Completed the $132 million State Basketball Centre Redevelopment creating Australia’s leading basketball and gymnastic facilities at local and elite levels in Wantirna South
* Completed the $14.3 million investment in the Rugby League State and Community Centre in Broadmeadows, creating a new home for Melbourne Storm’s elite female development pathways, NRL Victoria and its youth development squads, and Touch Victoria
* Provided $59+ million towards 96 community sports infrastructure projects to help communities transform sports grounds, build female-friendly change rooms, develop exciting play spaces and light up sports fields across the state
* Set attendance records across key major events:
* The 2024 Australian Open broke its 2-week attendance record, welcoming 1,020,763 visitors through the gates during the main draw, compared with the previous record of 839,192 set in 2023
* The MCG recorded its highest-ever attendance during an entire AFL season in the stadium’s history, welcoming 3+ million fans in 2023
* Equalling the record for the largest crowd in the modern era, 100,024 attended the 2023 AFL Grand Final
* Taylor Swift attracted 288,000 fans to the MCG over 3 nights, setting a new benchmark as the highest-selling concert series and artist of all time at the venue
* Supported the staging of 85 events involving 30+ sports held across 30+ LGAs that were national or international level or had regional significance through the Significant Sporting Events Program. This included the historic Melbourne to Warrnambool Cycling Festival and the 2024 Melbourne Vixens Fan Festival Roadshow in Ballarat
* Committed $14.5+ million in funding to support 100+ projects through the Together More Active Program to provide more inclusive participation opportunities, build a skilled workforce and develop a safe, resilient and inclusive sector
* Provided 960 grants across the Sporting Club Grants Program to break down barriers to participation and get more Victorians involved in local sport
* Distributed 31,546 vouchers through the Get Active Kids Voucher Program, supporting Victorian families with the cost of children’s sport. Since the program began in 2021, almost 150,000 vouchers have been issued. More than half of recipients would not have been able to participate without a voucher and a quarter had not previously participated in children’s sport
* Launched the new All Abilities Workforce and Sector Support Program, designed to support the creation of more pathways for people with disability to get involved in the sport they love close to home, with a new workforce program making employment opportunities in sport more accessible
* Established the Pilot Equity and Inclusion Community Consultation Group with 15 members from diverse communities and lived experience to provide advice on the development of key Sport and Recreation Victoria programs and policy with an intersectional lens to help enhance the overall impact of DJSIR’s work
* Issued 600+ professional boxing and combat sport licences, permits and registrations and supervised 640+ professional contests ensuring high safety and integrity standards were met and the risk of malpractice minimised
* Developed the new *Safe and Inclusive Sport: Preventing Gender-Based Violence Guide* to support the Preventing Violence Through Sport Grants Program 2022–25
* Supported 12 lead organisations and their partners with capacity building activities including 5 community of practice sessions through the Preventing Violence Through Sport Grants Program 2022–25
* Supported 119 organisations to increase participation, build capability and celebrate the role of women and girls in sport and active recreation sector through the 2023–24 Change Our Game Community Activation Grants Program – highest number of grants in the program’s 7-year history

In partnership with VicHealth, continued implementing the Fair Access Policy Roadmap – an Australian-first policy to deliver a state-wide foundation to support gender equitable access to, and use of, community sports infrastructure.

1. Support Aboriginal economic development

* Launched the Victorian First Peoples Art and Design Fair concept at the 2024 Melbourne Art Fair, building momentum for a dedicated Victorian First Peoples event aligned to the 2025 Melbourne Art Fair. The Fair will be an innovative platform for showcasing First Peoples art and design, creating a vibrant hub in Melbourne and regional satellites for community engagement
* Supported the Kinaway Chamber of Commerce to deliver an outbound leadership development trade mission to Kansas, USA in March 2024, which supported 22 Victorian Aboriginal businesses
* Launched the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation (Dumawul) and Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation community hubs
* Developed a new implementation plan, with tangible actions, to transform DJSIR’s ways of working to better embed Aboriginal self-determination principles
* Supported the function of the Yuma Yirramboi Council, which continues to guide DJSIR’s approach to Aboriginal economic development and identify areas for future reforms
* Established a new sub-committee of the Executive Board that will have responsibility for stewarding action implementation and related Aboriginal self-determination activities
* Supported the implementation of the Traditional Owner Game Management Strategy (TOGMS) by working with DEECA, which is facilitating the delivery of the 4 TOGMS pilot projects
* Built strong and meaningful relationships with First Peoples through the Geelong City Deal. With funding support, the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation is leading the first 2 stages of developing the *Wadawurrung Urban Design Guidelines*. Once complete, the guidelines will ensure Wadawurrung Traditional Owner cultural values and knowledge will be embedded into the built form and public realm within Central Geelong
* Announced funding of $6+ million towards 9 projects expanding skills and training pathways for First Nations Victorians
* Introduced a full tuition fee waiver for Aboriginal Victorians on Skills First training. Since its introduction on 1 January 2024, 1,930 Aboriginal Victorians have accessed the fee waiver. It supports Aboriginal Victorians to access vocational education and training without the barrier of high tuition fees and reach their learning and employment goals
* In partnership with the ACFE Board, the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Incorporated (VAEAI) developed *Koorie Education in Learn Locals: Best Practice and Protocols* – a good practice guide for Learn Locals to increase their capacity to support self-determination, participation and outcomes for Koorie learners
* Under the Wurreker Strategy, a key commitment between the Victorian Government and the VAEAI, up to 18 Koorie liaison officers and 32 Koorie student support officers are employed to support increased student participation and learner outcomes at TAFEs across the network
* Extensive community engagement as part of the development of a new First Peoples Tourism Plan
* Supported 2 Registered Aboriginal Parties to identify their visitor economy priorities and develop cultural tourism plans through delivery of the First Peoples Tourism Pilot
* Established the Victorian Aboriginal Sporting Partnership (VASP) Working Group, consisting of 10 Aboriginal community members, who will determine the preferred partnership model which will support the purpose, objectives and actions of the VASP. The VASP will provide a formal agreement between the Victorian Government and the Victorian Aboriginal community to deliver increased Aboriginal participation in sport and active recreation, underpinned by Aboriginal Self-Determination principles

Provided 67 grants through the Aboriginal Sport Participation Grant Program to support the costs of uniforms, equipment, travel and participation at sport carnivals.

1. Contribute to the transition to a net zero economy

* Continued implementation of the CarbonNet project:
* Delivered the project’s Front-End-Engineering Design (FEED) study to provide the design and costing for the construction stage and inform key decisions for planning, scheduling, regulatory applications and engagement with customers
* Obtained approval for the project’s Pipeline Consultation Plan and met all permit obligations for its two offshore permit areas
* Launched the Latrobe Aerospace Technology Precinct in conjunction with the Latrobe City Council to support startups and small-to-medium enterprises to undertake novel research and development, testing and manufacturing of zero-emission aviation technologies. The precinct provides bespoke infrastructure, asset, and office and hangar spaces to foster innovation and commercialisation of emerging aviation technologies and support decarbonisation of the aviation industry
* Facilitated the training of 450+ electricians in electric vehicle charging infrastructure installation through a newly accredited course, delivered by the Centre for U and Holmesglen Institute
* Updated the 2025 Training Needs List with a category of priority courses aligned with clean energy course delivery, signalling to training providers that this is a priority area for delivery
* Published the *Training for the Clean Economy – the TAFE Network Clean Economy Prospectus 2024* showcasing current TAFE delivery and opportunities for industry training partnerships in key skillareas required for Victoria’s transition to the clean economy
* Launched the Clean Economy Workforce Transition Framework for Gippsland Project, enabling collaboration with key partners to build training and transition pathways for industries to remain in the energy sector and transition into clean energy
* Co-delivered the Gippy Youth New Energy Jobs Summit, enabling 350 Gippsland students, teachers and careers advisors to meet with 40 companies from the new energy industry and training sectors for future energy career conversations
* Co-delivered the Gippsland New Energy Conference (GNEC) 2023, with 500+ industry, government, education and community leaders gathering to catalyse opportunities in renewable power for the Gippsland region. GNEC explored the pathways to job creation and the development of a robust renewable energy supply chain
* Delivered the New Energy Priority Workforce Project in partnership with Jobs Victoria, Solar Victoria and Maxima to create new entry level jobs in Gippsland for priority cohorts. To date the program has established relationships with 170+ employers and industry partners and placed 91 jobseekers into employment
* Facilitated the establishment of a new Gippsland (Broiler) Growers’ Group that will collaborate to create circular economy best practice for the Gippsland broiler industry. This will include the use of renewable energy options (geothermal and bioenergy) onsite and the creation of natural fertiliser products with zero waste.