


**Inquiry into Victoria's Child
Protection and Criminal
Justice Systems: *Yoorrook
for Justice***

**Victorian Government
Implementation Progress Report**

October 2024

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The Victorian Government acknowledges the historic work of the Yoorrook Justice Commission (Commission) and the production of its second interim report, *Yoorrook for Justice*.

We thank the community members, organisations and individuals who participated in this Inquiry, through submissions, hearings and roundtables. In particular, the government acknowledges the courage and generosity of First Peoples who shared their stories with the Commission. The government recognises that this can be a difficult and traumatic process and is deeply appreciative of First Peoples' contributions, which will serve as a basis for justice and a deeper understanding of the history of Victoria.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Victorian Government proudly acknowledges the First Peoples of Victoria as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land and waterways on which we live and work. First Peoples' sovereignty has never been ceded.

We honour and pay our respects to Elders past and present. We acknowledge that Aboriginal peoples continue to represent the world's oldest living culture.

In working towards Treaty, the Victorian Government is committed to acknowledging the truth of Victoria's history and laying the foundations for improved relationships between the State, Aboriginal Victorians and the broader Victorian community.

The Victorian Government is committed to First Peoples' self-determination. Treaty is the process required to ensure genuine self-determination for Victorian Traditional Owners and First Peoples.

Language Statement

The term 'First Peoples' is used in this implementation progress report (progress report) to respectfully refer to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Victoria. 'Traditional Owner' is used to refer to Traditional Owners of Country in Victoria. Other terminology, such as 'Aboriginal', is used where it is in the title of a program, initiative or organisation, or where appropriate to improve readability.

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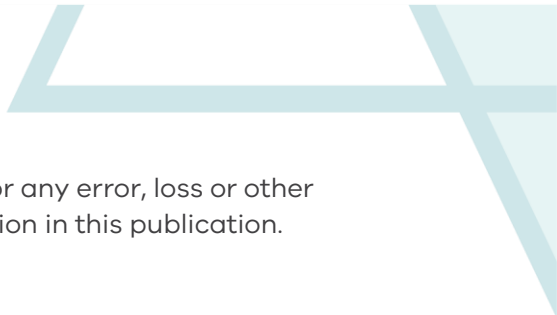
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1. Background

The Yoorrook Justice Commission recommended reforms to the State's child protection and criminal justice systems

On 31 August 2023, the Yoorrook Justice Commission delivered its *Yoorrook for Justice* report (Report), to the Governor of Victoria and the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria (First Peoples' Assembly). The Report is the culmination of the Commission's inquiries into systemic injustice experienced by First Peoples in the child protection and criminal justice systems. It details extensive systemic injustice, racism, discriminatory laws, and policy failures that have caused, and continue to cause, harm to First Peoples. The Report emphasises that present injustice is deeply rooted in the colonial foundations of the State and makes 46 recommendations for change.

On 3 April 2024, the Victorian Government published its initial response to the Report (the State Response). The government supported 28 of the Commission's 46 recommendations, with four supported in full and 24 supported in principle. The government also indicated that it would further consider 15 recommendations. Three recommendations were not supported.

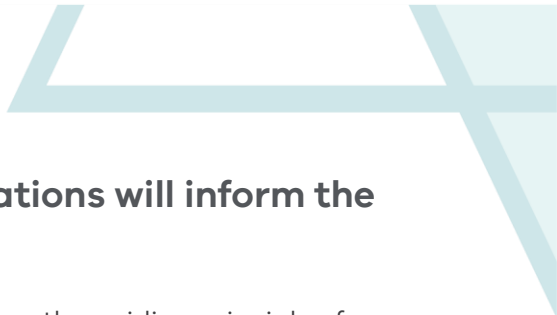
The State Response acknowledged that the injustices identified in the Report are ongoing and require urgent action. To ensure that the intent of the Report's recommendations is effectively realised, the government noted that it is critical to carefully consider design, planning and implementation issues. This includes working with Aboriginal organisations, strengthening current services and frameworks, and considering any additional investment and legislative reform required.

As a result, the State Response noted that not all recommendations would be implemented within a set timeframe. Significant structural and systemic reform takes time. The government is committed to implementing recommendations that are carefully considered and built on over time to ensure a sustainable approach to reform.

The government will continue to monitor its implementation progress

Following the release of the State Response, the Minister for Treaty and First Peoples committed to report back to the Commission on the progress of implementation by the end of 2024. The Minister then reiterated this commitment during her witness appearance before the Commission on 18 April 2024.

Government has progressed implementation planning for *Yoorrook for Justice* recommendations and considered their implementation alongside broader system reforms. This implementation progress report (progress report) is an opportunity for the government to report back to the Commission, First Peoples and the broader Victorian community on progress made on recommendations. Public progress reporting is an important accountability tool and reiterates the government's commitment to genuine and transparent engagement with the Commission and First Peoples.



The Commission’s findings and recommendations will inform the State’s Treaty negotiations

The Victorian Government is committed to self-determination as the guiding principle of First Peoples policy. Victoria’s Treaty process gives us a pathway to progress self-determination and deliver better outcomes that will benefit all Victorians.

The Commission has made several recommendations for reform activities to be negotiated through the Victorian Treaty negotiation process. This progress report does not identify specific matters that may be covered in Treaty negotiations, as the State cannot presuppose any Treaty negotiation outcomes prior to the commencement of negotiations. However, the Commission’s findings and recommendations will help inform Treaty negotiations, as reflected in the Treaty Negotiation Framework agreed between the First Peoples’ Assembly of Victoria and the State of Victoria in October 2022. Treaty negotiations are expected to commence in late 2024.

2. Implementation approach

The Victorian Government continues to consult widely on its approach to implementing recommendations

This progress report outlines how government is progressing each of the Report's 43 recommendations either supported, supported-in-principle or under consideration. It is the culmination of implementation planning and collaboration between several Victorian Government departments and agencies throughout 2024. The government is committed to ongoing systemic change, building upon years of structural reforms progressed by community, the First Peoples sector and government.

Implementation principles

As set out in the State Response, to ensure that meaningful change can be delivered in line with the intent of the Commission's recommendations, the Victorian Government developed the following guiding principles for implementation:


- a. Sequencing the implementation of recommendations in a pragmatic way; for example, prioritising those where resourcing is available now, or delivering reforms where it is foundational to other reforms
- b. Partnering with Aboriginal and other sector stakeholders to accurately refine the scope of delivery, ensuring that the intent of recommendations is met
- c. Using innovative funding models that enable desired outcomes of recommendations to be delivered in a sustainable way, over time and across budget cycles
- d. Building on and leveraging existing investment and resourcing to maximise efficiencies and benefits
- e. Working collaboratively across multiple departments and/or non-government bodies so that reforms can be long-term and structural, and not piecemeal or in siloes.

As a result, the government has given serious consideration to how each recommendation will be most effectively implemented to achieve sustainable and transformational change. Implementation of several recommendations has been able to progress more quickly and comprehensively than others, and in some cases, government has revised its position for these recommendations to 'support' or 'support in principle'. The majority of recommendations remain supported-in-principle due to the scale and complexity of the change recommended and the significant investment required. For some recommendations requiring extensive resourcing and increased workforce capacity, government has developed an approach that is staged and responsive to varying need and capacity across the state.

The State Response noted that several recommendations were categorised as under consideration due to the need for further analysis of implications for current and future policy or legislative programs, and further consultation with Aboriginal organisations and governance forums, government departments and other relevant stakeholders. The progress of this analysis and consultation has led to three under consideration recommendations now being reclassified as support or support in principle, while others still require further work.

Implementation timeframes

In *Yoorrook for Justice*, the Commission was clear that it expected the government to immediately commence work to implement the urgent recommendations made in the



Report over a 12-month period. The government committed to delivering the transformative change needed and doing so in a considered and collaborative way together with First Peoples communities, recognising that achieving these goals will extend beyond the Commission's proposed 12-month timeframe. Government has already implemented some recommendations and is working towards the imminent implementation of others. However, as noted above, some recommendations will require additional time to consider design, planning and implementation issues.

Ongoing reporting and monitoring

This progress report captures point-in-time information. However, as acknowledged, reforms and systemic change takes many years. The Victorian Government will consider mechanisms to accurately and transparently demonstrate progress over time on the implementation of each *Yoorrook for Justice* recommendation and recommendations from the Commission's remaining reports.

Governance arrangements

Responsibility for implementing *Yoorrook for Justice* recommendations has been assigned to relevant Ministers and agencies. This includes the Minister for Treaty and First Peoples, Attorney General, Minister for Children, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Health, Minister for Police and Minister for Youth Justice.

Relevant agencies implementing recommendations are DPC, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS), Department of Health (DH) and Victoria Police.

Existing governance structures and arrangements, including the Yoorrook Justice Commission Interdepartmental Committee which oversees the State's response to the truth-telling process, will continue until the end of the Commission's term. Longer term governance arrangements will be established to ensure cross-portfolio oversight of implementation of Commission recommendations.


The Victorian Government's engagement and implementation approach is guided by the principles of self-determination

Government recognises that true self-determination can only be achieved when led by Aboriginal people. Victoria's Treaty process is the embodiment of First Peoples' self-determination and iterative steps towards self-determination must continue to occur alongside this.

Victorian Government agencies will continue to work with their respective stakeholder groups to enable First Peoples self-determination, including:

- the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria
- the Aboriginal Children's Forum
- the Aboriginal Justice Caucus
- the Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Partnership Forum, and
- ongoing partnerships with ACCOs and other sector stakeholders.

The Aboriginal Justice Caucus and First Peoples member organisations of the Aboriginal Children's Forum have been critical partners of the Victorian Government for many years. Significant achievements have been made possible through the leadership and accomplishments of these partners, who play a vital role in directing and delivering better outcomes.



Embedded in the Report recommendations themselves is a self-determined approach, with particular recommendations calling on government to partner with Aboriginal organisations and engage Aboriginal businesses and consultants in the development of policies and programs.

As articulated in the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018–2025, self-determination is the guiding principle of the Victorian Government’s approach to Aboriginal affairs, underpinning all policy and reform actions. Guided by the Commission and First Peoples, government is addressing recommendations in accordance with its commitment to enable and facilitate self-determination. We know that self-determined approaches lead to the best outcomes.

3. Progress has been made on several recommendations

Impact evaluation of the Child Protection Risk Assessment Framework (SAFER)

Recommendation 13 calls for DFFH to deliver a First Peoples-led impact evaluation of the Child Protection Risk Assessment Framework (SAFER), to be commenced within 12 months.

The purpose of the SAFER Framework is to help child protection practitioners assess and mitigate risk of harm to children. Evaluation of the SAFER Framework includes two stages, with stage 1 undertaken in 2022.

Stage 2 will involve three components:

- a literature review, expected in late 2024, including research findings about factors of risk, strengths and protection for families referred to child protection
- an overarching evaluation focusing on the adoption, experience and outcomes of SAFER for children, families and the child protection workforce
- a First Peoples-led evaluation component focusing on the experience and outcomes of the SAFER Framework for First Peoples children and families.

The third component will adopt a process evaluation focus while also capturing the experience and outcomes of Aboriginal children and young people. Focusing on client voice, it will be presented as a stand-alone resource to share stories, findings and recommendations.

Progress to date and next steps

Planning for Stage 2 commenced in May 2024. Work is underway to procure a First Peoples evaluator.

An interim report on the evaluation progress is due in early 2025 and a final report is due in early 2026.

Governance arrangements and stakeholder consultation

A First Peoples SAFER Governance Group will be formed to gather insights to ensure all methods are culturally safe and appropriate, while adhering to ethics committee-approved approaches. Meetings will also be organised with the SAFER evaluation working group and other stakeholders (e.g. the Commission for Children and Young People and SAFER Advisory Group). The Australian Evaluation Society's (AES) Cultural Safety Framework will be integrated into the governance arrangements to ensure culturally safe evaluation.

Mandatory Aboriginal cultural safety training for DFFH child protection staff

To implement **recommendation 14**, DFFH must review and revise its mandatory Aboriginal cultural safety training for child protection staff and departmental executives to ensure that it is informed by the relevant history of injustice and Aboriginal cultural and human rights.

DFFH has procured the Koorie Heritage Trust to deliver refreshed Aboriginal cultural safety training to DFFH staff and executives and is updating its Aboriginal cultural safety e-Learn.

Additionally, DFFH is transforming its child protection training by:

- implementing the redeveloped 5-week Child Protection *Practice Induction Program* (PIP), which has been developed with Aboriginal self-determination and cultural safety embedded through the whole program, including through dedicated subjects covering the importance of practicing with an Aboriginal cultural lens, culturally appropriate planning and practice, and upholding human rights and Aboriginal cultural rights
- delivering a five-part webinar series covering the principles of the *Children and Health Legislation Amendment (Statement of Recognition, Aboriginal Self-determination and Other Matters) Act 2023* (Statement of Recognition Act)
- engaging a First Peoples organisation to assess the cultural safety of all current child protection training
- commissioning a First Peoples organisation to develop a new professional development program to strengthen and improve child protection practitioners' capability, competence and support in carrying out their obligations under the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (Vic) and other human and cultural rights laws to support their engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

Progress to date and next steps

DFFH has been piloting its refreshed mandatory Aboriginal cultural safety training in 2024. To ensure uptake, Aboriginal cultural safety training is embedded as a deliverable in the DFFH People and Culture strategy and Aboriginal workforce strategy. This includes an all-staff program and people leader (including executives) program and includes all recommendations from the *Yoorrook for Justice* report.

DFFH commenced running mandatory Anti-Racism People Leaders (including executives) training in January 2024.

Training completion rates will be published in the department's annual report as part of the Aboriginal workforce strategy and Aboriginal Cultural Safety Framework update.

The mandatory redeveloped PIP has commenced for all new DFFH Child Protection Practitioners in May 2024. A five-part webinar series supported the implementation of the Statement of Recognition Act which commenced on 1 July 2024. Implementation activities for the planned cultural assessment of programs and development of the professional development program are planned to commence in 2024-25.

Governance arrangements and stakeholder consultation

Governance of this work is supported by an Aboriginal Workforce Committee and People and Culture Committee, a sub-Committee of the DFFH Board of Management. All learning programs relating to working with Aboriginal children are overseen by the Office of Professional Practice, including input from the Statewide Principal Practitioner for Aboriginal Children and Families whose role is to promote practice occurring with utmost concern for the safety and wellbeing of all Aboriginal children and families interacting with the child protection system.

Monitoring and evaluating Victoria Police’s conduct relating to public intoxication reforms

Recommendation 30 relates to police conduct following the decriminalisation of public intoxication, which came into effect on 7 November 2023. The recommendation calls for the Chief Commissioner of Police to monitor police conduct and ensure members do not use existing powers to unnecessarily take intoxicated people into custody, for government’s planned independent evaluation to be First Peoples-led and for results to be publicly available.

Victoria Police has committed to monitoring and evaluation of police conduct as part of the operationalisation of the reforms. DJCS has appointed Monash University to undertake an independent evaluation of the justice impacts of the public intoxication reforms.

Progress to date and next steps

In relation to the independent evaluation, progress to date has concentrated on its design in consultation with key Aboriginal stakeholders.

Funding has been provided to conduct a 22-month justice evaluation, with the final report to be delivered in late 2025. The evaluation involves Monash University conducting interviews, focus groups and yarning sessions across metropolitan and regional locations, including locations with and without dedicated public intoxication health services. The government supports the results of the evaluation being made public.

An independent and Aboriginal-led Implementation and Monitoring and Oversight Group (IMOG) has been established to support accountability and oversight of reform implementation and to provide advice to government on reform progress.

Governance arrangements and stakeholder consultation

Monash University co-designed its evaluation framework through a series of workshops with key stakeholders, including the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service and the Aboriginal Justice Caucus, and will continue to adapt its framework in consultation with a Community, Legal and Advocacy Services (CLAS) Committee. The CLAS Committee includes representatives from Aboriginal Justice Caucus, the Dhadjowa Foundation, Aboriginal Community Justice Panels, Djirra, Ngwala Willumbong Aboriginal Corporation and Victorian Aboriginal Health Service, among other service organisations.

A core role of the IMOG will be monitoring community experiences of the reform and the new health-led services and to ensure they are providing culturally safe health and social supports for Aboriginal people.

Victoria’s first standalone Youth Justice Act

Recommendation 36 relates to the Victorian Government’s new *Youth Justice Act 2024* (Act). The recommendation calls for the government to ensure the Act embeds human rights, including the distinct cultural rights of First Peoples, in all aspects of the youth justice system and its administration.

The Act was passed on 27 August and received Royal Assent on 10 September 2024. The Act includes guiding principles that respond to children and young people as individuals in a way that promotes their human rights. Specific guiding principles for Aboriginal children and young people also enshrine a respect for their human and cultural rights. These principles will be taken into account to the fullest extent possible when any decision is made, or any action is taken in relation to a child or young person under the legislation.

Progress to date and next steps

The Act supports the implementation of recommendation 36. The Aboriginal Justice Caucus worked closely with the Victorian Government on this Act and was instrumental in shaping key aspects designed to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people.

Governance arrangements and stakeholder consultation

The Act enables government to authorise ACCOs to exercise certain powers and functions under the Act, representing a significant step towards creating a more self-determined Aboriginal youth justice system in alignment with the intention of both recommendation 36 and recommendation 2. The Act legislates that in respecting and upholding principles of self-determination, government must consult, work and collaborate on justice related issues with Aboriginal community.

More generally, under the Aboriginal Justice Agreement (AJA), DJCS engages with the Aboriginal Justice Caucus on the design and implementation of policies and legislation that will impact Aboriginal communities. DJCS will engage with the Aboriginal Justice Caucus, including through the relevant AJA4 Collaborative Working Groups, in progressing implementation of the Act.

Revisions to the practice of solitary confinement in prisons and youth justice centres

Recommendation 44 calls for the implementation of the *UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners* in relation to the use of solitary confinement at all Victorian prisons and youth justice centres, and the provision of adequate funding and operations to end the locking down of prisoners for prolonged periods for administrative or management reasons.

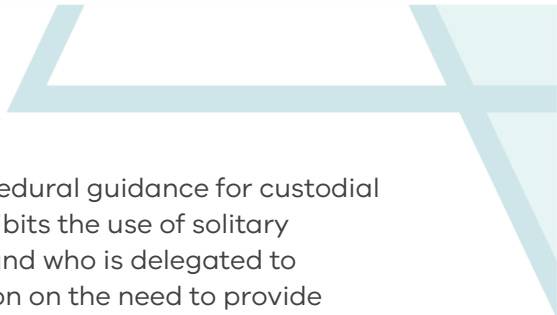
Confirming existing policy and practise, the *Youth Justice Act 2024* introduces an express prohibition on the use of solitary confinement for young people in Youth Justice centres. The Youth Justice Act also introduces a range of improvements to the isolations framework. This will provide clearer guidance and parameters for the authorisation of isolations as a last resort when all other reasonably practicable alternative measures have been attempted, as well as enhanced safeguards such as legislated rights when in isolation, including time outside and a legislated requirement to publish data every three months.

In adult corrections (Corrections Victoria), the term 'separation' is used to describe the practice of separating people in prison from others where there is a safety, protection or welfare need, or where required to manage the good order and security of the prison.

Corrections Victoria is undertaking work to further strengthen the approach to separations across the adult custodial corrections system. This is being progressed through the Safer Separations Project, the objectives of which closely align with the Mandela Rules (the 2015 *United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners*). Some key focus areas of the project are strengthening the authorisation framework that guides separation decisions and improving data collection about separations across Victoria's adult prisons.

Progress to date and next steps

The *Youth Justice Act 2024* represents a significant step in the implementation of recommendation 44. The Aboriginal Justice Caucus worked closely with the Victorian Government on the *Youth Justice Act 2024* and was instrumental in shaping key aspects designed to improve outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people.



DJCS's Youth Justice is currently updating its policy and procedural guidance for custodial staff regarding the use of isolation. The Operating Policy prohibits the use of solitary confinement and clearly outlines when isolation can be used and who is delegated to authorise it. The updated policy will provide staff clear direction on the need to provide meaningful human contact for any young person isolated.

In the adult corrections system, Corrections Victoria implemented a new operating model in the close support and supervision precinct at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre in 2023, as part of the Safer Separations Project. A rapid review of this model was completed in June 2024, the findings of which will inform the remainder of the project. As noted above, the project is currently focused on improving data collection and reporting tools to ensure appropriate monitoring and oversight of separations on an ongoing basis. Over the next 12 months, the project will focus on improving initial separation decisions in the men's medium security prisons and embedding good separation practices at Western Plains Correctional Centre.

Governance arrangements and stakeholder consultation

Under the Aboriginal Justice Agreement, DJCS engages with the Aboriginal Justice Caucus on the design and implementation of policies and legislation that will impact Aboriginal communities. DJCS will engage with the Aboriginal Justice Caucus, including through the relevant AJA4 Collaborative Working Group, in progressing further action on this recommendation. Corrections Victoria is also developing a governance model that engages external oversight and monitoring of the use of separation when required.

New statutory protections for First Peoples' evidence provided to the Commission

Recommendation 45 relates to the ongoing management of all confidential evidence provided to the Commission. This overlaps with recommendation 2 of the *Yoorrook with Purpose* report (2022), which called for legislative protections for First Peoples' evidence provided to the Commission, in line with Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles. The scope of recommendation 45 is broader than recommendation 2 as it applies to all evidence provided to the Commission on a confidential basis, whereas recommendation 2 applies only to evidence provided by First Peoples.

Progress to date and next steps

The Victorian Government is currently progressing legislative reforms that will empower the Commission to make closure orders over records of First Peoples' evidence provided to the Commission. Records which are subject to closure orders will be protected from public access both in the Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) database and via Freedom of Information requests for 99 years.

In order to implement recommendation 45 in full, as well as recommendation 9 of the Beaumaris Board of Inquiry, the government is also considering broader amendments to the *Inquiries Act 2014* relating to statutory protections for confidential public records in general.

Recommendation 45 called for legislative reforms to be enacted by February 2024. However, this timeframe could not be met as a result of the considerable consultation and policy work required to develop a legislative solution. The government is committed to progressing reforms through Parliament by early 2025 to ensure that appropriate record-keeping arrangements for First Peoples' records are implemented before the Commission's term concludes on 30 June 2025.



Governance arrangements and stakeholder consultation

DPC has consulted with a variety of stakeholders throughout the development of the legislative reforms, including the Commission, PROV, the First Peoples' Assembly, the Office of the Victorian Information Commissioner and relevant government departments.

4. Government is progressing implementation of other recommendations

Ensuring accountability, cultural competence, and compliance with human and cultural rights

Recommendation 3 urges the government to ensure accountability and quality of monitoring and evaluation of First Peoples-related programs and policies.

To support the implementation of recommendation 3, the Department of Treasury and Finance's Resource Management Framework will be updated to incorporate new requirements and guidelines for lapsing program evaluations for First Peoples-related programs. These updates will be introduced for use in the 2026/27 State Budget.

Recommendation 5 calls on the government to upscale the capability, competence and support in relation to human and cultural rights laws, of persons working in the State's child protection and criminal justice systems.

To address the recommendation, work has been underway across relevant agencies (DFFH, DJCS, DH and Victoria Police) to improve and expand training of frontline operational support and programs and policy staff working in these systems. For example, DFFH has procured the Koorie Heritage Trust to deliver refreshed Aboriginal cultural safety training to all DFFH staff, as described above in relation to recommendation 14. Victoria Police delivers dedicated human rights training for all recruits as a component of Police Foundation Training, and is providing reinforcement of human rights content across promotional and operational programs. DJCS worked with the Aboriginal Justice Caucus to design improved training, including the development of a new e-learn: 'Introduction to DJCS' Commitment to Aboriginal Justice and Partnerships.' The e-learn is the first mandatory, department-wide training relating to Aboriginal justice. It is offered alongside existing in-person cultural awareness training facilitated by Aboriginal service providers and available to all staff, as well as mandatory pre-service training for Corrections and Youth Justice front line workforces.

Reforming the child protection system

Recommendation 9 calls for annual reporting on funding for several services within the child protection and family services system, and specifically the amount and proportion of funding allocated to ACCOs. Presently, DFFH contributes to three separate reporting platforms — the Aboriginal Children's Forum, the Report on Government Services (Commonwealth) and the SNAICC Family Matters Report. In line with recommendation 9, DFFH will consider how to streamline and automate this reporting where possible, and report publicly on this data, annually. It is proposed that this work will be progressed through the Aboriginal Children's Forum with the publication of 2024-25 data expected by the end of December 2025.

As they both relate to reforming current practices for pre-birth reports in relation to expectant mums of First Peoples babies, **recommendations 11 and 12** are being considered together. Policy scoping is underway on a consent-based child protection notification scheme for pre-birth reports. This work is being done in partnership with relevant ACCOs (including Aboriginal legal services, ACCOs delivering children and family services, and the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation), DJCS and DH.

The proposed timeline for delivery is dependent on agreement with key stakeholders on the scheme design and further implementation considerations.

Recommendations 18 and 19 call for Children’s Court of Victoria judicial officers — rather than non-specialist magistrates — to determine child protection matters, and for the statewide expansion of Marram-Ngala Ganbu (Koori Family Hearing Day). In 2023, the government opened the Dandenong Children's Court to offer a specialist approach to children's matters in the family and youth justice divisions. The government also recently expanded the coverage of the Specialist Children's Court in metropolitan Melbourne, by directing all Youth Justice matters to be dealt with at Melbourne Children's Court.


Recommendation 23 urges the government to ensure that the Framework to Reduce Criminalisation of Young People in Residential Care is applied in all cases and to put in place reporting mechanisms and funding to ensure that authorities apply the Framework. In line with recommendation 23(a), the Victorian Government, along with Victoria Police and residential care providers, are working actively to implement the Framework through the existing 18-month action plan, and to monitor its implementation through local partnerships and regular reporting. An evaluation of this work is planned for completion in mid-2025. In line with recommendation 23(d), Victoria Police and residential care staff will have access to training in relation to trauma-informed care, police responses to non-crisis incidents and cultural awareness. Recommendation 23(b) and 23(c) will be considered in late 2025 following the implementation and evaluation of the existing 18-month action plan.

Reforming the criminal justice system

Recommendation 33 is to develop and publicly report on a First Peoples-led cultural change action plan for bail decision-makers to ensure remand is used only as a last resort. The *Bail Amendment Act 2023* includes reforms which are fundamentally aligned with the intent of this recommendation, in that they seek to reduce unnecessary remand of those accused of low-level, non-violent offences — with Aboriginal people disproportionately remanded when accused of such offending. DJCS has provided guidance to bail decision-makers following the passing of these amendments, including a comprehensive guide on the expanded Aboriginal-specific considerations.

Recommendation 42 calls for government to ensure people in prison and youth justice centres, including Aboriginal people, can make telephone calls for free or at no greater cost than the general community. In response to this recommendation, government will subsidise phone calls in the short term for people in prison so they can better connect with their loved ones. Longer-term solutions are also being explored through negotiations with commercial providers of prison telephone services. A free call allowance is already available in Youth Justice centres.

Recommendation 43 calls for government to reform the Victorian prison system based on the recommendations of the Cultural Review of the Adult Custodial Corrections System (Cultural Review). The Victorian Government has delivered some reforms to address the critical issues and themes identified in the Cultural Review, and further reforms are underway. These reforms work to better support the custodial correctional workforce, improve outcomes for people in custody, provide more support for the Aboriginal workforce and greater cultural safety across the system, and keep Victorians safe. The Commission placed specific emphasis on implementing the Cultural Review’s recommendations aimed at enhancing the human and cultural rights of Aboriginal people in custody. Consistent with the Victorian Government response, implementation has begun on a number of these recommendations, including by establishing a Deputy Commissioner for Workforce and



Aboriginal Outcomes position, reviewing cultural spaces in all prisons, ensuring access to regular Aboriginal health checks, developing an Aboriginal Workforce Plan, and launching an Aboriginal Wellbeing Officer Recruitment and Retention Strategy. DJCS is also continuing to work closely with Aboriginal stakeholders, including the Aboriginal Justice Caucus and its Cultural Review Implementation Subgroup to develop an approach to several other Cultural Review recommendations referenced in recommendation 43.

5. Government undertook to further consider some recommendations

Since the initial State Response, the Victorian Government has revised its position on three recommendations, including two under consideration recommendations, to either support or support-in-principle.

	Supported	Supported in principle	Under consideration	Not supported
Previous positions	4	24	15	3
Revised positions	6	24	13	3

Government remains committed to further considering the 13 recommendations which are still under consideration for the reasons outlined below.

Recommendations now supported (in full or in principle)

The Victorian Government has revised the State's position on **recommendation 4** to support-in-principle. This recommendation calls for the establishment of an independent and authoritative oversight and accountability commission for the monitoring and evaluation of First Peoples related policies and programs. The State has committed to accelerating progress on an independent mechanism for institutional oversight led by First Peoples through the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and has identified Statewide Treaty negotiations as another pathway to potentially identify, develop or strengthen existing mechanisms.

Recommendation 31 is to introduce mandatory criteria, including in relation to ending systemic racism, for the selection, appointment and performance reviews of the Chief Commissioner of Police. This recommendation is now supported and will be implemented prior to the next recruitment process for the Chief Commissioner of Police (the current Commissioner is tenured until June 2025).

Recommendation 36 calls for government to ensure the new *Youth Justice Act 2024* embeds human rights, including the distinct cultural rights of First Peoples, in all aspects of the youth justice system and its administration. This recommendation is now supported and will be addressed throughout the new *Youth Justice Act 2024* which received Royal Assent on 10 September 2024 (as discussed in Section 3).

Recommendations the Commission has indicated should be negotiated through Treaty

Negotiations for Statewide Treaty are expected to commence in late 2024. As Treaty negotiations are yet to commence, the State cannot presuppose any Treaty negotiation outcomes.

Recommendations 1 and 2 call for transformative change in the child protection and criminal justice systems and the Commission has recommended that these be negotiated through the Victorian Treaty process. The government is undertaking significant work in collaboration with the Aboriginal Children's Forum and Aboriginal Justice Caucus to improve outcomes and progress self-determination in the child protection and criminal

justice systems. This ongoing reform work will continue alongside the Victorian Treaty process.

Recommendation 4 calls for the establishment of an independent and authoritative oversight and accountability commission for the monitoring and evaluation of First Peoples related policies and programs. As noted above, accelerating progress on an independent mechanism for institutional oversight led by First Peoples is occurring through the National Agreement on Closing the Gap; and Statewide Treaty negotiations are another pathway to identify, develop or strengthen existing mechanisms.

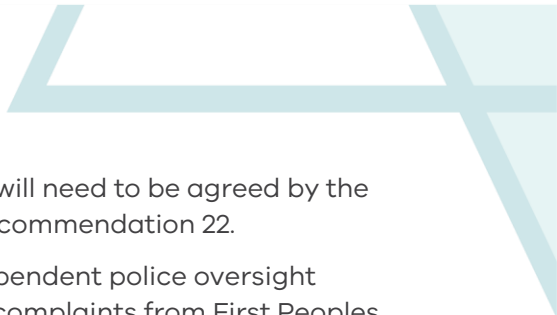
Recommendations 8, 20 and 26 remain under consideration as they relate to significant reforms in the child protection system which may form part of Treaty negotiations, as outlined in relation to recommendation 1. These recommendations are also contingent on other in-flight reforms, and/or require a significant combination of policy design, funding or legislative change. However, the Treaty process should not delay or deprioritise key policy reform initiatives currently underway. Government has developed the following plans to progress implementation of these recommendations:

- The following reforms and strategies that intersect with **recommendation 8** will continue to progress alongside the further consideration of implementation plans for this recommendation: National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and the Wungurilwil Gaggapduir: Children and Families Agreement 2024-2028 Action Plan.
- Implementation of **recommendation 20** will be partly informed by the refresh of the Wungurilwil Gaggapduir Aboriginal Children and Families Agreement and recommendation 1 of the *Yoorrook for Justice* report; recommendation 20(c) is in part already supported through the Carer Kafe, jointly delivered by a consortium including the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency and DFFH's Care Support Help Desk service.
- The Statement of Recognition Act in part addresses some of the intent of **recommendation 26**. This Act came into effect 1 July 2024 and formally acknowledges the impact on First Peoples of past policies and practices. It legislates the requirement for child protection services to demonstrate how Aboriginal voices are heard and considered in decision-making, how funding and power is shared, and legislates all elements of the Aboriginal child placement principles in decision-making for Aboriginal children. However, this recommendation proposes a significant policy change — i.e., for permanent carers to continue to be monitored by ACCOs, and potentially government, regarding cultural plans. This recommendation requires further consideration, and will likely be further considered in the context of recommendation 1.

Implementation planning to be considered after further engagement or current reform initiatives

Recommendation 17 proposes amendments to the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (CYFA) that overlap with reforms implemented through the Statement of Recognition Act. This Act incorporates 11 binding principles that Child Protection and community service organisations must have regard to when making decisions and taking action when working with First Peoples children and families. The Children's Court is also required to consider the first five principles. Following an assessment of the impacts of the Statement of Recognition Act after 18 months of operation, DFFH will give further consideration to this recommendation.

Recommendation 22 calls for amendments to the CYFA to provide the Children's Court with greater powers in relation to the development, implementation and monitoring of cultural plans. DFFH is currently working alongside key stakeholders, to oversee the development



and implementation of a new cultural plan model. This model will need to be agreed by the Aboriginal Children’s Forum and will inform the response to recommendation 22.

Recommendation 27 calls for the establishment of a new independent police oversight authority, including a dedicated First Peoples-led division for complaints from First Peoples. DJCS is currently engaging with the Aboriginal Justice Caucus and other Aboriginal community stakeholders on potential police oversight reform proposals. While the proposals under consideration do not seek to adopt recommendation 27 in full, the reforms under consideration are designed to strengthen the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission’s functions, powers and focus on police oversight — including implementing specific reforms identified by, and designed for, First Peoples — which is responsive to the intent of the recommendation.

6. Implementation challenges and next steps

In the Report, the Commission urged the Victorian Government to make substantive progress on the implementation of recommendations within a 12-month period. As outlined above, the government has considered and undertaken work to progress implementation planning for each of the recommendations that it supports or has committed to consider further.

As acknowledged in the State Response to the Report released in April 2024, delivering the reforms envisaged by the recommendations and achieving meaningful change will be complex and require an effective and flexible implementation approach. Since the release of the State Response, the Victorian Government has ensured recommendation implementation plans are integrated with reform initiatives that are already underway. This approach will ensure government is effectively utilising existing resources and partnerships to address the Report's recommendations.

The Commission has continued to hold hearings throughout 2024 and will deliver its third interim report in 2025. The government anticipates that this report will contain findings and recommendations from both its Land Injustice and Social Justice lines of inquiry. The government will consider all findings and recommendations genuinely and transparently.

The Commission will conclude its inquiry and deliver its final report by 30 June 2025. The implementation of the *Yoorrook for Justice* report recommendations must therefore be balanced and flexible to accommodate future recommendations made in the interim and final reports, as well as the Commission's advice for future arrangements regarding implementation reporting, monitoring and governance.

Annexure A – Recommendations – positions, progress to date, and implementation and monitoring information



Category 1: Transformative change through the Treaty Process

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
1	<p>The Victorian Government must:</p> <p>a. transfer decision-making power, authority, control and resources to First Peoples, giving full effect to self-determination in the Victorian child protection system. Transferring or creating decision-making power includes <u>but is not limited to:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. system design II. obtaining and allocating resources III. powers of, and appointments to bodies or institutions IV. accountability and oversight functions including new First Peoples led bodies, oversight processes or complaints pathways. <p>b. negotiate this through the Treaty process including through potential interim agreements</p> <p>c. in doing so, go beyond the transfer of existing powers and functions under the <i>Children, Youth and Families Act 2005</i> (Vic), which will require new, dedicated legislation,</p>	<p>Under consideration</p>	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Children and Minister for Treaty and First Peoples (Minister for Children to lead on the substance of this recommendation, Minister for Treaty to co-lead to the extent it arises in Treaty negotiations).</p> <p>Lead agency: DFFH and DPC</p> <p>Liaison agency: Victoria Police</p>	<p>Implementation actions to date</p> <p>The government is undertaking significant work in collaboration with the Aboriginal Children’s Forum to improve outcomes and progress self-determination. This ongoing reform work, including developing new dedicated legislation, will continue alongside the Victorian Treaty process. The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) is progressing a number of reforms, working closely with existing governance mechanisms and sector partners from Aboriginal Controlled Community Organisations (ACCOs) to support progress towards recommendation 1. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationalisation of the <i>Children and Health Legislation Amendment (Statement of Recognition, Aboriginal Self-determination and Other Matters) Act 2023</i> (<i>Statement of Recognition Act 2023</i>). • Refreshing the Wungurilwil Gapgapduir Aboriginal Children and Families Agreement and associated Strategic Action Plan. • Work to continue the Community Protecting Boorais pilot program, which provides an Aboriginal-led response for child protection reports about Aboriginal children.

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	<p>developed by First Peoples, for the safety, wellbeing and protection of First Peoples children and young people, and</p> <p>d. recognising the urgent need for immediate reform, without delay take all necessary steps to begin and diligently progress the establishment of a dedicated child protection system for First People children and young people supported by stand-alone legislation based upon the right of First Peoples to self-determination to be developed by an Aboriginal representative body or bodies of organisation/s sufficiently resourced by government for this purpose.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing and formalising the ACCO caucus leadership role in setting the agenda for each Aboriginal Children's Forum. <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>Future implementation actions against this recommendation are to be confirmed.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting are yet to be established. Reporting will be considered within the context of whole of Victorian Government (WOVG) reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>
2	<p>The Victorian Government must give full effect to the right of First Peoples to self-determination in the Victorian criminal justice system as it relates to First Peoples. This includes negotiating through the Treaty process, including through potential interim agreements, the transfer of decision-making power, authority, control and resources in that system</p>	<p>Under consideration</p>	<p>Lead Minister: Attorney-General and Minister for Treaty and First Peoples</p> <p>Lead agency: DJCS and DPC</p> <p>Liaison agency: Victoria Police</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>The government is undertaking significant work in collaboration with the Aboriginal Justice Caucus (AJC) to improve outcomes and progress self-determination in the justice system. This ongoing reform work will continue alongside the Victorian Treaty process.</p> <p>DJCS continues to support Aboriginal self-determination through the development and implementation of key programs, policies and legislation consistent with the goals and outcomes</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	<p>to First Peoples. Transferring or creating decision-making power includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. system design b. obtaining and allocating resources c. powers of, and appointments to bodies or institutions, and d. accountability and oversight functions including new First Peoples led oversight processes or complaints pathways. 			<p>of Burra Lotjpa Dunguludja, the fourth phase of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement (AJA). This strong partnership, of over 24 years, has enabled development and delivery of over \$30 million in Aboriginal-led justice services and programs each year and in-depth Aboriginal community led accountability mechanisms and oversight of government through the AJC and Aboriginal Justice Forums.</p> <p>The AJA partnership has also ensured that Aboriginal voices shape and inform key criminal justice reforms, including the new <i>Youth Justice Act 2024</i>, recent bail reforms and the implementation of the Cultural Review of the Adult Corrections System.</p> <p>Additionally, the <i>Youth Justice Act 2024</i> enables the transfer of the Secretary’s youth justice functions and responsibilities to accredited ACCOs.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>Future implementation actions against this recommendation are to be confirmed.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting are yet to be established. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>

Category 2: Urgent reforms of accountability, cultural competence, and compliance with human and cultural rights

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
3	<p>To ensure accountability for First Peoples related programs and policies by those responsible for their development and delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. government bodies must ensure that First Peoples related programs and policies are rigorously monitored and evaluated b. monitoring and evaluation must be designed alongside the development of the program or policy so that it is built into the program or policy (and commences at the same time as implementation) c. where programs or policies have existing commitments to monitoring and evaluation, but little or no progress has been made, these must be actioned within six months d. where programs or policies do not have monitoring or evaluation included, the inclusion of these must be actioned urgently 	Support in principle	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Treaty and First Peoples</p> <p>Lead agency: DPC</p> <p>Liaison agency: All departments</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>The Department of Treasury and Finance’s Resource Management Framework is being updated to incorporate new requirements and guidelines for lapsing program evaluations for First Peoples-related programs. This will address recommendation 3 in part.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>These updates will be introduced for use in the 2026-27 State Budget.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting are yet to be established. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on implementation of recommendations of the Yoorrook Justice Commission.</p>

#	Recommendation	WVOG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
e.	<p>these monitoring and evaluation processes must, in accordance with the Burra Lotjpa Dunguludja (AJA4) Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. being consistent with First Peoples values II. reflecting First Peoples priorities for what is measured and how it is measured III. having an approved regular reporting cycle IV. having a commitment to the open reporting of results. 			
4	<p>The Victorian Government must as an urgent priority, having regard to the right of First Peoples to self-determination, negotiate in good faith with the First Peoples’ Assembly of Victoria:</p> <p>a. the establishment of an independent and authoritative oversight and accountability commission for the monitoring and</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Treaty and First Peoples</p> <p>Lead agency: DPC</p> <p>Liaison agency: All departments</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>The State has committed to an independent mechanism for institutional oversight led by First Peoples through the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.</p> <p>The First Peoples’ Assembly of Victoria (First Peoples’ Assembly) and Ngaweeyan Maar-oo will work collaboratively to progress and align the Closing the Gap actions and reforms through Victoria’s Treaty process.</p>

#	Recommendation	WVOG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	<p>evaluation of First Peoples related policies and programs</p> <p>b. the detailed functions and membership of the commission, and</p> <p>c. to give the commission the necessary resources and authority to hold responsible government ministers, departments and entities to account for the success or failure of the programs they develop and deliver.</p>			<p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>Future implementation actions are to be confirmed. Statewide Treaty negotiations are another pathway to potentially identify, develop or strengthen existing mechanisms.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting are yet to be established. Reporting will be considered within the context of WVOG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>
5	<p>The Victorian Government must as soon as possible significantly upscale the capability, competence and support in relation to human rights, including Aboriginal cultural rights, of all persons appointed to work or working in:</p> <p>a. the child protection system</p> <p>b. the corrections system, including prisons</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Treaty and First Peoples</p> <p>Lead agency: DPC</p> <p>Liaison agency: DFFH, DH, DJCS and Victoria Police (recommendation 5e)</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>Relevant agencies (DFFH, DH, DJCS and Victoria Police) have been undertaking review and revision of their training programs to ensure that they adequately cover human and cultural rights obligations.</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. the youth justice system, including youth detention and like facilities and the bail system d. the adult justice system including the bail system e. Victoria Police, and f. the forensic mental health system <p>to ensure that they have that capability, competence and support necessary for them to carry out their obligations under the <i>Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</i> (Vic) (the Charter) and other human and cultural rights laws, and in particular for this purpose the government must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. review and revise all relevant policies, procedures, protocols, administrative directions, guidelines and like documents h. review all relevant training courses and programs, and i. ensure that Victorian First Peoples businesses or consultants participate on a paid basis in the review and revision of training courses and programs, and the delivery of these, wherever possible. 			<p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>Agencies will continue with work underway to uplift training for relevant workforces and enhance workforce capability and competence.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting are yet to be established. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>

#	Recommendation	WVOG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
6	<p>Drawing on (but not confined to) the recommendations of the 2015 Review of the Charter and its response to that review, the Victorian Government, following a public consultation process that includes the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and other First Peoples organisations, must clarify and strengthen the Charter so that it more effectively:</p> <p>a. requires public authorities to act in a way that is and make decisions that are substantively compatible with human rights including Aboriginal cultural rights, and</p> <p>b. ensures that public authorities are held accountable for acting or making decisions incompatibly with human rights including Aboriginal cultural rights, including by:</p> <p>l. enabling individuals to bring a legal proceeding in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal for a remedy (including compensation) against public authorities who have made decisions or acted incompatibly with human</p>	Do not support	<p>Lead Minister: Attorney-General</p> <p>Lead agency: DJCS</p> <p>Liaison agency: All departments</p>	N/A

#	Recommendation	WVOG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	<p>rights including Aboriginal cultural rights under the Charter, and</p> <p>II. enabling individuals to rely upon the human rights including Aboriginal cultural rights in the Charter in any legal proceedings, as provided (for example) in section 40C of the <i>Human Rights Act 2004</i> (ACT).</p>			

Category 3: Urgent reforms to the child protection system

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
7	<p>The Victorian Government must amend the <i>Commission for Children and Young People Act 2012(Vic)</i> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. specifically establish the role of the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People in the same way that the Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People's role is provided for in the legislation b. provide the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People with the same statutory functions and powers as the Principal Commissioner insofar as these powers relate to Aboriginal children and young people in Victoria c. expressly provide the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People the function to receive and determine individual complaints from or relating to First Peoples children and young people concerning their treatment in child 	Under consideration	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Children</p> <p>Lead agency: DFFH</p> <p>Liaison agency: DJCS, DPC and Victoria Police</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>DFFH has been involved in negotiations regarding Action 7 of the national Safe and Supported: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander First Action Plan (Safe and Supported), which requires state and territory governments to agree to minimum requirements for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner roles, which include legislating these roles. National agreement on these requirements is anticipated to happen in late 2024.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>National agreement on minimum requirements will inform DFFH's next steps to consider the implementation of this recommendation. Implementation planning will need to include pathways for legislative change and other considerations.</p> <p>Part (d) of this recommendation would go beyond the minimum requirements. Introducing a right of intervention in legal proceedings raises significant legal complexities and will require further consideration, including consultation with affected stakeholders.</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	<p>protection, including out of home care, and</p> <p>d. give the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People and the Principal Commissioner rights of intervention in legal proceedings relating to a child or young person’s rights under the Charter to be exercised at their discretion. These roles and powers must be appropriately resourced.</p>			<p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>A monitoring and evaluation plan will be considered as part of the work to progress this recommendation. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>
8	<p>The Victorian Government must:</p> <p>a. work with Aboriginal organisations to develop a consistent definition of early help, early intervention and prevention that aligns with the perspectives of First Peoples. This definition should be adopted across the Victorian Government</p> <p>b. enshrine prevention and early help/intervention as a guiding principle in the <i>Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic)</i> and take all necessary steps to implement this principle in the administration of the Act</p>	Under consideration	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Children</p> <p>Lead agency: DFFH</p> <p>Liaison agency: All departments</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>The 2023/24 State Budget provided \$49 million over four years to improve outcomes for First Peoples children and intervene earlier by expanding Aboriginal-led Family Services.</p> <p>SNAICC has also circulated a draft National Investment Strategy as required under Safe and Supported, which includes a proposal to establish a nationally agreed definition of early and targeted support. This will likely inform future work within Victoria regarding the definition of early help, early intervention and prevention.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>The Victorian Government, alongside the Aboriginal Children’s Forum (ACF), is progressing</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
c.	<p>as an immediate action, substantially increase investment in Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation prevention and early help/intervention services to keep First Peoples children out of the child protection system and to prevent their involvement from escalating when it does occur, and</p>			<p>a refresh of the Wungurilwil Gaggapduir Aboriginal Children and Families Agreement, including an Implementation Plan. These documents are due to be finalised in late 2024 and are likely to have a focus on early intervention and prevention.</p> <p>Proportionate funding to ACCOs will also increase due to the progressive rollout of the 2023/24 State Budget investment of \$140 million over four years to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal children in child protection and care system.</p>
d.	<p>review the governance model for implementing target 12 of the Closing the Gap Agreement, with a view to broadening the responsibility to achieve this target beyond the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.</p>			<p>Full implementation of this recommendation will require a WOVG approach. This recommendation also strongly intersects with recommendation 1.</p>
<p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p>				
<p>A monitoring and evaluation plan will be considered as part of work to progress this recommendation. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>				
<p>The ACF will continue to oversee and monitor the implementation of the Wungurilwil Gaggapduir Aboriginal Children and Families Agreement.</p>				

#	Recommendation	WVOG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
9	<p>The Victorian Government must publicly report annually on the amount and proportion:</p> <p>a. of total child protection and family services funding allocated to early intervention (family and parenting services) compared to secondary and tertiary services (community delivered child protection services, care services, transition from care services and other activities), and</p> <p>b. of funding allocated to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations compared to mainstream services for early intervention (family and parenting services), secondary and tertiary services.</p>	Support	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Children</p> <p>Lead agency: DFFH</p> <p>Liaison agency: DPC</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>Reporting on funding for ACCOs in the child protection and family services system occurs through DFFH producing funding data and reporting to the ACF, as well as the publicly released Productivity Commission Report on Government Services and the SNAICC Family Matters Report.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>DFFH will consider how to streamline and automate this reporting where possible, and report publicly on this data, annually. It is proposed that this work will be progressed through the ACF with the publication of 2024-25 data due to happen by the end of December 2025.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>Monitoring and reporting on funding for ACCOs will continue to be supported by the ACF. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
10	<p>The Victorian Government must immediately give a direction to health services (including perinatal, maternal and child health services) that:</p> <p>a. clinical and allied health staff working with pregnant women must undertake appropriate training to address bias and build expertise in working safely and effectively with First Peoples women and families to address their social and emotional needs, and</p> <p>b. this training must be designed and delivered by a Victorian First Peoples business or consultants on a paid basis, and completion rates of this training must be publicly reported.</p>	Support in principle	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Health</p> <p>Lead agency: DH</p> <p>Liaison agency: DFFH and DPC</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>All staff in hospitals and health services are required to undertake cultural safety training designed and/or delivered by a First Peoples organisation from 1 July 2024 as mandated through health service Statements of Priorities (annual accountability agreements between Victorian public healthcare services and the Minister for Health).</p> <p>Further options for delivery and acquittal of this recommendation are currently being explored, with consultation with key stakeholders ongoing.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>An implementation plan and actions are yet to be established.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting are yet to be established. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>

#	Recommendation	WVOG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
11	<p>The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing must ensure that:</p> <p>a. when a child protection worker is considering making a pre-birth report, that prior to birth, and with the consent of the pregnant Aboriginal women, organisations (including Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations or Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations) are informed of the rationale for and intention to make a pre-birth report so that they can:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. provide input into that decision II. ensure people with appropriate training and expertise are involved, and III. offer culturally safe supports to the mother, father and/or significant others in the family network <p>b. when DFFH receives a pre-birth report from any source, that pregnant Aboriginal women are informed of the report by a person(s) with the appropriate expertise to hold such a sensitive discussion and who has the skills</p>	Support in principle	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Children</p> <p>Lead agency: DFFH</p> <p>Liaison agency: DPC</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>Recommendations 11 and 12 are being considered together and DFFH is undertaking policy scoping work on a consent-based child protection notification scheme for unborn reports. This work is being undertaken in partnership with other departments and relevant ACCOs (including Aboriginal legal services, ACCOs delivering children and family services, the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation, DJCS and DH).</p> <p>It is intended that work towards this recommendation would operate alongside existing support services such as the Garinga Bupup initiative delivered by the Bendigo & District Aboriginal Cooperative; Aboriginal-led Case Conferencing delivered by the Victorian Aboriginal Child and Community Agency (VACCA); and Aboriginal Family-led Decision Making delivered by Njernda and Goolum Goolum.</p> <p>The Garinga Bubup program focuses on providing an immediate and culturally safe early intervention support to First Peoples unborn children and their mothers in order to prevent unborn reports to Child Protection.</p> <p>Work to progress a consent-based child protection notification scheme for unborn reports would happen alongside other key initiatives being progressed by DFFH which are designed to</p>

Recommendation

WOVG Position

Lead Minister/ agency

Implementation plans

to respond appropriately and offer a range of culturally safe support options, including a referral to a supporting organisation (including an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation or Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation), and

c. pre-birth reports that are assessed as not requiring further action are to be excluded from this scheme.

put Aboriginal self-determination at the centre of decision making for First Peoples within the child protection system. This includes operationalisation of the *Statement of Recognition Act 2023*, which sets out principles to embed Aboriginal self-determination in service delivery and planning for DFFH staff and funded agencies working with First Peoples children and families. The recognition principles are reflected in the Child Protection Manual and are required to be considered by child protection and Community Service Organisations for all decisions and actions undertaken when working with First Peoples children and families.

Future implementation actions

The scoping work outlined above will inform future actions.

Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Recommendations 11 and 12 are in the policy design phase and as such, monitoring and evaluation plans are yet to be established. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
12	<p>Whenever:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing receives a pre-birth report regarding a pregnant Aboriginal woman, or b. a child protection report is substantiated regarding an Aboriginal child, then: c. subject to the consent of the person to whom the report relates, the Department must automatically notify a Victorian Aboriginal legal service provider to be funded by the Victorian Government so that the child's parents and/or primary care giver are offered legal help and, where appropriate, non-legal advocacy. 	Support in principle	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Children</p> <p>Lead agency: DFFH</p> <p>Liaison agency: DJCS and DPC</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>Refer to the information in recommendation 11, above.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>Refer to the information in recommendation 11, above.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>Refer to the information in recommendation 11, above.</p>
13	<p>The Victorian Government must ensure that an impact evaluation of the Child Protection Risk Assessment Framework (SAFER) is commenced within 12 months, and in the case of First Peoples children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. is First Peoples led and overseen by a First Peoples governance group b. has methodology that includes a review of individual cases by the 	Support in principle	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Children</p> <p>Lead agency: DFFH</p> <p>Liaison agency: DPC</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>An impact evaluation of SAFER has commenced, comprising 3 parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A literature review undertaken by Australian Catholic University and Flinders University. A First Peoples researcher within the team is leading engagement of ACCO representatives through yarning. The aim is to gather knowledge on factors of cultural strengths, protection and safety. This method is in addition to a review of these factors evident in

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	<p>Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, and</p> <p>c. makes recommendations that include actions to reduce child protection practitioner racial bias when applying the Framework.</p>			<p>academic literature. Findings expected in late 2024.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Outcomes evaluation, led by the Centre for Evaluation and Research Evidence (CERE), alongside the First Peoples evaluation in a partnership approach. The final report for the CERE evaluation is anticipated in early 2026. 3. The First Peoples-led nested component of the outcomes evaluation will consider the application and impact of the SAFER framework as applied with First Nations children and families. Work is underway to procure a First Peoples evaluator. <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>Once engaged, the First Peoples evaluator will establish a First Peoples governance group to govern and lead this component of the SAFER impact evaluation as it relates to First Peoples.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>The full impact evaluation of SAFER, of which the First Peoples component is a part, is expected to be completed by early 2026. Measures will be determined as part of this process.</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
14	<p>The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing must ensure that:</p> <p>a. all incoming child protection staff, as part of their pre-service education, complete cultural awareness and human and cultural rights training covering issues including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. the history of colonisation and in particular the impact of 'protection' and assimilation policies II. the continuing systemic racism and paternalism inherent in child protection work today that must be identified, acknowledged and resisted III. the value of First Peoples family and child-rearing practice IV. upholding human rights including Aboriginal cultural rights, and V. the strength of First Peoples families and culture and culturally appropriate practices 	Support	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Children</p> <p>Lead agency: DFFH</p> <p>Liaison agency: DPC</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>DFFH has implemented this recommendation through the mandatory facilitated Aboriginal Cultural Safety (all staff and manager/leader stream including executives) and anti-racism training programs.</p> <p>Executives are also required to focus on Aboriginal Cultural Safety as part of their performance development plans.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Cultural Safety training is delivered through the Koorie Heritage Trust, which was the successful First Peoples owned and operated business in the recent procurement process to deliver this program. The procurement process included requirements to address the recommendations in 14(a). The training is codesigned with First Nations staff. The training has completed the pilot phase and is live for bookings.</p> <p>DFFH has redeveloped its mandatory Child Protection Induction training to embed human rights and Aboriginal cultural rights and strengthen Aboriginal cultural awareness. The redeveloped induction training began in May 2024. The program seeks to embed an understanding of the impact of colonisation, an understanding of cultural ways of working and includes specific modules delivered by elders,</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	<p>b. all child protection staff and Department executives undertake regular, mandatory cultural safety training, to be designed and delivered by a Victorian First Peoples business or consultants on a paid basis, and</p> <p>c. completion rates for training are published by the Department annually.</p>			<p>community-controlled organisations and Aboriginal staff.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>Implementation actions have been completed for the Aboriginal Cultural Safety Training offered through the Koorie Heritage Trust. This training has evaluation feedback after every session and will be evaluated and updated annually.</p> <p>Completion rates for Aboriginal Cultural Safety training are provided to Deputy Secretaries bi-annually for monitoring and accountability.</p> <p>Overall department completion rates will be published as part of the Aboriginal Cultural Safety Monitoring Tool reporting.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>DFFH monitors and measures success on cultural safety training and other Aboriginal workforce indicators through the Aboriginal Cultural Safety Workplace Monitoring Tool. The outcomes are reported to the Aboriginal Workforce Committee quarterly and People and Culture Committee annually.</p>

Recommendation

WOVG Position

Lead Minister/ agency

Implementation plans

Annual reviews are completed of Aboriginal Cultural Safety Training by First Peoples staff. Impact of the training will be measured in the annual Aboriginal Cultural Safety Monitoring Tool.

15 In relation to determining the identity of First Peoples children:

- a. the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, in consultation with the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People and relevant Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, must improve how they identify and deidentify First Peoples children in the Victorian children protection system, and
- b. the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young people must undertake regular audits and publish the results to ensure child protection practitioners are correctly identifying and deidentifying First Peoples children and doing so in a timely way.

Support in principle

Lead Minister:
Minister for Children and Minister for Treaty and First Peoples

Lead agency:
DFFH and DPC

Liaison agency:
All departments

Implementation actions to date

Work to date to improve identification and deidentification processes within the child protection system include:

- In August 2023, an ‘Asking the Question’ eLearn was developed and made mandatory for Child Protection Practitioners to complete.
- The ‘Asking the Question’ eLearn has been incorporated into the PiP (Practice Induction Program, which is mandatory for all new practitioners).
- A dedicated SharePoint page has been created on the internal child protection learning hub, which contains information and resources readily available for practitioners to access in relation to identification and deidentification processes.

Future implementation actions

Potential next steps to progress this recommendation are being considered as part of the Wungurilwil Gagapduir refresh and Strategic Action Plan development, which will be finalised in late 2024.

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
				<p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p>
				<p>Monitoring and evaluation plans are yet to be established. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>
16	<p>The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing must urgently take steps to ensure full compliance with its obligations to:</p>	Support in principle	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Children</p> <p>Lead agency: DFFH</p> <p>Liaison agency: DPC</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p>
				<p>DFFH engages VACCA and select, gazetted ACCOs to deliver the Aboriginal Child Specialist Advice and Support Service (ACSASS) and Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making (AFLDM) programs across Victoria.</p>
				<p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p>
				<p>To fully acquit this recommendation, further assessment work is required, including to consider staffing, training and infrastructure implications. This will need to be done in partnership with ACCOs.</p> <p>The ACF ACCO caucus has proposed to develop a new family meeting model. The outputs of this work would also inform next steps for progressing this recommendation.</p>

#	Recommendation	WVOG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
				<p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation plans are expected to leverage existing measures for ACSASS and AFLDM programs. DFFH will continue to report on the ACSASS and AFLDM programs through the ACF.</p> <p>Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>
17	<p>The Victorian Government must amend the <i>Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic)</i> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. specify that priority be given to keeping siblings together in placement decisions (both in out of home care and permanent placements) b. include in the decision-making principles a presumption that removal of a First Peoples child from their family or community causes harm c. provide that a child protection practitioner must record how they have considered the presumption of harm caused by removal in 	Under consideration	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Children</p> <p>Lead agency: DFFH</p> <p>Liaison agency: DJCS and DPC</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>The <i>Statement of Recognition Act 2023</i> came into effect from 1 July 2024 and incorporates 11 binding principles that Child Protection and community service organisations must have regard to when making decisions and taking action when working with First Peoples children and families. The Children’s Court is also required to consider the first five principles.</p> <p>The 11 legislated and binding principles include related considerations of the impact of harm to First Peoples children and families caused through the removal of connection to culture, family, Country, and community. This includes decisions relating to the assessment of harm, placement of First Peoples children, and case planning undertaken with the child’s family and Elders.</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	<p>their decision to remove a First Peoples child, and</p> <p>d. provide that the Children’s Court is required to include in its reasons for a removal decision how the presumption of harm caused by removal has been considered.</p> <p>These amendments must be made urgently while a new First Peoples led child protection system and accompanying Act is designed and implemented in accordance with recommendation 1.</p>			<p>The department has worked with ACCOs to develop policy and guidance tools on the Statement of Recognition. Court practice advice and guidance documents have also been updated to provide information on how the Statement of Recognition principles must be considered.</p> <p>The ability to place sibling groups together is also partially impacted by the availability of suitable placements that can safely accommodate sibling groups. VACCA and the Victorian Aboriginal Children And Young People's Alliance (VACYPA) were funded in the recent Aboriginal Learning and Innovation Grant to undertake further work on Aboriginal models of kinship, foster and residential care. This work is underway and anticipated to be completed and presented to the ACF in 2025-26.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>Following an assessment of the impacts of the <i>Statement of Recognition Act 2023</i> after 18 months of operation, DFFH will give further consideration to this recommendation. This would include consideration of any changes to the rates of overrepresentation of First Peoples children in statutory care.</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
<p data-bbox="1415 277 1951 341"><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p data-bbox="1415 368 2063 608">A monitoring and evaluation plan is being developed in conjunction with the ACCO advisory group that has supported the implementation of the Statement of Recognition. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>				
18	<p data-bbox="230 667 658 695">The Victorian Government must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="230 724 723 858">a. ensure Children’s Court of Victoria judicial officers determine child protection matters state-wide, and <li data-bbox="230 871 723 1038">b. abolish the current practice of having non-specialist magistrates determining child protection matters in some rural and regional court locations. 	Support in principle	<p data-bbox="1066 667 1294 730">Lead Minister: Attorney-General</p> <p data-bbox="1066 746 1294 810">Lead agency: DJCS</p> <p data-bbox="1066 826 1294 890">Liaison agency: DFFH and DPC</p>	<p data-bbox="1415 667 1832 695"><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p data-bbox="1415 719 2063 853">In 2023, the government opened the Dandenong Children's Court, to offer a specialist approach to children's matters in the family and youth justice divisions.</p> <p data-bbox="1415 869 2063 1005">The government recently expanded the coverage of the Specialist Children's Court in metropolitan Melbourne, by directing all Youth Justice matters to be dealt with at Melbourne Children's Court.</p> <p data-bbox="1415 1021 2063 1197">DJCS has engaged in preliminary consultation with the Children’s Court of Victoria on requirements to rollout statewide, potential locations and cadence of rollout, subject to fiscal capacity.</p> <hr/> <p data-bbox="1415 1252 1823 1281"><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p data-bbox="1415 1305 2063 1369">Government will continue to explore options to expand the availability of specialist courts, noting</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
19	<p>The Victorian Government must as soon as possible expand and sufficiently resource the Marram-Ngala Ganbu (Koori Family Hearing Day) state-wide.</p>	Support in principle	<p>Lead Minister: Attorney-General</p> <p>Lead agency: DJCS</p> <p>Liaison agency: DFFH and DPC</p>	<p>any additional coverage will be contingent on future investment.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>DJCS will engage with the Children's Court and AJC, including through the relevant Collaborative Working Group, in progressing action against this recommendation. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>DJCS has engaged in preliminary consultation with the Children's Court of Victoria on requirements to rollout statewide, potential locations and cadence of rollout.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>Government will continue to explore options to expand Marram-Ngala Ganbu, noting any additional location/s will be contingent on future investment.</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
				<p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p>
				<p>DJCS will engage with the Children's Court and the AJC, including through the relevant Collaborative Working Group, in progressing action against this recommendation. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>
20	<p>The Victorian Government must address barriers to First Peoples becoming carers for First Peoples children in the child protection system by:</p>	Under consideration	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Children</p> <p>Lead agency: DFFH</p> <p>Liaison agency: DPC</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>The 2024/25 Victorian State Budget provided ongoing funding for the Care Support Helpdesk, which provides assistance and support to carers, and children and young people in care. DFFH is continuing to progress implementation of the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) 2022 Kinship Care Audit.</p> <p>This work aligns with recommendation 20(a) and 20(b).</p> <p>Kinship Carers are supported to maintain a child or young person's continued connection to their culture through access to training through Carer KaFE, which is a learning and development program for foster and kinship carers. Carer KaFE was funded \$1.628 million over four years (2021-22 to 2024-25) to expand this program to enable permanent carers to access the program. This program aligns with recommendation 20(c).</p>
				<p>a. simplifying application and vetting processes and improving support for people navigating the process</p> <p>b. ending the substantive inequality between kinship carers and foster carers by removing the automatic commencement of kinship payments at level one such that payments are made at a rate that reflects the complexity of kinship care, and</p> <p>c. ensuring kinship carers have appropriate access to training,</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	<p>support, and services at a level that is at least equivalent to the training, support and services offered to foster carers.</p>			<p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>Future implementation actions on recommendation 20 will be partly informed by the refresh of the Wungurilwil Gaggapduir Aboriginal Children and Families Agreement.</p> <p>Government will continue to explore options to progress this recommendation, subject to fiscal constraints.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>A monitoring and evaluation plan will be considered as part of work to progress this recommendation. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>
21	<p>The Victorian Government must amend the <i>Children, Youth and Families Act 2005</i> (Vic) to require the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to ensure that all children who are placed in out of home care receive a developmental disability assessment and health assessment consistent with the National Out of Home Care Standards and in a timely way.</p>	Support in principle	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Children</p> <p>Lead agency: DFFH</p> <p>Liaison agency: DH, DJCS, DPC and NDIA</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>This recommendation is being partly implemented through the Targeted Health Support for Children in Care (Pathways to Good Health) initiative, which received four years of funding in the 2023/24 State Budget (\$37.7 million) to provide timely and culturally safe access to health screening, assessment, referral and health planning for children and young people entering or re-entering statutory care consistent with the national standards.</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
				<p>Children and young people already in care can also access the program in exceptional circumstances (highly complex health needs).</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>Government will explore options to further progress this recommendation, subject to fiscal constraints.</p> <p>Change to the <i>Children, Youth and Families Act 2005</i> is not likely needed to support implementation of the intent of the recommendation, however legislative change may flow from changes to disability support arrangements at the Federal or State level and would need to be considered, if this happened.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>A monitoring and evaluation plan will be considered as part of work to progress this recommendation. Monitoring and evaluation will align, where relevant, to the monitoring and evaluation measures established to oversee implementation of the Targeted Health Support for Children in Care (Pathways to Good Health) initiative.</p> <p>Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
22	The Victorian Government must amend the <i>Children, Youth and Families Act 2005</i> (Vic) to provide the Children’s Court with greater powers to ensure that cultural plans are developed, implemented and monitored, particularly when out of home care orders are being extended and children’s separation from their families is prolonged.	Under consideration	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Children</p> <p>Lead agency: DFFH</p> <p>Liaison agency: DJCS and DPC</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>The Victorian Government invested an additional \$10.2 million over four years in the 2024/25 State Budget to continue the employment of additional Senior Cultural Advisors in ACCOs and to continue Cultural Planning Advisors within DFFH. This builds on the \$2.1 million per annum in ongoing funding to ACCOs to employ nine Senior Cultural Advisors, allocated through the 2022/23 State Budget.</p> <p>Steps have been taken in 2024 to increase the completion rate for cultural plans, including a commitment between DFFH and ACCO Cultural Planning Coordinators, to develop a new cultural plan model.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>DFFH will work alongside key stakeholders to oversee the development and implementation of a new cultural plan model.</p> <p>Any agreed redesign to the current cultural plan model will need to be approved by the ACF as the key governance forum for Aboriginal-led children and family services.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation plans will leverage off existing monitoring and evaluation arrangements</p>

#	Recommendation	WVOG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
23	<p>The Victorian Government must urgently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. ensure that the Framework to Reduce Criminalisation of Young People in Residential Care is applied in all cases b. establish a mechanism within the Commission for Children and Young People through which young people can report that a residential care provider or Victoria Police has failed to apply the Framework, so that the Commissioner can advocate for that young person, including (in the case of police) by referring the matter to an independent police oversight body c. ensure that, when the Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People is placed on a statutory footing, 	Support in principle	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Children</p> <p>Lead agency: DFFH</p> <p>Liaison agency: DJCS, DPC and Victoria Police</p>	<p>regarding cultural plans which are reported quarterly through the ACF.</p> <p>Reporting will be considered within the context of WVOG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p> <p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>In line with recommendation 23(a), the Victorian Government, along with Victoria Police, DJCS and residential care providers, are working actively to implement the Framework to Reduce the Criminalisation of Young People in Residential Care (the Framework) through the existing 18-month action plan, and to monitor its implementation through local partnerships and regular reporting. A review of this work is planned for completion in mid-2025.</p> <p>Recommendation 23(b) is partially addressed through changes introduced through the <i>Statement of Recognition Act 2023</i>, which empower the Commission for Children and Young People to advocate on behalf of children and young people.</p> <p>Recommendation 23(d) is continuing to be implemented. Training for residential care staff is embedded into the Residential Care Learning and Development Strategy, including responding to incidents within the home (without the need for</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	<p>these functions are performed by that Commissioner with respect to those children and young people, and</p> <p>d. fund the development and delivery of training to residential care providers and Victoria Police on implementing the Framework in practice.</p>			<p>police intervention), trauma informed practice and cultural awareness.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>Further consideration of recommendation 23(b) and recommendation 24 will occur in late 2025 following the implementation and evaluation of the existing 18-month action plan.</p> <p>Recommendation 23(c) is dependent on the implementation of recommendation 7.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>As noted above, an evaluation of the Framework to Reduce the Criminalisation of Young People in Residential Care is planned for completion in mid-2025.</p> <p>Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>
24	<p>The Commission for Children and Young People and Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People must:</p>	Support in principle	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Children</p> <p>Lead agency: DFFH</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>In line with the updates for recommendation 23 (above), the Victorian Government, along with Victoria Police and residential care providers, are working actively to implement the Framework</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. monitor compliance with the Framework to Reduce Criminalisation of young people in residential care current 18-month action plan b. review individual cases c. specify targets for reduced police contact, and d. publicly report on outcomes. 		<p>Liaison agency: DJCS, DPC and Victoria Police</p>	<p>through the existing 18-month action plan, and to monitor its implementation through local partnerships and regular reporting. A review of this work is planned for completion in mid-2025.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>This recommendation will be further considered following evaluation of the Framework planned for completion in mid-2025. This evaluation will inform the next steps required to support delivery of this recommendation.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>As noted above, an evaluation of the Framework is planned for completion in mid-2025. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>
25	<p>The Victorian Government must amend the <i>Children, Youth and Families Act 2005</i> (Vic) to allow the Children’s Court of Victoria to extend the timeframe of a Family Reunification Order where it is in the child’s best interest to do so.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Children</p> <p>Lead agency: DFFH</p> <p>Liaison agency: DJCS and DPC</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>The Victorian Government is examining permanency settings to identify opportunities to improve outcomes for families. The Permanency Project, which considers changes to permanency settings under the <i>Children, Youth and Families Act 2005</i>, has consulted with key legal and sector</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
				<p>stakeholders during 2023-24 to seek their views on issues and areas for action.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>Government is considering advice on stakeholder feedback and potential reform options in relation to permanency settings. Implementation of this recommendation would require legislative reform. Further consultation with stakeholders will occur once preferred reform options have been determined.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation will be considered as part of work to progress this recommendation. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>
26	<p>The Victorian Government must:</p> <p>a. recognise that the human and cultural rights of First Peoples children in permanent care to have, express, develop and maintain their culture, and to maintain contact with their</p>	Under consideration	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Children</p> <p>Lead agency: DFFH</p> <p>Liaison agency: DPC</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>The <i>Statement of Recognition Act 2023</i> addresses, in part, the intent of this recommendation.</p> <p>This Act came into effect 1 July 2024 and formally acknowledges the impact of past policies and practices on First Peoples. It legislates the requirement of Child Protection to demonstrate</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
b.	<p>Aboriginal family, kin and community, are not presently adequately respected and ensured in practice, and</p> <p>urgently work with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and relevant Aboriginal organisations to formulate and implement all necessary legislative, administrative and other means for respecting and ensuring those rights, including by authorising Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to monitor the cultural care plans of Aboriginal children who are the subject of permanent care orders.</p>			<p>how First Peoples voices are heard and considered in decision-making, how funding and power is shared and legislates all elements of the Aboriginal Child Placement Principle in decision-making for First Peoples children.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>This recommendation proposes that permanent carers continue to be monitored by ACCOs, and potentially government, regarding cultural plans for First Peoples children in their care. This is a significant change to current policy, where a permanent care order effectively exits a family from departmental oversight and engagement given the child is in a settled and permanent long-term care arrangement.</p> <p>The Victorian Government will consider implementation of this recommendation together with recommendation 1.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation will be considered as part of work to progress this recommendation. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>

Category 4: Urgent reforms to the criminal justice system

#	Recommendation	WVOG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
27	<p>The Victorian Government must establish and adequately resource a new independent police oversight authority, headed by a statutory officer who has not been a police officer, to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> investigate and determine all complaints about police (except for minor customer service matters) investigate and report on all police contact deaths and serious incident conduct independent monitoring of and reporting on police custody and detention on its own motion, monitor, audit, systemically review and report on the exercise of police powers and interactions with the public including customer service matters undertake own motion, public interest investigations, and publish reports in the public interest. <p>The new authority must:</p>	Under consideration	<p>Lead Minister: Attorney-General</p> <p>Lead agency: DJCS</p> <p>Liaison agency: DPC and Victoria Police</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>This recommendation remains under consideration. Government recognises the importance of an improved police oversight system that is responsive and culturally safe for Aboriginal people, their families and community. This is vital to promoting public confidence and reducing the underreporting of police misconduct by Aboriginal peoples.</p> <p>DJCS is currently engaging with the AJC and the First Peoples' Assembly and other Aboriginal community stakeholders on potential police oversight reform proposals. While the proposals under consideration do not seek to adopt recommendation 27 in full, the reforms under consideration are designed to strengthen the Independent Broad-based Anti-corruption Commission's (IBAC's) functions, powers and focus on police oversight – including implementing specific reforms identified by, and designed for, Aboriginal peoples which is responsive to the intent of the recommendation.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>Timing on this proposed reform is to be determined following decisions of government.</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
g.	have powers to arrest, search property and compel the production of information including from Victoria Police, and			<u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u> DJCS will continue to engage with the AJC, including through the relevant Collaborative Working Group, in strengthening the police oversight system, including the performance of IBAC. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.
h.	include a dedicated division for complaints from First Peoples that is under First Peoples leadership.			
28	Access to pre-charge cautions in the adult criminal legal system in appropriate cases should be increased by all necessary legislative, administrative and others means including by:	Under consideration	Lead Minister: Attorney-General and Minister for Police Lead agency: DJCS and Victoria Police (recommendation 28c) Liaison agency: DPC	<u>Implementation actions to date</u> A pre-charge scheme for legislated police warnings and cautions for children is included in the <i>Youth Justice Act 2024</i> which received Royal Assent in September 2024. Victoria Police already collects cautioning data and will include the data in its Annual Reports commencing from the 2023-24 financial year.
a.	legislating a positive duty upon Victoria Police to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="322 979 703 1182">i. take into account an Aboriginal person’s unique background and systemic factors when making decisions on cautioning or diversion 			

#	Recommendation	WVOG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> II. demonstrate the steps taken to discharge this obligation, and III. record reasons for their decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. introducing a legislative presumption in favour of alternative pre-charge measures in appropriate cases (for example, verbal warnings, written warnings, cautions and referrals to cautioning programs), and c. Victoria Police publishing cautioning data in its Annual Report to Parliament, including specific data comparing cautioning rates for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. 			<p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>All provisions in the <i>Youth Justice Act 2024</i> will commence by 30 September 2026.</p> <p>Government may consider a similar scheme for adults as part of any future summary offence reform. Victoria Police commits to publishing cautioning data on an ongoing basis.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>DJCS will work with the AJC, including through the relevant Collaborative Working Group, in the implementation of the <i>Youth Justice Act 2024</i> and in the development of any further reform responsive to this recommendation. Reporting will be considered within the context of WVOG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>
29	<p>The <i>Equal Opportunity Act 2010</i> (Vic) must urgently be amended to prohibit race and other forms of discrimination in the administration of State laws and programs, including all functions performed by Victoria Police,</p>	Under consideration	<p>Lead Minister: Attorney-General</p> <p>Lead agency: DJCS</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>Government is prioritising strengthening the laws against violence and hate conduct through review of the anti-vilification protections in the <i>Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001</i>. Following completion of this work, government will consider the appropriateness of further reforms.</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	Corrections Victoria and child protection authorities.		Liaison agency: DFFH, DPC and Victoria Police	<p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>Further policy analysis and stakeholder consultation with entities that administer state laws and programs is required to determine the implementation requirements of this recommendation.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>In considering further reforms, DJCS will continue to engage with the AJC on anti-vilification reforms, including through the relevant Collaborative Working Group. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>
30	<p>In relation to the decriminalisation of public intoxication:</p> <p>a. the Chief Commissioner of Police must ensure that Victoria Police conduct is closely monitored to ensure police members do not use existing powers to unnecessarily take intoxicated people into custody, for example by ‘up-charging’, and</p> <p>b. the Victorian Government’s planned independent evaluation of</p>	Support	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Police (recommendation 30a) and the Attorney-General (recommendation 30b)</p> <p>Lead agency: DJCS and Victoria Police (recommendation 30a)</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>Recommendation 30(a)</p> <p>Victoria Police is proactively monitoring police interactions with people who are intoxicated in public or in police custody until 31 of December 2024. From January 2025 this will transition to a business-as-usual approach which is complaint-driven investigations relating to up charging or unnecessary custody and action to address contributing factors.</p> <p>Recommendation 30(b)</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	<p>the monitoring of police conduct must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. be First Peoples led, with appropriate governance by them II. cover at least the first 12 months and then three years of implementation, and III. have results that are made public. 		<p>Liaison agency: DH and DPC</p>	<p>Work is underway to evaluate the impacts of public intoxication reforms. DJCS has appointed Monash University to undertake an independent evaluation of the justice impacts of the public intoxication reforms, with a team that includes First Peoples in leadership and academic research roles.</p> <p>An independent and Aboriginal-led Implementation Monitoring and Oversight Group is also being established to strengthen accountability and community oversight of reform implementation.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>Recommendation 30(a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1: Proactive monitoring of police interactions with people who are intoxicated in public or in police custody to 31 December 2024. • Phase 2: From January 2025 this will transition to a business-as-usual approach which is complaint driven investigations relating to up-charging or unnecessary custody. <p>Recommendation 30(b)</p> <p>Research will include interviews, focus groups and yarning sessions with Aboriginal and other communities disproportionately affected by past public intoxication laws. Research will be conducted in locations with and without dedicated</p>

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				<p>public intoxication health services to ensure a broad cross-section of insights across the state. A final evaluation report is expected to be delivered in late 2025.</p>
				<p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p>
				<p>Recommendation 30(a)</p>
				<p>Monitoring is led by Victoria Police, with data summaries to be periodically shared with Victoria Police’s Aboriginal Portfolio Reference Group to inform approach, including engagement with additional Aboriginal community stakeholders. Victoria Police’s monitoring data will be one of the sources of information used by Monash University in conducting its independent evaluation of the justice impacts of the public intoxication reforms.</p>
				<p>Recommendation 30(b)</p>
				<p>Monash University will continue to engage with the AJC and other Aboriginal community organisation representatives throughout the duration of the evaluation through its Community, Legal and Advocacy Services (CLAS) Committee.</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
31	<p>The following mandatory criteria must be introduced for the selection and appointment of the Chief Commissioner of Police and when undertaking annual executive performance reviews of the Commissioner:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge, experience, skills and commitment to changing the mindset and culture of Victoria Police, to end systemic racism and to ensure the human rights of First Peoples are respected, protected and promoted in all aspects of police operations understanding of the history of colonisation and in particular the role of Victoria Police in the dispossession, murder and assimilation of First Peoples, and the ongoing, intergenerational trauma and distrust of police this has caused recognition of ongoing systemic racism within Victoria Police and the need for this to be identified, acknowledged and resisted, and experience, skills in, and commitment to, changing the culture of Victoria Police to end 	Support	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Police</p> <p>Lead agency: DJCS</p> <p>Liaison agency: DPC and Victoria Police</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>A revised draft position description for the Chief Commissioner has been prepared to reflect the recommended criteria.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>A final position description will be approved by the Minister for Police and used thereafter.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>DJCS will engage with the AJC, including through the relevant Collaborative Working Group, in finalising the revised position description. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	systemic racism and to ensure the human rights of First Peoples are respected, protected and promoted in all aspects of police operations and the organisation.			
32	<p data-bbox="237 699 613 762">The <i>Bail Act 1977</i>(Vic) must immediately be amended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="237 794 741 927">e. create a presumption in favour of bail for all offences with the exception of murder, terrorism and like offences <li data-bbox="237 938 741 1177">f. place the onus on the prosecution to prove that bail should not be granted due to a specific, serious or immediate risk to the safety of a person or to the administration of justice, with the exception of murder, terrorism and like offences <li data-bbox="237 1189 741 1362">g. prohibit remand if a sentence of imprisonment is unlikely if there is a finding of guilt (unless it is necessary to protect the safety of a person or the proper 	Do not support	<p data-bbox="1059 699 1285 762">Lead Minister: Attorney-General</p> <p data-bbox="1059 788 1352 922">Lead agency: DJCS and Victoria Police (recommendation 32f)</p> <p data-bbox="1059 948 1263 1011">Liaison agency: DPC</p>	N/A

#	Recommendation	WVOG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	<p>administration of justice pending hearing)</p> <p>h. repeal the bail offences contained in current sections 30, 30A and 30B</p> <p>i. require all bail decision-makers to explain what information they have considered to understand how a person's Aboriginality is relevant, and provide the reasons for any refusal to grant an application for bail made by an Aboriginal person, and</p> <p>j. require the Victorian Government and Victoria Police to publicly report, at least annually, bail and remand rates for Aboriginal people, and summary data of the reasons given by bail decision-makers for refusing bail.</p>			
33	<p>The Victorian Government must:</p> <p>a. develop, deliver and publicly report on a cultural change action plan to ensure all bail decision-makers exercise their powers and functions on the basis that imprisonment on remand</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>	<p>Lead Minister: Attorney-General and Minister for Police</p> <p>Lead agency: DJCS</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>Training and guidance has recently been provided to bail decision-makers to support their application of the <i>Bail Act 1977</i>, following recent reforms to the Act. The Act requires decision-makers to take into account specific issues arising due to a person's Aboriginality when making decisions.</p>

#	Recommendation	WVOG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	<p>(including that of First Peoples) is used only as a last resort, and</p> <p>b. ensure that the development and ongoing monitoring of performance of the action plan is First Peoples led.</p>		<p>Liaison agency: DPC and Victoria Police</p>	<p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>DJCS will continue to engage with courts, Victoria Police and bail justices in relation to application of the recent bail reforms. The statutory review of those reforms will provide an opportunity to evaluate their impact in relation to remand of First Peoples.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>DJCS continues to engage with the AJC and Aboriginal community organisations in the development of training materials and further cultural support for bail justices.</p>
34	<p>The Victorian Government must ensure access to culturally safe and appropriate bail hearings for Aboriginal people, and culturally safe support for First Peoples on bail.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>	<p>Lead Minister: Attorney-General</p> <p>Lead agency: DJCS</p> <p>Liaison agency: DPC and Victoria Police</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>There are a range of culturally safe supports for Aboriginal people on bail and applying for bail, including support services offered by the Aboriginal Community Justice Panels, Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS), Local Justice Worker Program, Aboriginal Youth Support Service and Koori Women's and Men's programs.</p> <p>DJCS has delivered training for bail justices to enable more culturally safe and appropriate bail decisions. DJCS is supporting other bail decision makers to increase their cultural capability.</p> <p>Victorian Legal Services Board has provided funding at the Melbourne Bail and Remand Court</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
				<p>for a Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service Duty Lawyer and Aboriginal Cultural Engagement Officers employed by Victoria Legal Aid.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>The Bail and Remand Court requires a review and community consultation to enable development of a model that ensures culturally safe and appropriate bail hearings for Aboriginal people. This has commenced as a small-scale consultation but requires detailed engagement utilising self-determined processes and decision-making where possible, and other considerations.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>DJCS continues to engage with the AJC and Aboriginal community organisations in the development of training materials and further cultural support for bail justices. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>
35	<p>The Victorian Government must urgently introduce legislation to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in Victoria to 14 years without exceptions and to prohibit the detention of children under 16 years.</p>	Do not support	<p>Lead Minister: Attorney-General and Minister for Youth Justice</p> <p>Lead agency: DJCS</p>	N/A

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
			Liaison agency: DFFH, DPC and Victoria Police	
36	<p>The Victorian Government’s planned new Youth Justice Act must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> explicitly recognise the paramountcy of human rights, including the distinct cultural rights of First Peoples, in all aspects of the youth justice system embed these rights in the machinery of the Act, and require all those involved in the administration of the Act to ensure those rights. 	Support	<p>Lead Minister: Attorney-General and Minister for Youth Justice</p> <p>Lead agency: DJCS</p> <p>Liaison agency: DPC and Victoria Police</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>The <i>Youth Justice Act 2024</i> includes guiding principles that respond to children and young people as individuals and in a way that promotes their human rights. Specific guiding principles for Aboriginal children and young people also enshrine a respect for their human and cultural rights. These principles will be taken into account to the fullest extent possible when decisions are made, or actions taken, in relation to a child or young person under the legislation.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>The <i>Youth Justice Act</i> was passed by Parliament on 27 August 2024 and received Royal Assent on 10 September 2024. All provisions will commence by 30 September 2026.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>The AJC was engaged through the development of the Act and will continue to be engaged in its implementation. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
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implementation of *Yoorrook for Justice* report recommendations.

<p>37</p>	<p>The Victorian Government must:</p> <p>a. amend the <i>Sentencing Act 1991</i> (Vic) to include a statement of recognition acknowledging:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. the right of First Peoples to self-determination II. that First Peoples have been disproportionately affected by the criminal justice system in a way that has contributed to criminalisation, disconnection, intergenerational trauma and entrenched social disadvantage III. the key role played by the criminal justice system in the dispossession and assimilation of First Peoples IV. the survival, resilience and success of First Peoples in the face of the devastating 	<p>Support in principle</p>	<p>Lead Minister: Attorney-General</p> <p>Lead agency: DJCS</p> <p>Liaison agency: DPC and Victoria Police</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>DJCS has undertaken the Sentencing Act Reform Project, which involved significant policy development to inform an overarching review of the <i>Sentencing Act 1991 (Vic)</i>, in consultation with the AJC. The Project progressed work to address recommendation 37(a), (b) and (c)(i) and included areas of sentencing policy such as principles to promote self-determination and background factors affecting Aboriginal communities.</p> <p>Regarding the aspects of recommendation 37(d) relating to the judiciary, DJCS supports cultural awareness training for the judiciary and will work with the Courts and the Judicial College of Victoria to explore opportunities to uplift current training. Where this is not viable, opportunities to introduce new training may be considered.</p> <p>Recommendation 37(c)(ii) has been progressed through funding VALS to deliver Aboriginal Community Justice Reports, modelled on the Gladue Reports, from 2021 to 2026.</p>
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#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	<p>impacts of colonisation, dispossession and assimilationist policies, and</p> <p>V. that ongoing structural inequality and systemic racism within the criminal justice system continues to cause harm to First Peoples, and is expressed through decision-making in the criminal justice system and the over-representation of First Peoples in that system.</p> <p>b. amend the <i>Sentencing Act</i> to require courts to, in appropriate cases, consider alternatives to imprisonment for all offenders, with particular attention to the</p>			<p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>Timing for policy development and implementation for recommendation 37(a), (b) and (c)(i) is subject to further consideration, including appropriate timing to progress further action on sentencing reform. A number of stakeholders will need to be consulted to inform the policy development, implementation and legislative amendments proposed under this recommendation.</p> <p>Progression of recommendation 37(c)(ii) will be further progressed through an additional two years of VALS' delivery of the Aboriginal Community Justice Reports, modelled on the Gladue reports, in 2024-25 and 2025-26.</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	<p>circumstances of Aboriginal offenders</p> <p>c. amend the <i>Sentencing Act</i> to, in relation to sentencing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. require courts to take into account the unique systemic and background factors affecting First Peoples, and II. require the use of Gladue-style reports for this purpose, and <p>d. ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. there is comprehensive cultural awareness training of lawyers and the judiciary to support the implementation of these requirements, and II. the design and delivery of such training must be First Peoples led and include education about the systemic factors contributing to First Peoples over-imprisonment. 			<p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>An evaluation of VALS' Aboriginal Community Justice Reports will inform next steps for this component of the recommendation.</p> <p>DJCS will continue engage with the AJC, including through the relevant Collaborative Working Group, in progressing action against this recommendation. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>
38	<p>The Victorian Government must amend the <i>Criminal Procedure Act 2009</i> (Vic) and the <i>Children, Youth and Families Act 2005</i> (Vic) to remove the requirement that the prosecution</p>	<p>Under consideration</p>	<p>Lead Minister: Attorney-General and Minister for Youth Justice</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>The <i>Youth Justice Act 2024</i> retains prosecutorial consent in the case of Children's Court Youth Diversion. Other diversion schemes in the <i>Youth Justice Act 2024</i> such as the legislated warnings</p>

#	Recommendation	WVOG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	(including police) consent to diversion and replace it with a requirement that the prosecution be consulted.		Lead agency: DJCS Liaison agency: DFFH, DPC and Victoria Police	<p>and cautions scheme and the Early Diversion Group Conferencing program do not include a requirement for prosecutorial consent. The <i>Youth Justice Act 2024</i> includes a clear focus on early intervention for first time or lower-level offending, recognising that children and young people are still developing and have a greater capacity for rehabilitation and behavioural change.</p> <p>The scope and feasibility of this proposal in the adult system may be considered as part of any potential future summary offence or procedural reform.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>The <i>Youth Justice Act</i> was passed by Parliament on 27 August 2024 and received Royal Assent on 10 September 2024. All provisions will commence by 30 September 2026.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>The AJC was engaged through the development of the Youth Justice Act and will continue to be engaged in its implementation. DJCS will continue to engage with the AJC, including through the relevant Collaborative Working Group, on any future action against this recommendation. Reporting will be considered within the context of</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
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WOVG reporting on the implementation of *Yoorrook for Justice* report recommendations.

39 The Victorian Government must:

a. where appropriate decriminalise offences linked with disadvantage arising from poverty, homelessness, disability, mental ill-health and other forms of social exclusion, and

b. review and then reform legislation as necessary to reclassify certain indictable offences (such as those kinds of offences) as summary offences, and for this purpose, by 29 February 2024, refer these matters to the Victorian Law Reform Commission (or similar independent review body) for urgent examination which includes consultation with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and relevant Aboriginal organisations.

The Victorian Government must promptly act on the review's recommendations.

Under consideration

Lead Minister:
Attorney-General

Lead agency:
DJCS

Liaison agency:
DFFH, DPC and Victoria Police

Implementation actions to date

Government is committed to ensuring that First Peoples avoid contact with the criminal justice system whenever possible and appropriate, this commitment has been reflected by the recent decriminalisation of public intoxication.

Government will continue to consider possible further summary offence reform.

Future implementation actions

Government is continuing to consider the scope and timing of any future reform aligned with this recommendation.

Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting

DJCS will engage with the AJC, including through the relevant Collaborative Working Group, in progressing any future action against this recommendation. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of *Yoorrook for Justice* report recommendations.

#	Recommendation	WVOG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
40	<p>The Victorian Government must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. amend relevant legislation to expressly prohibit routine strip searching at all Victorian prisons and youth justice centres, and b. ensure that data on the use of strip searching is made publicly available and used to monitor compliance with the prohibition on routine use. 	<p>Support in principle</p>	<p>Lead Minister: Attorney-General, Minister for Corrections and Minister for Youth Justice</p> <p>Lead agency: DJCS</p> <p>Liaison agency: DPC</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>The <i>Youth Justice Act 2024</i> prohibits the use of unclothed searches in Youth Justice centres unless authorised by the Commissioner for Youth Justice. The Commissioner must not authorise an unclothed ('strip') search unless the Commissioner believes on reasonable grounds that the search is necessary as a last resort for safety, wellbeing or security reasons. The Commissioner must have regard to the child or young person's individual characteristics and background including their cultural background, whether they are an Aboriginal child or young person, and their physical and mental health. The Commissioner must first consider and use less invasive search methods including screening searches (e.g. using an x-ray machine), if it is safe to do so. Regular use of unclothed searches ceased in Youth Justice from February 2021, following the introduction of body scanner technology at youth justice precincts. Young people are clothed while using the body scanner.</p> <p>The <i>Youth Justice Act 2024</i> also codifies a requirement to publish the number of unclothed searches conducted every 12 months.</p> <p>In the adult corrections system, to reduce unclothed searches there are 19 body scanners currently installed in adult prisons, including 9 in prison gatehouses, 6 in prisoner receptions and 4 in visits centres.</p>

#	Recommendation	WVOG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
				<p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>In the adult corrections system, in mid-2025 Western Plains Correctional Centre will commence operations. As a new facility, Western Plains will have body scanning technology in reception and the visits centre. Body scanning and unclothed search registers are being built into IT systems so manual registers are not required.</p>
				<p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>Youth Justice publishes quarterly data on unclothed searches on the DJCS website. The <i>Youth Justice Act 2024</i> also codified a requirement to publish the number of searches conducted every 12 months. In the adult correction system, enhancements to existing systems are currently being developed to enable more timely reporting. DJCS will continue to work with the AJC in progressing these reforms.</p>
41	<p>Noting that cooperation with the Australian Government is required, the Victorian Government must immediately take all necessary legislative, administrative or other steps to designate an independent body or bodies to perform the functions of the National Preventive Mechanism of monitoring the State’s</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>	<p>Lead Minister: Attorney-General, Minister for Corrections and Minister for Youth Justice</p> <p>Lead agency: DJCS</p> <p>Liaison agency: DFFH, DPC, Victoria</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>The Victorian Government supports the principles of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT). Victoria currently has oversight regimes in place that are designed to ensure that people in detention are protected against torture and other cruel inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment. The Victorian Parliament passed the <i>Monitoring Places of Detention by the United</i></p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
	<p>compliance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment of Punishment in places of detention.</p>		<p>Police, as well as all departments through the inter-departmental working group</p>	<p><i>Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (OPCAT) Act 2022</i> to facilitate the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture’s visit to Australia and inspection of places of detention in Victoria in October 2022.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>Victoria continues to cooperatively and progressively work towards implementation of OPCAT, subject to the resolution of sufficient and ongoing funding from the Commonwealth, particularly for a National Preventative Mechanism, and as well as the resolution of outstanding implementation issues, including the Commonwealth leading work in consultation with states and territories to reach agreement on the definition and scope of places of detention. Following a meeting of the Standing Council of Attorneys-General of 23 February 2024, Victoria alongside other jurisdictions agreed to continue to cooperatively and progressively work towards compliance with OPCAT.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>DJCS will engage with the AJC, including through the relevant Collaborative Working Group, in progressing any future action against this recommendation. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
				implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.
42	<p>The Victorian Government must immediately take all necessary steps to ensure prisoners (whether on remand or under sentence and whether in adult or youth imprisonment or detention) including Aboriginal prisoners can make telephone calls for free or at no greater cost than the general community.</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Corrections and Minister for Youth Justice</p> <p>Lead agency: DJCS</p> <p>Liaison agency: DPC</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>Young people in youth justice centres currently receive a call allowance and have access to zoom meetings at no cost to the young person.</p> <p>In adult corrections, the Prison Telephone Service provides access to phone calls for people in prison on a cost recovery basis, but the cost of these calls to mobiles can be a barrier to accessibility. Negotiations are underway with the Prison Telephone Service operator to reduce the costs of the service in the longer term.</p> <p>Video visits via Zoom are available cost-free to people in prison. Between 1 July 2022 to 31 March 2023, there were more than 86,000 video visits across public and private prisons.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>Government will subsidise phone calls in adult prisons in the short term. Corrections Victoria is continuing to implement new technologies to support communication between people in custody and their loved ones, including use of in-cell technology and messaging services. DJCS is working with its telephone service provider on the best model to implement the subsidy.</p>

#	Recommendation	WVOG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
43	<p>The Victorian Government must, as soon as possible and after consultation with the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and relevant Aboriginal organisations, take all necessary steps to structurally reform the Victorian prison system based on the recommendations of the Cultural Review of the Adult Custodial Corrections System and in particular the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. a new legislative framework for the adult custodial corrections system which focusses on rehabilitation, safety, cultural and human rights (recommendation 2.1) b. a new independent Inspectorate of Custodial Services including an Aboriginal Inspector of Adult 	<p>Support in principle</p>	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Corrections</p> <p>Lead agency: DJCS</p> <p>Liaison agency: DPC</p>	<p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>DJCS will continue to engage with the AJC, including through the relevant Collaborative Working Groups, on supporting access to communication facilities in custodial environments. Reporting will be considered within the context of WVOG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p> <p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>The Government's public response to the Cultural Review of the Adult Custodial Corrections System (the Cultural Review) supports the reform directions set out in the Cultural Review's report.</p> <p>The Victorian Government is working on reforms to address the issues and themes identified in the Cultural Review. These reforms will seek to better support the custodial correctional workforce, improve outcomes for people in custody, provide more support for the Aboriginal workforce and greater cultural safety across the system and keep Victorians safe.</p> <p>The improvements the Victorian Government is making to the custodial corrections system are occurring in an environment of fiscal constraints and a tight labour market. As such, the Victorian Government has been required to take a sequential approach to ensure its efforts are sustainable. In some instances, this may mean that</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
c.	<p>Custodial Services (recommendation 2.3)</p> <p>enhanced data capability and information management system (recommendation 2.6), but which must apply Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles in relation to data of First Peoples</p> <p>improved professional development for the custodial workforce (recommendation 3.9), but taking into account the above recommendations for strengthening capability, competence and support in relation to human and cultural rights, and</p> <p>other recommendations in relation to Aboriginal prisoners (see recommendations 5.3 to 5.16).</p>			<p>implementation is focused on the development of the necessary policies and frameworks that can guide future activities. This approach is also a recognition that long-term change is required to respond to the issues identified by the Cultural Review.</p> <p>These initial improvements will provide a sustainable base for some of the longer-term reforms referenced in recommendation 43 of the <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report which will require further consideration.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>The Victorian Government is committed to ensuring stakeholders inform the planning and implementation of reforms. This includes ensuring reforms continue to be guided by the experiences of Aboriginal people, corrections staff and their representatives, human rights experts, service providers and people with lived experience.</p> <p>To foster consultation with Aboriginal community representatives, DJCS has recently established the Cultural Review Implementation Subgroup of the Rehabilitation and Reintegration Collaborative Working Group of the AJC, a governance body created as part of the Aboriginal Justice Agreement.</p> <p>This implementation subgroup of the AJC supports the development, implementation and oversight of</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
				<p>initiatives related to the Cultural Review that address the cultural safety of Aboriginal people in custody and the Aboriginal custodial workforce.</p> <p>The Corrections Victoria Workforce Strategy will be released in October 2024. Actions in the strategy will build a supported workforce that has the skills, values and competencies needed to deliver correctional services to the highest standard.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>DJCS will engage with the AJC, through the Cultural Review Implementation Subgroup, in progressing actions responding to the Cultural Review. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>
44	<p>The Victorian Government must:</p> <p>a. take all legislative, administrative and other steps to implement the <i>United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners</i> in relation to the use of solitary confinement at all</p>	<p>Support in principle</p>	<p>Lead Minister: Attorney-General, Minister for Corrections and Minister for Youth Justice</p> <p>Lead agency: DJCS</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>The use of isolation in Youth Justice centres is to maintain the safety and security of young people, staff, and the centres – guided by legislation and policy, and informed by human rights. Solitary confinement is not used, and isolation cannot be used as a form of punishment.</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
b.	<p>Victorian prisons and youth justice centres, including an express prohibition on the use of solitary confinement on children and on the use of prolonged or indefinite solitary confinement on adults, and</p> <p>ensure that Victorian prisons and youth justice centres are adequately funded and properly operated so that the common practice of locking down prisoners in their cells for prolonged periods for administrative or management reasons in violation of their human and cultural rights is ended.</p>		<p>Liaison agency: DPC</p>	<p>In Youth Justice, episodes of isolation relating to behavioural or security concerns have reduced by 15 per cent from the 2018-19 to 2022-23 financial years. Most periods of isolation in Youth Justice are less than 2 hours. Data on isolations in youth justice centres is published on the DJCS website.</p> <p>All young people subject to isolation are provided with support and entitlements focused on their safety and wellbeing during that period of isolation, including cultural support.</p> <p>In the adult system, Corrections Victoria is increasing out of cell hours for people who have been separated, increasing meaningful engagement for people in prison required to be separated including through work, education and mixing with others, and developing a governance model that improves distribution of decision making on use of separation.</p>
				<p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p>
				<p>Solitary confinement is unacceptable in Youth Justice. The <i>Youth Justice Act 2024</i> preserves and strengthens the use of isolation framework, including a legislative prohibition on the use of solitary confinement (confirming existing practice), in youth justice custodial centres and requires the Secretary of DJCS to establish minimum standards for meaningful human contact while a child or young person is placed in isolation. These reforms</p>

#	Recommendation	WOVG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
				<p>will come into effect by 30 September 2026. Youth Justice is also updating its policy and procedural guidance for custodial staff regarding the use of isolation.</p> <p>Corrections Victoria has commenced delivery of the Separation Reform Project, to be completed in late 2024. This project aims to create a safe environment for all people in prison, particularly Aboriginal people, in which restricted placements are used as a last resort to manage risk, operations are founded in principles of dynamic security, and transition is supported through meaningful engagement.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting</u></p> <p>The <i>Youth Justice Act 2024</i> codified a requirement to publish the number of times isolation is used for every 3-month period. This information will also be provided to the Commission for Children and Young People for monitoring.</p> <p>DJCS will engage with the AJC, including through the relevant Collaborative Working Groups, in progressing action on the Separation Reform Project, and implementation of the Youth Justice Act. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of <i>Yoorrook for Justice</i> report recommendations.</p>

Category 5: Law reform to enable truth telling

#	Recommendation	WVOG Position	Lead Minister/ agency	Implementation plans
45	By 29 February 2024 the Victorian Government must legislate to create new statutory protection for public records that ensure that information shared on a confidential basis with Yoorrook will be kept confidential for a minimum of 99 years once Yoorrook finishes its work and its records are transferred to the Victorian Government.	Support	<p>Lead Minister: Minister for Treaty and First Peoples</p> <p>Lead agency: DPC</p> <p>Liaison agency: DJCS</p> <p>DGS</p>	<p><u>Implementation actions to date</u></p> <p>Following extensive consultation with the Commission and other relevant stakeholders, the Victorian Government is committed to progressing legislative reforms through Parliament by early 2025. The legislative amendments will ensure that First Peoples' choices about how their information is stored, accessed and used are maintained once the Commission has concluded its inquiry, in line with recommendation 2 of the <i>Yoorrook with Purpose</i> report.</p> <hr/> <p><u>Future implementation actions</u></p> <p>It is anticipated that the legislative amendments relating to First Peoples' information provided to the Commission will be progressed through Parliament in early 2025, ahead of the Commission's conclusion in June 2025.</p> <p>Separately, the government is considering additional reforms to protect all confidential information provided to commissions and inquiries, in line with this recommendation and recommendation 9 of the Beaumaris Board of Inquiry.</p>

Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Monitoring and evaluation will not be required for this one-off legislative amendment. Reporting will be considered within the context of WOVG reporting on the implementation of *Yoorrook for Justice* report recommendations.

46 The Victorian Government must:

- a. review section 534 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (Vic) to identify a workable model that:
 - I. places clear time limits on the operation of section 534 so that where the only individuals identified in a publication are adults who have provided their consent, and the Children’s Court matter is historical in nature, then the prohibition does not apply, and
 - II. enables a Royal Commission or similar inquiry to publish information about a child who is subject to protection proceedings or a protection order, where the child

Support in principle

Lead Minister:

Minister for Children

Lead agency:

DFFH

Liaison agency:

DJCS and DPC

Implementation actions to date

The work to commence a review of section 534 of the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* has not yet commenced due to current resourcing constraints.

Consultation with the Children’s Court, Children’s Koori Court, DJCS and other impacted stakeholders will be required to determine any unintended consequences prior to implementing the proposed legislative change.

Future implementation actions

Timeframes for work on a review of section 534 are yet to be confirmed. Additional funding may be required to progress this recommendation and this would be subject to government fiscal capacity.

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- provides that information, is capable of understanding the consequences of losing anonymity and provides their consent, and
- b. ensure that any review of section 534 of the Children, Youth and Families Act is First Peoples led insofar as the proposed reforms affect First Peoples.

Measures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting

A monitoring and evaluation plan will be considered as part of work to progress this recommendation.

Reporting will be undertaken as part of WOVG reporting on the implementation of *Yoorrook for Justice* report recommendations.