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Minister for Employment

## **Employment Portfolio**

Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

6 June 2023



Jobs, Skills,  
Industry  
and Regions

**400,000**

New jobs created (March 2023, 2 years ahead of schedule)

**3,588,000 (↑ 199,400)**

Employed persons (April 2023, compared to March 2020)

**3.9% (↓ 1.3pp)**

Unemployment rate (April 2023, compared to March 2020)

**6.0% (↓ 2.5pp)**

Underemployment rate (April 2023, compared to March 2020)

**8.3% (↓ 2.4pp)**

Youth unemployment rate

(12-month moving average as of April 2023, compared to March 2020)



## Sick Pay Guarantee (SPG)

- The SPG continues to provide sick and carer's pay for casual and contract workers:
  - More than **66,000** Victorians have signed up since its launch in **March 2022**.
  - **121,000** claims have been approved – nearly 180,000 days of sick pay.
  - **92%** of claims were approved within 5 business days.
- Impacts of the SPG (based on survey responses):
  - Most common reason workers claim SPG is for **common contagious illnesses** (colds and flu).
  - **41%** said that receiving sick pay enabled them to choose to stay at home.
  - **100%** said the SPG helped them to recover more quickly than if they had gone to work.
  - **93%** felt they would be less productive had they attended work.

## Major Projects Skills Guarantee (MPSG)

- The MPSG provides opportunities for apprentices, trainees and cadets to work on Victoria's largest construction projects.
- Since its introduction in 2016, the MPSG has been applied to **400 projects**, which have committed to **21.4 million** contracted hours for **6,212** apprentices, trainees and cadets.
- This includes commitments to employ **810** apprentices, trainees and cadets across **104** regional projects.
- MPSG projects under delivery in the 2021-22 financial year supported opportunities for **1,976** apprentices, **1,090** trainees, and **966** cadets.

## Providing targeted supports to Victorian workers and communities

### Local Employment Transition Service

- Since July 2017, **11,700** workers have been supported through industry transition, including over **3,900** since July 2021.

### Social Enterprise

- The Victorian social enterprise sector has created over **12,000** jobs for people with disability, and over **4,000** jobs for long-term unemployed people.

### Aboriginal Economic Development

- The Victorian Government is supporting the implementation of the **Yuma Yirramboi Strategy**.
  - Self-determined economic development priorities are being developed by 11 Traditional Owner Corporations.
  - Cultural hubs are being set up throughout the regions ahead of the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

## Jobs Victoria

- Since Jobs Victoria was established in October 2016, it has placed more than **64,000** people into a job, including more than **54,000** since mid-2020.
- At least **25,500** have maintained that employment for over 26 weeks.
- Other outcomes include:
  - The Jobs Victoria Fund has delivered more than **10,000** secure jobs in priority sectors experiencing workforce shortages, such as social services and manufacturing.
  - The Fund has delivered against its targets of over **60% of jobs for women** and **25% of jobs for women over 45**.
  - Over **1,300** Aboriginal Victorians have been placed in work through Jobs Victoria services since 2021.

## Key employment initiatives in the 2023-24 Budget

- **Jobs Victoria: \$35.1 million over 2 years** to deliver Jobs Victoria Mentor services and support for Ready Set.
  - **Jobs Victoria Mentors** provide personalised support to those Victorian jobseekers who are hardest to place, in areas experiencing entrenched disadvantage.
  - Funding for **Ready Set** delivers on an election commitment to provide \$100,000 to support jobseekers struggling to enter the workforce by providing clothing and coaching services.