



**PER CENT  
OF VLRC  
REPORTS  
HAVE BEEN  
IMPLEMENTED,  
IN WHOLE  
OR PART.**

The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that every entry, no matter how small, should be recorded to ensure the integrity of the financial data. This includes not only sales and purchases but also expenses and income. The document provides a detailed list of items that should be tracked, such as inventory levels, accounts payable, and accounts receivable. It also outlines the procedures for recording these transactions, including the use of double-entry bookkeeping to ensure that the books are balanced.

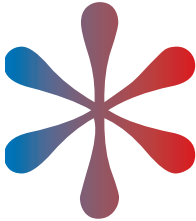
The second part of the document focuses on the analysis of the financial data. It explains how to calculate key financial ratios and metrics, such as the gross profit margin, operating profit margin, and return on investment. These calculations are essential for understanding the company's financial performance and identifying areas for improvement. The document also discusses the importance of comparing the company's performance to industry benchmarks and providing a clear explanation of the reasons for any variances.

The final part of the document covers the preparation of financial statements. It provides a step-by-step guide to creating the income statement, balance sheet, and cash flow statement. It also discusses the importance of auditing the financial statements to ensure their accuracy and reliability. The document concludes with a summary of the key findings and recommendations for the future, emphasizing the need for continued monitoring and reporting of financial performance.



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The VLRC has been in operation for 23 years, after commencing operations in 2001. In that time it has completed 47 law reform reports. As the cover design of this report illustrates, to date 75 per cent of those reports have been implemented, many in full and some in part. Recently some of the key recommendations of our 2021 report on sexual offences have been implemented, and the government has committed to implementing others. A radical overhaul of assistance for victims of crime has been legislated and is due to commence in 2025, based on our 2018 review of the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act*. And reform to birth certificates means that adopted people can have an official record of both their natural and adoptive parents, implementing a key recommendation from our review of the Adoption Act.



These examples demonstrate the value of an independent law reform body to provide the government with advice. The VLRC sits above the melee of politics and the day-to-day news cycle, providing recommendations informed by extensive research, in-depth consultations, expert opinions and public submissions. We consider it a mark of the confidence in and regard for the VLRC that so many agencies and individuals are keen to engage with us, ensuring that our reports can draw on a wealth of diverse knowledge and experience.

There is certainly no lack of public desire for community law reform: we gathered together some 77 community proposals for our publication *The Law Reform Longlist*. It is our hope and expectation that in the forthcoming year our community law reform team will be able to apply their considerable skills to a new piece of work. For this to happen, clear communication from the government will be critical.

One initiative that we have been excited to commence this year is our new Spotlight series. Spotlights are research papers on discrete topics that have been drawn to our attention by members of the community or organisations. Spotlights will not include a list of recommendations for specific legal or policy changes as our other publications do. We intend them to inform and educate the community, encourage discussion, and contribute to policy debate. Spotlights will be published on our website and provided to government but will not be tabled in Parliament. Work has begun on the first Spotlight, which is about confidentiality laws in guardianship and administration

matters. It considers whether people should have the right to identify themselves as the subject of an order and to speak out publicly about their experiences.

In the two years since we completed our last community law reform project, *Inclusive Juries*, our community law reform program has faced challenges in settling on a new project. During the year we commenced two projects: the first, *Residential Rental Agreements and Family Violence* and the second, *Examining Aspects of Family Violence Intervention Orders*. Work on both these community law reform projects did not progress when it subsequently transpired that similar work was to be undertaken by government, despite the VLRC making the appropriate enquiries before commencing each of those projects.

The VLRC is at its most effective when it has the opportunity to maintain a steady flow of work. Last year we noted the four-month gap between delivering one report, *Stalking*, and receiving the terms of reference for the next, *Recklessness*. This year there was a similar delay between delivering the *Recklessness* report on 29 February and receiving the terms of reference for a new inquiry, *Artificial Intelligence in the Justice System*, on 8 May. One consequence of these gaps is that we find it more difficult to hold on to high-performing staff in an environment of uncertainty, and have to go through additional hiring processes when a reference arrives. Another is that time is lost in waiting which could be devoted to the project. We have regularly discussed the need for a planned workflow with the Attorney-General, which would enable

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us to operate with more certainty, as is the case for some law reform agencies in other jurisdictions such as England and Wales. We hope that such a model can become a reality in the near future.

There have been some changes to personnel during the year. Midway through the financial year, in January 2024, our Chair, the Hon. Tony North KC, was appointed a Commissioner of the Yoorrook Justice Commission and has taken extended leave of the VLRC until March 2025 to fulfil that role. I am replacing him for this period, having been formerly a Commissioner from 2002-2008, and having returned as a Commissioner in June 2020. May and June 2024 also marked the final Commission meetings for two long-standing and dedicated Commissioners: Gemma Varley PSM, who has served as a Commissioner since 2016, and Bruce Gardner PSM, who has served as a Commissioner since 2012, and acted as interim chair of the Commission for six months in 2019. Bruce's expertise and forensic eye for detail has informed an astonishing 23 reports, while Gemma has contributed her wisdom to 13 reports. We are awaiting the appointment of new Commissioners and look forward to this taking place soon.

For several months during this year we were able to host the Australian Law Reform Commission staff in our Queen Street office after their relocation to Melbourne, before they moved into a more permanent home. This provided an opportunity for the two organisations to share ideas and expertise. This year we also developed our links with international law reform commissions,

including New Zealand and England and Wales, initiated in previous years after international conferences. Our staff have also been involved in sharing their skills and knowledge with law reform bodies in other jurisdictions through various forums.

I wish to record my acknowledgment of and gratitude to each of the Commissioners, our CEO Merrin Mason, and the staff. All of them have not only continued their conscientious commitment to the work here, but have provided me with unending support and wisdom in my role as Acting Chair.

Finally I would like to acknowledge the second tranche of additional funding provided by the Legal Services Board for our community law reform program.



The Hon. Jennifer Coate AO  
Acting Chair,  
Victorian Law Reform Commission

**The Victorian Law Reform Commission is the central agency for law reform in Victoria. It is a statutory authority, established under the *Victorian Law Reform Commission Act 2000*.**



The Commission aims to make a significant contribution to maintaining and further developing a just, inclusive and accessible legal system for all Victorians.

The Commission is funded by the Victorian Government and the Victorian Legal Services Board. The Commission's work is independent of the political process.

The Commission is committed to inclusive law reform. It consults with the community and advises the Attorney-General on how to reform Victorian laws.

When the Commission carries out a law reform inquiry, it consults with people who are affected, and especially targets:

- > people in regional and remote communities
- > First Nations people
- > people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- > people with disabilities.

The Commission reports to the Attorney-General on completion of an inquiry, making practical, innovative recommendations that aim to make the law fairer, more up-to-date and more accessible to everyone.

### **The functions of the Commission**

Under section 5(1) of the *Victorian Law Reform Commission Act 2000 (Vic)*, the functions of the Commission are:

- (a) to examine, report and make recommendations to the Attorney-General on any proposal or matter relating to law reform in Victoria that is referred to the Commission by the Attorney-General;
- (b) to examine, report and make recommendations to the Attorney-General on any matter that the Commission considers raises relatively minor legal issues that are of general community concern if the Commission is satisfied that the examination of that matter will not require a significant deployment of the resources available to the Commission;
- (c) to suggest to the Attorney-General that a proposal or matter relating to law reform in Victoria be referred to the Commission by the Attorney-General;
- (d) to monitor and co-ordinate law reform activity in Victoria;
- (e) to undertake educational programs on any area of the law relevant to a reference, whether past or current.

## PURPOSE

TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO A JUST, INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE LEGAL SYSTEM FOR ALL VICTORIANS

## PRINCIPLES

INCLUSIVE

INDEPENDENT

## VALUES

INTELLECTUAL RIGOUR

BALANCED  
DECISION MAKING

## OBJECTIVES

### QUALITY LAW REFORM REPORTS

Production of high quality, authoritative, and timely law reform reports

### PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION

An excellent reputation for rigorous and comprehensive research, extensive community and stakeholder consultation, and for providing robust, impartial and independent advice

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

Enhancing the public's understanding of law reform, educating students, identifying areas for law reform and increasing contributions to the law reform process

**INNOVATIVE**

**RECOGNITION OF DIVERSITY**

**EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION**

**ETHICAL EMPLOYER**

**ACCESS FOR  
PEOPLE FROM  
DIVERSE  
BACKGROUNDS**

Encourage and support people from diverse and/or disadvantaged communities to participate in law reform projects

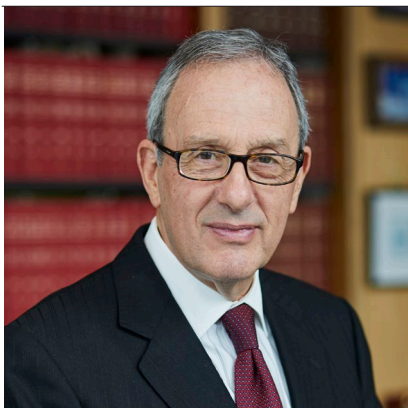
**SHARING LAW  
REFORM  
INFORMATION**

Maintain relationships with other bodies involved in law reform in Victoria, monitoring and reporting on law reform activities

**ETHICAL  
EMPLOYER**

A safe and productive workplace and a fair, respectful, and satisfying work environment

## The Commission



### Chair

With a distinguished career spanning 45 years, **The Hon. Anthony North KC** is a former judge of the Federal Court and the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory. Admitted to the Victorian Bar in 1976, he was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1989. In 1995, Mr North was made judge of the Federal Court of Australia, where he served until his retirement in 2018. He also served from 2004 as additional judge of the Supreme Court of the ACT. During his time as judge, Mr North presided over cases involving constitutional and commercial law, industrial and employment law, taxation, intellectual property and native title. He holds a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws with Honours from the University of Melbourne and a Master of Laws from the University of London. He was appointed Chair of the Victorian Law Reform Commission in August 2019. In January 2024 he was appointed a Commissioner of the Yoorrook Justice Commission and has taken leave of the VLRC to fulfil that role.



### Acting Chair

**The Hon. Jennifer Coate AO** was appointed Acting Chair of the Victorian Law Reform Commission in January 2024. She has held many judicial appointments including Magistrate, Deputy Chief Magistrate, the inaugural President of the Children's Court of Victoria, Judge of the County Court of Victoria, and the first female State Coroner of Victoria. In January 2013, Justice Coate was appointed a judge of the Family Court of Australia and thereafter released onto the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, where she served as one of six Commissioners for the five years of that Royal Commission. Ms Coate has previously held positions as a part-time Victorian Law Reform Commissioner, a solicitor in private practice, a solicitor for the Legal Aid Commission of Victoria and a legal policy officer in the Attorney-General's office of the Victorian Government. In October 2014 she was appointed as a Fellow of Monash University. In January 2019, she was made an Officer of the Order of Australia. In April 2020 she was appointed as the Chair of the Victorian Victims of Crime Consultative Committee. In 2020, Ms Coate conducted an Inquiry into Hotel Quarantine in Victoria. She was appointed to the Victorian Law Reform Commission in June 2020 and reappointed in July 2022. She was admitted as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law in May 2022, and was awarded Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) by Monash University in September 2023.



### The Commissioners

**Liana Buchanan** has been Victoria's Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People since 2016. She was formerly the Executive Officer of the Federation of Community Legal Centres and was also responsible for monitoring and review of the Victorian corrections system as Director, Office of Correctional Services Review from 2009 to 2013. Ms Buchanan has worked as a community lawyer and in a range of law reform and legal policy roles, including at the Women's Legal Service (SA), the Equal Opportunity Commission, the Victorian Law Reform Commission and as senior adviser to the Secretary, Department of Justice. She was appointed to the Victorian Law Reform Commission in February 2015, and reappointed in 2019 and 2023.



**Kathleen Foley SC** is a barrister with a broad practice spanning public law, commercial law and common law. She also has a significant public interest litigation practice, representing clients in environmental, police tort and human rights cases. In addition to her work as a barrister, Kathleen is a writer and gender equality advocate. Prior to commencing at the Victorian Bar, Kathleen worked as an attorney in New York and as a solicitor in the government sector in Western Australia. She was appointed to the Victorian Law Reform Commission in November 2020.



**Bruce Gardner PSM** was until 2018 the Senior Legal Advisor to the Victorian Director of Public Prosecutions. He had 36 years' experience in the Crown Solicitor's Office and the Office of Public Prosecutions as a prosecution solicitor. Since 1994, Mr Gardner held a range of policy-related positions including Manager of Policy and Advice for 21 years, for 14 years of which he was also Manager of Appeals. Mr Gardner has served on numerous committees and working groups addressing criminal law reform issues. He was appointed to the Victorian Law Reform Commission in April 2012 and in June of the same year was awarded an Australian Public Service Medal for outstanding public service to criminal law reform. He served as Acting Chair of the Commission from March 2019 to August 2019. Mr Gardner was reappointed in 2016 and 2020. His term as a Commissioner ended in June 2024.

**Emeritus Professor Bernadette McSherry** holds an honorary position in the Melbourne Law School, having served as the Foundation Director of the Melbourne Social Equity Institute at the University of Melbourne from 2013 to mid-2021. She is an internationally recognised legal academic in the fields of criminal law and mental health law and is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia as well as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law. Professor McSherry served as a Legal Member of the Victorian Mental Health Tribunal for 18 years until mid-2018 and was a Commissioner serving on the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System. She was appointed to the Victorian Law Reform Commission in June 2018 and reappointed in July 2022.

**Dan Nicholson** is the Executive Director, Criminal Law at Victoria Legal Aid (VLA), responsible for the delivery of legally aided criminal law services across the state. Dan has worked with VLA since 2012 in a range of roles including as Executive Director, Civil Justice, Access and Equity. He previously managed the Human Rights Unit at the Victorian Department of Justice, was Associate to Justice Maxwell, President of the Court of Appeal and worked at Fitzroy Legal Service. He has worked on a range of human rights issues and lived in Cambodia and Timor-Leste. He was a Director of the Sentencing Advisory Council from 2021 until 2024. Dan was appointed to the Victorian Law Reform Commission in September 2018 and reappointed in September 2022.

**Gemma Varley PSM** was Chief Parliamentary Counsel for Victoria from 2008 until 2016. She was Second Deputy Chief Parliamentary Counsel from 2004 until 2008 and has more than 37 years' experience as a legislative drafter in the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel. She is in private practice as a consulting legislative drafter. In 2017 she was awarded a Public Service Medal for outstanding public service through the drafting of legislation in Victoria. Mrs Varley was appointed to the Victorian Law Reform Commission in August 2016 and reappointed in 2020.

**Dr Vivian Waller** was admitted to legal practice in 1995. She is the Director and Managing Partner of law firm Waller Legal. She has more than 28 years' experience representing survivors of institutional child sexual abuse including litigation in the Supreme Court of Victoria and the High Court of Australia. She has assisted thousands of sexual abuse survivors obtain compensation in claims against religious institutions, public and private schools, orphanages and children's homes. Dr Waller was instrumental in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse where she represented 20 survivor witnesses in case studies inquiring into the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Victorian State Wards, Yeshiva Bondi and Melbourne, Catholic Church authorities in Ballarat and the criminal justice system. She has written submissions for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and appeared before the Senate Committee in relation to the establishment of the National Redress Scheme. Dr Waller represented, on a pro bono basis, the complainant "Witness J" in the criminal prosecution and appeals process in relation to allegations against Cardinal George Pell. She holds a Doctorate in Law from the University of Melbourne, and a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from Monash University. Dr Waller was appointed to the Victorian Law Reform Commission in November 2020 and reappointed in 2021.

# The Year In Review

## Objectives

## Results

**To produce high-quality, authoritative and timely law reform reports with recommendations that are practical, implementation-focussed and embrace innovative solutions to complex legal and policy issues**

The following reports were completed during 2023–24:

- > *Recklessness*  
(Delivered 29 February 2024; tabled in Parliament 28 May 2024.)

**To maintain a reputation for rigorous legal research, extensive community and stakeholder consultation, and robust, impartial and independent advice to the government**

In July 2023 we published *The Law Reform Longlist 2023: 77 Suggestions from the Community* which was the result of extensive community consultations regarding proposals for community law reform projects.

We carried out preliminary research and initial consultations with the community and stakeholders for our new reference, Artificial Intelligence in Victoria's Courts and Tribunals, which commenced in May 2024.

**To enhance public understanding of law reform, encouraging informed community debate on key issues, identifying areas of general community concern and increasing contributions to the law reform process**

The Commission's work was reported in the media, including TV, radio, print and online.

The Commission received 35 community law reform suggestions (see page 21).

We made in-person and online presentations at schools, university careers events and conferences to inform the community about law reform. 21 presentations were made during the year and our online resources for students were downloaded 4,862 times.

**To encourage and support people from diverse and/or disadvantaged communities to participate in law reform**

The Commission consults with people from disadvantaged communities, including regional Victorians, for all projects.

The Commission's current and recent publications are published on its website in accessible html versions and as accessible pdfs and Word documents. The website provides audio options for people who are blind and have low vision, and transcripts for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

**To maintain relationships with other bodies involved in law reform in Victoria, monitoring and reporting on law reform activities**

We consulted extensively with other bodies in developing *The Law Reform Longlist 2023: 77 Suggestions from the Community*, published in July 2023. The VLRC website reports on the activities of other law reform agencies and relevant law reform activities within Victoria and interstate.

### Current Financial Year in Review

- > The Commission's income increased in 2023–24 to \$3,069,434 (2022–23: \$2,818,975). This movement relates to an increased grant from the Victorian Legal Services Board, that was partially offset by reduced funding from the Department of Justice and Community Safety as a result of savings being applied across the Department and related entities.
- > The Commission's expenditure only slightly decreased in 2023–24 to \$2,376,941 (2022–23: \$2,391,129). Whilst employee and other operating expenses increased, these increases were offset by significantly reduced depreciation expenses relating to the accommodation lease.
- > The overall net result was a gain of \$711,078. This has resulted in an increased trust fund balance of \$1,439,957 (2022–23: \$777,969)
- > The Commission's Trust Fund and the State Administered Unit (SAU) receivable account balance increased overall from \$1,024,866 to \$1,961,942 at 30 June 2024.

## Performance against output performance measures

The following table shows the performance results against targets by output for the Commission over the full year ending 30 June 2024.

Performance measures	Unit of Measure	2023-24 Actual	2023-24 Target	Performance Variation (%)	Result <sup>(a)</sup>
<b>Quantity</b>					
Consultation sessions conducted by Victorian Law Reform Commission	number	33	60	-45%	X
Written submissions made to the VLRC including online surveys	number	1	150	-99.3%	X
Law reform publications completed by VLRC	number	2	3	-33.3%	X
Community education sessions (in person or online) conducted by VLRC	number	21	25	-16%	X
Views of school curriculum related material on VLRC website	number	4862	3000	162%	√
<b>Quality</b>					
Teachers and students who are satisfied with education programs delivered by VLRC and the school curriculum related material provided on the VLRC website	per cent	90.0	85.0	106	√
<b>Timeliness</b>					
NA					
<b>Cost</b>					
		\$			
<b>Total output cost</b>		<b>2,376,941</b>			

Note:

- (a) √ Performance target achieved or exceeded  
 X Performance target not achieved - exceeds 5 per cent or \$50 million (cost measures only) variance.  
 - Performance target not achieved - within 5 per cent or \$50 million (cost measures only) variance.



## Performance against output performance measures

The outputs relating to the Commission are included in the Budget Paper No. 3 (BP3) under the heading of the Department of Justice and Community Safety's *Justice Policy, Services and Law Reform*. The Commission's outputs contribute to this consolidated total output cost of \$2.377M.

The figures show four performance targets as not being met in the reporting year. The Commission's ability to accurately predict targets is significantly constrained by its lack of control over its workflow. Our main source of work is references from the Attorney-General. The number and type of references to be received during the reporting year are not known when targets are being set. In general, targets are based on an expectation that the Commission will have two Attorney-General references and one community law project being undertaken concurrently. For the reporting year the Commission had one Attorney-General reference for most of the year except for a two-month period when there was no ongoing reference.

The law reform topic is also relevant to the number of consultations and submissions, with issues which have a wide community interest generating greater engagement with the Commission, reflected in a higher number of written submissions and consultations.

In the reporting year, the ongoing Attorney-General reference which was commenced in the previous reporting year had already completed its consultation phase with all written submissions except one also received in the previous reporting period. The new reference received in May 2024 had yet to commence its consultation stage. There was no second Attorney-General reference during the reporting period.

As reported elsewhere in this report, community law reform activity during the period was disrupted by two consecutive project proposals being paused when government work was announced on the topics chosen which would have led to duplication of work had we continued. In this situation, there was no project which reached the consultation phase during the reporting period.

This unexpected situation of reduced workflow explains the inability to meet targets related to consultations, written submissions and publications.

In relation to community education sessions, this is largely made up of presentations to VCE students. In the reporting year these visits continued to be affected by the changed practices of schools post-COVID. This effect was noted in the previous reporting period and adjustments made to our targets accordingly. The in-person presentations have not returned to pre-COVID levels. However, a more than compensatory use of online resources is apparent in the results for views of school curriculum-related material. Our schools program continues to increase its reach.

The total output cost for the Commission is an amount derived from the *Appropriation (2023-24) Act 2023*, less required savings and other movements, plus the amount received from the Victorian Legal Services Board, as directed by the Attorney-General.

### Budget portfolio outcomes

A comparison of the budget portfolio outcome statements of the Commission and the actual results for the year can be found in Appendix 2.



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# References

# Recklessness Report

VICTORIAN  
**LAW  
REFORM**\*  
COMMISSION

February 2024

POSSIBILITY  
PROBABILITY

# Recklessness

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Recklessness is an element in many Victorian offences including a number of offences against the person. The VLRC was asked to review and report on how the concept of 'recklessness' is understood in the Crimes Act.

In particular, the VLRC was asked to:

- > consider whether the Crimes Act should be amended to include a definition of recklessness applicable to the Victorian offences and, if so, what definition; and
- > develop a set of guiding principles that could be used to review the use or proposed use of recklessness as a fault element in other categories of Crimes Act offences.

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#### Referred

25 October 2022

#### Due Date

29 February 2024

#### Delivered

29 February 2024

#### Tabled in Parliament

28 May 2024

#### Commissioners and staff

The Hon. Anthony North KC formed a Division to work on this reference, which he also chaired. Members of the Division were Liana Buchanan, the Hon. Jennifer Coate AO, Kathleen Foley SC, Bruce Gardner PSM, Professor Bernadette McSherry, Dan Nicholson, Gemma Varley PSM, and Dr Vivian Waller.

The reference team comprised team leader Kathryn Terry, senior research and policy officers Dr Emma Larking and Liz Margaronis, and policy and research officer Marcus Hickleton.

#### Progress of the reference

We completed the report and delivered it to the Attorney-General by the due date, 29 February 2024. The report was subsequently tabled in Parliament. The Commission concluded that the recklessness test for offences against the person should not change and does not need to be legislated.

# Artificial Intelligence in Victoria's Courts and Tribunals

VICTORIAN  
**LAW  
REFORM**\*  
COMMISSION



# Artificial Intelligence in Victoria's Courts and Tribunals

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There is potential for the use of artificial intelligence tools (AI) in Victoria's courts and tribunals to improve user experiences and generate efficiencies. The use of AI tools carries risks and opportunities for fairness, accountability, transparency and privacy as well as improvements to accessibility.

The Victorian Law Reform Commission has been asked to make recommendations on legislative reform opportunities and principles to guide the safe use of AI in Victoria's courts and tribunals.

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## Referred

8 May 2024

## Due date

31 October 2025

## Commissioners and staff

The Acting Chair, the Hon. Jennifer Coate AO formed a Division to work on this reference. All Commissioners are members of the Division: Liana Buchanan, Kathleen Foley SC, Bruce Gardner PSM (until June 2024), Professor Bernadette McSherry, Dan Nicholson, Gemma Varley PSM, and Dr Viv Waller.

The reference team comprises team leader Kathryn Terry and senior research and policy officer Jen Kwok. More team members will be recruited in the next financial year.

## Progress of the reference

The team has carried out some initial consultations and scoping and commenced work on a consultation paper to be published in the next financial year.

## **The *Victorian Law Reform Commission Act 2000* section 5(1)(b) states that one of the Commission's functions is to make recommendations to the Attorney-General on legal issues of general community concern.**

The community law reform program seeks to improve accessibility for people and communities who are not usually involved in law reform but who have ideas about how the law could be improved. Asking community members to identify problems with the law and suggest changes gives the Commission access to the valuable insights of those with first-hand experience of the law's operation.

Community law reform work is also undertaken by the communications team through education and community engagement activities.

The community law reform team currently consists of a team leader and a senior research and policy officer. The Commission thanks the Victorian Legal Services Board and Commissioner for their continuing support of our community law reform program. We note that this program aligns closely with the Victorian Legal Services Board and Commissioner's access to justice objective. A second increase in funding for this program was granted by the Victorian Legal Services Board and Commissioner in the current financial year, following a first tranche increase in the previous financial year. This will allow the Commission to add an additional team member to the community law reform program to better reflect the complexity of the team's work.

### **Criteria**

Law reform suggestions can come from individuals or community groups and can be in relation to any area of Victorian law. Each suggestion is assessed against the criteria for community law reform projects. It must be in relation to a contained problem, the resolution of which could deliver clear community benefits.

Suggestions that fulfil the criteria are further researched and may be developed into a proposal for the approval of the whole Commission. If a proposal is accepted as a community law reform project, the Commission undertakes a comprehensive process of research and consultation and delivers a report and recommendations to the Attorney-General. This process closely mirrors the process undertaken for references from the Attorney-General.

Generally, the Commission can only work on one community law reform project at a time but is always open to hearing suggestions from the community.



### Community law reform suggestions

During the financial year 2023–2024 the Commission received 35 suggestions for law reform from the community. They related to a range of legal areas, including:

- > Legalising cannabis use
- > Tighter regulation of Airbnb rentals
- > Appeal rights regarding council decisions to protect trees under local laws
- > Examination and clarification of the definition of 'personal chattel' under the *Administration and Probate Act 1958* (Vic).
- > Reform to independent property price estimates to prevent under-quoting of property prices by estate agents
- > Review of the minimum age requirements to undertake different types of work in Victoria
- > Review of the operation of personal safety intervention orders
- > Examination of the protections that apply to volunteers in emergency services under the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* (Vic)
- > Review of the *Spent Convictions Act 2021* (Vic) to ensure it does not discriminate or disproportionately punish young offenders and is meeting its policy aim of rehabilitation
- > Reform to address concerns about the conflation of sex work and legitimate health-related massage therapy
- > Reform to improve the law's response to the stalking of rape victims
- > Examination of Victoria Police and the Australian Defence Force (ADF) approach to sexual abuse cases and the vexatious use of court processes against victims
- > Stronger protections for owner-occupiers under the *Owners Corporation Act 2002* (Vic) to protect them from unscrupulous or bad faith conduct and conflicts of interest and to compel the owners' corporation to take action
- > Reform to ensure that life-long personal safety intervention orders are available
- > Consideration of the adequacy of penalties for breaches of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* (Vic)
- > Review of the family violence intervention order scheme
- > Review of the child protection scheme
- > Review of bail laws applying to children and young people
- > Examine the fairness of intestacy entitlements for spouses in Part 1A of the *Administration and Probate Act 1958* where there has been a breakdown or separation of the relationship, but not an official divorce
- > Examine litigation practice and procedure for class actions involving shareholders who have suffered loss in poorly or wrongly managed companies.

In addition to the 77 reform suggestions contained in the Commission's publication *The Law Reform Longlist 2023*, the following suggestions were made by community groups/justice agencies in the last financial year:

- > Reforming the duration of family violence intervention orders and the way that they can be varied or revoked
- > Examination of the application of confidentiality clauses related to VCAT guardianship and administration orders
- > Consideration of a conditional/restricted drivers' licence scheme
- > Review of the fines that apply to children/young people
- > Review of the regulation of student housing and rooming houses
- > The application of legal professional privilege to advice provided in integrated legal practices
- > Examination of the way the law responds to elder abuse
- > Examination of the law applying to the use of restrictive practices in nursing homes
- > Review of the *Family Violence Protection Act 2008* (Vic)



# Residential Rental Agreements and Family Violence

The Commission published *The Law Reform Longlist 2023: 77 Suggestions from the Community* in July 2023. One project, Residential Rental Agreements and Family Violence, was selected as a new community law reform project.

Prior to commencement of the project the Commission confirmed with government that work was not planned or underway on the topic. The project was commenced on 12 July 2023 pursuant to section 5(1)(b) of the *Victorian Law Reform Commission Act 2000* (Vic). Terms of reference were published on the Commission's website.

In November 2023, the Commission made the decision to suspend work on the project when it became aware that due to a change of government priorities, work had commenced within the Victorian Government. There were also initiatives announced at the federal level. Victoria's Housing Statement 2023–24 and the National Cabinet's 'Better Deal

for Renters' agreement both included reforms to improve the situation of tenants experiencing family violence.

These reform initiatives meant that the Commission's project was no longer viable.

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## Examining Aspects of Family Violence Intervention Orders

In the wake of the cancellation of the Residential Rental Agreements project, the Commission again consulted the Longlist and conducted further community consultations to identify a new community law reform project.

In May 2024 the Commission initiated Examining Aspects of Family Violence Intervention Orders. The project idea was suggested by WEstjustice community legal centre. The Commission again checked with government prior to starting this project to ensure that our work would not be duplicating any existing work. The Commission advised the Attorney-General and the Department of the commencement of the project on 8 May 2024.

The terms of reference specified that the Commission would examine whether family violence laws should be reformed to:

1. specify a minimum default duration for final Family Violence Intervention Orders (FVIOs)
2. insert additional criteria for the variation or revocation of FVIOs.

The Commission conducted preliminary consultations with a range of community organisations, community legal centres, judicial bodies, advocates and practitioners to discuss how family violence intervention orders work in practice and how law reform might improve outcomes for affected family members. Extensive research was also undertaken.

On 31 May 2024 the Government announced significant family violence reforms including a presumption of a new minimum length for FVIOs with the aim of providing enduring protection for victim survivors. After discussions with Government and the Attorney-General the Commission ceased work on this project, again because of concerns that we would be duplicating work by Government. The Commission will now identify a new community law reform project.



# Spotlight Papers

In 2024 the Commission launched a new type of publication. A Spotlight paper will be a small research paper that investigates a problem with the law which has been raised with us by a community group.

A Spotlight will be different from our community law reform projects and Attorney-General references. It will be smaller, involve limited consultations and not make recommendations to Government. It will only be published online and not tabled in Parliament. Both the Government and Attorney-General have been notified of the commencement of our first Spotlight paper.

The aim of the Spotlight papers is to shine a light on a law reform issue that is important in the community and to publish research about it. It is hoped that the Spotlight papers will inform and educate the community, encourage discussion, and contribute to policy debate. Spotlight papers fit with the Commission's function to monitor and coordinate law reform activity in Victoria and to educate the community about law reform.

The Commission's first Spotlight paper will be published on our website by December 2024.

## **Spotlight on guardianship and confidentiality**

Our first Spotlight paper was commenced in 2024 on a topic that was suggested to us by the Victorian Advocacy League for Individuals with Disability (VALID). VALID raised concerns about Schedule 1 clause 37 of the *VCAT Act 1998* (Vic) that prevents people on guardianship and administration orders from telling their stories.





### Media highlights

The VLRC continued to secure positive media coverage throughout the year, despite it being a quiet year for reports and new inquiries. We were frequently approached for comment, particularly on matters related to sex offences and stalking.

Highlights included the Chair's interview with ABC TV about the VLRC's stalking recommendations, a discussion of the Inclusive Juries report on ABC TV *The Drum*, and the Acting Chair's extensive interview with *The Age* about our sex offences recommendations.

#### Website

- > Overall pageviews of the Commission's website during the year were 303,203, an increase of 1 per cent on last year. (2023: 299,348)
- > The number of users during the year was 134,337 an increase of 12 per cent on last year. (2023: 120,070)

Website traffic is affected by the number of inquiries conducted by the Commission and the level of public interest in them.

The content of the website was updated with new sections providing information about law reform initiatives in Victoria and other jurisdictions in Australia and overseas, as well as details about the implementation of VLRC recommendations.

#### Social media

The Commission continued to maintain an active social media presence on Facebook and LinkedIn.

#### Podcasts

The Commission produced one episode of its podcast, 'Old Law, New Law'.



**One of the Commission's functions under section 5(1)(e) of the Victorian Law Reform Commission Act is to undertake educational programs on any area of the law relevant to a reference, past or current.**

**The Commission educates the community about law reform by making presentations at community organisations, universities and schools, face-to-face or online, maintaining a website with all our publications easily accessible and searchable, publishing educational resources including case studies, writing all our publications in plain English, publishing educational videos and podcasts about law reform, and promoting our work through the media.**

### **Resources for legal studies students**

The VLRC and its work is an essential part of the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) legal studies curriculum, included in all VCE legal studies textbooks. 15 in-person school presentations took place during the 2023–24 year, including two regional Law Talks events in Bendigo and Shepparton, and the Commission also presented at six other conferences and student careers fairs (total presentations for the year: 21). The Commission offered alternative options including online resources and videos explaining the work of the Commission. During the year our online resources for students and teachers were accessed 4,862 times.

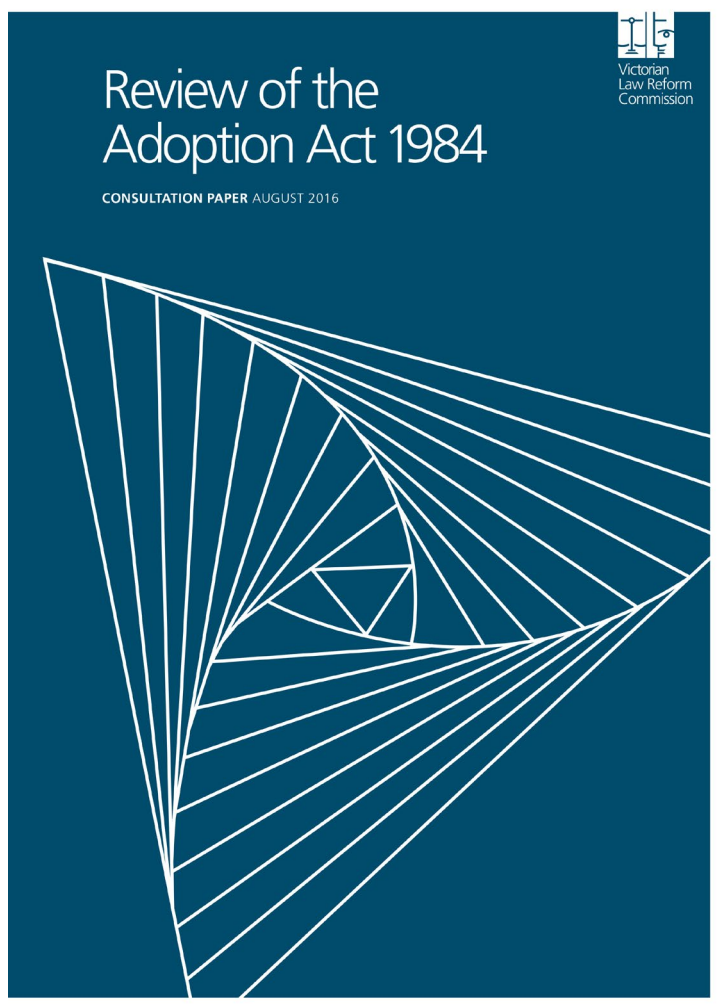
### **Communications and information staff**

The communications manager is Nick Gadd, and the communications and information officer (3 days/week) is Natalie Young.

VLRC staff presented to university students at careers events and Year 12 VCE students of legal studies.

Pictured: Kathryn Terry at Melbourne Law School, Nick Gadd at Bendigo Law Talks.

The Commission tracks the progress of new legislation and other reforms related to its work, where this information is publicly available. A record of implementation is published on our website at [lawreform.vic.gov.au/all-projects/implementation/](http://lawreform.vic.gov.au/all-projects/implementation/)



During the 2023–24 financial year, notable implementations of the VLRC's recommendations included adoption reform.

Integrated birth certificates are now available in Victoria by application to the Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages. The Registrar may issue an integrated birth certificate to an adopted person that contains information about the person's birth and adoption, including about their parents and the date of the adoption. This implements Recommendation 24 of the VLRC's Adoption report (2017). This reform, contained in the *Justice Legislation Amendment Act 2022*, came into force in October 2023.

### Audit committee membership and roles

The audit committee consists of the following members:

- > Matthew Zappulla, Chairperson (Independent Member)
- > Anthony Phillips (Independent Member)
- > Bruce Gardner PSM (Independent Member)

The main responsibilities of the audit committee are to:

- > review and report independently to the Commission on the annual report and all other financial information published by the Commission
- > assist the Commission in reviewing the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control environment covering:
  - effectiveness and efficiency of operations
  - reliability of financial reporting
  - compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- > determine the scope of the internal audit function and ensure that its resources are adequate and used effectively, including coordination with the external auditors
- > maintain effective communication with external auditors
- > consider recommendations made by external auditors and review the implementation of actions to resolve issues raised: and
- > oversee the appropriateness of the risk management framework.

#### Human resource management and occupational health and safety

The Commission's occupational health and safety (OH&S) strategy is to focus on risk control and maintaining a constant curiosity in relation to health and safety in order to prevent injury or unintended consequences. The Commission achieves this by ensuring OH&S is intertwined in its daily operations for staff working at home and in the office and encompasses not only physical environment but considers psychosocial risk also.

The Commission's focus is prevention and takes this into account when assessing OH&S risk. Office inspections are formally carried out annually however staff are briefed to alert management if any issues arise.

During the 2023–24 financial year, the Commission continued its initiatives to improve the health and safety of staff by offering ergonomic assessments, screen-based eye testing and annual influenza vaccinations for those who requested these services.

As part of the strategy to maintain focus on risk control the OH&S Manager prepares a formal report bi-annually for the Audit and Risk Management Committee which is results based and includes initiatives brought

about by review and consideration of improvements being made in the health and wellness space.

The Commission had no occupational health and safety incidents during 2023–24. However, there was one WorkCover claim lodged during the period which related to an incident that occurred in the previous financial year, the injury from which had re-emerged.

Three staff continue as fire wardens and attend the appropriate training. Staff participated in the scheduled fire drill held by building management. An in-house fire safety and security training session is held annually.

Staff were encouraged and assisted to gain professional development through participation in relevant conferences and appropriate further study.

Counselling support is available to all staff through the Employee Assistance Program in place. Team debrief sessions are held at the conclusion of references to ensure staff wellbeing and to support process improvement.

#### Agile workforce

The Commission continues to embrace flexible work arrangements, including working from home, as part of our work

model A hybrid work model is available to staff where their work responsibilities allow this. All staff work at the office on Wednesday to allow the full team to interact on at least one day per week. Additionally, the office is closed to the public on a Friday to support part-time arrangements and working from home. Staff discuss individual arrangements with their manager for the remaining days. This model continues to work well providing a balance between working at home and in the office.

Management remains committed to creating and encouraging a modern and agile workforce. This approach is endorsed by the Department of Justice and Community Safety.

#### Employment and conduct principles

The Commission is committed to applying merit and equity principles when appointing staff. The selection processes ensure that applicants are assessed and evaluated fairly and equitably on the basis of the key selection criteria and other accountabilities without discrimination. Employees have been correctly classified in workforce data collections. The Commission is committed to providing a respectful and supportive workplace for every employee.



# Organisational Structure 2023–2024

**CHAIR AND PART-TIME COMMISSIONERS**

**CEO**

**Team Leaders,  
Attorney-  
General  
References**

**Team Leader,  
Community  
Law Reform**

**Communications  
Manager**

**Finance and  
Office Manager**

**Senior  
Research and  
Policy Officers**

**Senior  
Research  
and Policy  
Officer**

**Information and  
Communications  
Officer**

**Executive  
& Finance  
Assistant**

**Research and  
Policy Assistant**

**Finance and  
Administrative  
Officer**



## Public sector values and employment principles

The *Public Administration Act 2004* established the Victorian Public Sector Commission (VPSC). The VPSC's role is to strengthen public sector efficiency, effectiveness and capability, and advocate for public sector professionalism and integrity.

Through a combination of the adoption of policies and practices of the Department of Justice and Community Safety and the development of Commission specific policies and practices where necessary, the Commission, has policies and practices in place that are consistent with the VPSC's employment standards and provide for fair treatment, career opportunities and

the early resolution of workplace issues. The Commission advises its employees on how to avoid conflicts of interest, how to respond to offers of gifts and how it deals with misconduct.

## Workforce inclusion policy

The Commission continues to support a working environment where equal opportunity and diversity, including non-binary gender identities, are valued. The Commission acknowledges that due to historic and current barriers to disclosure of non-binary gender identities, staff may not disclose this information.

## Executive officer data

An Executive Officer (EO) is defined as an executive under Part 3 of the *Public Administration Act 2004* or a person to whom the Victorian Government's Policy on Executive Remuneration in Public entities applies. All figures reflect employment levels at the last full pay period in June of the current and corresponding previous reporting year.

The definition of an EO does not include a statutory office holder or an accountable officer.

Note 8.3 in the financial statements states the remuneration range for the EO over the course of the reporting period.

The Commission employs one full-time SES-1 female executive officer.

	June 2024							June 2023						
	All employees <sup>(a)</sup>		Ongoing <sup>(b)</sup>			Fixed term and casual		All employees		Ongoing <sup>(b)</sup>			Fixed term and casual	
	Number		Full-time	Part-time		Number		Number		Full-time	Part-time		Number	
	(head-count)	FTE <sup>(d)</sup>	(head-count)	(head-count)	FTE <sup>(d)</sup>	(head-count)	FTE <sup>(d)</sup>	(head-count)	FTE <sup>(d)</sup>	(head-count)	(head-count)	FTE <sup>(d)</sup>	(head-count)	FTE <sup>(d)</sup>
<b>Demographic data</b>														
<b>Gender</b>														
Women	7	5.86	2	4	4.86	1	1	9	7.86	3	4	5.86	2	2
Men	2	2	1	0	1	1	1	2	1.50	1	0	1	1	0.50
Self-described	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>VPS Classification data</b>														
<b>VPS 1-6 grades</b>														
VPS 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VPS 3	1	0.66	0	1	0.66	0	0	1	0.66	0	1	0.66	0	0
VPS 4	1	0.60	0	1	0.60	0	0	2	1.10	0	1	0.60	1	0.50
VPS 5	4	3.80	2	1	2.80	1	1	5	4.80	2	1	2.80	2	2.00
VPS 6	2	1.80	1	1	1.80	0	0	2	1.80	1	1	1.80	0	0
Executives <sup>(c)</sup>	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
<b>Total employees</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7.86</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5.86</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9.36</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6.86</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.50</b>

Notes:

(a) Excluded are those on leave without pay or absent on secondment, external contractors/consultants and temporary staff employed by employment agencies. Statutory appointees, as defined in the *Public Administration Act 2004* are also excluded.

(b) Ongoing employees includes people engaged on an open ended contract of employment and executives engaged on a standard executive contract who were active in the last full pay period of June.

(c) Executive is defined as a person employed as a public service body head or other executive under Part 3, Division 5 of the *Public Administration Act 2004*. The definition of an executive officer does not include Governor in Council appointments as statutory office holders.

(d) Full-Time Equivalent.



## Other Disclosures

### Local Jobs First

The *Local Jobs First Act 2003* introduced in August 2018 brings together the Victorian Industry Participation Policy (VIPP) and Major Project Skills Guarantee (MPSG) policy which were previously administered separately.

Departments and public sector bodies are required to apply the Local Jobs first policy in all projects valued at \$3 million or more in Metropolitan Melbourne or for state-wide projects, or \$1 million or more for projects in regional Victoria.

The Commission did not enter into any contracts to which the VIPP or Local Jobs First applies for the 12 months ending 30 June 2024.

### Government advertising expenditure

The Commission has not paid for any government advertising expenditure (campaigns with a media spend of \$100,000 or greater (exclusive of GST)) during the 12 months ending 30 June 2024.

### Consultancy expenditure

#### Details of consultancies (valued at \$10 000 or greater)

In 2023-24, there were two consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants were \$10,000 or greater. The total expenditure incurred during 2023-24 in relation to these consultancies is \$40,856 (excluding GST). Details of individual consultancies are outlined below.

#### Details of consultancies under \$10 000

In 2023-24, the VLRC engaged no consultants to which the total fee payable was less than \$10,000.

Consultant	Purpose of consultancy	Start date	End date	Total approved project fee (excluding GST)	Expenditure 2023-24 (excluding GST)	Future expenditure (excluding GST)
Strathmore Accounting & Audit Services	Accounting quality assurance and CFAO function	1 July 2023	30 June 2024	\$15,000	\$14,656	\$15,000
Victorian Auditor-General's Office	For the audit of financial report 2023-2024	1 July 2023	30 June 2024	\$26,200	\$26,200	\$26,800

ICT expenditure refers to the Commission's costs in providing business-enabling ICT services within the current reporting period. It comprises Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure and Non-Business As Usual (Non-BAU) ICT expenditure. Non-BAU ICT expenditure relates to extending or enhancing the Commission's current ICT capabilities. BAU ICT expenditure is all remaining ICT expenditure which primarily relates to ongoing activities to operate and maintain the current ICT capability.

**Disclosure of major contracts**

The Commission did not enter into any major contracts (greater than \$10 million in value) in the 2023-24 reporting period.

**Freedom of information**

The *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the Act) allows the public a right of access to documents held by the Commission. The purpose of the Act is to extend as far as possible the right of the community to access information held by government departments, local councils, Ministers and other bodies subject to the Act.

An applicant has a right to apply for access to documents held by an entity or department. This comprises documents both created by the Commission or supplied to the Commission by an external organisation or individual, and may also include maps, films, microfiche, photographs, computer printouts, computer discs, tape recordings and videotapes. Information about the type of material produced by the Commission is available on the Commission's website under its Part II Information Statement.

The Act allows the Commission to refuse access, either fully or partially, to certain documents or information. Examples of documents that may not be accessed include cabinet documents; some internal working documents; law enforcement documents; documents covered by legal professional privilege, such as legal advice; personal information about other people; and information provided to the Commission in-confidence and information that is confidential under another Act.

Under the Act, the FOI processing time for requests received is 30 days. However, when external consultation is required under ss29, 29A, 31, 31A, 33, 34 or 35, the processing time is 45 days. Processing time may also be extended by periods of 30 days, in consultation with the applicant.

**Information and Communication Technology expenditure**

**Details of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) expenditure**

For the 2023-24 reporting period, the Commission had a total ICT expenditure of \$45,249 with the details shown below.

(\$) thousands

		<i>All operational ICT expenditure</i>	<i>ICT expenditure related to projects to create or enhance ICT capabilities</i>
Business As Usual (BAU) ICT expenditure	Non-Business As Usual (non BAU) ICT expenditure	Operational expenditure	Capital expenditure
(Total)	(Total = Operational expenditure and Capital Expenditure)		
\$21,770	\$23,479	\$45,249	0

With the applicant's agreement this may occur any number of times. However, obtaining an applicant's agreement for an extension cannot occur after the expiry of the timeframe for deciding a request.

If an applicant is not satisfied by a decision made by the Commission, under section 49A of the Act, they have the right to seek a review by the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner (OVIC) within 28 days of receiving a decision letter.

**Making a request**

FOI requests can be lodged online at [ovic.vic.gov.au](http://ovic.vic.gov.au). An application fee of \$32.70 applies. Access charges may also be payable if the document pool is large and the search for material time consuming.

Access to documents can also be obtained through a written request to the Commission's Freedom of Information team, as detailed in s17 of the Act.

When making an FOI request, applicants should ensure requests are in writing, and clearly identify what types of material/documents are being sought.

Requests for documents in the possession of the Victorian Law Reform Commission should be addressed to:  
Freedom of Information Manager  
Victorian Law Reform Commission  
GPO Box 4637  
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

Enquiries can be made to the Commission's FOI Manager via email at [law.reform@lawreform.vic.gov.au](mailto:law.reform@lawreform.vic.gov.au)

**FOI statistics/timeliness**

During 2023-24, the Commission received no applications.

**Further Information**

Further information regarding the operation and scope of FOI can be obtained from the Act, regulations made under the Act and [ovic.vic.gov.au](http://ovic.vic.gov.au).

**Compliance with the *Building Act 1993***

The Commission does not own or control any government buildings and consequently is exempt from notifying its compliance with the building and maintenance provisions of the *Building Act 1993*.

**Competitive Neutrality Policy**

Competitive neutrality requires government businesses to ensure where services compete, or potentially compete with the private sector, any advantage arising solely from their government ownership be removed if it is not in the public interest. Government businesses are required to cost and price these services as if they were privately owned. Competitive neutrality policy supports fair competition between public and private businesses and provides government businesses with a tool to enhance decisions on resource allocation. This policy does not override other policy objectives of government and focuses on efficiency in the provision of service.

### **Compliance with the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012**

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012* encourages and assists people in making disclosures of improper conduct by public officers and public bodies. The Act provides protection to people who make disclosures in accordance with the Act and establishes a system for the matters disclosed to be investigated and rectifying action to be taken.

The Commission does not tolerate improper conduct by its employees, nor the taking of reprisals against those who come forward to disclose such conduct. It is committed to ensuring transparency and accountability in its administrative and management practices and supports the making of disclosures that reveal corrupt conduct, conduct involving a substantial mismanagement of public resources, or conduct involving a substantial risk to public health and safety or the environment.

The Commission will take all reasonable steps to protect people who make such disclosures from any detrimental action in reprisal for making the disclosure. It will also afford natural justice to the person who is the subject of the disclosure to the extent it is legally possible.

#### **Reporting procedures**

Disclosures of improper conduct or detrimental action by the Commission or any of its employees may be made to any of the following:

- > Chief Executive Officer of the Commission
- > manager or supervisor of the discloser
- > manager or supervisor of the person who is the subject of the disclosure
- > a person acting in any of the above roles.

Alternatively, disclosures may also be made directly to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission:

Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC):  
Level 1, North Tower  
459 Collins Street  
MELBOURNE Vic 3000  
Tel: 1300 735 135  
[www.ibac.vic.gov.au](http://www.ibac.vic.gov.au)

#### **Compliance with the Carers Recognition Act 2012**

The Commission staff are made aware of their entitlement to carers leave on commencement. Staff also have access to the Department of Justice and Community Safety induction, training and awareness activities including in relation to carer obligations. An information session on leave entitlements and flexible working arrangements is made to staff at one staff meeting each year.

The Commission has taken practical measures to comply with its obligations under the Act. These include;

- > ensuring our staff have an awareness and understanding of the care relationship principles set out in the Act through training and information sessions.
- > considering the care relationships principles set out in the Act when developing and implementing our hybrid work model.
- > Adopting DJCS policy as set out in the DJCS publication, *Inclusive employment guide - Supporting inclusive recruitment, employment, and retention of employees with disability and carers*.

#### **Compliance with the Disability Act 2006**

*The Disability Act 2006* reaffirms and strengthens the rights of people with a disability and recognises that this requires support across the government sector and within the community.

The Commission complies with its obligations under the Disability Act to prepare a Disability Action Plan by adopting the Department of Justice and Community Safety plan for the purpose of reducing barriers to access goods, services and facilities; reducing barriers

to a person with a disability obtaining and maintaining employment; and promoting inclusion and participation in the community and achieving tangible changes in attitudes and practices that discriminate against people with a disability as outlined below.

#### **Reducing barriers to accessing goods, services and facilities**

The Commission provides a range of ways for people with disabilities to be involved in consultations and education sessions. These include audio described videos, quizzes and surveys to provide information in summary formats, as well as more comprehensive consultation papers. Contributions to the Commission's work can be provided face to face using interpreters if required, by telephone or in writing by post, email or web-based forms. From time to time reports are produced in Braille for targeted audiences.

The Commission recently conducted an accessibility audit of its website to ensure inclusiveness and functionality. Our offices are wheelchair accessible and have wheelchair facilities.

#### **Reducing barriers to persons with a disability obtaining and maintaining employment**

The Commission conducts an open recruitment process and makes adjustments for staff where necessary.

#### **Promoting inclusion and participation in the community**

The Commission invites submissions from all groups across the community and extends its reach by using Engage Victoria and the National Relay Service.

#### **Achieving tangible changes in attitudes and practices that discriminate against people with a disability**

Commission staff have access to training provided by the Department of Justice and Community Safety which focuses on access and inclusion and removing any barriers that may potentially discriminate against people with a disability.

## Environmental Reporting

The Commission is committed to environmental sustainability in its operations. Sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions reduction form core parts of the Commission's corporate strategy.

The Commission supports the Victorian public sector in adopting new technology that lowers emissions and increases environmental sustainability.

### Environmental Management System

DJCS has an Environmental Management System (EMS) which is a structured approach to managing environmental impacts and improving environmental performance. It is based on the national standard AS/NZS ISO 14001:2016: Environmental Management Systems and provides a framework to improve environmental sustainability.

#### The DJCS EMS objectives include:

- > reducing greenhouse gas emissions resulting from operational activities
- > reducing the amount of waste and maximising the amount of reused and recycled resources in procurement
- > ensuring new capital works incorporate environmentally sustainable principles in design, construction and operation
- > encouraging staff to reduce environmental impacts through behaviour change

- > communicating environmental performance through regular internal and public reporting.

The Commission embraces the objectives of the EMS and incorporates environmental sustainability values where it can.

#### Reporting boundary for environmental data

Most of the operations and activities of the Commission are included within the organisational boundary for this reporting period. Select data are included and consolidated into the Commission's financial statements.

#### Greenhouse gas emissions

DJCS reports its greenhouse gas emissions broken down into emissions 'scopes' consistent with national and international reporting standards. The Commission's capacity to report in this way is limited. Available data are included below.

#### Electricity production and consumption

In the period from 2022–23 to 2023–24, there has been a stabilising of hybrid

modes of work, also stabilising power consumption. The Commission is mindful of reducing its electricity use and has implemented or plans to take the following actions:

- > The building has LED lighting installed throughout.
- > All computer equipment is set to hibernate when not in use and staff are encouraged to switch off electrical equipment when not in use.
- > Lights and supplementary air-conditioning are turned off when conference rooms are vacant
- > Movement sensors control lights in meeting rooms and offices and lights are timed to go off if areas are vacant
- > Switching to efficient electric appliances, for example, minimum 7-star energy efficient refrigerators when they are replaced

Indicator	2023–24		2022–23		2021–22	
	Electricity	Green Power	Electricity	Green Power	Electricity	Green Power
Total energy usage segmented by primary source (MJ)	79,821	19,955	85,539	21,385	66,071	16,518
Total greenhouse gas emissions from energy consumption (tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e)	13.55	–	12.60	–	16.20	–
Percentage of electricity purchased as Green Power	25%	–	25%	–	25%	–
Units of energy used per FTE (MJ/FTE)	4,625	–	4,710	–	3,108	–
Units of energy used per unit of office area (MJ/m <sup>2</sup> )	88.99	–	95.36	–	73.66	–

### Transportation

The Commission's fleet is comprised of one electric vehicle.

### Environmentally Sustainable Design in new buildings and infrastructure

The Commission resides in central Melbourne, its premises are leased and the building holds a 3-star NABERS Energy rating.

### Sustainable procurement

The Commission considers sustainable procurement objectives through its implementation of the Social Procurement Framework, which establishes requirements that apply to Victorian Government departments and agencies when they procure goods, services and construction.

### Water consumption

Water use increased by 376 per cent from 2022-23 to 2023-24, driven by the resumption of in-office work following COVID.

There is no data available in relation to recycled water use.

### Waste and recycling

Waste management and recycling are a focus for the Commission. The Commission uses a multi-bin system in the office and arranges individual collection for recyclable items including paper, printer cartridges, batteries and soft plastics in an effort to maximise recycling and minimise waste sent to landfill. Waste diverted from landfill for general recycling is not available.

The Commission uses the DJCS e-waste disposal program which supports the repurposing of electronic hardware that can no longer be deployed within regular operations. Once data is cleansed, hardware is either offered to employees at market value or provided to a charity.

Indicator	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Total water consumption for the building (kilolitres)	3,289	873	697
Total water consumption for the tenancy (kilolitres)	494	131.12	104.69
Total water consumption for the VLRC (kilolitres)	294	78.02	62.29
Units of office water used per FTE (kilolitres / FTE)	31.40	8.34	3.59

## Additional information available on request

In compliance with the requirements of the Standing Directions 2018 under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, details in respect of the items listed below have been retained by the Commission and are available on request, subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

- (a) a statement that declarations of pecuniary interests have been duly completed by all relevant officers;
- (b) details of shares held by senior officers as nominee or held beneficially in a statutory authority or subsidiary;
- (c) details of publications produced by the Commission about the activities of the Commission and how these can be obtained;
- (d) details of major research and development activities undertaken by the Commission;
- (e) details of overseas visits undertaken including a summary of the objectives and outcomes of each visit;
- (f) details of major promotional, public relations and marketing activities undertaken by the Commission to develop community awareness of the services provided by the Commission;
- (g) details of assessments and measures undertaken to improve the occupational health and safety of employees;
- (h) a general statement on industrial relations within the Commission and details of time lost through industrial accidents and disputes; and
- (i) details of all consultancies and contractors including:
  - > consultants/contractors engaged;
  - > services provided; and
  - > expenditure committed to for each engagement.

**The information is available on request from the:**

Finance and Office Manager

Phone: (03) 8608 7820

Email: [law.reform@lawreform.vic.gov.au](mailto:law.reform@lawreform.vic.gov.au)

### **Asset management accountability**

The Commission has met the requirements under the Victorian Government's Asset Management Accountability Framework.

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### **Victorian Law Reform Commission Financial Management Compliance Attestation Statement**

I, The Hon. Jennifer Coate AO, on behalf of the Responsible Body, certify that the Victorian Law Reform Commission has no Material Compliance Deficiency with respect to the applicable Standing Directions under the Financial Management Act 1994 and Instructions.



The Hon. Jennifer Coate AO

A/Chair

Victorian Law Reform Commission

26 September 2024

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### **Disclosure index**

An index identifying the Department's compliance with statutory disclosure requirements is contained in Appendix 1.

# Financial Report

## How this report is structured

The Victorian Law Reform Commission (the Commission) has presented its audited general purpose financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 in the following structure to provide users with the information about the Commission's stewardship of resources entrusted to it.

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## DECLARATION IN THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Accountable Officer's, Chief Finance and Accounting Officer's and Chairperson's declaration

The attached financial statements for the Victorian Law Reform Commission have been prepared in accordance with Direction 5.2 of the Standing Directions of the Assistant Treasurer under the *Financial Management Act 1994*, applicable Financial Reporting Directions, Australian Accounting Standards including Interpretations, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

We further state that, in our opinion, the information set out in the comprehensive operating statement, balance sheet, statement of changes in equity, cash flow statement and accompanying

notes, presents fairly the financial transactions during the year ended 30 June 2024 and financial position of the Commission at 30 June 2024.

At the time of signing, we are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars included in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We authorise the attached financial statements for issue on 26 September 2024.



**Merrin Mason**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Victorian Law Reform Commission,  
Melbourne



**Michael Almond**  
Chief Finance and  
Accounting Officer  
Victorian Law Reform Commission,  
Melbourne



**Jennifer Coate AO**  
Acting Chair  
Victorian Law Reform Commission,  
Melbourne

## Independent Auditor's Report

### To the Commissioners of the Victorian Law Reform Commission

<b>Opinion</b>	<p>I have audited the financial report of the Victorian Law Reform Commission (the Commission) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• balance sheet as at 30 June 2024</li> <li>• comprehensive operating statement for the year then ended</li> <li>• statement of changes in equity for the year then ended</li> <li>• cash flow statement for the year then ended</li> <li>• notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information</li> <li>• declaration by the Accountable Officer, Chief Finance and Accounting Officer and Chairperson.</li> </ul> <p>In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Commission as at 30 June 2024 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Part 7 of the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
<b>Basis for opinion</b>	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the Commission in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
<b>The Commissioners' responsibilities for the financial report</b>	<p>The Commissioners are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Financial Management Act 1994</i>, and for such internal control as the Commissioners determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Commissioners are responsible for assessing the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

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**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report**

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Commissioners
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Commissioners' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Commission to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Commissioners regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

---

MELBOURNE  
1 October 2024

  
Timothy Maxfield  
*as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria*

**COMPREHENSIVE OPERATING STATEMENT**

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
		\$	\$
<b>Income from transactions</b>			
Output appropriations –			
Department of Justice and Community Safety	2.1	720,200	778,600
Grants - Victorian Legal Services Board	2.1	2,338,234	2,040,375
Other Income		11,000	–
<b>Total income from transactions</b>		<b>3,069,434</b>	<b>2,818,975</b>
<b>Expenses from transactions</b>			
Employee expenses	3.1.1	(1,777,199)	(1,760,333)
Depreciation	4.1.1	(125,152)	(196,334)
Interest expense	6.1	(16,713)	(1,996)
Other operating expenses	3.2	(457,877)	(432,466)
<b>Total expenses from transactions</b>		<b>(2,376,941)</b>	<b>(2,391,129)</b>
<b>Net result from transactions (net operating balance)</b>		<b>692,493</b>	<b>427,846</b>
<b>Other economic flows included in net result</b>			
Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows	8.1	18,585	2,813
<b>Total other economic flows included in net result</b>		<b>18,585</b>	<b>2,813</b>
<b>Net result</b>		<b>711,078</b>	<b>430,659</b>
<b>Comprehensive result</b>		<b>711,078</b>	<b>430,659</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**BALANCE SHEET**

AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	<i>Notes</i>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		\$	\$
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Financial assets</b>			
Cash and deposits	<i>6.3</i>	1,439,957	777,969
Receivables	<i>5.1</i>	521,985	246,898
<b>Total financial assets</b>		<b>1,961,942</b>	<b>1,024,866</b>
<b>Non-financial assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	<i>4.1</i>	337,199	17,860
Other non-financial assets		93,001	16,620
<b>Total non-financial assets</b>		<b>430,200</b>	<b>34,480</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>2,392,142</b>	<b>1,059,346</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Payables	<i>5.2</i>	111,906	66,321
Borrowings	<i>6.1</i>	661,200	8,824
Employee related provisions	<i>3.1.2</i>	321,776	398,020
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>1,094,883</b>	<b>473,166</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>1,297,259</b>	<b>586,181</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated surplus		793,847	82,769
Contributed capital		503,412	503,412
<b>Net worth</b>		<b>1,297,259</b>	<b>586,181</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
		\$	\$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
<b>Receipts</b>			
Receipts from government		452,273	787,373
Receipts from other entities		2,349,234	2,040,375
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>2,801,507</b>	<b>2,827,748</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Payments to suppliers and employees		(2,342,116)	(2,123,762)
Interest expense		(16,713)	(1,996)
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>(2,358,829)</b>	<b>(2,125,758)</b>
<b>Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities</b>	6.3.1	<b>442,679</b>	<b>701,990</b>
<b>Cash flows from/(used in) investing activities</b>			
Proceeds from disposal of non financial assets		18,863	-
<b>Net cash flows from/(used in) investing activities</b>		<b>18,863</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash flows from/(used in) financing activities</b>			
ROU Liability funded from sub-lease receivable		419,273	-
Owner Contributions by State Government		-	12,841
Repayment of vehicle lease liability		(16,192)	(7,480)
Repayment of building lease liability		(202,635)	(330,387)
<b>Net cash flows from/(used in) financing activities</b>		<b>200,446</b>	<b>(325,027)</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>661,988</b>	<b>376,963</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		777,969	401,005
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year</b>	6.3	<b>1,439,957</b>	<b>777,969</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Accumulated Surplus	Contributions by owners	Total
	\$	\$	\$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2022</b>	(347,890)	490,571	142,681
Net result for the year	430,659	-	430,659
Contributed Capital	-	12,841	12,841
<b>Balance at 30 June 2023</b>	<b>82,769</b>	<b>503,412</b>	<b>586,181</b>
Net result for the year	711,078	-	711,078
Contributed Capital	-	-	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2024</b>	<b>793,847</b>	<b>503,412</b>	<b>1,297,259</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## 1. ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Commission is an independent government-funded body established under the *Law Reform Commission Act 2000* (the Act) as a central agency for developing law reform in Victoria. The Commission's main objective is to provide the Attorney-General and Parliament with high quality, timely, responsive and effective advice on law reform that is independent of government agencies and of the political process.

The Commission reports directly to the Attorney-General. The Attorney-General must table a copy of every Commission report on references before each House of Parliament.

Its principal address is:

Victorian Law Reform Commission  
3/333 Queen Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

A description of the nature of the Commission's operations and its principal activities is included in the report of operations on page 6, which does not form part of these financial statements.

### Basis of preparation

These financial statements are in Australian dollars and the historical cost convention is used unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the note associated with the item measured on a different basis.

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied in preparing these financial statements, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Consistent with the requirements of AASB 1004 *Contributions*, contributions by owners (that is, contributed capital and its repayment) are treated as equity transactions and, therefore, do not form part of the income and expenses of the Commission.

Additions to net assets which have been designated as contributions by owners are recognised as contributed capital. Other transfers that are in the nature of contributions to or distributions by owners have also been designated as contributions by owners.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about financial information being presented. The significant judgements made in the preparation of these financial statements are disclosed in the notes where amounts affected by those judgements are disclosed. Estimates and associated assumptions are based on professional judgements derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in applying Australian Accounting Standards that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates are disclosed in the notes under the heading: 'Significant judgement or estimates'.

These financial statements cover the Victorian Law Reform Commission as an individual reporting entity and include all the controlled activities of the Commission.

All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar unless otherwise stated.

### Compliance information

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Financial Management Act 1994* (FMA) and applicable Australian Accounting Standards (AAS) which include Interpretations, issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). In particular, they are presented in a manner consistent with the requirements of AASB 1049 *Whole of Government and General Government Sector Financial Reporting*.

Where appropriate, those AAS paragraphs applicable to not-for-profit entities have been applied. Accounting policies selected and applied in these financial statements ensure that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.



## 2. FUNDING DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

### Introduction

Income is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the entity and the income can be reliably measured at fair value.

To enable the Commission to fulfil its objectives and provide outputs (as described on pages 12–14, which do not form part of these financial statements) it receives income (accrual based parliamentary appropriations). The Commission also receives a grant from the Victorian Legal Services Board.

### Structure

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2.4 Summary of compliance with annual Parliamentary and special appropriations	48

### Revenue Recognition

The Commission has determined that all grant income is recognised as income of not-for-profit entities in accordance with AASB 1058, except for grants that are enforceable and with sufficiently specific performance obligations and accounted for as revenue from contracts with customers in accordance with AASB 15.

Income from grants without any sufficiently specific performance obligations, or that are not enforceable, is recognised when the Commission has an unconditional right to receive cash which usually coincides with receipt of cash. On initial recognition of the asset, the Commission recognises any related contributions by owners, increases in liabilities, decreases in assets, and revenue ('related amounts') in accordance with other Australian Accounting Standards. Related amounts may take the form of:

- contributions by owners, in accordance with AASB 1004;
- a lease liability in accordance with AASB 16;
- a financial instrument, in accordance with AASB 9; or
- a provision, in accordance with AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets.

#### 2.1 Summary of income that funds the delivery of our services

	Notes	2024	2023
		\$	\$
Output appropriations –			
Department of Justice and Community Safety	2.2	720,200	778,600
Grants – Victorian Legal Services Board	2.3	2,338,234	2,040,375
Other Income		11,000	–
<b>Total income from transactions</b>		<b>3,069,434</b>	<b>2,818,975</b>

**2.2. Appropriations**

Once annual Parliamentary appropriations are applied by the Treasurer, they become controlled by the Commission and are recognised as income when applied for the purposes defined under the relevant Appropriations Act. The appropriation amount includes funding for discretionary items, such as amortisation and depreciation.

**Output appropriations:** Income from the outputs the Commission provides to the Government is recognised when those outputs have been delivered and the relevant minister has certified delivery of those outputs in accordance with specified performance criteria.

**2.3. Grants**

The Attorney-General directed funds to be allocated to the Commission from the Victorian Legal Services Board. These amounts are paid to it under Section 144(3) of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014*.

These non-public monies are held by the Victorian Legal Services Board until they are deposited in the Commission's Trust Account.

The Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF), in establishing the trust account, stipulated "the trust fund amounts and appropriation amounts must be used concurrently to meet the operating and capital expenses of the Commission i.e. the appropriation funds are not to be exhausted in the first instance to allow the Commission to accumulate investment income from Trust Funds."

The Department of Justice and Community Safety monitors the concurrent and proportionate use of the trust funds and appropriation amounts for operating and capital expenditure of the Commission.

**2.4. Summary of compliance with annual Parliamentary and special appropriations**

The following table discloses the details of the annual Parliamentary appropriation received by the Commission for the year.

In accordance with accrual output-based management procedures, 'provision of outputs' is disclosed as 'controlled' activities of the Commission. The Commission is not subject to administered transactions.

<i>Appropriations Act</i>					
	Annual appropriation	Advance from Treasurer	Total Parliamentary authority	Appropriations applied	Variance <sup>(a)</sup>
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>2024</b>					
Provision for outputs	720,200	-	839,000	720,200	118,800
<b>2024 Total</b>	<b>720,200</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>839,000</b>	<b>720,200</b>	<b>118,800</b>
<b>2023</b>					
Provision for outputs	778,600	-	824,000	778,600	45,400
<b>2023 total</b>	<b>778,600</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>824,000</b>	<b>778,600</b>	<b>45,400</b>

(a) Any variance is related to applied savings or budget pressure payments in the relevant financial year and an adjustment in 2023-24 for depreciation funded capital expenditure

### 3. THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES

**Introduction**

This section provides an account of the expenses incurred by the Victorian Law Reform Commission in delivering services and outputs. In Section 2, the funds that enable the provision of services were disclosed and, in this note, the cost associated with provision of services are recorded.

**Structure**

3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services	49
3.2 Other operating expenses	51

**3.1 Expenses incurred in delivery of services**

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
Employee benefit expenses	3.11	1,777,199	1,760,333
Other operating expenses	3.2	457,877	432,466
<b>Total expenses incurred in the delivery of services</b>		<b>2,235,076</b>	<b>2,192,799</b>

**3.1.1 Employee benefits in the comprehensive operating statement**

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Defined contribution superannuation expense	165,210	158,505
Salaries and wages, annual leave and long service leave	1,611,989	1,601,828
<b>Total employee expenses</b>	<b>1,777,199</b>	<b>1,760,333</b>

Employee expenses include all costs related to employment including wages and salaries, fringe benefits tax, leave entitlements, termination payments and WorkCover premiums.

The amount recognised in the comprehensive operating statement in relation to superannuation is employer contributions for members of defined contribution superannuation plans that are paid or payable during the reporting period.

### 3.1.2. Employee benefits in the balance sheet

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave (LSL) for services rendered to the reporting date and recorded as an expense during the period the services are delivered.

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Current provisions:</b>		
<b>Annual leave</b>		
Unconditional and expected to settle within 12 months	66,794	124,216
Unconditional and expected to settle after 12 months	12,709	20,586
<b>Long service leave</b>		
Unconditional and expected to settle within 12 months	26,323	21,634
Unconditional and expected to settle after 12 months	124,817	119,476
<b>Provisions for on-costs</b>		
Unconditional and expected to settle within 12 months	20,393	33,849
Unconditional and expected to settle after 12 months	28,372	27,073
<b>Total current provisions for employee benefits</b>	<b>279,407</b>	<b>346,835</b>
<b>Non current provisions:</b>		
Employee benefits - Long service leave	35,335	43,460
On-costs	7,034	7,726
<b>Total non current provisions for employee benefits</b>	<b>42,369</b>	<b>51,186</b>
<b>Total provisions for employee benefits</b>	<b>321,776</b>	<b>398,020</b>

### Reconciliation of movement in on-cost provision

	2024 \$
<b>Opening balance</b>	<b>68,648</b>
Additional provisions recognised	17,354
Reductions arising from payments of future economic benefits	30,203
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>55,799</b>
Current	48,765
Non current	7,034

**Wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave:** Liabilities for wages and salaries (including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and on-costs) are recognised as part of the employee benefit provision as current liabilities, because the Commission does not have an unconditional right to defer settlements of these liabilities.

The liability for salaries and wages are recognised in the balance sheet at remuneration rates which are current at the reporting date. As the Commission expects the liabilities to be wholly settled within 12 months of reporting date, they are measured at undiscounted amounts.

The annual leave liability is classified as a current liability and measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid, as the Commission does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

No provision has been made for sick leave as all sick leave is non-vesting and it is not considered probable that the average sick leave taken in the future will be greater than the benefits accrued in the future. As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income as it is taken.

Employment on-costs such as payroll tax, workers compensation and superannuation are not employee benefits. They are disclosed separately as a component of the provision for employee benefits when the employment to which they relate has occurred.

**Unconditional LSL** is disclosed as a current liability, even where the Commission does not expect to settle the liability within 12 months because it will not have the unconditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement should an employee take leave within 12 months.

The components of this current LSL liability are measured at:

- > undiscounted value – if the Commission expects to wholly settle within 12 months; or
- > present value – if the Commission does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

**Conditional LSL** is disclosed as a non-current liability. There is a conditional right to defer the settlement of the entitlement until the employee has completed the requisite years of service. This non-current LSL is measured at present value.

Any gain or loss following revaluation of the present value of non-current LSL liability is recognised as a transaction, except to the extent that a gain or loss arises due to changes in bond interest rates for which it is then recognised as an 'other economic flow' in the net result.

### 3.1.3 Superannuation contributions

Employees of the Commission are entitled to receive superannuation benefits and the Commission contributes to defined contribution plans.

	Paid contribution for the year		Contribution outstanding at year end	
	2024 \$	2023 \$	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Defined contribution plans</b>				
VicSuper	33,713	39,022	-	-
Other	131,497	119,483	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>165,210</b>	<b>158,505</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### 3.2 Other operating expenses

Other operating expenses generally represent the day-to-day running costs incurred in normal operations. It also includes bad debts expense from transactions that are mutually agreed. Supplies and services are recognised as an expense in the reporting period in which they are incurred.

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Supplies and services</b>		
Purchase of supplies and consumables	91,842	167,286
Purchase of services (including remuneration of auditors)	178,806	141,751
Maintenance	7,032	3,137
Rental outgoings and expenses	180,198	120,292
<b>Total other operating expenses</b>	<b>457,877</b>	<b>432,466</b>

## 4. KEY ASSETS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT OUTPUT DELIVERY

### Introduction

The Commission controls plant and equipment that are utilised in fulfilling its objectives and conducting its activities. They represent the resources that have been entrusted to the Commission to be utilised for delivery of those outputs.

### Fair value measurement

Where the assets included in this section are carried at fair value, additional information is disclosed in Note 7.3 in connection with how those fair values were determined.

### Structure

4.1 Total property, plant, equipment and vehicles 52

#### 4.1 Total property, plant and equipment<sup>(a)</sup>

	Gross carrying amount		Accumulated Depreciation		Net carrying amount	
	2024 \$	2023 \$	2024 \$	2023 \$	2024 \$	2023 \$
Right of use leased office space	394,581	744,720	(112,732)	(744,720)	281,849	-
Video Conferencing equipment	12,490	12,490	(7,026)	(3,903)	5,464	8,587
Motor vehicle at fair value	57,350	36,227	(7,465)	(26,954)	49,885	9,273
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>464,421</b>	<b>793,438</b>	<b>(127,222)</b>	<b>(775,578)</b>	<b>337,199</b>	<b>17,860</b>

(a) See table 4.1.2 for movements.

**Initial recognition:** Items of property, plant and equipment, are measured initially at cost and subsequently revalued at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Where an asset is acquired for no or nominal cost, the cost is its fair value at the date of acquisition.

The initial cost for non-financial physical assets under a finance lease is measured at amounts equal to the fair value of the leased asset or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments, each determined at the inception of the lease.

#### Right-of-use asset acquired by lessees – Initial measurement

The Commission recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for:

- > any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentive received; plus
- > any initial direct costs incurred; and

> an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located.

**Vehicles** are valued using the current replacement cost method. The Commission acquires new vehicles and at times disposes of them before the end of their economic life. The process of acquisition, use and disposal in the market is managed by Vic Fleet who set relevant depreciation rates during use to reflect the utilisation of the vehicles.

**Subsequent measurement:** Property, plant and equipment (PPE) as well as right-of-use assets under leases are subsequently measured at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Fair value is determined with regard to the asset's highest and best use (considering legal or physical restrictions imposed on the asset, public announcements or commitments made in relation to the intended use of the asset) and is summarised on the following page by asset category. Refer to Note 7.3 for additional information on fair value determination of property, plant and equipment.

#### Right-of-use asset

##### – Subsequent measurement

The Commission depreciates the right-of-use assets on a straight-line basis from the lease commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. The right-of-use assets are also subject to revaluation.

In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any and adjusted for certain re-measurements of the lease liability.

#### Impairment of property, plant, equipment and vehicles

The recoverable amount of primarily non-cash generating assets of not-for-profit entities, which are typically specialised in nature and held for continuing use of their service capacity, is expected to be materially the same as fair value determined under AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*, with the consequence that AASB 136 *Impairment of Assets*, does not apply to such assets that are regularly revalued.

#### 4.1.1 Depreciation and amortisation

##### Charge for the period

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Right of use leased office space	112,732	186,180
Plant, equipment and vehicles	12,420	10,154
<b>Total depreciation and amortisation</b>	<b>125,152</b>	<b>196,334</b>

Asset	(years) Useful Life	
ROU leased asset	5	Depreciation is generally calculated on a straight-line basis, at rates that allocate the asset's value, less any estimated residual value, over its estimated useful life. Typical estimated useful lives for the different asset classes for current and prior years are included in the table on the left.
Computer equipment and video conferencing equipment	5	The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation method are reviewed at the end of each annual reporting period, and adjustments made where appropriate.
Motor vehicles	5	Right-of-use assets are generally depreciated over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term. Where the Commission obtains ownership of the underlying leased asset or if the cost of the right-of-use asset reflects that the entity will exercise a purchase option, the entity depreciates the right-of-use asset over its useful life.

#### 4.1.2 Reconciliation of movements in carrying amount of property, plant and equipment

	Right of use leased office space at fair value		Vehicles at fair value		Computer equipment & video conferencing at fair value	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Opening balance 1 July</b>	-	186,180	9,272	16,304	8,587	11,709
Additions	394,581	-	57,350	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	(7,439)	-	-	-
Depreciation	(112,732)	(186,180)	(9,298)	(7,032)	(3,122)	(3,122)
<b>Closing balance 30 June</b>	<b>281,849</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,885</b>	<b>9,272</b>	<b>5,465</b>	<b>8,587</b>

Note: Fair value assessments have been performed for all classes of assets in this purpose group and the decision was made that movements were not material (less than or equal to 10 per cent) for a full revaluation.

## 5. OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>Structure</b>	
This section sets out those assets and liabilities that arose from the Commission's operations.	5.1 Receivables	54
	5.2 Payables	54

### 5.1 Receivables

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Contractual</b>		
Sub-lease - Sentencing Advisory Council <sup>(a)</sup>	312,297	-
<b>Statutory</b>		
Amount owing from Victorian Government	209,688	246,898
<b>Total receivables</b>	<b>521,985</b>	<b>246,898</b>
<i>Represented by</i>		
Current receivables	284,088	246,898
Non-current receivables	237,897	-

(a) The Commission has a sub-lease agreement with the Sentencing Advisory Council for a portion of the office space leased. Refer to note 6.2.

**Contractual receivables** are classified as financial instruments and categorised as 'financial assets at amortised costs'. They are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. The Commission holds the contractual receivables with the objective to collect the contractual cash flows and therefore subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

**Statutory receivables** do not arise from contracts and are recognised and measured similarly to contractual receivables (except for impairment) but are not classified as financial instruments for disclosure purposes. The Commission applies AASB 9 Financial Instruments for initial measurement of the statutory receivables and as a result statutory receivables are initially recognised at fair value plus any directly attributable

transaction cost. Amounts recognised from the Victorian Government represent funding for all commitments incurred and are drawn from the Consolidated Fund as the commitments fall due.

Details about the Commission's impairment policies exposure to credit risk and the calculation of the allowance are in note 7.

### 5.2 Payables

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Contractual</b>		
Supplies and services	105,859	63,354
Other payables	4,031	-
<b>Statutory</b>		
FBT payable	2,016	2,967
<b>Total payables</b>	<b>111,906</b>	<b>66,321</b>
<i>Represented by:</i>		
Current payables	111,906	66,321



Payables consist of:

**contractual payables**, classified as financial instruments and measured at amortised cost. Accounts payable represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Commission prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid; and

**statutory payables**, that are recognised and measured similarly to contractual payables, but are not classified as financial instruments and not included in the category of financial liabilities at amortised cost, because they do not arise from contracts.

Payables for supplies and services have an average credit period of 30 days.

The terms and conditions of amounts payable to the government and agencies vary according to the particular agreements and as they are not legislative payables, they are not classified as financial instruments.

#### Maturity analysis of contractual payables <sup>(a)</sup>

	Carrying amount	Nominal amount	Less than 1 month	Maturity dates		
				1–3 months	3 months – 1 year	1–5 years
	\$	\$	\$			
<b>2024</b>						
Supplies and services	105,859	105,859	105,859	-	-	-
Other payables	4,031	4,031	4,031	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>109,890</b>	<b>109,890</b>	<b>109,890</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>2023</b>						
Supplies and services	63,354	63,354	63,354	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,354</b>	<b>63,354</b>	<b>63,354</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

(a) Maturity analysis is presented using the contractual undiscounted cash flows.

## 6. FINANCING OUR OPERATIONS

### Introduction

This section provides information on the sources of finance utilised by the Commission during its operations, along with interest expenses (the cost of borrowings) and other information related to financing activities of the Commission.

This section includes disclosures of balances that are financial instruments (such as borrowings and cash balances). Notes 7.1 and 7.3 provide additional, specific financial instrument disclosures.

### Structure

6.1 Borrowings	56
6.2 Leases	57
6.3 Cash flow information and balances	59
6.4 Trust account balances	60
6.5 Commitments for Expenditure	60

### 6.1 Borrowings

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Current borrowings</b>		
Lease liabilities – Buildings	225,374	-
Lease liabilities – Motor Vehicle	9,932	8,824
<b>Total current borrowings</b>	<b>235,305</b>	<b>8,824</b>
<b>Non current borrowings</b>		
Lease liabilities – Buildings	385,845	-
Lease liabilities – Motor Vehicle	40,050	-
<b>Total non current borrowings</b>	<b>425,895</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total borrowings</b>	<b>661,200</b>	<b>8,824</b>

### Interest Expense

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Lease liabilities – Buildings	17,073	1,577
Lease liabilities – Motor vehicle	(361)	419
<b>Total interest expense</b>	<b>16,713</b>	<b>1,996</b>

'Interest expense' includes the interest component of finance leases repayments. Interest expense is recognised in the period in which it is incurred.

'Borrowings' refer to interest bearing liabilities and lease liabilities.

Borrowings are classified as financial instruments. Interest bearing liabilities are classified at amortised cost unless the Commission elects to irrevocably designate them at fair value through profit or loss at initial recognition. The election

depends on the nature and purpose of the interest-bearing liabilities.

The Commission has designated lease liabilities at fair value through net result to eliminate or significantly reduce the accounting mismatch that would otherwise arise. All other interest-bearing borrowings are initially recognised at the fair value of the consideration received less directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

For financial liabilities designated at fair value through net result, all transaction costs are expensed as incurred. And they are subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value relating to the Commission's own credit risk recognised in other comprehensive income and the remaining amount of changes in fair value recognised in net result.

**Maturity analysis of borrowings**

	Maturity dates					
	Carrying amount	Nominal amount	Less than 1 month	1-3 months	3 months - 1 year	1-5 years
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>2024</b>						
Lease liabilities – Buildings	611,218	611,218	18,366	55,546	151,461	385,845
Lease liabilities – Motor Vehicle	49,982	49,982	823	2,474	6,635	40,050
<b>Total</b>	<b>661,200</b>	<b>661,200</b>	<b>19,186</b>	<b>58,026</b>	<b>158,096</b>	<b>425,895</b>
<b>2023</b>						
Lease liabilities – Buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lease liabilities – Motor Vehicle	8,824	8,824	645	1,290	6,889	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,824</b>	<b>8,824</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>1,290</b>	<b>6,889</b>	<b>-</b>

**6.2 Leases**

Information about leases for which the Commission is a lessee is presented below.

**The Commission's leasing activities**

The Commission leases its office space and a motor vehicle. The lease contract for the office space is for a three and a half year period and for the motor vehicle it is a three year period.

The Commission has a sublease arrangement with the Sentencing Advisory Council which is classified as a finance leases under AASB 16 as the present value of the lease payments amounts to substantially all of the fair

value of the underlying asset and the lease terms are for the major part of the economic life of the underlying asset. As an intermediate lessor, the Commission has accounted for the head lease and the sublease as two separate contracts. The period of the agreement is for three and a half years with the remaining term being two and a half years as at 30 June 2024. Refer to receivables note 5.1.

**Right-of-use Assets**

Right-of-use assets are presented in note 4.1.

**Amounts recognised in the Statement of Cashflows**

The following amounts are recognised in the Statement of Cashflows for the year ending 30 June 2024 relating to building leases.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Interest expense on building lease liability	17,073	1,577
SAC share of lease liability	(106,696)	(128,693)
Repayment of building lease liability	202,635	330,387
<b>Net outflow for building lease</b>	<b>113,012</b>	<b>203,272</b>

For any new contracts entered into, the Commission considers whether a contract is, or contains a lease. A lease is defined as 'a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration'. To apply this definition the Commission assesses whether the contract meets three key evaluations:

- > Whether the contract contains an identified asset, which is either explicitly identified in the contract or implicitly specified by being identified at the time the asset is made available to the Commission and for which the supplier does not have substantive substitution rights;
- > Whether the Commission has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the identified asset throughout the period of use, considering its rights within the defined scope of the contract and the Commission has the right to direct the use of the identified asset throughout the period of use; and
- > Whether the Commission has the right to take decisions in respect of 'how and for what purpose' the asset is used throughout the period of use.

#### **Separation of lease and non-lease components**

At inception or on reassessment of a contract that contains a lease component, the lessee is required to separate out and account separately for non-lease components within a lease contract and exclude these amounts when determining the lease liability and right-of-use asset amount.

#### **Recognition and measurement of leases as a lessee**

##### **Lease Liability – initial measurement**

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease if that rate is readily determinable or the Commission's incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise the following:

- > fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments) less any lease incentive receivable;
- > variable payments based on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- > amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee; and
- > payments arising from purchase and termination options reasonably certain to be exercised.

##### **Lease Liability – subsequent measurement**

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification, or if there are changes in-substance fixed payments.

When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the right-of-use asset, or profit and loss if the right-of-use asset is already reduced to zero.

##### **Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets**

The Commission has elected to account for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets using the practical expedients. Instead of recognising a right-of-use asset and lease liability, the payments in relation to these are recognised as an expense in profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

##### **Presentation of right-of-use assets and lease liabilities**

The Commission presents right-of-use assets as 'property plant equipment' in the balance sheet. Lease liabilities are presented as 'borrowings' in the balance sheet.

### 6.3 Cash flow information and balances

Cash and deposits, including cash equivalents, comprise cash on hand and cash at bank, deposits at call and those highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less, which are held for the purpose of meeting short-term cash commitments rather than for investment purposes, and which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

For cash flow statement purposes, cash and cash equivalents are indicated below.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Funds held in trust <sup>(a)(b)</sup>	1,439,957	777,969
<b>Balance as per cash flow statement</b>	<b>1,439,957</b>	<b>777,969</b>

(a) Refer to note 2.3 for details of trust establishment

(b) Refer to note 6.4 for details of trust account balances

#### 6.3.1 Reconciliation of net result for the period to cash flow from operating activities

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Net result for the period</b>	<b>711,078</b>	<b>430,659</b>
<b>Non cash movements</b>		
Depreciation and amortisation of non current assets	125,152	196,334
Gain on disposal of non financial assets	(11,424)	–
<b>Movements in assets and liabilities</b>		
Decrease/(increase) in receivables	(275,087)	5,960
Decrease/(increase) in pre-payments	(76,381)	48,583
Increase/(decrease) in payables	45,585	22,592
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(76,244)	(2,138)
<b>Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>442,679</b>	<b>701,990</b>

## 6.4 Trust account balances

Trust account balances relating to trust accounts controlled by the Commission

Cash and cash equivalents and investments	2024				2023			
	Opening balance as 1 July 2023	Total receipts	Total payments	Closing balance as 30 June 2024	Opening balance as 1 July 2022	Total receipts	Total payments	Closing balance as 30 June 2023
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Controlled trusts</b>								
VLRC Trust Fund <sup>(a)(b)</sup>	777,969	2,338,234	1,676,246	1,439,957	401,005	2,040,375	1,663,411	777,969
<b>Total controlled trusts</b>	<b>777,969</b>	<b>2,338,234</b>	<b>1,676,246</b>	<b>1,439,957</b>	<b>401,005</b>	<b>2,040,375</b>	<b>1,663,411</b>	<b>777,969</b>

(a) The VLRC Trust fund was created to receive non-public monies, Section 144(3) of the *Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014*, specifically to receive monies paid to VLRC under Section 17(a) *Victorian Law Reform Commission Act 2000*.

(b) Refer to note 2.3 for details of trust establishment

## 6.5 Commitments for expenditure

Commitments for future expenditure include operating and capital commitments arising from contracts. These commitments are recorded below at their nominal value and inclusive of GST. These future expenditures cease to be disclosed as commitments once the related liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet. There were no outstanding commitments for expenditure as at 30 June 2024.

## 7. RISKS, CONTINGENCIES AND VALUATION JUDGEMENTS

### Introduction

The Victorian Law Reform Commission (the Commission) is exposed to risk from its activities and outside factors. In addition, it is often necessary to make judgements and estimates associated with recognition and measurement of items in the financial statements. This section sets out financial instrument specific information, (including exposures to financial risks) as well as those items that are contingent in nature or require a higher level of judgement to be applied.

### Structure

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7.2	Contingent assets and contingent liabilities	64
7.3	Fair value determination	64
7.4	How this section is structured	64

### 7.1 Financial instruments specific disclosures

#### Introduction

Financial instruments arise out of contractual agreements that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. Due to the nature of the Commission's activities, certain financial assets and financial liabilities arise under statute rather than a contract (for example taxes, fines and penalties). Such assets and liabilities do not meet the definition of financial instruments in *AASB 132 Financial Instruments: Presentation*.

#### Categories of financial assets

##### Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets are measured at amortised costs if both of the following criteria are met and the assets are not designated as fair value through net result:

- > the assets are held by the Commission to collect the contractual cash flows, and
- > the assets' contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest.

These assets are initially recognised at fair value, plus any directly attributable transaction costs, and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment.

The Commission recognises the following assets in this category:

- > receivables (excluding statutory receivables); and
- > term deposits;

#### Categories of financial liabilities

**Financial liabilities at amortised cost** are initially recognised on the date they are originated. They are initially measured at fair value plus any directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, these financial instruments are measured at amortised cost with any difference between the initial recognised amount and the redemption value being recognised in profit and loss over the period of the interest bearing liability, using the effective interest rate method. The Commission recognises the following liabilities in this category:

- > payables (excluding statutory payables); and
- > borrowings (including finance lease liabilities).

**7.1.1 Financial instruments: Categorisation**

<b>2024</b>	Cash and deposits	Financial assets at amortised cost (AC)	Financial Liabilities at amortised cost (AC)	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Contractual financial assets</b>				
Cash and deposits	1,439,957	-	-	1,439,957
Receivables <sup>(b)</sup>	-	312,297	-	312,297
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>1,439,957</b>	<b>312,297</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,752,254</b>
<b>Contractual financial liabilities</b>				
<b>Payables<sup>(a)</sup></b>				
Supplies and services	-	-	105,859	105,859
Other payables			4,031	4,031
<b>Borrowings</b>				
Lease liabilities	-	-	661,200	661,200
<b>Total contractual financial liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>771,090</b>	<b>771,090</b>

(a) The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts (e.g. amounts owing from Victorian Government and GST input tax credit recoverable and taxes payable).

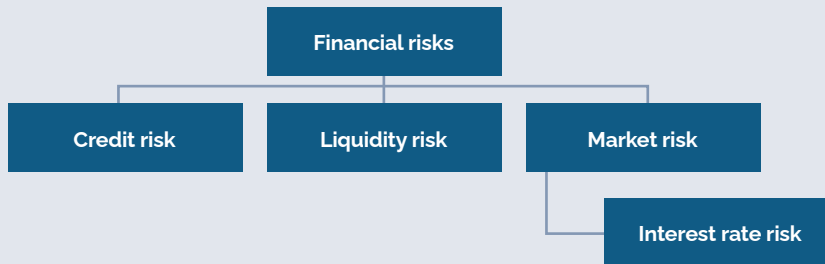
(b) Refer to note 5.1

<b>2023</b>	Cash and deposits	Contractual financial assets—loans and receivables held to maturity	Contractual financial liabilities at amortised cost	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Contractual financial assets</b>				
Cash and deposits	777,969	-	-	777,969
Receivables <sup>(b)</sup>	-	-	-	-
<b>Total contractual financial assets</b>	<b>777,969</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>777,969</b>
<b>Contractual financial liabilities</b>				
<b>Payables<sup>(a)</sup></b>				
Supplies and services	-	-	63,353	63,353
<b>Borrowings</b>				
Lease liabilities	-	-	8,824	8,824
<b>Total contractual financial liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>72,178</b>	<b>72,178</b>

(a) The total amounts disclosed here exclude statutory amounts (e.g. amounts owing from Victorian Government and GST input tax credit recoverable and taxes payable).



**7.1.2 Financial risk management objectives and policies**



As a whole, the Commission's financial risk management program seeks to manage these risks and the associated volatility of its financial performance.

Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement, and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, with respect to each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument above are disclosed in Note 7.3 to the financial statements.

The main purpose in holding financial instruments is to prudentially manage the Commission's financial risks within the government policy parameters.

The Commission's main financial risks include credit risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk. The Commission manages these financial risks in accordance with its financial risk management policy.

The Commission uses different methods to measure and manage the different risks to which it is exposed. Primary responsibility for the identification and management of financial risks rests with the Accountable Officer of the Commission.

**7.1.3. Credit Risk**

Credit risk arises from the contractual financial assets of the Commission, which comprise term deposits and non-statutory receivables. The Commission's exposure to credit risk arises from the potential default of a counter party on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Commission. Credit risk is measured at fair value and is monitored on a regular basis. Credit risk associated with the Commission's contractual financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is the Department of Justice and Community Safety.

**7.1.4. Liquidity Risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Commission would be unable to meet its financial obligations as and when they fall due. The Commission operates under the Government fair payments policy of settling financial obligations within 30 days and in the event of a dispute, make payments within 30 days from the date of resolution. The Commission manages its liquidity risk through monitoring future cash flows and maturities.

**7.1.5. Market Risk**

The Commission's exposure to market risk is insignificant exposure to foreign currency risks. Objectives, policies and processes used to manage this risk are disclosed in the paragraphs below.

**Interest rate risk:** Fair value interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Commission does not hold any interest bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value, therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk.

Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Commission has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risks through its term deposits that are at floating rate.

**7.2. Contingent assets and contingent liabilities**

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet but are disclosed and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value.

The Commission had no contingent assets or liabilities as at 30 June 2024 (Nil 30 June 2023).

**7.3. Fair value determination**

This section sets out information on how the Commission determined fair value for financial reporting purposes. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

The following assets and liabilities are carried at fair value:

- > financial assets and liabilities at fair value through operating result; and

- > property, plant, equipment and vehicles;

In addition, the fair values of other assets and liabilities that are carried at amortised cost, also need to be determined for disclosure purposes. The Commission determines the policies and procedures for determining fair values for both financial and non-financial assets and liabilities as required.

**Fair value hierarchy**

In determining fair values a number of inputs are used. To increase consistency and comparability in the financial statements, these inputs are categorised into three levels, also known as the fair value hierarchy. The levels are as follows:

- > Level 1 – quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- > Level 2 – valuation techniques for

which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and

- > Level 3 – valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

The Commission determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by reassessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

The Commission monitors changes in the fair value of each asset and liability through relevant data sources to determine whether revaluation is required.

**7.4 How this section is structured**

For those assets and liabilities for which fair values are determined, the following disclosures are provided:

- > carrying amount and the fair value (which would be the same for those assets measured at fair value);
- > which level of the fair value hierarchy was used to determine the fair value; and
- > in respect of those assets and liabilities subject to fair value determination using Level 3 inputs:
  - a reconciliation of the movements in fair values from the beginning of the year to the end; and
  - details of significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value determination.

**Fair value determination of financial assets and liabilities**

The fair values and net fair values of financial assets and liabilities are determined as follows:

- > Level 1 – the fair value of financial instruments with standard terms and conditions and traded in active liquid markets are determined with reference to quoted market prices;
- > Level 2 – the fair value is determined using inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the financial asset or liability, either directly or indirectly; and
- > Level 3 – the fair value is determined in accordance with generally accepted

pricing models based on discounted cash flow analysis using unobservable market inputs.

The Commission currently holds a range of financial instruments that are recorded in the financial statements where the carrying amounts approximate to fair value, due to their short-term nature or with the expectation that they will be paid in full by the end of the 2023–24 reporting period. The Commission applies Level 2 fair value determination to all assets and liabilities.

These financial instruments include:

Financial assets	Financial liabilities
<p><b>Cash and deposits</b></p> <p><b>Investments and other contractual financial assets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Trust fund deposits</li> </ul>	<p><b>Payables:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; For supplies and services</li> </ul> <p><b>Borrowings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Lease liabilities</li> </ul>

## 8. OTHER DISCLOSURES

### Introduction

This section includes additional material disclosures required by accounting standards or otherwise for the understanding of this financial report.

### Structure

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### 8.1 Other economic flows included in net result

Other economic flows are changes in the volume or value of an asset or liability that do not result from transactions. Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows include the gains or losses from:

- > the revaluation of the present value of the long service leave liability due to changes in the bond interest rates;

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Other gains/(losses) from other economic flows</b>		
Net gain/(loss) arising from revaluation of long service liability <sup>(a)</sup>	7,161	2,813
Net gain/(loss) arising from disposal of motor vehicle	11,424	-
<b>Total other gains/(losses) from other economic flows</b>	<b>18,585</b>	<b>2,813</b>

(a) Revaluation gain/(loss) due to changes in bond interest rates.

## 8.2. Responsible persons

In accordance with the Ministerial Directions issued by the Assistant Treasurer under the *Financial Management Act 1994* (FMA), the following disclosures are made regarding responsible persons for the reporting period.

### Names

The persons who held the positions of Ministers and Accountable Officers in the Department of Justice and Community Safety (from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 unless otherwise stated) are as follows: -

#### The Department

Attorney-General	The Hon. Jaclyn Symes, MP	1 July 2023	to	30 June 2024
Acting Attorney-General	The Hon. Anthony Richard Carbines, MP	1 July 2023	to	21 July 2023
	The Hon. Anthony Richard Carbines, MP	22 March 2024	to	31 March 2024
	The Hon. Enver Erdogan, MP	1 April 2024	to	13 April 2024

#### The Commission

The persons who were Responsible Persons of the Commission as stipulated in Section 7 of the *Victorian Law Reform Commission Act 2000*, for the reporting period are as follows:

Chair	The Hon. Anthony North KC	1 July 2023	to	30 January 2024
Acting Chair	The Hon. Jennifer Coate AO	31 January 2024	to	30 June 2024
Commissioner	Bruce Gardner PSM	1 July 2023	to	15 June 2024
Commissioner	Liana Buchanan	1 July 2023	to	30 June 2024
Commissioner	Gemma Varley PSM	1 July 2023	to	30 June 2024
Commissioner	Bernadette McSherry	1 July 2023	to	30 June 2024
Commissioner	Dan Nicholson	1 July 2023	to	30 June 2024
Commissioner	The Hon. Jennifer Coate AO	1 July 2023	to	30 January 2024
Commissioner	Kathleen Foley SC	1 July 2023	to	30 June 2024
Commissioner	Dr Vivian Waller	1 July 2023	to	30 June 2024

#### Accountable Officer

Chief Executive Officer	Merrin Mason PSM	1 July 2023	to	30 June 2024
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#### Remuneration

Remuneration of responsible persons <sup>(a)</sup>	2024	2023
Salary Band \$		
20,000–30,000	5	6
80,000–90,000	1	-
140,000–150,000	1	-
220,000–230,000	1	-
230,000–240,000	-	1
270,000–280,000	-	1

(a) Excludes unpaid Commissioners.

### 8.3. Related parties

The Commission is an independent agency established under the *Victoria Law Reform Commission Act 2000*. It is a wholly owned and controlled entity of the State of Victoria.

Related parties of the Commission include:

- > all key management personnel and their close family members and personal business interests (controlled entities, joint ventures and entities they have significant influence over);
- > all cabinet ministers and their close family members; and
- > all departments and public sector entities that are controlled and consolidated into the whole of state consolidated financial statements.

All related party transactions have been entered into on an arm's length basis.

### Significant transactions with government-related entities

The Commission received funding of \$3.069 million (2023: \$2.819 million) and made payments of \$0.199 million (2023: \$0.235 million) to government-related entities.

During the year, the Commission had the following government-related entity transactions:

- > \$86,347 in payroll tax to the State Revenue Office (2023: \$84,042).
- > \$112,787 in other transactions that are collectively, but not individually significant (2023: \$150,894).

**Key management personnel** of the Commission includes the Attorney-General, The Hon. Jaclyn Symes, MP; the Acting Attorney-General, The Hon. Anthony Richard Carbines, MP and the Chair and Commissioners of the Victorian Law Reform Commission; and members of the Senior Executive Team, which includes:

Key Management Personnel	Position Title
The Hon. Anthony North, KC	Chair
The Hon. Jennifer Coate AO	Acting Chair
Bruce Gardner PSM	Commissioner
Liana Buchanan	Commissioner
Gemma Varley PSM	Commissioner
Bernadette McSherry	Commissioner
Dan Nicholson	Commissioner
The Hon. Jennifer Coate AO	Commissioner
Kathleen Foley SC	Commissioner
Dr Vivian Waller	Commissioner
Merrin Mason PSM	Chief Executive Officer

The Minister's remuneration and allowances is set by the *Parliamentary Salaries and Superannuation Act 1968* and is reported within the State's Annual Financial Report.

Remuneration of Key management personnel	Total Remuneration	
	2024 \$	2023 \$
Short-term employee benefits	580,146	635,509
Post-employment benefits	61,739	60,710
Other long-term benefits	17,360	19,037
<b>Total remuneration</b>	<b>659,245</b>	<b>715,257</b>
<b>Total number of key management personnel<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total annualised employee equivalents<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.8</b>

(a) Total number of key management personnel includes paid and unpaid Commissioners.

(b) Annualised employee equivalent is based on the time fraction worked over the reporting period.

#### Transactions and balances with key management personnel and other related parties

Given the breadth and depth of State government activities, related parties transact with the Victorian public sector in a manner consistent with other members of the public e.g. stamp duty and other government fees and charges. Further employment of processes within the Victorian public sector occur on terms and conditions consistent with the *Public Administration Act 2004* and Codes of Conduct and Standards issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. Procurement processes occur on terms and conditions consistent with the Victorian Government Purchasing Board requirements.

Outside of normal citizen type transactions with the Commission, there were no related party transactions that involved key management personnel, their close family members and their personal business interests. No provision has been required, nor any expense recognised, for impairment of receivables from related parties.

#### 8.4 . Remuneration of auditors

Victorian Auditor General's Office	Total Remuneration	
	2024 \$	2023 \$
Audit of the financial statements	26,200	25,200
<b>Total remuneration of auditors</b>	<b>26,200</b>	<b>25,200</b>

### 8.5. Subsequent events

The Victorian Government and the Community and Public Service Union have reached agreement on the terms for a proposed *Victorian Public Service Enterprise Agreement 2024* (the Agreement). The Agreement has an effective operating date from the 1 May 2024 and a nominal expiry date of 9 April 2028. The Agreement provides four annual wage increases of 3 per cent effective from 1 May of each year. Under the Agreement, the salary and allowance increases will take effect from 1 May 2024.

The Fair Work Commission approved the Agreement on the 12 August 2024 and confirmed that it complies with the minimum requirements and entitlements of the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Act). All the entitlements in the Agreement become payable to employees from the 19 August 2024. It is estimated that the amount of salary backpay for the period 1 May 2024 to 30 June 2024 will be around \$8,500.

No other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may affect the operations of the Commission, the results of its financial operations or the state of affairs of the Commission in the future financial years.

### 8.6. Australian Accounting Standards issued that are not yet effective

Certain new and revised accounting standards have been issued but are not effective for the 2023-24 reporting period. These accounting standards have not been applied to these Financial Statements. The State is reviewing its existing policies and assessing the potential implications of these accounting standards which includes:

#### ***AASB 2022-10 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Measurement of Non-Financial Assets of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities.***

AASB 2022-10 amends AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement by adding authoritative implementation guidance and illustrative examples for fair value measurements of non-financial assets of not-for-profit public sector entities not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash inflows.

Among other things, the Standard:

- > specifies that an entity needs to consider whether an asset's highest and best use differs from its current use only when it is held for sale or held for distributions to owners under AASB 5 Noncurrent Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations or if it is highly probable that it will be used for an alternative purpose:
- > clarifies that an asset's use is 'financially feasible' if market participants would be willing to invest in the asset's service capacity, considering both the capacity to provide needed goods or services and the resulting costs of those goods and services:
- > specifies that if both market selling price and some market participant data required to fair value the asset are not observable, an entity needs to start with its own assumptions and adjust them to the extent that reasonably available information indicates that other market participants would use different data: and
- > provides guidance on the application of the cost approach to fair value, including the nature of costs to be included in a reference asset and identification of economic obsolescence.

This Standard applies prospectively to annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024, with earlier application permitted.

The Commission is currently in the process of assessing the potential impact of these standards and amendments.

A number of other standards and amendments have also been issued that apply to future reporting periods, however they are not expected to have any significant impact on the financial statements in the period of initial application.

### 8.7. Glossary of technical terms

The following is a summary of the major technical terms used in this report.

**Commitments** include those operating, capital and other outsourcing commitments arising from non-cancellable contractual or statutory sources.

**Comprehensive result** is the amount included in the operating statement representing total change in net worth other than transactions with owners as owners.

**Controlled item** generally refers to the capacity of the Commission to benefit from that item in the pursuit of the entity's objectives and to deny or regulate the access of others to that benefit.

**Current grants** are amounts payable or receivable for current purposes for which no economic benefits of equal value are receivable or payable in return.

**Depreciation** is an expense that arises from the consumption through wear or time of a produced physical or intangible asset. This expense is classified as a 'transaction' and so reduces the 'net result from transaction'.

**Effective interest method** is the method used to calculate the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset or, where appropriate, a shorter period.

**Finance lease** is a lease that transfers substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an underlying asset.

**Financial asset** is any asset that is either:

- > cash
- > an equity instrument of another entity
- > a contractual right to receive cash or another financial asset from another entity or to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially favourable to the entity.

**Financial instrument** is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity.

**Financial liability** is any liability that is:

- > a contractual obligation to deliver cash or another financial asset to another entity or to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially unfavourable to the entity.

**Financial statements** in this Report comprises:

- > a comprehensive operating statement for the period;
- > a balance sheet as at the end of the period;
- > a statement of changes in equity for the period;
- > a cash flow statement for the period;
- > notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- > comparative information in respect of the preceding period as specified in paragraph 38 of *AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements*.

**Leases** are rights conveyed in a contract, or part of a contract, the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

**Net result** is a measure of financial performance of the operations for the period. It is the net result of items of revenue, gains and expenses (including losses) recognised for the period, excluding those classified as 'other non-owner movements in equity'.

**Net worth** is calculated as assets less liabilities, which is an economic measure of wealth.

**Non-financial assets** are all assets that are not financial assets. It includes inventories and plant and equipment.



**Operating result** is a measure of financial performance of the operations for the period. It is the net result of items of revenue, gains and expenses (including losses) recognised for the period, excluding those that are classified as 'other non-owner movements in equity'. Refer also 'net result'.

**Other economic flows included in net result** are changes in the volume or value of an asset or liability that do not result from transactions. In simple terms, other economic flows are changes arising from market remeasurements. They include gains and losses from disposals, revaluations and impairments of non-current physical and intangible assets and fair value changes of financial instruments.

**Payables** includes short and long-term trade debt and accounts payable, grants, taxes and interest payable.

**Receivables** includes amounts owing from government through appropriation receivable, short and long-term trade credit and accounts receivable, accrued investment income, grants, taxes and interest receivable.

**Supplies and services** generally represent cost of goods sold and the day to day running costs, including maintenance costs, incurred in the normal operations of the Commission.

**Transactions** are those economic flows that are considered to arise as a result of policy decisions, usually an interaction between two entities by mutual agreement. They also include flows into an entity such as depreciation, where the owner is simultaneously acting as the owner of the depreciating asset and as the consumer of the service provided by the asset. Transactions can be in kind (e.g. assets provided/given free of charge or for nominal consideration) or where the final consideration is cash. In simple terms, transactions arise from the policy decisions of the Government

#### 8.8. Style conventions

Figures in the tables and in the text have been rounded. Discrepancies in tables between totals and sums of components reflect rounding. Percentage variations in all tables are based on the underlying unrounded amounts.

The financial statements and notes are presented based on the illustration for a government Department in the *2023-24 Model Report for Victorian Government Departments*. The presentation of other disclosures is generally consistent with the other disclosures made in earlier publications of the Commission's annual reports.

## DISCLOSURE INDEX

The annual report of the Commission is prepared in accordance with all relevant Victorian legislations and pronouncements. This index has been prepared to facilitate identification of the Commission's compliance with statutory disclosure requirements.

Legislation	Requirement	Page Reference
<b>Standing Directions &amp; Financial Reporting Directions</b>		
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<b>Charter and purpose</b>		
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Legislation	Requirement	Page Reference
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Note: (a) References to FRDs have been removed from the Disclosure Index if the specific FRDs do not contain requirements that are of the nature of disclosure.

## Legislation

*Freedom of Information Act 1982*

*Building Act 1993*

*Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*

*Carers Recognition Act 2012*

*Disability Act 2006*

*Local Jobs First Act 2003*

*Financial Management Act 1994*

## BUDGET AND ACTUAL OUTCOMES

The Budget Portfolio Outcomes provide comparisons between the actual financial statements of the agency and forecast financial information published in the Budget Papers.

The following table provides information for the current and previous four financial years.

The following Budget Portfolio Outcomes statements are not subject to audit by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office.

### Financial review of operations and financial condition

Five year financial summary	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Annual Appropriation Actual</b>	<b>839,000</b>	824,000	1,226,200	890,000	856,100
Output appropriations					
– Department of Justice and Community Safety	720,200	778,600	816,200	890,000	856,100
Grants - Specific Purpose – Department of Justice and Community Safety	-	-	410,000	-	-
Grants - Legal Services Board	2,338,234	2,040,375	1,893,049	1,836,210	2,243,000
Other Income	11,000	-	-	-	-
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>3,069,434</b>	<b>2,818,975</b>	<b>3,119,249</b>	<b>2,726,210</b>	<b>3,099,100</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>(2,376,941)</b>	<b>(2,391,129)</b>	<b>(3,025,387)</b>	<b>(3,168,704)</b>	<b>(2,782,619)</b>
Net result from continuing operations	711,078	430,659	110,035	(436,752)	313,356
Net cash flow from operating activities	442,679	701,990	456,534	(92,795)	585,298
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>2,392,142</b>	<b>1,059,346</b>	<b>933,260</b>	<b>1,106,124</b>	<b>1,697,544</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>1,094,883</b>	<b>473,166</b>	<b>790,579</b>	<b>1,090,271</b>	<b>1,244,941</b>

The difference between the annual appropriation and the actual grant from The Department of Justice and Community Safety is a direct result of the annual Government Efficiency Dividend, plus the annual adjustment for depreciation funded capital expenditure.





**Published by the Victorian Law Reform Commission**

The Victorian Law Reform Commission was established under the *Victorian Law Reform Commission Act 2000* as a central agency for developing law reform in Victoria.

This office is located on the land of the Traditional Custodians, the people of the Kulin Nations.

We acknowledge their history, culture and Elders both past and present.

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The Hon. Anthony North KC

**Acting Chair** (*from January 2024*)

The Hon. Jennifer Coate AO

**Commissioners**

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Kathleen Foley SC

Bruce Gardner PSM

Professor Bernadette McSherry

Dan Nicholson

Gemma Varley PSM

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