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Service Delivery Performance 2025

Independent assurance report to Parliament

Published by order, or under the authority, of the Parliament of Victoria December 2025



The Hon Shaun Leane MLC President Legislative Council Parliament House Melbourne The Hon Maree Edwards MP Speaker Legislative Assembly Parliament House Melbourne

Dear Presiding Officers

Under the provisions of the Audit Act 1994, I transmit my report Service Delivery Performance 2025.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Greaves Auditor-General 3 December 2025

The Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters throughout Victoria. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, their continuing culture, and to Elders past and present.

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Review snapshot

Have departments met their service delivery performance targets?

Why we did this review

The government funds departments to deliver goods and services to the community. Each year, the Department of Treasury and Finance publishes the Department Performance Statement. Through this performance statement, departments have measures and targets for delivering these goods and services.

Performance measures help the:

- government decide how to allocate resources
- public and Parliament to see how well departments are performing
- Treasurer to certify budget funding.

Our previous reviews of service delivery performance found departments have not fairly presented some of their service delivery information. For this review, we assessed if departments have met the service delivery targets in their performance statements.

Key background information

In 2024-25, departments:



received \$83.9 billion to deliver goods and services



reported against
1,299* performance
measures.

Our previous reviews looked at how departments **present** their service delivery performance.



This year, we assessed departments' service delivery performance.



Note: *Some performance measures have no target or outcome. This number excludes these measures. Source: VAGO.

What we concluded

Departments did not meet all their service delivery performance targets in 2024–25. Of the measures with a target and outcome, departments:

- met or exceeded 65.2 per cent of targets
- missed 11.6 per cent of targets by less than 5 per cent, or \$50 million for cost measures
- missed 23.2 per cent of targets by more than 5 per cent, or \$50 million for cost measures.

Common reasons departments gave for missing their targets by more than 5 per cent include operational factors (for example, project delays), resource constraints, data limitations and service uptake.

We also looked at a selection of departments' performance measures over time. It is difficult to measure departments' performance over time because not all performance measures have long-term data. Of those that do have data, between 2020–21 and 2024–25 departments:

- met their targets every year in 28.2 per cent of performance measures
- missed their targets by more than 5 per cent every year in 11.0 per cent of performance measures.

1.

Our key findings

What we examined

Our review followed one line of inquiry:

1. Have departments met their service delivery performance targets?

To answer these questions, we examined performance statements and annual reports between 2020–21 and 2024–25 for the:

- Department of Education (DE)
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)
- Department of Government Services (DGS)
- Department of Health (DH)
- Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR)
- Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS)
- Department of Transport and Planning (DTP)
- Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC)
- Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF).

Terms used in this report

Output is the final product, good or service produced or delivered by, or on behalf of, a department or public agency. In this report, outputs include sub-outputs, for example in the 'bus services' output, there are 3 sub-outputs (metropolitan, regional and statewide).

Performance measures are used by departments to report on the delivery of outputs. Each output has a mix of quality, quantity, timeliness and cost measures. This helps the government and community to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery.

Performance target is the standard of performance that departments aim to achieve when delivering their outputs. In this report, we use the following categories for performance targets:

- Met: The departments performance meets or is greater than target.
- Missed: The department did not meet the performance target by less than 5 per cent or \$50 million for cost measures.
- Missed (significant): The department did not meet the performance target by more than 5 per cent or \$50 million for cost measures. This does not reflect statistical significance.

Background information

Department Performance Statement

As part of the annual state Budget, DTF prepares information for the Treasurer to table in Parliament about the outputs government will deliver that year.

In the Department Performance Statement, each department specifies the outputs they are funded to provide for that financial year. Through this statement, departments have an expected standard of service delivery through performance measures and targets.

Departmental secretaries support their portfolio minister to develop their department performance statements. These statements include performance measures for that financial year. The final content of these statements, including the performance measures, is agreed between the Minister for Finance and the relevant portfolio ministers. These measures and targets are therefore the government-agreed standard of service delivery for that year.

The Treasurer uses this information, with advice from DTF, to release funding to departments at the end of each financial year. This is based on departments delivering their outputs and meeting their targets.

Resource Management Framework

The government's Resource Management Framework outlines how departments need to develop and report their performance statements. It requires each department's output to have a mix of quality, quantity, timeliness and cost measures. For these measures, departments are required to have targets that are challenging but achievable.

These measures help the:

- government decide how to allocate resources to departments
- public and Parliament to see how well departments are performing
- Treasurer to certify budget revenue.

Fair Presentation of Service Delivery Performance

This review is part of our series on departments' performance statements that includes:

- Fair Presentation of Service Delivery Performance reports in 2022, 2023 and 2024
- Measuring and Reporting on Service Delivery in 2021.

Our reviews have found systemic issues with the Resource Management Framework's requirements and have consistently found that departments do not:

- always comply with their reporting requirements under the Resource Management Framework
- always fairly present their service delivery performance.

We found that some measures are not	which means they			
outputs	do not show a department's performance in producing or delivering a good or service.			
comparable over time	cannot show a department's performance over time.			
relevant	are not aligned to a department's objectives.			
attributable	are not directly or partly attributable to the department's actions.			
useful	cannot help the government make decisions about priorities and resourcing, or do not provide an understanding of the department's performance.			
clear	are not written clearly or do not clearly explain what they measure.			
effectiveness measures	do not reflect how the department's outputs help achieve the department's objectives.			
efficiency measures	are not expressed as a ratio of cost-to-services-delivered.			

This means that the Parliament and the community cannot properly assess performance and cannot fully hold government to account for its performance.

Our reviews also found issues with the accuracy of some data in departments' performance statements and annual reports. For example, previous reviews have found:

- low-quality data
- unclear business rules and/or methodology
- source data that may have been processed or amended.

Our 2025 review, *Quality of Victoria's Critical Data Assets*, also found that departments are not meeting the government's data quality standard in full. This means departments may be using unreliable information to provide advice and make decisions about service delivery.

Scope of this review

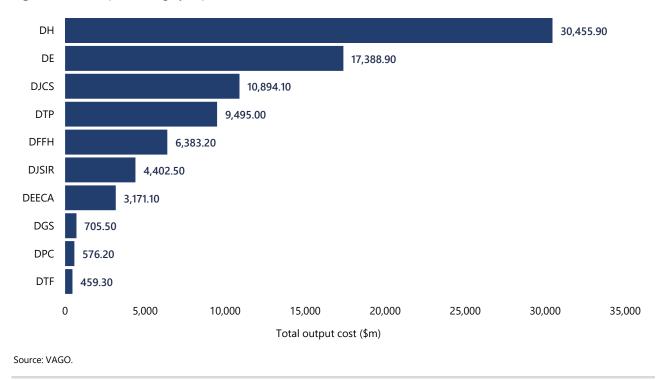
This review is different from our previous Fair Presentation of Service Delivery Performance reviews. In this review, we looked at whether departments have met their service delivery performance targets. We did not look at:

- whether performance measures comply with the Resource Management Framework
- the quality or accuracy of data
- if performance targets are reasonable.

Departments' funding in 2024-25

Departments received \$83.9 billion to deliver their outputs in 2024–25. This is an increase from \$77.9 billion in 2023–24. Figure 1 shows the distribution of output funding in 2024–25 by department.

Figure 1: Total output funding by department in 2024–25



What we found

This section focuses on our key findings, which fall into 2 areas:

- 1. Departments met 65.2 per cent of their performance targets in 2024–25.
- 2. Departments missed their targets by a significant margin every year between 2020–21 and 2024–25 in 11.0 per cent of performance measures.

Consultation with agencies

When reaching our conclusions, we consulted with the reviewed agencies and considered their views.

You can read their full responses in Appendix A.

Key finding 1: Departments met 65.2 per cent of their performance targets in 2024–25

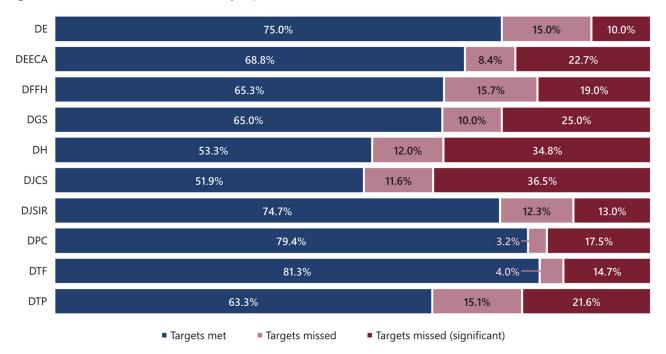
In 2024–25, departments had 1,299 performance measures with a reported target and outcome. Collectively, departments met 65.2 per cent of their targets. Of the targets they missed, around two-thirds were missed by a significant margin.

Figure 2 shows each department's performance in 2024–25.

Performance measures with a reported target and outcome

In 2024–25 some performance measures had no target or outcome. Our analysis and results in this report are based on the 1,299 measures with a reported target and outcome.

Figure 2: Performance results in 2024–25 by department



Note: Some numbers do not add up to 100 per cent due to rounding. Some performance measures do not have a target or outcome. This figure and analysis excludes these measures.

Source: VAGO.

Key issue: Some performance measures depend on demand and may not reflect service effectiveness or efficiency

Some performance measures look at the quantity of service a department delivers. The Resource Management Framework requires departments to have these measures and allows for measures to be partially outside the control of a department. But these quantity measures may depend on demand and do not look at how effectively or efficiently a department is performing.

For example, DH's 'emergency presentations' measure looks at the number of patients that attend hospital emergency departments. DH's performance against this measure depends on how many people need emergency services. The target does not reflect how quickly, effectively or efficiently they receive care.

But quantity measures still:

- provide useful information about the quantity of services departments deliver
- reflect the agreed quantity of services the government funds departments to deliver.

It is difficult to assess performance against cost targets

Departments receive funding to deliver outputs. They must manage their costs within an agreed budget for the output.

In 2024–25, departments	for		
met their performance targets	26.7 per cent of cost measures.		
missed their targets	15.8 per cent of cost measures.		
missed their targets by a significant margin	57.5 per cent of cost measures.		

It is difficult to assess departments' performance against cost measures. Departments told us that cost measures can:

- be based on modelling that is hard to predict
- be based on funding allocations they do not control (for example, funding per school student)
- change if the government adjusts an output
- be affected if departments receive additional funding (for example, to reflect government decisions or through a Treasurer's Advance). This means a department can spend according to its approved funding allocation, but not meet its cost performance targets.

Departments gave similar reasons for not meeting their targets, but the influence and extent of issues varied between departments

When a department misses a target by a significant margin, it must explain why in its performance statement and annual report.

The most common reasons departments gave in 2024–25 are	which includes	This accounts for
operational factors	 project delays project scoping, complexity and/or coordination the flow-on effects of policy changes or system upgrades. 	31 per cent of commentary.
resource constraints	the ability to respond to increasing demand and/or service delivery or client complexity, including the availability of funding, workforce or facilities.	22 per cent of commentary.
low service uptake or demand	lower-than-expected demand or unforeseen barriers to service use.	17 per cent of commentary.
environmental factors	influences outside of the department's control, for example economic changes, weather or illness.	10 per cent of commentary.
data limitations	 changes to the methodology used to calculate the measure the reliability of data. 	10 per cent of commentary.
customer satisfaction	perceptions of service quality.	6 per cent of commentary.

The extent of these issues and the impact they have on service delivery varies by department and individual outputs.

Key finding 2: Departments missed their targets by a significant margin every year between 2020–21 and 2024–25 in 11.0 per cent of performance measures

For this review, we looked at 282 performance measures in 34 outputs. See Appendix D for a list of the outputs we looked at over time.

Some of our selected measures were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions since 2020. The context of COVID-19 should be considered when looking at departments' performance against specific measures over time.

Not all performance measures can be compared over time

Some performance measures cannot be compared over time because they do not have complete data.

Of our selected performance measures, 101 (35.8 per cent) did not have data for every year between 2020–21 and 2024–25. This is because each year departments introduce, replace and discontinue performance measures. Departments may do this because a measure is no longer relevant or when a better measure is identified. Performance measures may also move between different outputs and departments.

Without consistent data, it is difficult for the public and Parliament to fully understand how departments are performing over time.

Departments met their targets every year in 28.2 per cent of performance measures

Departments met all their targets every year between 2020–21 and 2024–25 in 51 performance measures (28.2 per cent of measures with available data). This includes:

- 10 measures in DEECA
- 5 measures in DFFH
- 4 measures in DH
- 10 measures in DJCS
- 3 measures in DJSIR
- 3 measures in DPC
- 4 measures in DTF
- 12 measures in DTP.

See Appendix E for a list of these performance measures.

Departments missed their targets by a significant margin every year in 11.0 per cent of performance measures

Departments missed all their targets by a significant margin every year between 2020–21 to 2024–25 in 20 performance measures (11.0 per cent of measures with available data). This includes:

- one measure in DFFH
- 10 measures in DH
- 5 measures in DJCS
- 4 measures in DTP.

See Appendix F for a list of these performance measures.

2.

Service delivery performance in 2024–25

We looked at departments' service delivery performance in 2024–25.

Departments had 1,299 performance measures in 2024–25. Departments met 65.2 per cent of their targets, but missed 23.2 per cent by a significant margin.

Operational factors, resource constraints and low service uptake or demand are the most common reasons departments gave for missing their targets by a significant margin.

Covered in this section:

- Departments met 65.2 per cent of their performance targets in 2024–25
- Departments missed 23.2 per cent of their performance targets by a significant margin in 2024–25
- Departments gave similar reasons for missing their targets, but the influence and extent of issues varied between departments

Departments met 65.2 per cent of their performance targets in 2024–25

Met performance targets In 2024–25 departments had 1,299 performance measures with a reported target and outcome. Departments met 65.2 per cent of their performance targets, as Figure 3 shows.

Cost measures

Of the 1,299 performance measures in 2024–25, 120 were cost measures. Excluding these measures, departments met or exceeded 69.1 per cent of their performance targets, as Figure 3 shows.

We looked at targets excluding cost measures because it is difficult to assess departments' service delivery performance based on this data.

Departments told us several factors can influence whether they meet their cost targets. They said cost measures can:

- be based on modelling that is hard to predict
- be based on funding allocations that they do not control (for example, funding per school student)
- change if the government adjusts an output
- be affected if departments receive additional funding (for example, to reflect government decisions or through a Treasurer's Advance). This means that a department can spend according to its approved funding allocation, but not meet its cost performance target.

But cost measures can still be useful to understand if departments are delivering the services in the estimated budget.

Figure 3: Performance targets met by department, including and excluding cost measures

Targets met

All measures	Excluding cost measures
75.0%	78.3%
68.8%	73.4%
65.3%	71.3%
65.0%	73.6%
53.3%	56.2%
51.9%	55.1%
74.7%	77.3%
79.4%	85.2%
81.3%	85.3%
63.3%	67.0%
65.2%	69.1%
	75.0% 68.8% 65.3% 65.0% 53.3% 51.9% 74.7% 79.4% 81.3% 63.3%

Note: Some performance measures do not have a target or outcome. This figure and analysis excludes these measures. Source: VAGO.

Outputs where departments met all targets

In 2024–25 departments met all their targets in 6 outputs (out of 121). These are:

- Suburbs (DTP)
- Regional Development (DJSIR)
- Industrial Relations (DTF)
- Infrastructure Victoria (DTF)
- Multicultural affairs policy and programs (DPC)
- Sustainably Manage Forest Resources (DEECA).

Departments missed 23.2 per cent of their performance targets by a significant margin in 2024–25

Targets missed by a significant margin In 2024-25, departments missed:

- 301 performance targets (23.2 per cent) by a significant margin
- 19.7 per cent of their targets by a significant margin when excluding cost measures, as Figure 4 shows.

Figure 4: Performance targets missed by a significant margin by department, including and excluding cost measures

Targets missed (significant)

Department	All measures	Excluding cost measures
DE	10.0%	6.5%
DEECA	22.7%	17.3%
DFFH	19.0%	14.8%
DGS	25.0%	15.1%
DH	34.8%	33.1%
DJCS	36.5%	33.0%
DJSIR	13.0%	9.9%
DPC	17.5%	11.1%
DTF	14.7%	13.2%
DTP	21.6%	19.6%
Overall	23.2%	19.7%

Note: Some performance measures do not have a target or outcome. This figure and analysis excludes these measures. Source: VAGO.

least half of targets missed by a significant margin

Outputs with at least half of their targets by a significant margin in 13 outputs (out of 121), as Figure 5 shows.

Figure 5: Outputs with at least half of targets missed by a significant margin in 2024–25

Output	Department	Targets missed by a significant margin
Waste and Recycling	DEECA	75%
Ambulance Services	DH	60%
Emergency Services	DH	56%
Creative Industries Access, Development and Innovation	DJSIR	54%
Precincts	DTP	50%
Maternal and Child Health and Early Parenting Services	DH	
Community Based Offender Supervision	DJCS	
Aged and Home Care	DH	
Management of Victoria's public records	DGS	
Energy	DEECA	
Community Health Care	DH	
Medical Research	DJSIR	
Policing and Community Safety	DJCS	

Note: There are some performance measures with no target or outcome. This figure and analysis excludes these measures. Source: VAGO.

Departments gave similar reasons for missing their targets, but the influence and extent of issues varied between departments

Reasons for missed targets by a significant margin When a department misses a target by a significant margin, it must explain why in its performance statements and annual reports.

We reviewed departments' preliminary commentary for 222 performance measures in 2024–25.

The most common reasons departments gave are	which includes	This accounts for
operational factors	 project delays project scoping, complexity and/or coordination flow-on effects of policy changes or system upgrades. 	31 per cent of commentary.
resource constraints	the ability to respond to increasing demand and/or service delivery or client complexity, including the availability of funding, workforce or facilities.	22 per cent of commentary.
low service uptake or demand	lower-than-expected demand or unforeseen barriers to service use.	17 per cent of commentary.
environmental factors	influences outside of the department's control, for example market or economic changes, weather or illness.	10 per cent of commentary.
data limitations	changes to the methodology used to calculate the measure or the reliability of data.	10 per cent of commentary.
customer satisfaction	perceptions of service quality.	6 per cent of commentary.

The extent and impact of these issues varied between departments. For example, the most common reason for:

- DH was related to demand and client complexity (and the availability of resources to respond to this)
- DFFH was data limitations
- DE was environmental factors and customer satisfaction
- all other departments was operational factors.

We did not look at departments' reasons for not meeting cost measures. Departments' 2024–25 annual reports provide detailed explanations on their performance and reasons for targets missed by a significant margin.

3.

Service delivery performance over time

We used data from our annual performance measure dashboard to look at departments' service delivery performance between 2020–21 and 2024–25.

We looked at 282 performance measures in 34 outputs. From this selection, 101 measures did not have data for every year between 2020–21 to 2024–25.

Of the measures with data, departments met their targets every year in 28.2 per cent of performance measures. They missed their targets by a significant margin every year in 11.0 per cent of performance measures.

Covered in this section:

- Assessing service delivery performance over time
- Departments' overall performance between 2020–21 and 2024–25

Assessing service delivery performance over time

Looking at performance over time

It is difficult to assess a department's service delivery performance over time. This is because:

- long-term data is not always available
- each year departments introduce, replace and discontinue performance measures
- performance measures can move between different outputs and departments, making it difficult to track a department's performance.

Performance data in	only includes information for the previous		
the Department Performance Statement	2 years.		
departments' annual reports	one year.		

How we chose outputs

To look at how service delivery performance has changed over time, we selected outputs across all departments. We chose outputs based on:

- if they are an essential service
- the proportion of funding or service delivery they represent for a department
- whether they have a sufficient amount of output-based performance measures to look at.

How we chose measures

We selected performance measures from these outputs to get a high-level understanding of how well a department is performing.

We looked at 282 performance measures in 34 outputs between 2020–21 and 2024–25.

We selected a performance measure if it has met some, or most, of the following factors:

If the measure is	which means			
output-based	it shows a department's performance in producing or delivering a good or service to the community or another public sector agency.			
attributable	performance against the measure is attributable or partly attributable to the department's actions.			
useful	it helps the government make decisions about allocating resources and provides an understanding of the department's performance.			
comparable over time	it can show a department's performance over time, by taking into account population and demand.			
relevant	it aligns with a department's output and objective.			
an effectiveness measure	it helps the department achieve its objective.			
an efficiency measure	it is expressed as a ratio of cost to services delivered or turnaround times.			

These factors are based on our previous Fair Presentation of Service Delivery Performance reviews and the Resource Management Framework.

Impact of COVID-19 on service delivery performance

Some of our selected measures were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions since 2020.

We did not exclude these measures from our selection because:

- most departments have some measures that were impacted
- performance reporting requirements continued as normal during COVID-19
- they provide useful, high-level information about performance over time.

But the context of COVID-19 and any commentary provided in departments' annual reports should be considered when looking at our results for departments' performance against specific measures over time.

Our data analysis and performance measure dashboard

We used data from our annual performance measure dashboard to look at departments' service delivery performance between 2020–21 and 2024–25. This dashboard has:

- 2024–25 data from departments' 2024–25 annual reports
- historical data from a DTF spreadsheet. This spreadsheet contains performance results as published in the Department Performance Statement (previously contained in Budget Paper No. 3).

We note that historical information may change between annual reports and subsequent reporting in Budget papers.

Departments' overall performance between 2020–21 and 2024–25

Overall performance

Of our selected performance measures, 101 (35.8 per cent) did not have data for every year between 2020–21 to 2024–25.

As Figure 6 shows, out of the measures with 5 years of data, departments:

- met all their targets every year in 51 performance measures (28.2 per cent)
- missed their targets by a significant margin every year in 20 performance measures (11.0 per cent).

Figure 6: Departments' performance between 2020–21 and 2024–25 for selected measures with 5 years of data

Number of performance measures

Department	Department met all targets every year	Department missed all targets by a significant margin every year
DEECA	10	0
DFFH	5	1
DH	4	10
DJCS	10	5
DJSIR	3	0
DPC	3	0
DTF	4	0
DTP	12	4
Total	51	20

Note: DE and DGS were sampled. However, they did not have consistent measures in these categories. Source: VAGO.

Performance of key services

This section contains high-level case studies for performance measures in DH, DJCS and DFFH.

The case studies provide insight into whether these departments have achieved their performance targets between 2020-21 to 2024-25.

We looked at a range of quality, quantity and timeliness measures to reflect the diversity of government service delivery and to identify key issues and trends.

For detailed performance results, please see our dashboard.

Covered in this section:

- Health services performance
- Justice and emergency services performance
- Child protection, housing and family violence services performance

Health services performance

About this topic All Victorians should have access to timely healthcare. DH is responsible for delivering healthcare services to the community.

> Performance against many healthcare measures depends on demand for a service. But targets can show if DH is delivering the services it receives funding for.

DH has not met some quantity performance targets

Performance against targets DH is funded to deliver a target volume of healthcare services to the community. But it has not met its targets for several performance measures over time.

We looked at some performance measures that relate to the quantity of services that DH delivers. DH has 10 quantity measures with 5 years of data. As Figure 7 shows, DH missed its targets by a significant margin:

- every year in 2 performance measures
- for 4 years in one performance measure
- for 3 years in 2 performance measures.

Performance against these measures depends on demand for the service. But this suggests DH is not meeting the targets it receives funding for.

Figure 7: DH's performance for quantity of services delivered over time

Performance measure	Target					
(number of)	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	Trends
Sub-acute care separations (Admitted Services)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Service delivery has increased between 2021–22 and 2023–24
Community service hours (aged) (Mental Health Clinical Care)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Service delivery has increased between 2020–21 and 2023–24
Community service hours (child and adolescent) (Mental Health Clinical Care)	Met	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Met	Missed (significant)	Service delivery has increased between 2021–22 and 2023–24
Statewide non-emergency road transports (Ambulance Services)	Met	Met	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Service delivery has declined between 2020–21 and 2024–25
Patients admitted from the planned surgery waiting list (Admitted Services)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Met	Service delivery has increased between 2021–22 and 2024–25

Note: For some performance measures, targets may have changed over the 5-year period. Source: VAGO.

Reasons for missed targets

DH gave the following reasons for missing its targets by a significant margin:

DH said it did not meet the	measure because of
sub-acute care separations	 COVID-19 longer average stays workforce pressures.
community service hours (aged)	 data integrity issues in some services the need for some services to seek larger premises in 2022–23 challenges in recruiting specialist workforce in 2023–24.
community service hours (child and adolescent)	 workforce shortages due to COVID-19 in 2021–22 data integrity issues and the need for some services to seek larger premises in 2022–23.
statewide non-emergency road transports	reduced demanda focus on targeted demand management strategies.
patients admitted from the planned surgery waiting list	 impacts from COVID-19 delays to capital projects in 2022–23 increased demand in emergency departments and high demand for endoscopy procedures in 2023–24.

DH has not met several timeliness targets

Performance against targets

We looked at 10 measures that relate to timely healthcare. Between 2020–21 and 2024–25, DH:

- met its targets every year in 2 performance measures
- missed its targets by a significant margin every year in 8 performance measures.

This indicates that some patients may not receive timely access to healthcare.

DH	for the performance measure	DH's performance has
met its target every year	urgent (category 1) planned surgery patients admitted within 30 days.	been consistent between 2020–21 and 2024–25.
	emergency category 1 treated immediately.	
missed its target by a significant margin every	semi-urgent (category 2) planned surgery patients admitted within 90 days.	improved against the target between 2022–23 and 2024–25.
year	non-urgent (category 3) planned surgery patients admitted within 365 days.	
	proportion of ambulance patient transfers within 40 minutes.	
	emergency patients treated within clinically recommended 'time to treatment'.	improved against the target between 2021–22 and 2024–25.
	proportion of emergency (code 1) incidents responded to within 15 minutes – statewide.	no consistent trend over time.
	proportion of emergency (code 1) incidents responded to within 15 minutes in centres with more than 7,500 population.	
	emergency patients with a length of stay of less than 4 hours.	
	percentage of departures from emergency departments to a mental health bed within 8 hours.	

Reasons for missed targets

While individual reasons vary between year and performance measure, common reasons DH gave for missing its targets by a significant margin are:

- high demand
- patient complexity
- workforce challenges
- impacts of COVID-19.

Justice and emergency services performance

About this topic Timely, safe and effective service delivery is vital for the outcomes of Victorians interacting with the justice system or emergency response.

DJCS is responsible for Victoria's justice and community safety services.

DJCS has not met any timeliness targets for resolving crimes and offences

Performance against targets

We looked at 2 measures that relate to the time it takes to investigate and resolve crimes and offences.

As Figure 8 shows, DJCS missed all its targets between 2020–21 and 2024–25 for these performance measures.

Figure 8: DJCS's performance for resolving crimes and offences over time

			Target			
Performance measure	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	Trends
Proportion of crimes against the person resolved within 30 days	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Performance has declined against the target between 2020–21 and 2024–25
Proportion of property and deception offences resolved within 30 days	Missed	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Performance has declined against the target between 2020–21 and 2023–24

Source: VAGO.

Performance against both measures has declined over time.

In 2020–21 the department missed the target for the	by	and in 2024–25 by
proportion of crimes against the person resolved within 30 days	5.8 per cent	20.2 per cent.
proportion of property and deception offences resolved within 30 days	0.8 per cent	26.0 per cent.

Reasons for missed targets

DJCS says it missed these targets by a significant margin because of:

- resourcing reallocations, for example, during the COVID-19 pandemic
- resourcing challenges, for example, workforce availability
- increases in crime.

DJCS has told us that some of these factors are outside the direct control of the department.

DJCS has met most, but not all, of its timeliness targets for emergency response

Performance against targets

We looked at 16 measures that relate to the timeliness of emergency response.

We found 11 that have been consistently met or missed by a significant margin over time. This includes emergency call answer speeds, dispatch times and emergency response times. As Figure 9 shows, DJCS has:

- met its targets for most of these measures over time
- missed its targets by a significant margin for 2 measures over time.

It is not possible to review performance trends for some of these measures because they only have 2 years of data.

Figure 9: DJCS's performance for emergency response timeliness over time

			Target			
Performance measure	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	
Emergency call answer speed meets benchmark (Triple Zero Victoria)						
Ambulance Victoria	-	-	-	Met	Met	
Country Fire Authority	-	-	-	Met	Met	
Fire Rescue Victoria	-	-	-	Met	Met	
Victoria Police	-	-	-	Met	Met	
Dispatch performance meeting benchmark (Triple Zero Victo	oria)				
Ambulance Victoria	-	-	-	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	
Country Fire Authority	-	-	-	Met	Met	
Fire Rescue Victoria	-	-	-	Met	Met	
Victoria Police	-	-	-	Met	Met	
Emergency response times meeting benchm	ark					
Road accident rescue response (Victoria State Emergency Service)	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	
Structural fires (Country Fire Authority)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	
Emergency medical response (Fire Rescue Victoria)	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	

Note: - means there is no data available for that year because the measure had not been introduced yet. We looked at targets from 2020–21 or from the introduction of the measure (whichever is newer) to 2024–25. Data between 2020–21 to 2023–24 is taken from DTF's data on performance results as published in the Department Performance Statement (previously Budget Paper No. 3). Results may be different between annual reports and subsequent Budget papers. For example, in DJCS's 2020–21 and 2021–22 annual reports, there are aggregated performance measures that relate to emergency response time. However, in DTF's spreadsheet, data is disaggregated into separate performance measure for these years.

Source: VAGO.

Reasons for missed targets

DJCS says it missed these targets by a significant margin because of:

- code 2 and 3 incidents being reclassified to code 1
- external factors, such as road congestion
- internal factors, such as volunteer availability.

DJCS has met some targets for safe and effective prisoner management

Performance against targets

We looked at 5 performance measures that relate to prisoner management and rehabilitation opportunities and found 4 that have consistent trends over time.

DJCS has met its targets for prisoners in employment every year between 2020-21 to 2024-25. But it has missed its targets for prisoner participation in education every year.

As Figure 10 shows, between 2020-21 to 2024-25, DJCS:

- met all its targets for 2 measures
- missed all its targets (by less than 5 per cent) for one measure
- missed all its targets by a significant margin for one measure.

Figure 10: DJCS's performance for safe and effective prisoner management over time

	Target				
Performance measure	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Proportion of eligible prisoners in employment	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
Proportion of prisoner risk assessments completed within set timeframes	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
Rate of prisoner participation in education	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)
Assessment of prisoners 'at risk' within 2 hours	Missed	Missed	Missed	Missed	Missed
Source: VAGO.					

Reasons for missed targets

DJCS says it missed these targets by a significant margin because of:

- the impact of COVID-19 restrictions
- data limitations where results were captured as a point-in-time measurement
- changes in the delivery and timing of education programs.

Child protection, housing and family violence services performance

About this topic Child protection, housing and family violence services provide support for vulnerable Victorians. This support should be quality, timely and appropriate.

DFFH is responsible for child protection, family violence prevention and housing.

DFFH has not met all quality and timeliness targets for child protection investigations

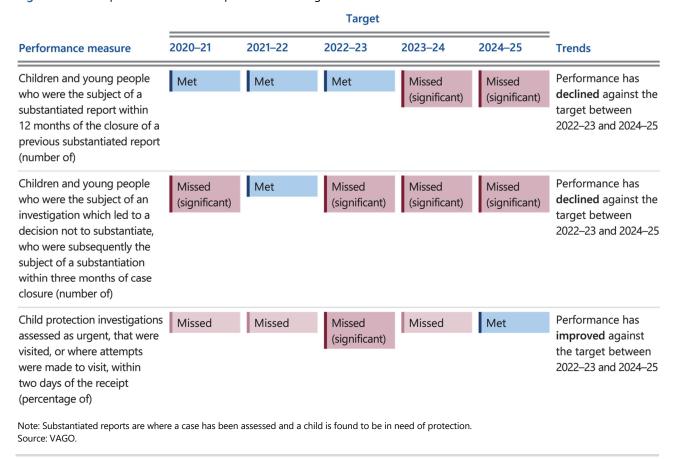
Performance against targets

We looked at 3 measures that relate to the quality and timeliness of its child protection investigations.

As Figures 11 shows, DFFH missed its targets by a significant margin for 2 of these measures in at least 2 years between 2020–21 to 2024–25.

This means that the underlying risk factors that place a child or young person in harm may not always be identified or addressed when needed.

Figure 11: DFFH's performance for child protection investigations over time



Reasons for missed targets

DFFH says it missed these targets by a significant margin because of:

- changes in a child's circumstances
- availability of and engagement with family services and other support services
- the impact of COVID-19.

DFFH has met some targets for children and young people in out-of-home care, but not for Aboriginal children placed in culturally appropriate care

Performance against quality targets

We looked at 3 performance measures for the quantity and quality of placements for children and young people in out-of-home care.

DFFH has not met its target for the proportion of Aboriginal children placed with relatives/kin, other Aboriginal carers or in Aboriginal residential care since 2021–22.

This means that some Aboriginal children in out-of-home care are not receiving placements that are culturally appropriate.

As Figure 12 shows, DFFH has met its targets for:

- children and young people who have had 2 or less placements within a 12-month period
- the number of children authorised to an Aboriginal agency under the Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care program (since the measure was introduced in 2023–24).

Figure 12: DFFH's performance against quality targets for out-of-home care and culturally appropriate care over time

	Target					
Performance measure	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	
Children and young people in care who have had 2 or less placements in the past 12 months (not including time at home in parental care)	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met	
Proportion of Aboriginal children placed with relatives/kin, other Aboriginal carers or in Aboriginal residential care	Met	Missed	Missed (significant)	Missed	Missed (significant)	
Number of children authorised to an Aboriginal agency under the Aboriginal Children in Aboriginal Care program	-	-	-	Met	Met	
Aboriginal Care program Note: - means there is no data available for that year because	the measure had	d not been introduc	ced yet.			

Source: VAGO.

Performance against quantity targets

We looked at 4 performance measures that relate to the quantity of services DFFH delivers.

As Figure 13 shows, between 2020–21 and 2024–25, DFFH missed its targets by a significant margin for 2 or more years.

However, DFFH changed how it achieves its performance targets for:

- the daily average number of children in residential care placements in 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2024-25
- all other measures in 2022-23 and 2024-25.

In these years, DFFH meets its targets when the actual result is less than the target. In the other years, DFFH meets its targets when the actual result is more than the target.

Figure 13: DFFH's performance against quantity targets for out-of-home care

Target 2020-21 2024-25 **Trends** Performance measure 2021-22 2022-23 2023-24 The number of children in Daily average number Met Missed Missed Met Missed of children in care care placements has (significant) (significant) declined from 2020-21 placements to 2024-25 Daily average number The number of children in Missed Missed Met Missed Met of children in foster foster care placements (significant) (significant) has declined from care placements 2021-22 to 2024-25 Daily average number The number of children in Met Met Missed Met Missed of children in residential residential care placements (significant) (significant) care placements has declined from 2022-23 to 2024-25 Daily average number The number of children in Missed Missed Missed Met Met of children in kinship kinship care placements (significant) (significant) care placements has varied between 2020-21 and 2024-25

Note: Results in this figure may differ from results in our dashboard because of the changes in how DFFH achieves its performance targets. Data between 2020–21 to 2023–24 is taken from DTF's data on performance results as published in the Department Performance Statement (previously Budget Paper No. 3). Results may be different between annual reports and subsequent Budget papers.

Source: VAGO.

Reasons for missed targets

DFFH says it missed these targets by a significant margin because of challenges around:

- locating family members who can provide care for Aboriginal children
- setting targets for demand-driven measures. This is because the number of children placed in residential, kinship and foster care placements reflects wider trends in placement.

These targets reflect the quantity of services DFFH is funded to deliver. But DFFH told us that less children in out-of-home care also reflects its goal to keep children safe at home. This makes it difficult to assess performance against these targets.

DFFH has not met several targets for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness

Performance against targets

We looked at 5 performance measures that relate to the quantity of services delivered to people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

As Figure 14 shows, DFFH has missed its target by a significant margin for 4 of these measures.

These performance measures depend on demand. But this means that the department has received funding for targets that are higher than demand for multiple years.

Figure 14: DFFH's performance for housing assistance over time

			rarget		
Performance measure	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Number of clients assisted to address and prevent homelessness	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed	Missed
Number of clients assisted to address and respond to homelessness due to family violence	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed	Missed
Number of clients provided with accommodation	Met	Met	Missed	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)
Number of households assisted with long-term social housing (public, Aboriginal and community long-term tenancies at the end of the year)	Met	Missed	Missed	Met	Met
Number of bonds issued by the department to low-income Victorians	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Met
Source: VAGO.					

Target

Reasons for missed targets

DFFH says it missed these targets by a significant margin because of:

- a transfer of responsibilities from the specialist homelessness support sector to The Orange Door (which is a service for people experiencing family violence or in need of support for the development and wellbeing needs of children and young people)
- fluctuations in service delivery due to COVID-19
- high competition and changes to the private rental market as a result of COVID-19.

Access to social housing

We looked at 5 performance measures that relate to the supply of social housing in Victoria.

As Figure 15 shows, DFFH has missed its target (by less than 5 per cent) for the total number of social housing dwellings every year between 2020–21 and 2024–25.

DFFH has missed its targets by a significant margin in 4 measures. For:

- one measure it missed its target in 2020–21 and 2022–23, and met it in 2021–22, 2023–24 and 2024–25
- one measure it missed its target in 2022–23 and 2023–24, and met it in 2024–25
- 2 measures it missed its target in 2024–25 when the measure was first introduced.

Figure 15: DFFH's performance against targets for social housing measures

	Target					
Performance measure	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	
Total number of social housing dwellings	Missed	Missed	Missed	Missed	Missed	
Total number of social housing dwellings added during the year	Missed (significant)	Met	Missed (significant)	Met	Met	
Total number of Victorian Affordable Housing Program affordable housing dwellings	-	-	Missed (significant)	Missed (significant)	Met	
Average waiting time for long-term social housing for clients who have received a priority access housing or priority transfer allocation due to family violence	-	-	-	-	Missed (significant)	
Average waiting time for long-term social housing for clients who have received priority access housing allocation or a priority transfer	-	-	-	-	Missed (significant)	

Note: - means there is no data available for that year because it had not been introduced yet. Source: VAGO.

The 2 measures DFFH introduced in 2024–25 are to assess average waiting times for social housing. DFFH missed these targets by a significant margin in 2024–25. But it is not possible to assess performance over time for these measures.

In 2024–25, the average waiting time for long-term social housing for	was	which is
clients who have received a priority access housing or priority transfer allocation due to family violence	17.3 months	6.8 months (64.8 per cent) longer than the target of 10.5 months.
clients who have received priority access housing allocation or a priority transfer	17.2 months	6.7 months (63.8 per cent) longer than the target of 10.5 months.

Reasons for missed targets

DFFH says it missed its targets for the total number of social housing dwellings added and total number of Victorian Affordable Housing Program dwellings because of the impact of COVID-19.

DFFH also told us that waiting times for social housing are influenced by:

- demand for social housing
- housing affordability
- economic conditions
- Australian Government income support arrangements.

5.

Appendices

There are 6 appendices covering responses from reviewed agencies, information about how we perform our work, and the performance measures we looked at for this review.

Appendix A: Submissions and comments

Appendix B: Acronyms and glossary

Appendix C: Review scope and method

Appendix D: Outputs we looked at over time

Appendix E: Targets met every year

Appendix F: Targets missed by a significant margin every year

Appendix A:

Submissions and comments

We have consulted with all departments and considered their views when reaching our review conclusions. As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, we gave a draft copy of this report, or relevant extracts, to those agencies and asked for their submissions and comments.

Responsibility for the accuracy, fairness and balance of those comments rests solely with the relevant agency head.

Responses received

Agency	Page
Department of Education	A-2
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	A-3
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	A-4
Department of Health	A-5
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions	A-7
Department of Transport and Planning	A-8
Department of Treasury and Finance	A-9



Department of Education

Secretary

2 Treasury Place East Melbourne Victoria 3002 Telephone +61 3 9637 2000

COR25172508

Mr Andrew Greaves Auditor-General Victorian Auditor-General's Office

Dear Mr Greaves

Proposed report on Service Delivery Performance 2025

Thank you for your letter of 28 October 2025 and the email from your office on 10 November 2025. The department appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed report for this review.

The department acknowledges the importance of monitoring and improving service delivery and appreciates the opportunity to work with your office on this report. The department has reviewed the proposed report and has no feedback.

Should your staff wish to discuss the department's response, they may contact Shamiso Mtenje, Executive Director, Assurance, Knowledge and Executive Services Division on

Yours sincerely

Tony Bates PSM Secretary 12/11/2025

Your details will be dealt with in accordance with the Public Records Act 1973 and the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014. Should you have any queries or wish to gain access to your personal information held by this department please contact our Privacy Officer at the above address



Response provided by the Secretary, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action



PO Box 500, East Melbourne, Victoria 8002 Australia

SEC-251100078

Andrew Greaves Auditor-General Level 31, 35 Collins Street MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Auditor-General

Thank you for your invitation to comment on the Victorian Auditor-General's Office's (VAGO) proposed draft report for the performance engagement - Service Delivery Performance 2025, received on 11 November 2025.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) supports the need to meet service performance targets and maintain a high standard of service delivery for government.

 ${\sf DEECA}\ welcomes\ {\sf VAGO's}\ findings\ and\ is\ committed\ to\ improving\ its\ service\ delivery\ performance.$

I thank your staff for their work and look forward to a continued productive relationship with your office.

Yours sincerely

Kate Houghton PSM

Secretary

14/11/2025



PROTECTED

Response provided by the Secretary, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing



Department of Families, Fairness and Housing

50 Lonsdale Street Melbourne Victoria 3000 Telephone: 1300 475 170 GPO Box 1774 Melbourne Victoria 3001 www.dffh.vic.gov.au

34705 26

Andrew Greaves Auditor-General Level 31, 35 Collins St MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Greaves

Thank you for your letter of 28 October 2025 and the opportunity to comment on the proposed report Service delivery performance 2025.

I note that on 10 November 2025 your office provided my department with a revised version of the proposed report, incorporating amendments to reflect the actual performance results published in departments' 2024-25 annual reports. In light of this, you have agreed to a revised due date for feedback of 14 November 2025.

I note the findings of the proposed report, which we consider a reasonable reflection of this department's performance. We have no further comments to provide. The department will continue to consider these results in our ongoing planning and improvement activities.

I would also like to acknowledge your staff for their constructive engagement during the review process and for incorporating feedback provided by the department in response to your working paper.

Yours sincerely



Peta McCammon Secretary

12/11/2025



OFFICIAL



Department of Health

50 Lonsdale Street Melbourne Victoria 3000 Telephone: 1300 650 172 GPO Box 4057 Melbourne Victoria 3001 www.health.vic.gov.au DX 210081

Andrew Greaves Auditor-General Victorian Auditor-General's Office Via e-mail:

Dear Auditor-General

Proposed report - Service delivery performance 2025

Thank you for providing the proposed report for VAGO's limited assurance review, Service delivery performance 2025.

The Department of Health welcomes this report, acknowledging the importance of output performance measures in supporting accountability and transparency for performance across government departments. I recognise that there are opportunities for improvement across a range of output performance measures.

I would like to make the following comments:

- It is critical to acknowledge the profound impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on the
 department's performance results, not just in the two years of the pandemic, but also in
 subsequent years given the deferred demand for services. This context is important in
 interpreting the findings made about performance over time.
- VAGO has assessed cost output measures where the cost exceeded target as 'not met'.
 It is important to acknowledge that funding decisions of government may impact output costs (for example, additional funding may be provided to a particular priority) and not all cost variances necessarily represent underperformance.
- I note that VAGOs methodology is to exclude measures where there is no target or recorded result for 2024-25 and that this differs from the way departmental performance may be assessed in current central agency reporting frameworks.
- VAGO's analysis of the reasons for missing performance targets has applied a
 categorisation of "resource constraints". This use of this term may cause confusion, as it
 encompasses a range of factors including higher-than-expected demand, workforce
 shortages, high patient complexity, and impacts from capital works.



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Response provided by the Secretary, Department of Health, continued I would like to thank your staff for working collaboratively with my department. If you require further information your office can contact Julie Walsh, Executive Director, Organisational Effectiveness at Yours sincerely Jenny Atta PSM Secretary 21/11/2025



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Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions

GPO Box 4509 Melbourne ,Victoria 3001 Australia Telephone: +61 3 9651 9999

Ref: CSEC-2-25-27430

Mr Andrew Greaves Auditor General Victorian Auditor General's Office Level 31, 35 Collins Street MELBOURNE VICTORIA 3000

Dear Mr Greaves

Proposed report - Service Delivery Performance 2025

Thank you for your letter dated 28 October 2025 regarding the Proposed report - Service Delivery Performance 2025.

The department notes the proposed report and has no further feedback.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your collaborative efforts and the professional way the audit was conducted.

If you require further information, please contact Karan Gill, Chief Audit Officer at

Yours sincerely



Julian Lyngcoln Acting Secretary

13/11/2025





GPO Box 2392 Melbourne, Victoria 3001 Australia

Ref: BSEC-1-25-4980

Mr Andrew Greaves Auditor-General of Victoria Victorian Auditor-General's Office Level 31, 35 Collins Street MELBOURNE VIC 3000

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Dear Mr Greaves

Victorian Auditor-General's Office - Service delivery performance 2025 - Proposed report

Thank you for your letter of 28 October 2025 inviting the Department of Transport and Planning (the Department) to respond to the *Service delivery performance 2025* proposed report (the Report).

The Department acknowledges the findings and the conclusion of the Report. The Department will continue to report on its measures in compliance with the Department of Treasury and Finance's (DTF) *Resource Management Framework* and continues to support efforts to ensure performance measures are relevant, clear and attributable.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Report.

Yours sincerely

Jeroen Weimar

Secretary

Date: 12 November 2025





Department of Treasury and Finance

1 Treasury Place Melbourne Victoria 3002 Australia Telephone: +61 3 9651 5111 dtf.vic.gov.au

CSEC-251000153

Mr Andrew Greaves Auditor-General Victorian Auditor-General's Office Level 31, 35 Collins Street MELBOURNE VIC 3000

By email:

Dear Auditor-General

PROPOSED REPORT: SERVICE DELIVERY PERFORMANCE 2025

Thank you for your letter dated 28 October 2025 enclosing the proposed report *Service Delivery Performance 2025* for review and comment.

I thank you for the opportunity to be engaged throughout this process and the collaborative approach you and your team have taken to this limited assurance review. I acknowledge the key findings and have no issues to raise. Thank you again for the opportunity to review the proposed report.

Yours sincerely



Chris Barrett Secretary

13/11/2025



OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Appendix B: Acronyms and glossary

Acronyms

We use the following acronyms in this report:

Acronym	Full spelling
DE	Department of Education
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
DFFH	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
DGS	Department of Government Services
DH	Department of Health
DJSIR	Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
DJCS	Department of Justice and Community Safety
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
DPC	Department of Premier and Cabinet
DTF	Department of Treasury and Finance
VAGO	Victorian Auditor-General's Office

Glossary

The following terms are included in or relevant to this report:

Term	Explanation
Level of assurance	This is a measure of the confidence we have in our conclusions. The quality and quantity of evidence we obtain affects our level of assurance.
	We design our work programs with the information needs of our report users in mind. We consider if we need to provide them with reasonable assurance or if a lower level of assurance may be appropriate.
Limited assurance	We obtain less assurance when we rely primarily on an agency's representations and other evidence generated by that agency. However, we aim to have enough confidence in our conclusion for it to be meaningful. We call these types of engagements assurance reviews and typically express our opinions in negative terms. For example, 'nothing has come to our attention to indicate there is a problem'. See our assurance services fact sheet for more information.
Reasonable assurance	We achieve reasonable assurance by obtaining and verifying direct evidence from a variety of internal and external sources about an agency's performance. This enables us to draw a conclusion against an objective with a high level of assurance. We call these performance audits.
	See our <u>assurance services fact sheet</u> for more information.

Appendix C:

Review scope and method

Scope of this review

Wh	0	W	e
exa	m	iin	ed

We examined the following agencies:

Agency	Their key responsibilities
All departments	Delivering goods and services to the community or another external stakeholder

Our review objective

Have departments met their service delivery performance targets?

What we examined

We examined the service delivery performance of:

- all departments and outputs in 2024-25
- selected outputs and performance measures between 2020-21 and 2024-25.

review

Why we did this DTF delivers department performance statements in May each year. These statements:

- outline the goods and services that the government will deliver
- contain performance measures and targets, which show a department's expected service delivery performance.

Departments additionally table annual reports in Parliament each year. These reports provide an overview of a department's performance and operations for the financial year, including the extent to which they have met their service delivery performance targets. Performance information in these reports provides users with an understanding of departmental performance and serves a number of purposes.

It is important that performance information is clear, accessible and allows users to identify how well the government is delivering its services.

This report adds another level of scrutiny to increase the transparency of public reporting and accountability of government for spending public money.

Aspects of performance examined

Our mandate for performance audits and reviews includes the assessment of economy, effectiveness, efficiency and compliance (often referred to as the '3Es + C').

In this review we focused on the following aspects:

Economy	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Compliance
0		0	\bigcirc
Key:			
Primary focus			
Secondary focus			

Conducting this review

) Not assessed

Assessing performance

To form a conclusion against our objective we used the following line of inquiry and associated evaluation criteria.

Line of inquiry		Crite	Criteria	
1.	Have departments met their service delivery performance targets?	1.1	Departments have delivered their goods and/or services (i.e. outputs) in line with their output performance targets.	

Our methods

As part of the review, we analysed data in:

- the 2024–25 departmental annual reports
- departments' output performance reports
- Departmental Performance Statements.

We:

- calculated the:
 - number and percentage of performance targets met in 2024–25
 - number and percentage of performance targets not met by less than a 5 per cent or \$50 million variance in 2024–25
 - number and percentage of performance targets not met by more than a 5 per cent or \$50 million variance in 2024–25
- conducted a time series analysis from 2020–21 to 2024–25 for our selected outputs and performance measures to find:
 - if performance targets have been met over time
 - if performance targets have not been met by more than a 5 per cent variance over time
 - any performance trends
- analysed commentary provided in departmental annual reports, and departments' output performance reports.

Level of assurance

In an assurance review, we primarily rely on the agency's representations and internally generated information to form our conclusions. By contrast, in a performance audit, we typically gather evidence from an array of internal and external sources, which we analyse and substantiate using various methods. Therefore, an assurance review obtains a lower level of assurance than a performance audit (meaning we have slightly less confidence in the accuracy of our conclusion).

Compliance

We conducted our review in accordance with the *Audit Act 1994* and ASAE 3500 *Performance Engagements* to obtain limited assurance to provide a basis for our conclusion.

We complied with the independence and other relevant ethical requirements related to assurance engagements.

Cost and time

The full cost of the review and preparation of this report was \$451,041.

The duration of the review was 6.5 months from initiation to tabling.

Appendix D:

Outputs we looked at over time

Figure D1: Outputs we looked at over time

Department	Output			
DE	 Additional Supports for Students with Disability Kindergarten Delivery Promoting Equal Access to Education School Education – Primary School Education – Secondary 			
DEECA	 Effective Water Management and Supply Energy Fire and Emergency Management 			
DFFH	 Child Protection and Family Services Concessions to Pensioners and Beneficiaries Family Violence Service Delivery Housing Assistance 			
DGS	Regulation of the Victorian consumer marketplace			
DH	 Admitted Services Ambulance Services Emergency Services Mental Health Clinical Care 			
DJCS	 Emergency Management Capability Policing and Community Safety Prisoner Supervision and Support Youth Justice Custodial Services 			
DJSIR	Training, Higher Education and Workforce Development			
DPC	Executive Government advice and services			
DTF	Commercial and Infrastructure Advice			
DTP	 Bus Services (Bus Services – Metropolitan, Bus Services – Regional, Bus Services – Statewide) Road Operations (Registration and Licensing, Road Network Performance, Road Safety) Train Services (Train Services – Metropolitan, Train Services – Regional, Train Services – Statewide) Tram Services 			

Source: VAGO.

Appendix E: Targets met every year

Figure E1: Targets met every year between 2020–21 and 2024–25

Department	Output	Performance measure
DEECA	Fire and Emergency Management	Assessment of model of cover completed to assess resource requirements and availability
		Bridges or crossings on the strategic fire access road network replaced or upgraded
		Fires contained at first attack to suppress fires before they become established, minimising impact
		Fires contained at less than five hectares to suppress fires before they become established, minimising impact
		Readiness and response plans completed prior to the upcoming fire season
		Statewide bushfire risk is maintained at or below the target
		Strategic fire access roads improved
	Effective Water Management and Supply	Compliance with the salinity management actions agreed in the Murray–Darling Basin Agreement
		Waterway licenses and permits processed within statutory timeframes
	Energy	Renewable Certificate Purchasing Initiative projects that contribute to meeting the Renewable Energy Target liability associated with designated government sites annual electricity usage
DFFH	Child Protection and Family Services	Children and young people in care who have had two or less placements in the past 12 months (not including time at home in parental care)
	Family Violence Service Delivery	Number of calls responded to by the statewide telephone helpline for men regarding family violence
		Number of case management responses provided to perpetrators of family violence including those that require individualised support
		Total assessments undertaken at the Support and Safety Hubs
	Concessions to Pensioners and Beneficiaries	Number of Utility Relief Grants granted to households
DH	Emergency Services	Emergency Category 1 treated immediately
	Ambulance Services	Proportion of adult patients suspected of having a stroke who were transported to a stroke unit with thrombolysis facilities within 60 minutes
	Admitted Services	Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemias (SAB) infections per 10,000 patient days
		Urgent (Category 1) planned surgery patients admitted within 30 days
DJCS	Youth Justice and Custodial Services	Annual daily average number of young people in custody – males (15 years plus)

Department	Output	Performance measure		
		Annual daily average number of young people in custody – males (under 15 years) and female		
		Average daily number of Aboriginal children and young people (10–17 years) in custody		
		Average daily custodial centre utilisation rate of total centre capacity – males (15 years plus)		
		Average daily custodial centre utilisation rate of total centre capacity – males (under 15 years) and female		
	Prisoner Supervision and Support	Proportion of eligible prisoners in employment		
		Proportion of prisoner risk assessments completed within set timeframes		
	Emergency Management Capability	Emergency response times meeting benchmarks – road accident rescue response (Victoria State Emergency Service)		
		Emergency response times meeting benchmarks – emergency medical response (Fire Rescue Victoria)		
	Policing and Community Safety	Proportion of successful prosecution outcomes		
DJSIR	Training, Higher Education and Workforce Development	Proportion of VET completers who achieved their main reason for training		
		Proportion of VET completers who are satisfied with their training		
		Proportion of VET completers with an improved employment status after training		
OPC	Executive Government advice and services	Office of the Governor: Support the Governor's community engagement activities by arranging all internal and external events in a timely manner		
		Relevant communication activity compliant with government advertising and communication guidelines		
		Timely delivery of state events and functions		
OTF	Commercial and Infrastructure Advice	Advice provided to Government on board appointments at least three months prior to upcoming board vacancies		
		Credit agencies agree that the presentation and information provided support annual assessment		
		Number of HVHR project assurance plans in place		
		Provision of PNFC/PFC financial estimates and actuals, along with commentary and analysis, for the state Budget papers and financial reports		
OTP	Road Operations – Road Network	Average incident response time within agreed timeframes: metropolitan		
	Performance	Road projects completed within agreed scope and standards: metropolitan		
		Road projects completed within agreed scope and standards: regional		
	Train Services – Statewide	Calls to the public transport call centre answered within 30 seconds		
	Tram Services	Number of tram routes upgraded		
	Road Operations – Road Safety	Road safety initiatives completed		
		Road safety projects completed within agreed scope and standards		

Department	Output	Performance measure
	Road Operations – Registration and Licensing	Road vehicle and driver regulation: user satisfaction with vehicle registration and driver licensing
	Bus Services – Regional	Scheduled services delivered: regional bus
	Bus Services – Metropolitan	Service punctuality for: metropolitan bus services
	Train Services – Regional	Scheduled services not delayed by infrastructure faults: regional train network
	Train Services – Metropolitan	Service punctuality for: metropolitan train services

Note: VET stands for vocational education and training. HVHR stands for High-Value High-Risk. PNFC stands for public non-financial corporation. PFC stands for public financial corporation. There are 3 selected measures in the Child Protection and Family Services output that are shown as met every year in our performance measure dashboard. However, these measures are not included here due to changes in how these performance measures have been classified. For further detail, see Figure 13.

Source: VAGO.

Appendix F:

Targets missed by a significant margin every year

Figure F1: Targets missed by a significant margin every year between 2020–21 and 2024–25

Department	Output	Performance measure
DFFH	Housing Assistance	Social housing tenants satisfied with completed non-urgent maintenance works
DH	Admitted Services	Non-urgent (category 3) planned surgery patients admitted within 365 days
		Semi-urgent (category 2) planned surgery patients admitted within 90 days
		Sub-acute care separations
	Mental Health Clinical Care	Percentage of departures from emergency departments to a mental health bed within 8 hours
		Number of community service hours (aged)
	Emergency Services	Proportion of ambulance patient transfers within 40 minutes
		Emergency patients treated within clinically recommended 'time to treatment'
		Emergency patients with a length of stay of less than four hours
	Ambulance Services	Proportion of emergency (Code 1) incidents responded to within 15 minutes – statewide
		Proportion of emergency (Code 1) incidents responded to within 15 minutes in centres with more than 7,500 population
DJCS	Prisoner Supervision and Support	Average daily female prison utilisation rate of total female prison capacity
		Average daily male prison utilisation rate of total male prison capacity
		Rate of prisoner participation in education
	Emergency Management Capability	Emergency response times meeting benchmarks – structural fires (Country Fire Authority)
	Policing and Community Safety	Proportion of crimes against the person resolved within 30 days
DTP	Tram Services	Major periodic maintenance works completed against plan: tram network
		Passengers carried: tram services*
	Bus Services – Metropolitan	Passengers carried: metropolitan bus services*
	Train Services – Metropolitan	Passengers carried: metropolitan train services*

Note: The impact of COVID-19 should be considered when looking at these performance measures. Departments are required to explain the cause for variances of greater than 5 per cent or \$50 million for cost measures. These are provided in the Budget papers and departmental annual reports for the relevant year. *DTP told us it was advised not to change targets for these measures during the COVID-19 pandemic to account for reduced patronage, which was not under its control.

Source: VAGO.

Auditor-General's reports tabled in 2025–26

Report title	Tabled
Delivering Savings Under the COVID Debt Repayment Plan (2025–26: 1)	July 2025
Planned Surgery in Victoria (2025–26: 2)	August 2025
Financial Management of Local Councils (2025–26: 3)	August 2025
Responses to Performance Engagement Recommendations: Annual Status Update 2025 (2025–26: 4)	September 2025
Relief and Recovery Funding for the 2022 Floods (2025–26: 5)	October 2025
Cybersecurity of IT Servers (2025–26: 6)	October 2025
Accessibility of Tram Services: Follow-up (2025–26: 7)	November 2025
Auditor-General's Report on the Annual Financial Report of the State of Victoria 2024–25 (2025–26: 8)	November 2025
Service Delivery Performance 2025 (2025–26: 9)	December 2025

All reports are available for download in PDF and HTML format on our website at www.audit.vic.gov.au.

Our role and contact details

The Auditor-General's role For information about the Auditor-General's role and VAGO's work, please see our online fact sheet <u>About VAGO</u>.

Our assurance services

Our online fact sheet <u>Our assurance services</u> details the nature and levels of assurance that we provide to Parliament and public sector agencies through our work program.

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