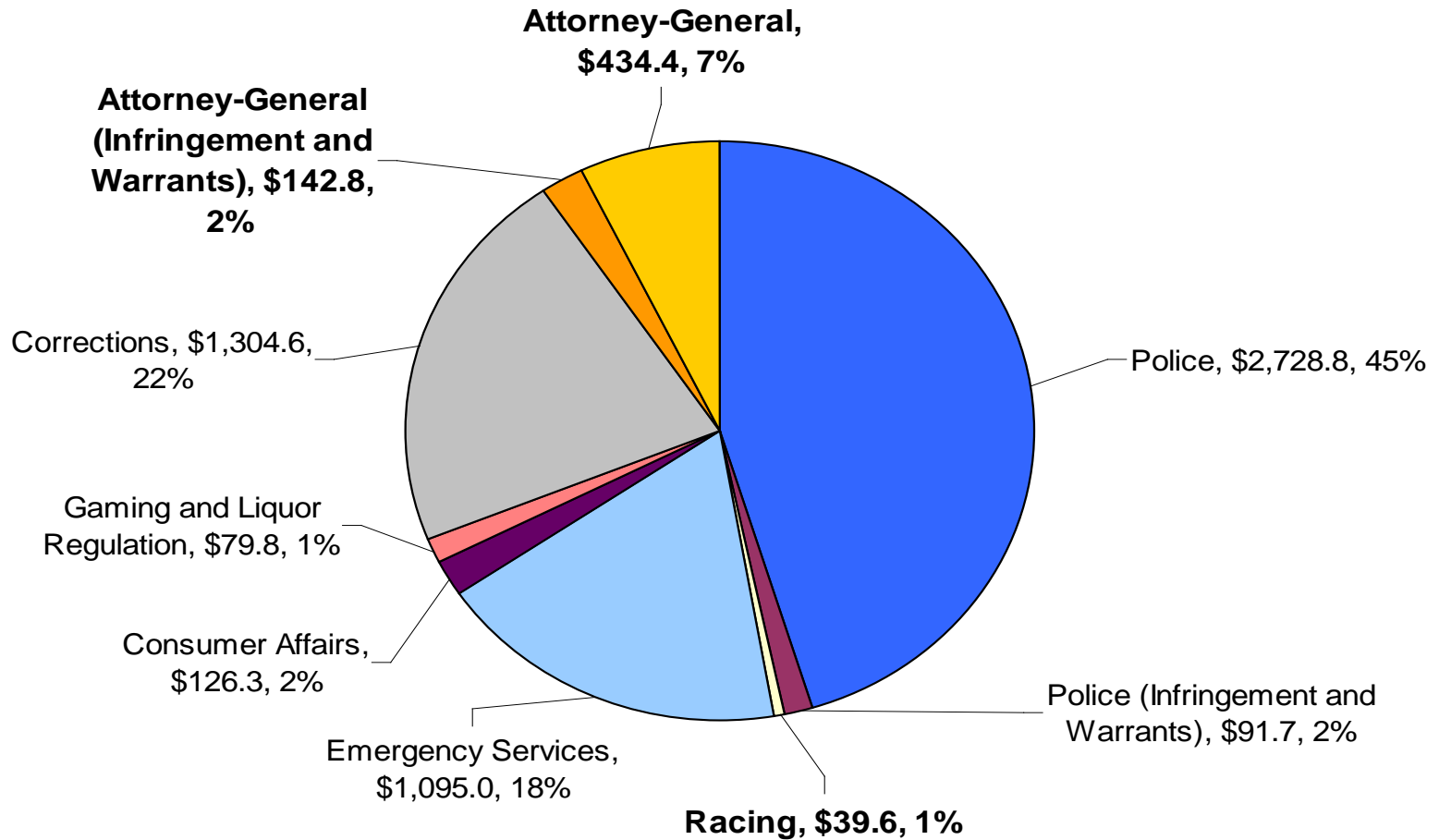


# 2016-17 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee Budget Estimates Hearing

The Hon. Martin Pakula MP  
Minister for Racing

# Justice Budget Breakdown



# Racing and the Victorian economy

- Racing makes a significant contribution to the Victorian economy
- Economic impact in excess of \$2.8 billion per annum
- Benefits shared across industries, including fashion, hospitality and transport
- More than 114,000 directly involved in the Victorian racing industry

# Greyhound racing reform

- Racing Integrity Commissioner and Chief Veterinary Officer reports into live baiting and integrity in the greyhound racing industry
- 68 recommendations including 28 for the Government
- 11 actioned through legislation including:
  - bolstering the powers of GRV inspectors
  - requiring the industry to comply with a new animal welfare code of practice
  - strengthening live baiting and luring offences and increasing penalties in the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986*

## Achievements – Racing Integrity Structures

- Paul Bittar appointed to consult with stakeholders and make recommendations about integrity structures for Victoria's racing industry
- Report and its recommendations currently being considered by the Government

## Industry governance

- Modernised governance arrangements for Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) and Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV)
  - Racing Act amended to provide for the appointment of skills-based boards
- New seven-person HRV Board appointed in March 2016
- GRV Board members with veterinary and marketing experience appointed in October 2015
- New Chief Executive Officer of GRV appointed in August 2015

## Victorian Racing Industry Fund

- Victorian Racing Industry Fund (VRIF) returns all unclaimed dividends and on-course wagering taxes to the racing industry
- \$72 million committed to continue VRIF until at least 30 June 2019
- New VRIF guidelines developed following extensive consultation with key racing stakeholders
- Since coming to office, \$28.52 million provided for 202 projects valued at \$61.63 million - as at 1 April 2016

## VRIF - Infrastructure

- Examples of infrastructure projects include:
  - \$5 million for track lighting at Racing.com Park (Pakenham Racing Club) – Victoria's third thoroughbred night racing venue
  - \$700,000 to the Ballarat Turf Club for a range of infrastructure upgrades:
    - ◆ new tie-up stalls
    - ◆ new exercise yard
    - ◆ new veterinary block
    - ◆ improving security at the club's workshop



## VRIF – Raceday Attraction Program

- Since coming to office, \$5.51 million provided through VRIF Raceday Attraction Program (RAP) for 118 projects - as at 30 April 2016
- Examples of RAP projects include:
  - Multicultural Raceday at Werribee Racecourse
  - Christmas Carnival Race Night at Ballarat Trotting Club
  - Greyhound Racing Victoria's Little Big Day Out events for families
  - Seniors Race Night at Tabcorp Park Melton
  - Chinese New Year at Moonee Valley

## Election commitments delivered

- \$200,000 for National Jockeys Trust
- \$200,000 for National Trainers Trust
- \$260,000 for the Victorian Jockeys' Association to establish the Post Riding Career Employment Transition Pilot Program
  - To assist jockeys transition out of riding at the end of their careers