

Video transcript:

Planned Surgery in Victoria

About this audit

In Victoria planned surgeries were deferred during the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to growing waiting lists.

In April 2022 the government announced the \$1.5 billion COVID Catch-up Plan.

The plan aimed to improve the health system's capacity and address the backlog from the pandemic.

The Department of Health delivered the plan, which launched in April 2022 and ran until June 2024.

We did this audit to see if the plan delivered its targets and intended outcomes.

What we concluded

The department didn't meet the plan's targets. But it did increase the number of planned surgeries and reduced the backlog.

We made 3 key findings.

Key finding 1

The plan aimed to deliver 240,000 planned surgeries per year between April 2022 and June 2024.

The department fell short of this target and the plan's other targets.

But it did reduce the number of people on the waiting list and the amount of time patients wait for treatment.

Key finding 2

The shortfall against the yearly surgery target was mainly because fewer public surgeries were delivered in private hospitals than expected.

Key finding 3

The plan delivered additional facilities, including 2 dedicated centres for planned surgeries. But it's unclear how they will impact the health system's current and future performance.

What we recommended

We made 2 recommendations to the Department of Health:

- one to work with health services to make sure all public planned surgeries in Victoria are captured in the Elective Surgery Information System
- and one to actively monitor the list of patients who have been waiting for surgery since the pandemic to make sure they're treated as soon as practicable.

More information

For more information, or to read our full report, go to audit.vic.gov.au.