

Statement of Priorities

2022-23 Agreement between the Minister for Mental Health and Victorian
Institute of Forensic Mental Health

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Department
of Health

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The department proudly acknowledges Victoria's Aboriginal communities and their rich culture and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as Australia's first peoples and as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and water on which we rely.

We recognise and value the ongoing contribution of Aboriginal people and communities to Victorian life and how this enriches us.

We embrace the spirit of reconciliation, working towards the equality of outcomes and ensuring an equal voice.

To receive this document in an accessible format, phone using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or [Commissioning and System Improvement; Accountability on](#) <Accountability@health.vic.gov.au>

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Available at [The Department of Health Statements of Priorities](#)

<<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/funding-performance-accountability/statements-of-priorities>>

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Background

Statement of Priorities are key accountability agreements between Victorian State Government and Victorian publicly funded health, mental health and ambulance services. The content and process for preparation and agreement of the annual Statement of Priorities is consistent with sections 40G, 65ZFA, 65ZFB and section 26 of the *Health Services Act 1988*, and section 344 of the *Mental Health Act 2014*.

Statement of Priorities are consistent with the health services' strategic plans and aligned to government policy directions and priorities. For 2022-23, the Statement of Priorities also make reference to [The Department of Health Operational Plan 2022-23](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/department-of-health-operational-plan-2022-23) (Operational Plan) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/department-of-health-operational-plan-2022-23>>. The annual agreements support the delivery of, or substantial progress towards the key shared objectives of quality and safety, good governance and leadership, access and timeliness, and financial sustainability.

A Statement of Priorities consists of four main parts:

- Part A provides the strategic priorities for the health service to achieve in the year ahead.
- Part B lists the performance priorities and agreed targets.
- Part C lists funding and associated activity.
- Part D forms the service agreement between each health service and the state of Victoria for the purposes of the National Health Reform Agreement

Performance expectations and mechanisms used by the Department of Health (the department) to monitor and manage performance are described in the *Victorian Health Service Performance Monitoring Framework 2022-23* (The Framework).

High standards of governance, transparency and accountability are essential. In this context, the Victorian Government commits to publish Statements of Priorities each year and present data on the performance of our health system in the public domain.

Strategic Priorities

The department delivers policies, programs and services that support and enhance the health and wellbeing of all Victorians. Through the [Operational Plan](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/department-of-health-operational-plan-2022-23), the department's vision is to create a future where Victorians are the healthiest people in the world. A Victoria where children and people thrive, where workplaces are productive and safe, and where communities are more connected.

The department's job is to support Victorians to stay healthy and safe; and to deliver a world-class healthcare system that ensures every single Victorian can access safe, quality care that leads to better health outcomes for all.

To fulfil these obligations, the department has developed seven strategic priorities in the Operational Plan, to shape the year's direction. Health services will contribute to the department's strategic priorities through signing and enacting the Statement of Priorities.

Government Commitments

The Budget includes a \$4.2 billion package to support our ongoing pandemic response with:

- \$522 million to support our hospitals to treat COVID-19
- \$1.1 billion to purchase and distribute free rapid antigen tests to schools, hospitals and Victorians with disability
- \$284 million for Personal Protective Equipment
- \$258 million to protect and vaccinate Victorians against COVID-19
- \$110 million for COVID-19 care pathways, including continuing our 28 general practitioner respiratory clinics.

In addition, a further \$1.5 billion is provided to deliver the *COVID Catch-up Plan* to enable record levels of surgical capacity and \$300 million for the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund to boost regional healthcare.

The budget supports healthcare workers by providing training and the extra pair of helping hands they need. Funding will train and hire up to 7,000 new healthcare workers across the sector, helping to relieve pressure on the system and improve care for all Victorians.

There is strong investment in Ambulance Services, Triple Zero services and hiring more paramedics. This includes \$124.1 million to recruit new paramedics and enhance fleet management, rostering and support functions in order to meet growth in demand for ambulance services as well as establishing a second Mobile Stroke Unit to improve access to pre-hospital stroke treatment.

Part A: Department of Health Operational Plan

The Statement of Priorities are aligned with the *Department of Health Operational Plan 2022-23*¹.

Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health will contribute to the Operational Plan 2022-23 by agreeing to the following priorities:

Care closer to home:

Strengthen partnerships with rural and regional health services to enable comprehensive state-wide approach to service delivery

- Implement the Model of Care in preparation for the Forensicare service expansion, resulting in improved partnerships with health networks, to increase access to forensic mental health services to all Victorians.
- Enabling access to community-based specialist forensic mental health services state-wide via increased efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery.

Keep improving care:

Improve quality and safety of care

- Work with Safer Care Victoria (SCV) in areas of clinical improvement to ensure the Victorian health system is safe and delivers best care, including working together on hospital acquired complications, low value care and targeting preventable harm to ensure that limited resources are optimised without compromising clinical care and outcomes.

Plan update to nutrition and food quality standards

- Develop a plan to implement nutrition and quality of food standards in 2022-23, implemented by December of 2023.

Climate Change Commitments

- Contribute to enhancing health system resilience by improving the environmental sustainability, including identifying and implementing projects and/or processes that will contribute to committed emissions reduction targets through reducing or avoiding carbon emissions and/or implementing initiatives that will help the health system to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Improve Aboriginal health and wellbeing:

Improve Aboriginal cultural safety

- Strengthen commitments to Aboriginal Victorians by addressing the gap in health outcomes by delivering culturally safe and responsive health care.

¹ [Department of Health Operational Plan 2022-23](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/department-of-health-operational-plan-2022-23) <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/department-of-health-operational-plan-2022-23>

- Establish meaningful partnerships with Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisations.
- Implement strategies and processes to actively increase Aboriginal employment.
- Improve patient identification of Aboriginal people presenting for health care, and to address variances in health care and provide equitable access to culturally safe care pathways and environments.
- Develop discharge plans for every Aboriginal patient.

Moving from competition to collaboration:

Develop and implement forensic mental health recommendations of the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System

- Work with the department to implement Forensicare's expansion (stage 1 and stage 2) and the model of care particularly focussing on reducing seclusion rates at Thomas Embling Hospital.
- Lead collaborative partnerships with Area Mental Health and Wellbeing Services, Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals and other relevant stakeholders to improve access and transition pathways for forensic mental health consumers, and those at risk of coming into contact with the criminal justice system.

A stronger workforce:

Improve workforce wellbeing

- Participate in the Occupational Violence and Aggression (OVA) training that will be implemented across the sector in 2022-23.
- Support the implementation of the Strengthening Hospital Responses to Family Violence (SHRFV) initiative deliverables including health service alignment to MARAM, the Family Violence Multi-Agency Risk Assessment and Management framework.
- Prioritise wellbeing of healthcare workers and implement local strategies to address key issues.

Part B: Performance Priorities

The *Victorian Health Services Performance Monitoring Framework* outlines the Government's approach to overseeing the performance of Victorian health services. Changes to the key performance measures in 2022-23 strengthen the focus on high quality and safe care and cultural safety.

Further information is available at the [Funding, Performance and Accountability webpage](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/funding-performance-accountability/performance-monitoring-framework) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/funding-performance-accountability/performance-monitoring-framework>>.

High quality and safe care:

Key Performance Measure	Target
Infection prevention and control	
Compliance with the Hand Hygiene Australia program	85%
Percentage of healthcare workers immunised for influenza	92%
Patient experience	
Percentage of adult patients who reported positive experiences (Thomas Embling Hospital)	95%
Percentage of adult patients who reported positive experiences (Community Forensic Mental Health Service)	95%
Percentage of consumers reporting a 'very good' or 'excellent' experience of care in the last 3 months or less	80%
Percentage of mental health consumers reporting they 'usually' or 'always' felt safe using this service	90%
Percentage of families/carers reporting a positive experience of the service	80%
Percentage of families/carers who report they 'always' or 'usually' felt their opinions as a carer were respected	90%
Mental Health	
Percentage of consumers followed up within 7 days of separation	88%
Rate of seclusion episodes per 1,000 occupied bed days	≤ 8

Strong Governance, leadership and culture

Key Performance Measure	Target
Organisational culture	
People matter survey – Percentage of staff with an overall positive response to safety culture survey questions	62%

Timely access to care

Key Performance Measure	Target
Number of male security patients admitted to Thomas Embling Hospital Male Acute Units – Security	120
Percentage of male Security Patients admitted to Thomas Embling Hospital within 7 days of certification	80%
Percentage of male security patients discharged from Thomas Embling Hospital to a correctional centre within 21 days	80%
Percentage of male security patients discharged within 7 days of becoming a civil client	80%

Effective financial management

Key performance measure	Target
Operating result (\$m)	\$0.00
Average number of days to paying trade creditors	60 days
Adjusted current asset ratio (Variance between actual ACAR and target, including performance improvement over time or maintaining actual performance)	0.7 or 3% improvement from health service base target
Actual number of days available cash, measured on the last day of each month	14 days
Variance between forecast and actual Net result from transactions (NRFT) for the current financial year ending 30 June.	Variance ≤ \$250,000

Part C: Activity and Funding

The performance and financial framework within which state government-funded organisations operate is described in *The Policy and Funding Guidelines – Funding Rules*. The Funding Rules details funding and pricing arrangements and provides modelled budgets and targets for a range of programs. The [Policy and Funding Guidelines](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/policy-and-funding-guidelines-for-health-services) webpage <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/policy-and-funding-guidelines-for-health-services>>.

Period 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Table 1 Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health funding summary for 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Funding Type	Activity	Budget (\$'000)
Forensicare - Mental Health and Drug Services		
Mental Health Ambulatory – Community service hours	19,949	16,268
Mental Health Inpatient - Available bed days	49,642	60,257
Mental Health Service System Capacity	-	5,462
Other		
Health Workforce	-	598
Other specified funding	-	3,435
Total Funding		86,020

Please note:

- Base level funding, related services and activity levels, outlined within the Policy and Funding Guidelines are subject to change throughout the year. Further information about the department's approach to funding and price setting for specific clinical activities, and funding policy changes is also available from: [Policy and funding guidelines for health services](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/policy-and-funding-guidelines-for-health-services) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/policy-and-funding-guidelines-for-health-services>>
- In situations where a change is required to Part C, changes to the agreement will be actioned through an exchange of letters between the department and the health service's Chief Executive Officer.

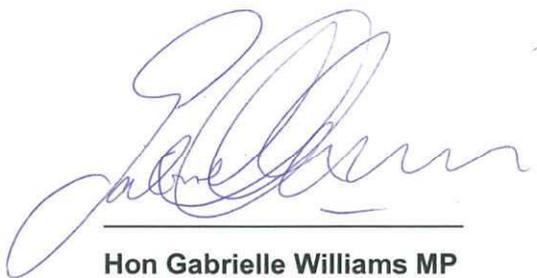
Accountability and funding requirements

The health service must comply with:

- All laws applicable to it;
- The *National Health Reform Agreement*;
- All applicable requirements, policies, terms or conditions of funding specified or referred to in the Department of Health *Policy and Funding Guidelines 2022-23*;
- Policies and procedures and appropriate internal controls to ensure accurate and timely submission of data to the Department of Health;
- All applicable policies and guidelines issued by the Department of Health from time to time and notified to the health service;
- Where applicable, all terms and conditions specified in an agreement between the health service and the Department of Health relating to the provision of health services which is in force at any time during the 2022-23 financial year; and
- Relevant standards for programs which have been adopted e.g. International Organisation for Standardisation standards and AS/NZS 4801:2001, Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems or an equivalent standard.
- Where applicable, this includes the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards ('NSQHS standards') as accredited through the Australian Health Service Safety and Quality Accreditation Scheme.
- Any other relevant, applicable statutory, regulatory or accountability rules, policies, plans, procedures or publications.

Signing Page

The Minister for Mental Health and the health service board chairperson agree that funding will be provided to the health service to enable the health service to meet its service obligations and performance requirements as outlined in this Statement of Priorities.



Hon Gabrielle Williams MP

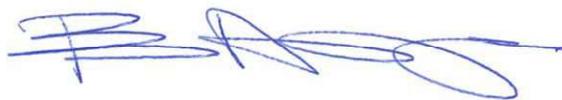
Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Ambulance Services

Minister for Treaty and First

Peoples

Date: 14/3/2023



Penny Armytage

Chairperson

**Victorian Institute of Forensic
Mental Health (Forensicare)**

Date: 14/3/2023