

IPAA Victoria

# How Modern Government Works

Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation

March 2024

# Acknowledgement of Country

Ideas Advisory acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their elders past, present and emerging.

We extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today.

# Chatham House Rule



When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the **Chatham House Rule**, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

# Event Speakers



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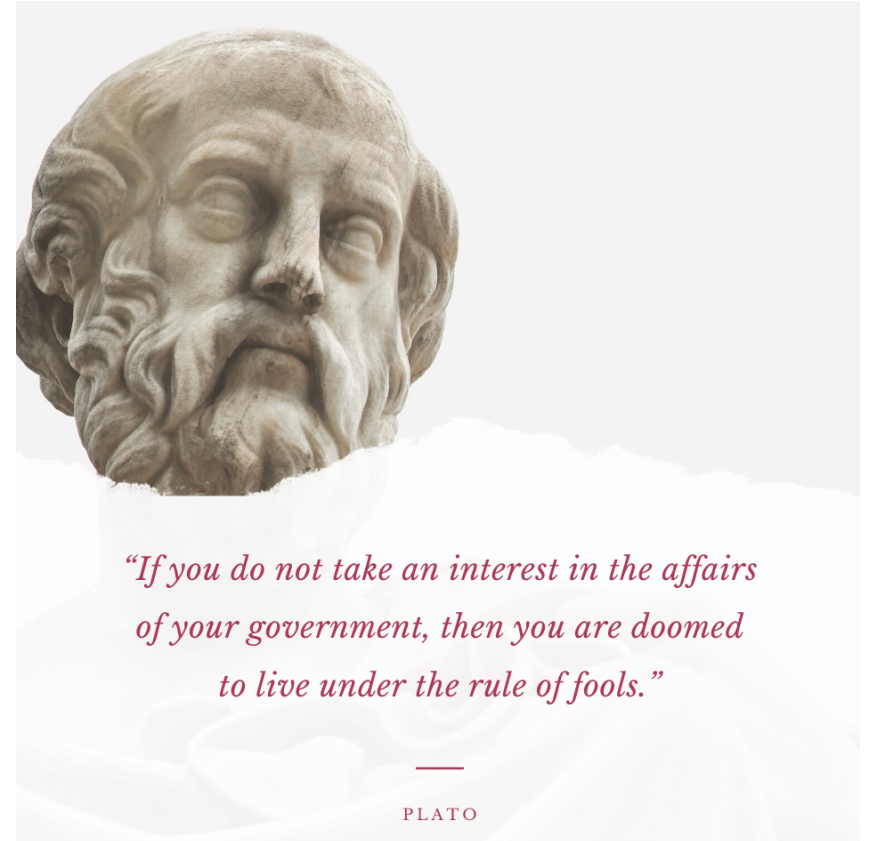
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# Event **Agenda**

- Introduction and welcome
- Part 1: **Development of Government in Australia**
- Part 2: **Development of Government in Victoria**
- Part 3: **Role of Departments and Statutory Entities**
- Part 4: **Cooperation, integrity, independence and accountability**
- Part 5: **My role within the department and government**
- Wrap-up and farewell



# About the Victorian **public sector**

The Victorian public sector is a 300,000 strong workforce employed by the Victorian Government to provide services and support for Victorians.

We are the people in 1800 different departments, agencies and organisations across Victoria who deliver services to the public.

We provide essential services and support for Victorians everywhere — in metropolitan, rural and regional areas. We are nurses, engineers, paramedics, economists, scientists, park rangers, school teachers, legal officers, youth justice workers, museum curators, police officers, firefighters and more.

Although we work for the government, we are independent of political parties. We are impartial, treating all members of the community equally and fairly. Our advice to the government is impartial, frank, and fearless. It has to be so we can be effective in meeting the needs of the community.

# Icebreaker

- Split into groups of 5-6 people
- Introduce yourself
- Discuss what you want to get out of today
- Discuss some Government Speak you have heard
- Pick a speaker to report back to the broader group

## Government **Speak**



'Sometimes one is forced to consider the possibility that affairs are being conducted in a manner which, all things being considered and making all possible allowances is, not to put too fine a point on it, perhaps not entirely straightforward.'

Translation:

'You are lying.'



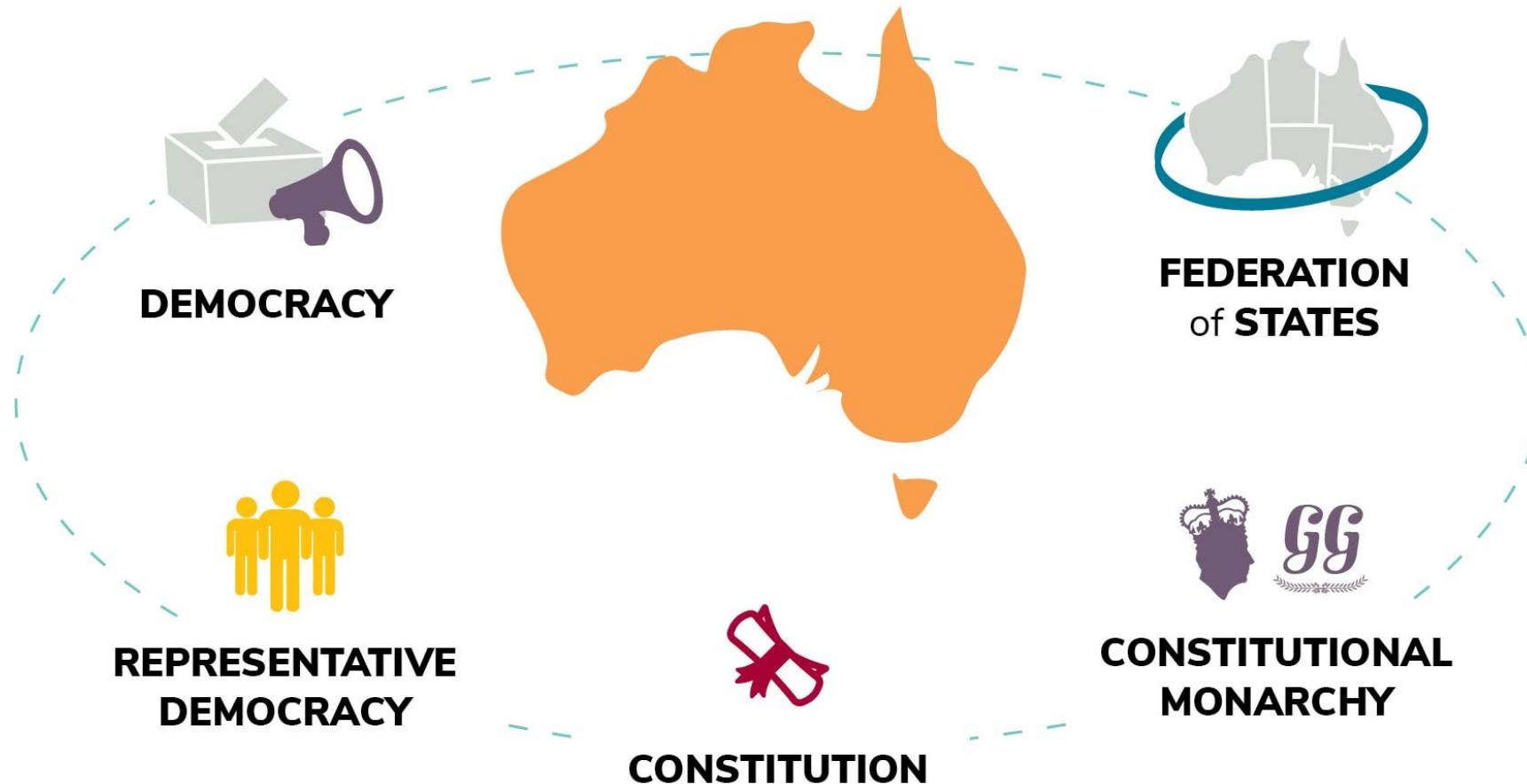
# Part 1

# Development of Government in Australia

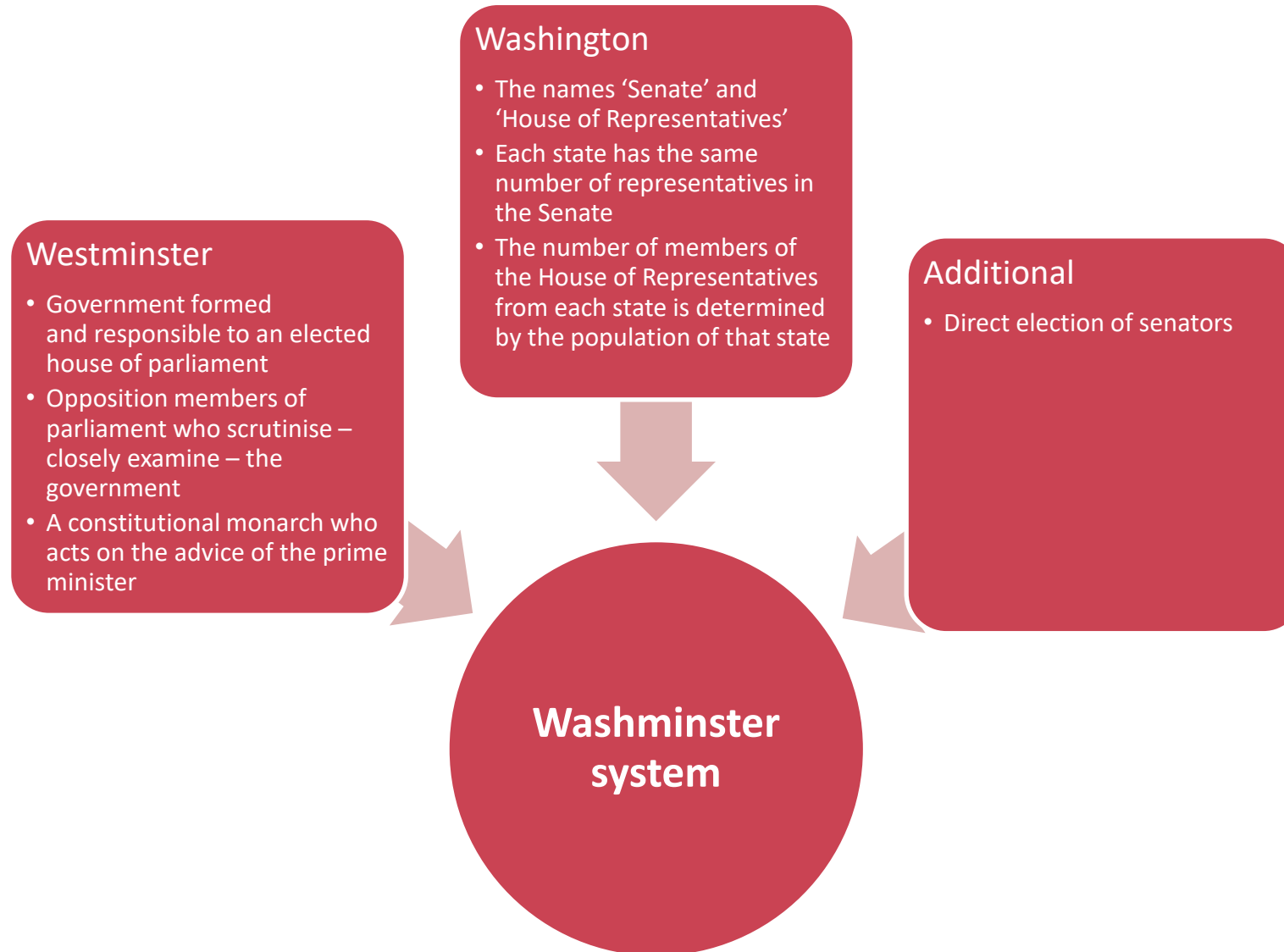
A brief introduction to governance in Australia

# The Australian system of government

## THE AUSTRALIAN SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT



# Development of a **political system**



# Four key ideas of Australian democracy



## Active and engaged citizens

Citizens have a voice and can make changes in society



## An inclusive and equitable society

We work towards a society where everyone is respected and free



## Free and franchised elections

We get to stand for election and choose who makes decisions on our behalf



## The rule of law for both citizens and the government

Everyone is equal before the law and must follow the law

# Federal Government

What does it do?



Cape Otway Lightstation, Great Ocean Road, Victoria.

# States

State	Capital	Population (Sept 2022)	Area (km2)	Population Density (/km2)	No. of Reps. in Aus House	Governor	Premier (Party)	Next election
New South Wales	Sydney	8,193,549	809,952	9.99	47	Margaret Beazley	Chris Minns (Labor)	27 March 2027
Victoria	Melbourne	6,656,281	237,657	27	38	Linda Dessau	Daniel Andrews (Labor)	28 November 2026
Queensland	Brisbane	5,354,801	1,851,736	2.84	30	Jeannette Young	Annastacia Palaszczuk (Labor)	26 October 2024
Western Australia	Perth	2,805,019	2,642,753	1.05	16	Chris Dawson	Mark McGowan (Labor)	8 March 2025
South Australia	Adelaide	1,828,701	1,044,353	1.73	10	Frances Adamson	Peter Malinauskas (Labor)	21 March 2026
Tasmania	Hobart	571,873	90,758	6.28	5	Barbara Baker	Jeremy Rockliff (Liberal)	28 June 2025

# Territories

## Internal territories of Australia

Territory	Capital (or largest settlement)	Population (Sept 2022)	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population Density (/km <sup>2</sup> )	No. of Reps. in Aus House	Chief Minister	Next election
Australian Capital Territory	Canberra	459,048	2,358	192	3	Andrew Barr (Labor)	19th of October 2024
Northern Territory	Darwin	250,602	1,419,630	0.18	2	Natasha Fyles (Labor)	24 August 2024
Jervis Bay Territory	None (Jervis Bay Village)	405	67	6.04	Part of the Division of Fenner (ACT)	None	

# Territories

## External territories of Australia

Territory	Capital (or largest settlement)	Population (Jun 2018)	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population Density (/km <sup>2</sup> )
Christmas Island	Flying Fish Cove	1,938	135	14
Norfolk Island	Kingston	2,601	35	74
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	West Island	547	14	39
Australian Antarctic Territory	None (Davis Station)	60	5,896,500	1.02
Coral Sea Islands	None (Willis Island)	4	780,000	0.000005
Ashmore and Cartier Islands	None (offshore anchorage)	0	199	0
Heard Island and McDonald Islands	None (Atlas Cove)	0	372	0



# Comparative terminology

Entity	Type of entity	Tie to the monarch	Domestic administrator	Head of government	Upper House of Parliament	Lower House of Parliament	Member of Parliament	
							Upper house	Lower house <sup>1</sup>
Commonwealth of Australia	Federal government	Direct	Governor-general	Prime minister	Senate	House of Representatives	Senator	MP
South Australia	Federated state	Direct (established by the Australia Act 1986)	Governor	Premier	Legislative Council	House of Assembly	MLC	MHA
Tasmania						Legislative Assembly		MP
New South Wales								MLA
Victoria					N/A (abolished 1922)	Legislative Assembly	MP	
Western Australia							MLA	
Queensland					—	MP		
Australian Capital Territory	Self-governing territory	Indirect (through the governor-general acting as "administrator")	Assembly and chief minister	Chief minister	—	Legislative Assembly	—	MLA
Northern Territory	External territory	Indirect (through the governor-general)	Administrator	Shire president				Shire Council
Christmas Island					Regional Council <sup>2</sup>	Councillor		
Cocos (Keeling) Islands				Regional Council <sup>2</sup>			Councillor	
Norfolk Island					Regional Council <sup>2</sup>	Councillor		

1. The abbreviation MP is an acceptable, and indeed more common, term for members of each lower house.

2. Between 1979 and 2015 Norfolk Island was a self-governing external territory with its own legislature, the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly, until this was abolished by the Commonwealth Parliament.

# The Third Tier

Local Governments are responsible for matters such as:

- Sanitation
- Local roads and Planning
- Development and Zoning
- Libraries and Parking
- Regional Economic Development
- Most financial support for LGs comes from levying local rates and charges, and from State grants.

More recently the Federal Government has made grants directly to influence or steer policy



# Local governments by type and state

Local government area types	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	NT	ACT	Total
Boroughs		1							1
Cities	28	33	7	29	21	6	2		126
Councils	28				15				43
District councils					25				25
Municipalities	6					23	3		32
Regional councils	8				4		9		21
Rural cities		6			1				7
Shires	58	39	28	104			3		232
Towns			1	8	2				11
Aboriginal councils									5
Aboriginal shires			12						12
Region			30						30
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>545</b>
Unincorporated	2	10			1		5	1	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>564</b>

# Who does what?

Daily tasks	Which level of government gets involved?		
	Federal Government	State Government	Local Government
Shower and get ready		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Power, gas, water, sewerage from State corporations</li> </ul>	
Have breakfast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currency</li> <li>• Trade, imports &amp; exports</li> <li>• Advertising</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consumer laws</li> <li>• Shop and workplace laws</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health inspections of shops</li> </ul>
Learn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding to States</li> <li>• Higher education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education Department</li> <li>• School funding and subjects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local kindergartens and pre-schools</li> </ul>
Go to the library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Library</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Library</li> <li>• School libraries</li> <li>• Subsidies to councils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local libraries</li> </ul>
Play sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian Institute of Sport</li> <li>• National sports bodies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State sports centre</li> <li>• Funding to local councils</li> <li>• Safety, health and education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local sports fields and playgrounds</li> </ul>
Watch TV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broadcasting laws</li> <li>• ABC TV and Radio</li> </ul>		
Go to the doctor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medicare</li> <li>• Funding to States</li> <li>• Drug control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospitals</li> <li>• Ambulance services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community services, e.g. meals on wheels</li> </ul>
Put out the garbage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International treaties and national environmental policies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste disposal</li> <li>• Pollution controls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garbage collection</li> <li>• Local environment</li> </ul>

## Part 2

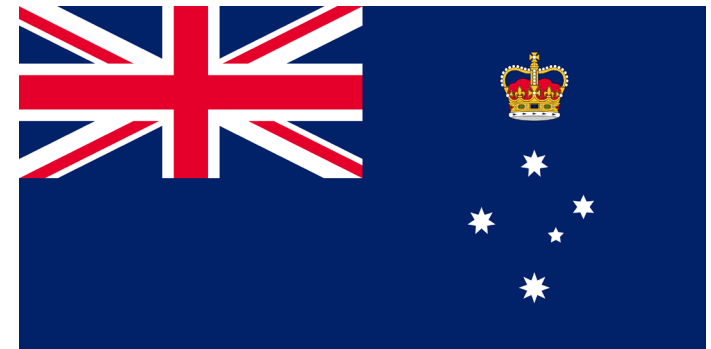
# Development of Government in Victoria

A brief introduction to governance in Victoria

# State Government

## Victoria State Government

Formation	1 July 1851	As a responsible colonial government
	1 January 1901	As an Australian state



# Government in Victoria



# The Monarch



King Charles III\*

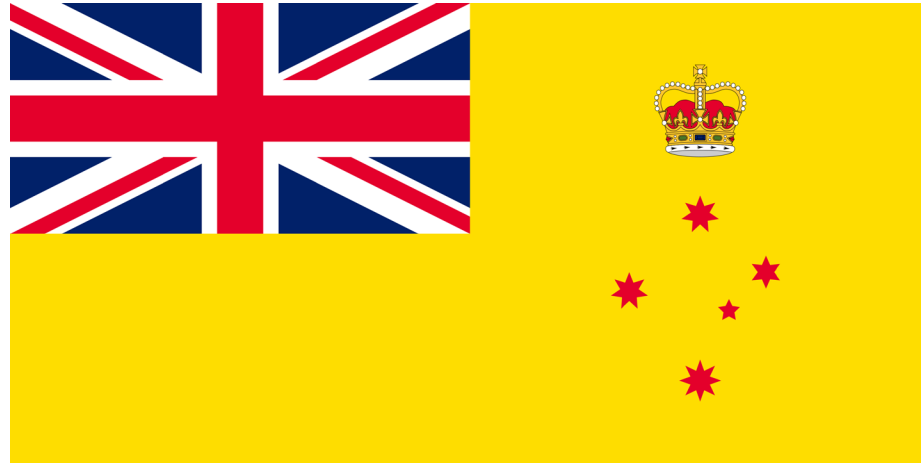
\*His Majesty Charles the Third, by the Grace of God, King of Australia and His other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth.



# The Governor as **Head of State**



Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC is the Governor of Victoria.



# The Premier as **Head of Government**



Hon Jacinta Allan MP is the Premier of Victoria, and the Leader of the Victorian Labor Party.

She was sworn in as the 49th Premier of Victoria on 27 September 2023.

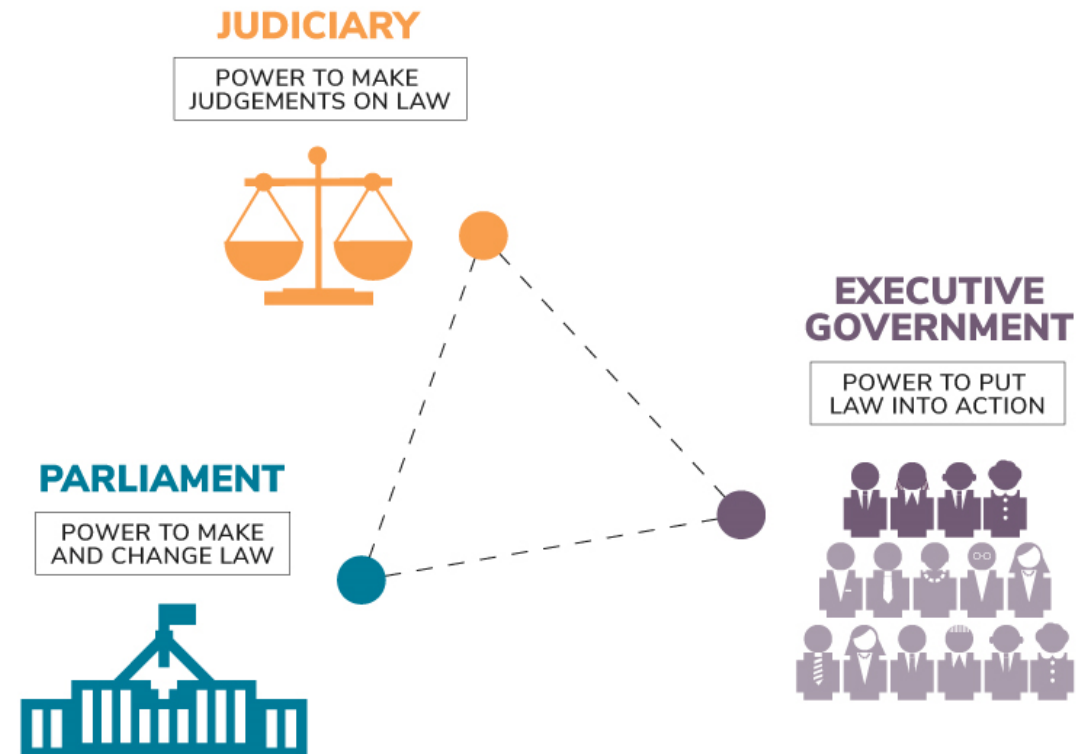
# Three powers of Government

Key elements of the Constitution and the system of state governments in Australia include:

- **A Legislature [Parliament]**
- **An Executive branch [Government]**
- **A separate Judiciary**

With a clear separation of power between:

- Parliament
- Executive
- Judiciary



# The Legislature - Parliament

Parliament comprises the Crown (the Governor) the Legislative Assembly (Lower House) and the Legislative Council (Upper House). This two house system is referred to as a bicameral system.

## Parliament:

- provides for the formation of Government
- passes legislation
- approves the Government's budget appropriations
- represents the people of Victoria
- scrutinises the actions of the Government

# The Executive – Government

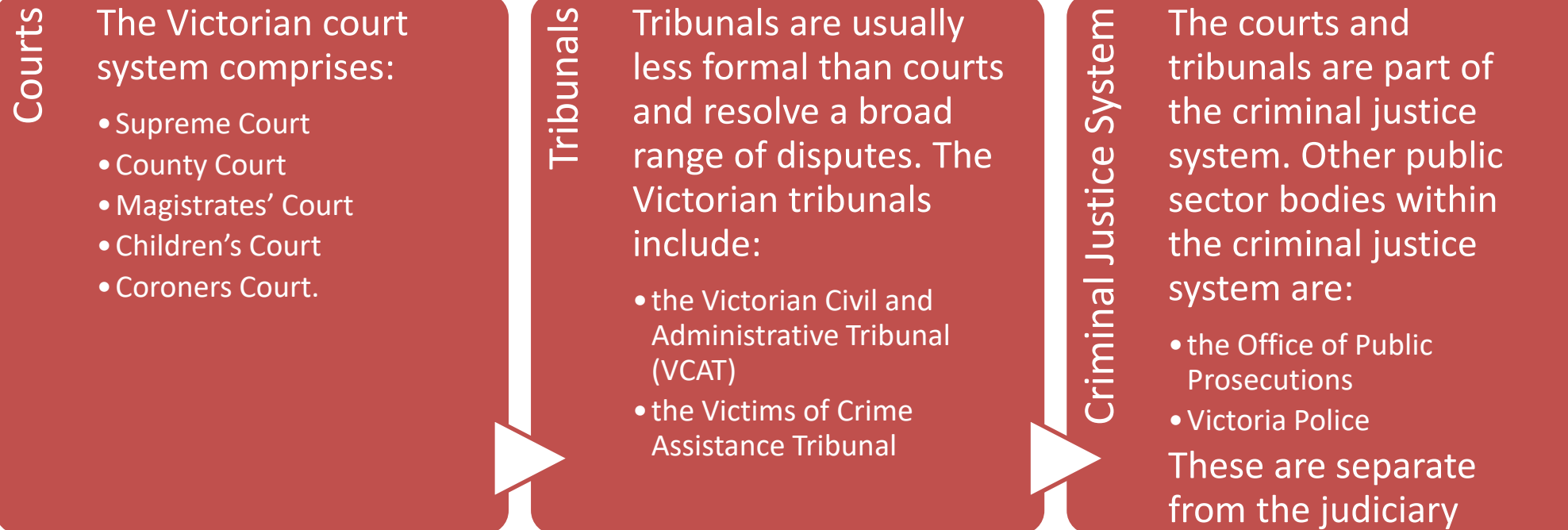
The executive is responsible for the administration of laws passed by Parliament and the delivery of public services.

The Executive is comprised of the

- Governor
- Ministers
- Administrative agencies of the government
  - Departments and public entities

# The Judiciary

Laws are made by state and Commonwealth governments, which means there are state and Commonwealth courts and tribunals. Victoria has a number of courts and tribunals. Their role is to interpret the laws, adjudicate disputes and impose penalties on people or organisations that have broken the law.



# Legislative Assembly

- The Legislative Assembly is the lower house of the Victorian Parliament
- Consists of 88 representatives
- 45 members needed to form Government
- Members are elected from electorates which represents an area within Victoria
- Elected every four years
- Serjeant-at-Arms
  - The Serjeant-at-Arms maintains order in the Legislative Assembly chamber and performs ceremonial duties.
  - They carry the ceremonial mace at the start of every sitting day.



# Legislative Council

- The Legislative Council is the upper house of the Victorian Parliament
- Consists of 40 representatives
- Members are elected from eight multi-member constituencies, each returning five members, and elected by proportional representation
- Elected every four years for a fixed four-year term
- Usher of the Black Rod
  - The Usher of the Black Rod keeps order in the Legislative Council Chamber and performs ceremonial duties.





# Constitutions

**Authorised Version No. 223**

**Constitution Act 1975**

No. 8750 of 1975

Authorised Version incorporating amendments as at  
17 March 2021

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Authorised by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel

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## AUSTRALIA'S CONSTITUTION

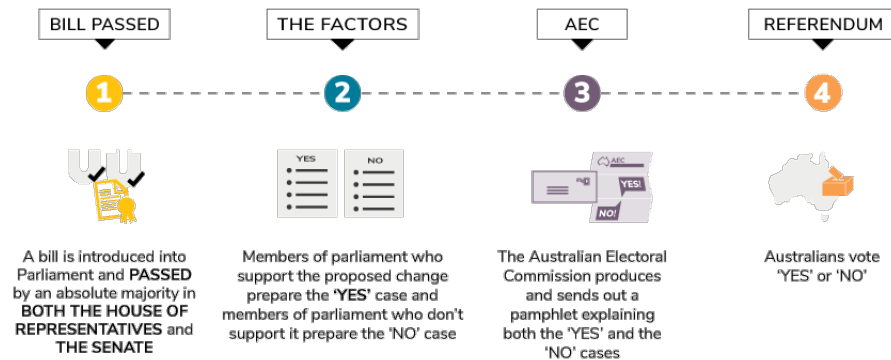
With Overview and Notes by the  
Australian Government Solicitor



Produced by the Parliamentary Education Office and  
Australian Government Solicitor, Canberra

# Referendums and plebiscites

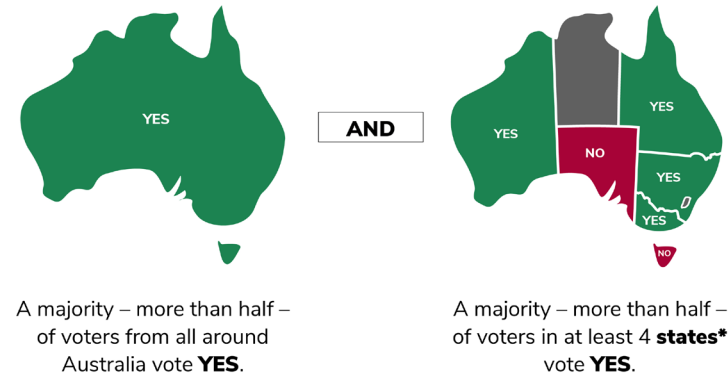
## HOW TO CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION



## DOUBLE MAJORITY

The Australian Constitution can only be changed with the support of the majority of Australian voters **AND** a majority of voters in a majority of states (ie. at least 4 states).

A REFERENDUM IS PASSED WHEN:



\*Votes from the ACT, NT and other territories are counted in the national majority only.

# Conventions

A convention is an unwritten understanding about how something in Parliament should be done that, although not legally enforceable, is almost universally observed.

Occasionally a new convention is agreed upon in order to resolve a specific procedural issue that has arisen.

- The Prime Minister.
- Whoever can command a majority in the House of Representatives is entitled to be asked by the Governor-General to form a government, and take the title Prime Minister.
- Governors-General always act on the advice of their Prime Minister or other relevant minister in regard to particular powers they may exercise.
- An incumbent Prime Minister who loses an election will advise the Governor-General to appoint the leader of the larger party as Prime Minister so the Governor-General does not need to act alone.
- State Premiers tender advice to State Governors for Federal Senate elections, in response to the Prime Minister's advice to the Governor-General to call a Federal House of Representatives election.
- State Governors are given a dormant commission to administer the Commonwealth if the Governor-General is unable to.

# Rights

The rights we do have in the Australian constitution are:


- The right to vote (section 41)
- The right to trial by jury (section 80)
- Freedom of religion (section 116)
- Protection against unjust acquisition of property (section 51)
- And the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of what state you live in (section 117)



# Freedom of **speech**

- The Australian Constitution does not explicitly protect freedom of expression.
- There is no explicit right to freedom of Speech in Australia
- The constitution does have an implied right to freedom of “political communication.” (sections 7 and 24 )

Freedom of Speech isn't Freedom From Consequences

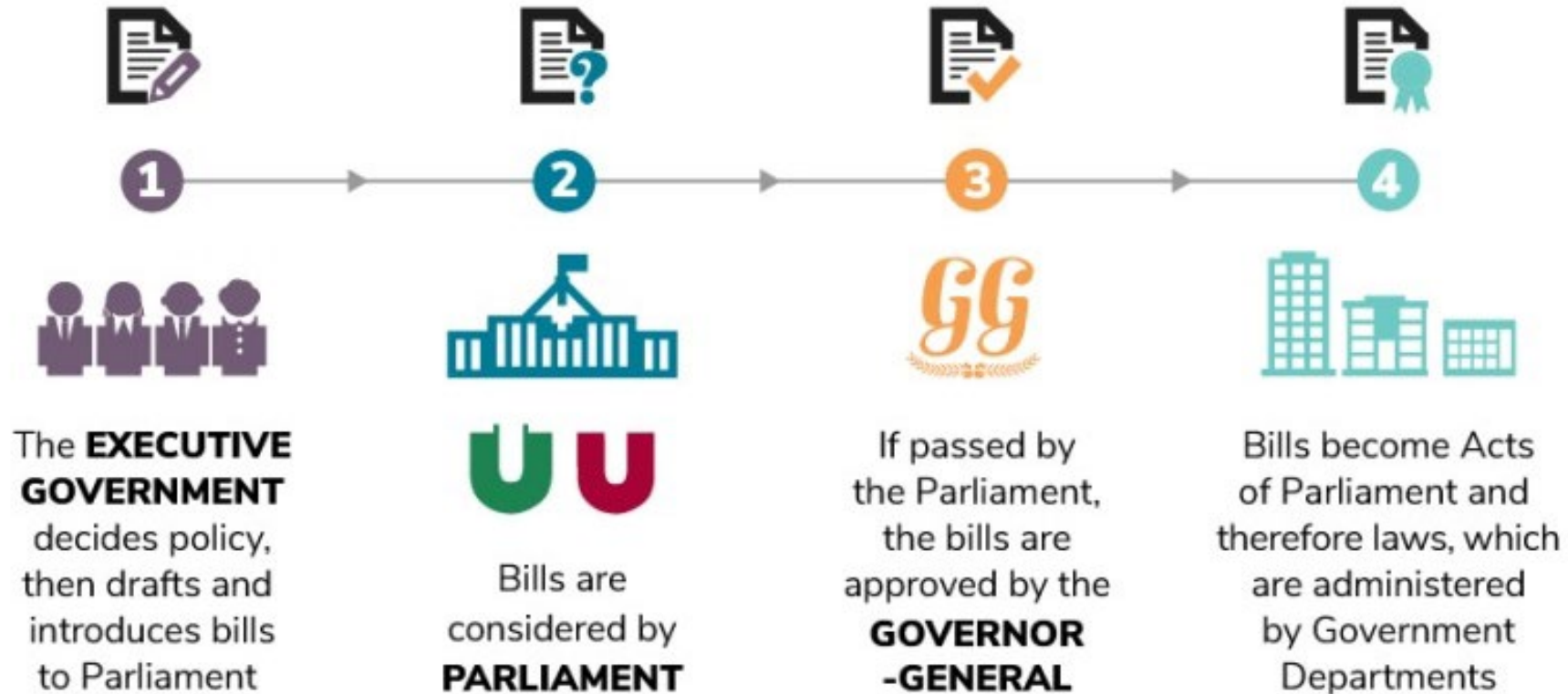
**Australia** [REDACTED]   
[REDACTED] **is the only** [REDACTED]  
**democracy** [REDACTED] **in the world**  
[REDACTED] **that does not** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] **enshrine** [REDACTED] **free speech**  
**and a free press.** [REDACTED]

# Free speech as a **public servant**

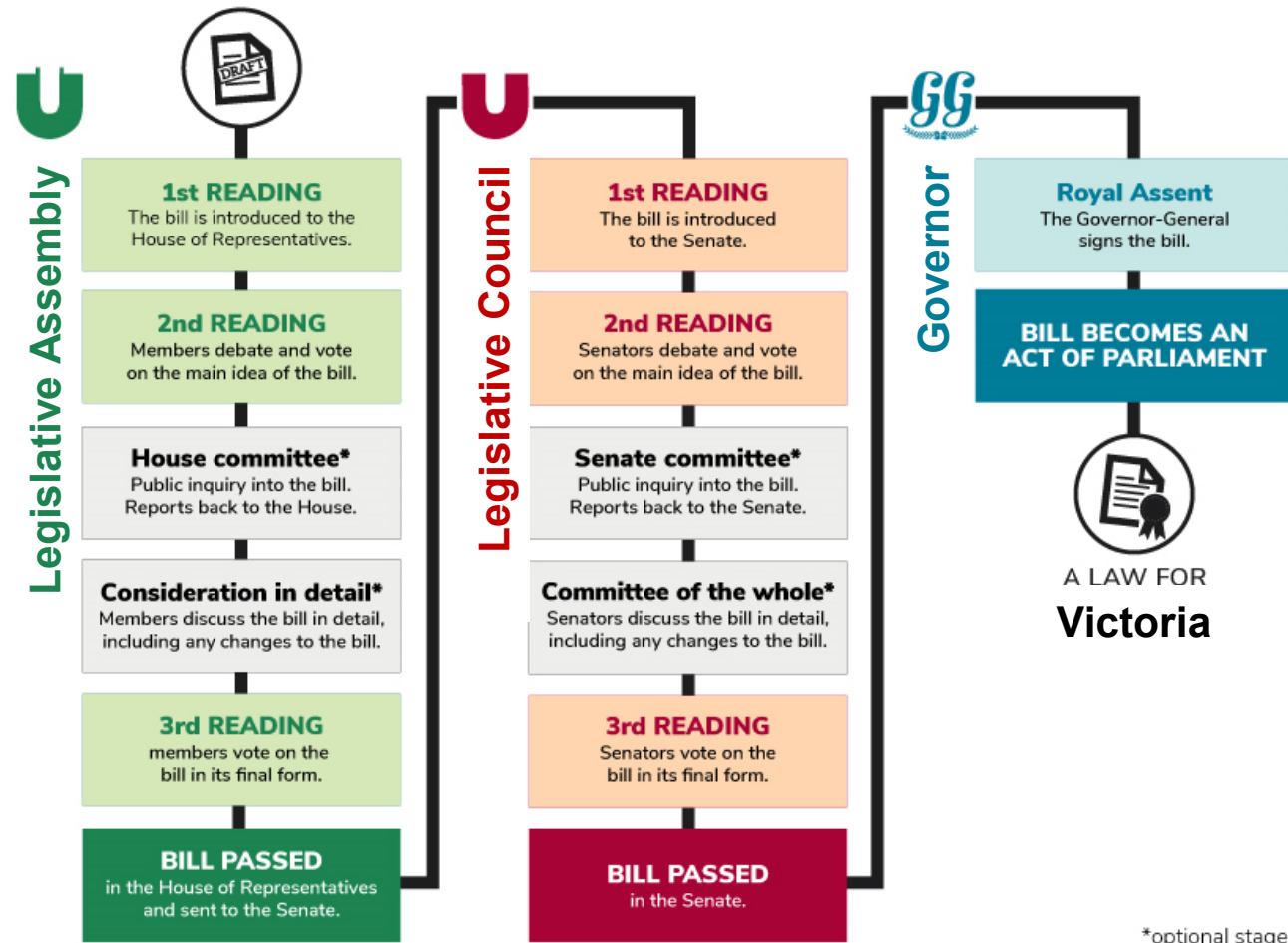
- Make it clear that the views you're expressing are your own and not your agency's
- It's generally a bad idea to make comments about policy issues that are relevant to your work
- Be thoughtful about the language you use
- Remember that people will judge your agency by the tone and content of what you say
- Don't make derogatory comments about your agency or the people you work with
- If you 'like' or share someone else's post, that can be seen as your endorsement
- Assume that whatever you say or write will be linked back to you eventually
- Don't rely on your privacy settings to keep your posts private
- Commenting in your own time doesn't provide you with a "Get Out of Jail Free" card



# From policy to law



# Usual path of a bill



**?** **Senate referral**  
The Senate may refer the text of the bill to a Senate committee for inquiry (this can happen while the bill is in the House).



# Cabinet of Victoria

The Cabinet of Victoria, also known as the Executive Council of Victoria, oversees Victoria's executive branch of Government.

Ministers of the executive council undertake responsibilities aligned with their portfolio area and are responsible for the subordinate government departments relevant to their ministry positions.

The Governor of Victoria presides over the Executive council; however, she is not a member.

# Cabinet as of January 2024



Jacinta Allan  
Premier



Ben Carroll  
Deputy Premier  
Minister for Education  
Minister for Medical Research



Jaclyn Symes  
Leader of the Government in the  
Legislative Council  
Attorney-General  
Minister for Emergency Services



Tim Pallas  
Treasurer  
Minister for Industrial Relations  
Minister for Economic Growth



Sonya Kilkenny  
Minister for Planning  
Minister for the Suburbs



Danny Pearson  
Minister for Transport Infrastructure  
Minister for the Suburban Rail Loop  
Assistant Treasurer  
Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC



Harriet Shing  
Minister for Housing  
Minister for Water  
Minister for Equality



Ros Spence  
Minister for Agriculture  
Minister for Community Sport  
Minister for Carers and Volunteers



Lizzie Blandthorn  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the  
Legislative Council  
Minister for Children  
Minister for Disability



Colin Brooks  
Minister for Development Victoria  
Minister for Precincts  
Minister for Creative Industries



Anthony Carbines  
Minister for Police  
Minister for Crime Prevention  
Minister for Racing



Lily D'Ambrosio  
Minister for Climate Action  
Minister for Energy and Resources  
Minister for the State Electricity  
Commission



Ingrid Stitt  
Minister for Mental Health  
Minister for Ageing  
Minister for Multicultural Affairs



Natalie Suleyman  
Minister for Veterans  
Minister for Small Business  
Minister for Youth



Mary-Anne Thomas  
Leader of the House  
Minister for Health  
Minister for Health Infrastructure  
Minister for Ambulance Services



Gayle Tierney  
Minister for Skills and TAFE  
Minister for Regional Development



Steve Dimopoulos  
Minister for Environment  
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major  
Events  
Minister for Outdoor Recreation



Enver Erdogan  
Minister for Corrections  
Minister for Youth Justice  
Minister for Victim Support



Melissa Horne  
Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor  
Regulation  
Minister for Local Government  
Minister for Ports and Freight  
Minister for Roads and Road Safety



Natalie Hutchins  
Minister for Jobs and Industry  
Minister for Treaty and First Peoples  
Minister for Women



Vicki Ward  
Minister for Prevention of Family Violence  
Minister for Employment



Gabrielle Williams  
Minister for Government Services  
Minister for Consumer Affairs  
Minister for Public and Active Transport



Steve McGhie  
Cabinet Secretary

# Cabinet processes



The Cabinet handbook outlines:

- the place of Cabinet within the broader system of Executive Government
- the underlying principles of Cabinet
- general expectations for Cabinet business and meetings
- processes for appointments
- components of a quality submission
- requirements to manage and secure Cabinet documents

# Matters for Cabinet

Cabinet considers major or significant policy issues. Types of submissions for Cabinet consideration include the following:

- requiring new legislation
- relating to the whole of Victorian Government policies and programs
- with a significant impact on either public or private sector investment and employment
- establishing new non-departmental entities
- relating to significant intergovernmental matters
- relating to reports and other major policy reviews which require a Victorian Government submission/response
- to make certain appointments to public boards as specified in the Appointment and Remuneration Guidelines

Items proposed for Cabinet consideration may first require consideration by a Cabinet Committee, especially for policy matters which require consultation across Government.

# Cabinet Committees

Cabinet Committees are established by a decision of the Premier or Cabinet.

The Committee structure comprises three types:

- **Standing committees:** ongoing committees that report directly to Cabinet and support it in its decision-making role and provide oversight of Sub-committees and Taskforces (e.g. Budget, expenditure review)
- **Sub-committees:** ongoing committees that support a specific whole of government policy area, allow for broad Ministerial representation and support standing Committees (e.g. environment, jobs/employment)
- **Taskforces:** time-limited committees that are used to develop, implement and oversee the delivery of a specific policy, or related set of policies. (e.g. Emergency Management)



# Cabinet Conventions

As with other Westminster Governments, the Cabinet is not established by statute, and its strength is maintained through adherence to principles focused on shared purpose and robust deliberation.

These are:

- Collective responsibility
- Confidentiality
- 'Need to know' principle

# Cabinet and Legislation Liaison Officers

CLLOs are the point of contact in each department for information and guidance on Cabinet and are usually members of the department's Cabinet Team. The role of the CLLO includes:

- providing advice on Cabinet processes and protocols and ensuring the timely lodgement of submissions
- being the central point of contact for Cabinet Office and other departments on Cabinet matters relating to their department
- monitoring, coordinating and forecasting Cabinet business of the Minister/s and department and keeping Cabinet Office informed of developments
- ensuring submissions and all attachments, including second reading speeches and Statements of Compatibility with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, adhere to the procedural requirements outlined in this Handbook
- overseeing access to, and security of, Cabinet documents held within their department.



## A hypothetical **case study**

The Premier has announced that a party in the upper house (Legislative Council) said they'll pass critical legislation if two new medically supervised injecting rooms are approved in Victoria.

**In groups, answer the following:**  
What information should the Secretary of DPC seek from within their Department and other government departments and entities?



Ambulance attendances **reduced by 36% for opioid ODs** within 1km during opening hours



Enabled clients to access **10,540 health and social services**



Avoided at least **21 deaths**

**Medically Supervised Injecting Room**



## Part 3

# Role of Departments and Statutory Entities

# Victorian government

## Victorian public sector

Victorian Public Service

Public entities

Special  
bodies

Public service body head and department secretary

Statutory  
authorities

Corporations

Advisory  
bodies

Departments

Administrative  
offices

Victorian  
Public Sector  
Commission

Central  
agencies

Line  
Departments

# The Victorian **Public Service**

The Victorian Public Service (VPS) is made up of people employed by the Crown under Part 3 of the Public Administration Act 2004.

This includes employees of:

- departments
- administrative offices
- the Victorian Public Sector Commission.

The VPS:

- delivers programs and services
- implements legislative and regulatory agendas
- provides impartial and objective policy advice, also known as ‘frank and fearless advice’.

VPS employees can’t provide political advice. Political advice is given by ministerial advisers, who are not VPS employees.

# Westminster theory:

## Accountability

- Vertical accountability  
Parliament is accountable to the people  
(elections)
- Minister is accountable to Parliament
- Secretary is accountable to the Minister
- Department accountable to the Secretary



# Ministers

## MINISTER'S ROLE

### POLITICAL

*Domain of the Ministers Office*

*Areas of shared responsibility  
that require clear parameters to avoid  
role confusion and overlap*

### ADMINISTRATIVE

*Domain of the Public Service*

Constituency	Political Party	Press/Media	Parliament	Cabinet	Government Departments
<b>Local Member</b>	<b>Party Representative</b>	<b>Representative of Government</b>	<b>Member of Parliament</b>	<b>Cabinet Member (as appropriate)</b>	<b>Head of Department</b>
<i>Service local issues</i> <i>Attend local functions</i> <i>Represent interests</i>	<i>Represent government in party forums</i> <i>Retain support</i>	<i>Engage media</i> <i>Deliver government's message</i>	<i>Answer questions</i> <i>Maintain morale</i> <i>Sell policies</i>	<i>Prepare</i> <i>Attend</i> <i>Contribute</i> <i>Sell policies</i>	<i>Determine policy</i> <i>Make decisions</i> <i>Manage portfolio</i>

# State Government Departments

These are the current departments at 1 January 2023.



Departments	Type
Department of Education	Line department
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	Line department
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Line department
Department of Government Services	Line department
Department of Health	Line department
Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions	Line department
Department of Justice and Community Safety	Line department
Department of Premier and Cabinet	Central agency
Department of Transport and Planning	Line department
Department of Treasury and Finance	Central agency

# Administrative Offices

Administrative offices are like departments.

They also:

- have a public service body head whom the Premier appoints
- employ people under Part 3 of the Administration Act 2004
- perform activities under the direction of ministers.

Examples include:

- Major Transport Infrastructure Authority
- Office of the Governor
- Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel
- Public Record Office Victoria.

# Public entities

Public entities include statutory authorities, state-owned enterprises, state-owned corporations and formally constituted advisory boards.

Victoria has over 3,000 public entities. They operate at 'arm's length' from ministers.

Around half employ staff and the vast majority comprise volunteer members.

Public entities:

- deliver government services
- manage public assets
- act as regulators or provide expert advice
- promote economic development.

Examples of major public entities include:

- Ambulance Victoria
- Melbourne Water
- Parks Victoria
- Transport Accident Commission
- VicRoads.

Some public entities have employees, and some don't.



# Special Bodies

The Victorian public sector also includes special bodies.

- A department of the Parliament of Victoria Commissioner
- Commission for Children and Young People
- Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner
- Electoral Boundaries Commission
- Victoria Police
- Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission
- Victorian Auditor-General's Office
- Mental Health Complaints Commissioner
- Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal
- Mental Health Tribunal
- Victorian Electoral Commission
- Office of the Health Complaints Commissioner
- Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal (the Tribunal)
- Office of the Ombudsman
- The Victorian Inspectorate.
- Office of the Victims of Crime

# Victoria's finances

## Sources of Revenue

- The Victorian Government raises revenue and also receives revenue from other sources.
- The Victorian Government receives revenue from the Commonwealth Government.

## Appropriation Bill and Budget papers

- The Constitution provides that the Lower House is the source of all legislation involving the expenditure of government revenue.

## The Public Account is reported in the Budget papers

- The Government's primary account is the consolidated fund that receives all revenue raised by and granted to the state, and from which amounts are appropriated by Parliament for specific purposes.
- The consolidated fund, together with the trust fund, forms the public account.

## Financial Management

- The Financial Management Act 1994 administers the use of public money and the accountability processes and secondary legislation with which departments and public entities must comply.

## Procurement

- Procurement is an essential part of the public sector's financial management system. It is crucial that there are rigorous processes in place to ensure a high level of probity and accountability in procurement and to ensure that public money is being spent in the most efficient and effective way.

# Government sector revenue

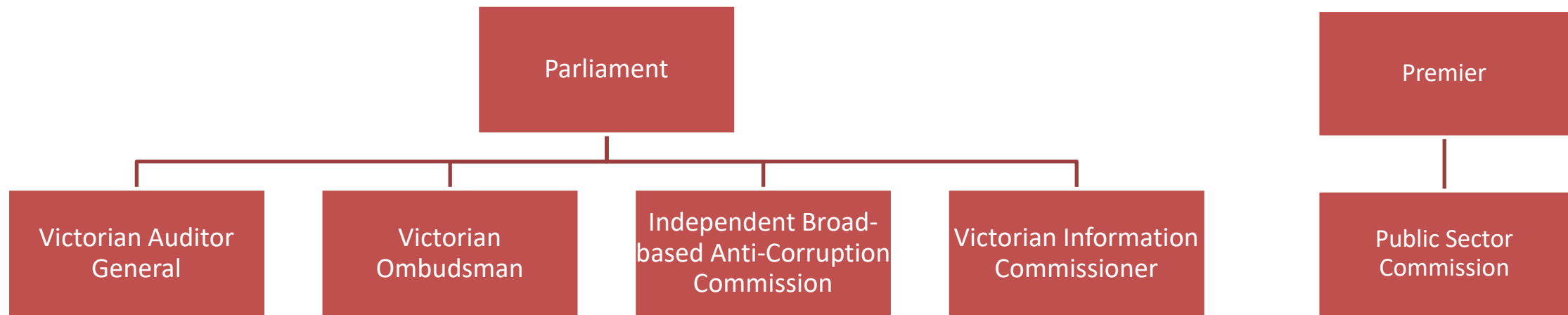
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Revenue and income from transactions	actual	revised	budget	estimate	estimate	estimate
Taxation	23613	30063	30488	32216	33312	35003
Dividends, TER and interest	1214	1189	1317	1464	1629	1651
Sales of goods and services	7949	5491	6366	6410	6495	6527
Other revenue and income	2915	3257	3459	3619	3209	3434
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>35691</b>	<b>40000</b>	<b>41630</b>	<b>43709</b>	<b>44645</b>	<b>46615</b>
Grants	36958	41869	40351	40884	43019	44825
<b>Total</b>	<b>72649</b>	<b>81869</b>	<b>81981</b>	<b>84593</b>	<b>87664</b>	<b>91440</b>

## Part 4

**Cooperation, integrity,  
independence and  
accountability in the way the  
public sector operates**



# Agencies of **accountability and integrity**



# Victoria's integrity system



## **Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission**

Exposes and prevents public sector corruption and police misconduct.



## **Victorian Ombudsman**

Investigates administrative actions of state government departments, local councils and statutory authorities.



## **Victorian Auditor-General's Office**

Provides independent assurance to the Parliament and the Victorian community on the financial integrity and performance of the state.



## **Victorian Information Commissioner**

The primary regulator and source of independent advice to the community and Victorian government about how the public sector collects uses and discloses information.

# IBAC's powers



covert surveillance



entry, search and  
seizure



hearings  
(public and private)



own motion  
investigations



possess, carry and use  
defensive equipment  
and firearms



confidentiality  
notices



prosecutorial  
powers

# Whistleblower

## Changes to whistleblower legislation

Under the new legislation:

- a ‘protected disclosure’ is now called a ‘public interest disclosure’
- there is a lower threshold for making a public interest disclosure to the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission (IBAC)
- there is an expanded definition of ‘improper conduct’

There is also a new ‘no wrong door’ principle.

This principle means if a person discloses to the wrong entity, that entity can send it to the right entity and the person won’t lose their protection, so long as:

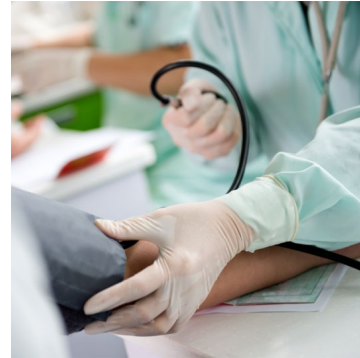
- it’s an entity that can receive disclosures and
- the person believes the entity they disclosed to was the right one



# VAGO



Transport



Health services



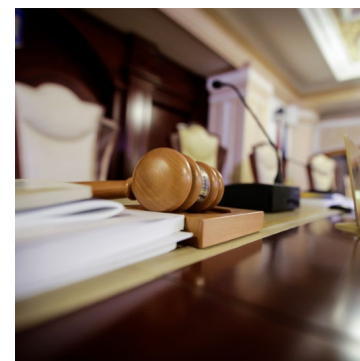
Education



Business and  
economic  
development



Environment  
and natural  
resources



Justice

# Victorian Information Commissioner



**Educating** on FOI, privacy and information security matters



Providing **guidance** on the Victorian Protective Data Security Framework and on efficient and effective information security outcomes



**Ensuring** fair access to government information



Providing **guidance** on the Information Privacy Principles



**Helping** individuals understand and exercise their privacy rights



Helping individuals **understand and exercise** their right to access government information



Taking **regulatory action** in the public interest



# Royal Commissions and Inquiries



# Productivity Commission

INSTITUTE OF  
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
AUSTRALIA

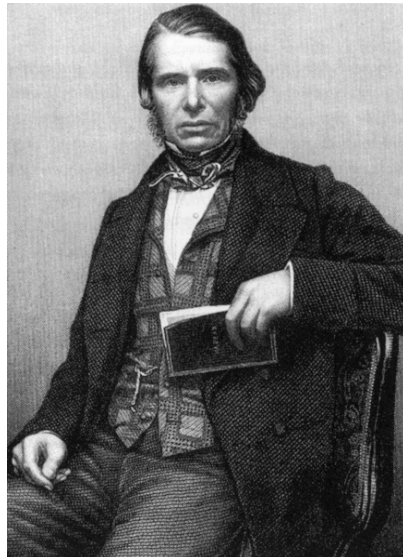
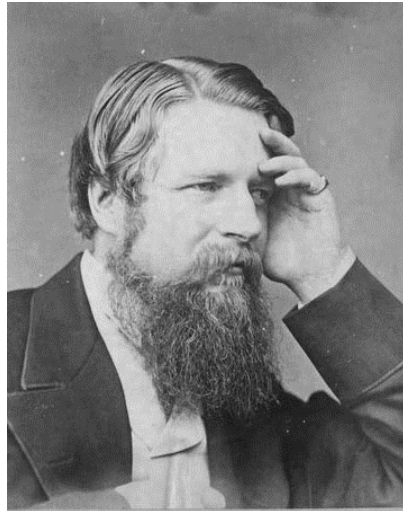
**IPAA**  
VICTORIA



## Part 5

# My/our role within the Department and broader Government

# A tradition of independence



REPORT  
OF THE  
ORGANISATION  
OF THE  
PERMANENT CIVIL SERVICE,  
TOGETHER WITH A  
LETTER FROM ~~THE~~ REV. B. JOWETT.

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS



LONDON:  
PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,  
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.  
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

q/JN  
428  
NOR

1854.



Providing advice to Ministers used to be primarily a **public sector** function

# That is rapidly changing...

## Role of Ministerial Advisers

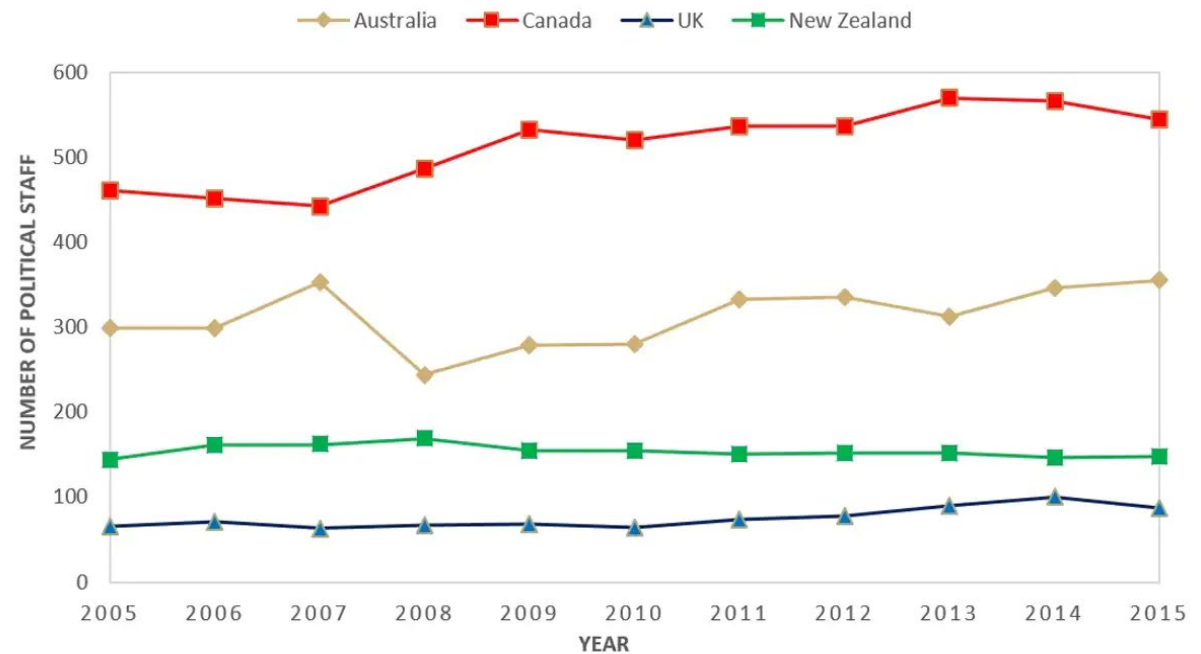
### RCAGA SYMPOSIUM

#### Ministerial Advisers and the Royal Commission on Australian Government Administration\*

Maria Maley  
Australian National University

*The role of the ministerial office was one of the key issues investigated by the Royal Commission on Australian Government Administration (RCAGA) in 1976. At the time the ministerial office was undergoing new and controversial developments. In the 25 years since the Royal Commission the new ministerial office has become a permanent and accepted part of our machinery of government. This paper reviews RCAGA's analysis of ministerial advisers and uses research on the Keating advisers in 1995-96 to track how the institution of the ministerial office has developed since the time of the Royal Commission.*

NUMBER OF POLITICAL STAFF, 2005-2015





# Your role in the VPS

Professionals who work in the Victorian Public Service are obliged to act in a particular way.

The Victorian code of conduct requires you to:

- be responsive to the government of the day
- demonstrate integrity
- be impartial and accountable
- respect and promote human rights
- comply with all applicable Australian laws
- respect colleagues, public officials and the Victorian community.

# Your role in the VPS

Professionals who work in the Victorian Public Service are obliged to act in a particular way.

Values of a professional and politically neutral **public service**



Responsiveness



Integrity



Impartiality



Accountability



Respect



Leadership



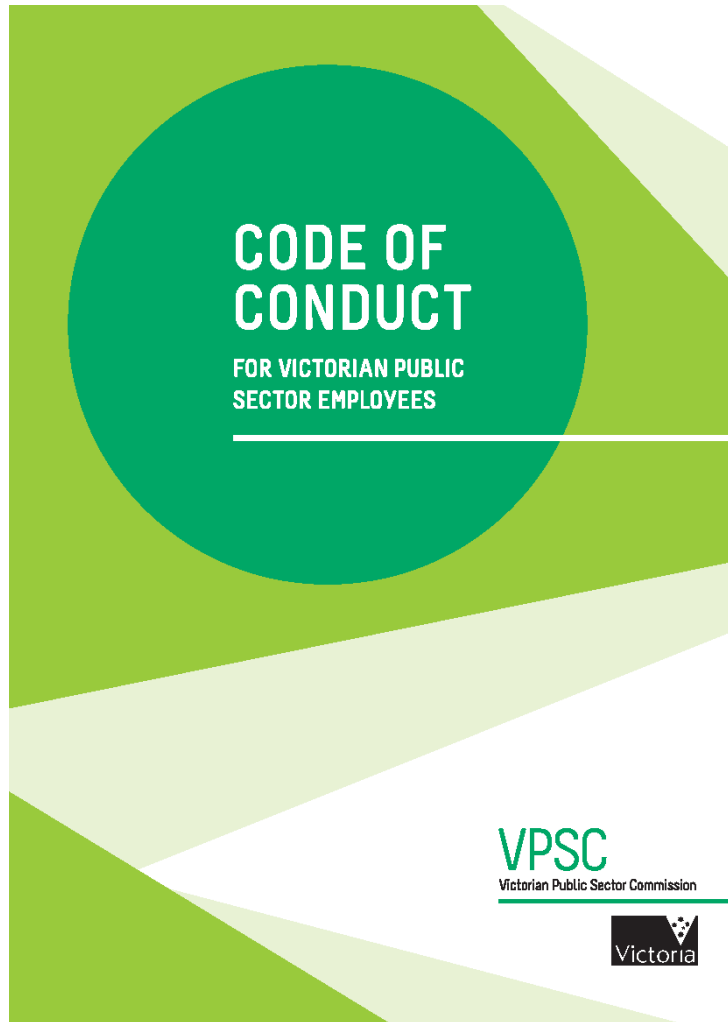
Human Rights

Values incorporated in the *Victorian Public Administration Act 2004*

**Defined as frank and fearless advice**



# Code of conduct



Public servants must demonstrate

- responsiveness
- integrity
- impartiality
- accountability
- respect
- leadership
- commitment to human rights

# Code of conduct

## Responsiveness

Public officials should demonstrate responsiveness by:

- i. providing frank, impartial and timely advice to the Government; and
- ii. providing high quality services to the Victorian community; and
- iii. identifying and promoting best practice.



**Responsiveness**

# Code of conduct

## Integrity

Public officials should demonstrate integrity by:

- i. being honest, open and transparent in their dealings; and
- ii. using powers responsibly; and
- iii. reporting improper conduct; and
- iv. avoiding any real or apparent conflicts of interest; and
- v. striving to earn and sustain public trust of a high level.



**Integrity**

# Code of conduct

## Impartiality

Public officials should demonstrate impartiality by:

- i. making decisions and providing advice on merit and without bias, caprice, favouritism or self-interest; and
- ii. acting fairly by objectively considering all relevant facts and fair criteria; and
- iii. implementing Government policies and programs equitably.



**Impartiality**

# Code of conduct

## Accountability

Public officials should demonstrate accountability by:

- i. working to clear objectives in a transparent manner; and
- ii. accepting responsibility for their decisions and actions; and
- iii. seeking to achieve best use of resources; and
- iv. submitting themselves to appropriate scrutiny.



**Accountability**

# Code of conduct

## Respect

Public officials should demonstrate respect for colleagues, other public officials and members of the Victorian community by:

- i. treating them fairly and objectively; and
- ii. ensuring freedom from discrimination, harassment and bullying; and
- iii. using their views to improve outcomes on an ongoing basis.



**Respect**



# Code of conduct

## Leadership

Public officials should demonstrate leadership by actively implementing, promoting and supporting these values.



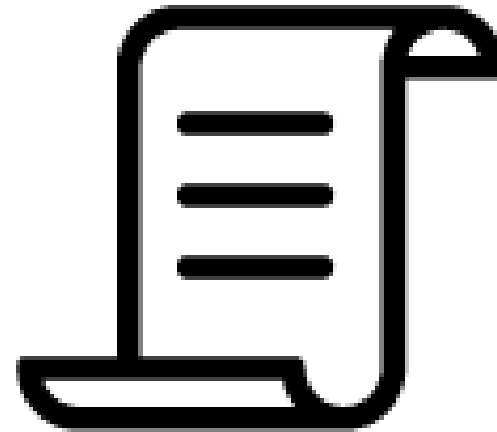
**Leadership**

# Code of conduct

## Human Rights

Public officials should respect and promote the human rights set out in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities* by:

- i. making decisions and providing advice consistent with human rights; and
- ii. actively implementing, promoting and supporting human rights.



**Human Rights**

# Outcomes and evidence



# A tale of two stories

FRIDAY, JULY 6, 2018 \$1.70 HERALDSUN.COM.AU

# Herald Sun

We're for you

**INCREDIBLES WARNING**

**HIT MOVIE'S HEALTH ALERT** PAGE 3

**STRAY CATS FIND WAY HOME**  
Despite kicking an extraordinary 8.23, Geelong takes points

**KIDS DIE IN HOUSE SHOOTING**  
JACK HOUGHTON AND AAP

**ADDICTS SNUB INJECTING FACILITY** | **NOTHING CHANGED IN HEROIN HOTSPOT**

## REJECTING ROOM

**GENEVEVIE ALISON**

**NOW A FUNNY GIRL**  
NAT BASS P3

**WIN A \$100K JAYCO**  
NEW CODE P30

**RACE AGAINST THE RAIN**  
FIGHT TO RESCUE TRAPPED BOYS



**Any questions?**

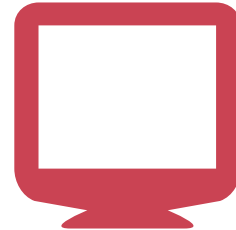
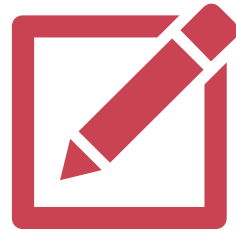


# Building the Business Case



[www.vic.ipaa.org.au/building-the-business-case](http://www.vic.ipaa.org.au/building-the-business-case)

# Event feedback **survey**



# Links and useful stuff

Victoria

Parliament of Victoria

<https://new.parliament.vic.gov.au/>

Federal

Parliamentary Education Office

<https://peo.gov.au/>





Thank **you**