# Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth)

# **Annual Report**





VicHealth acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land. We pay our respects to all Elders past, present and future.

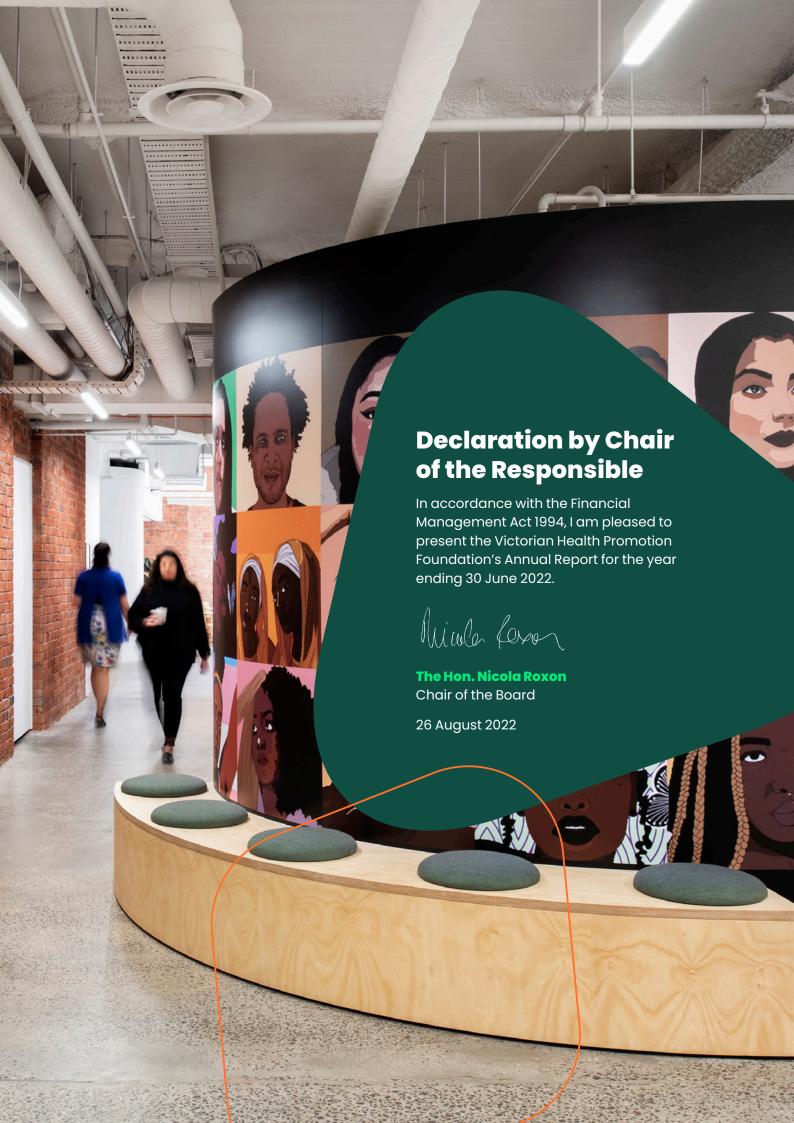
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#### Who we are

Since 1987, VicHealth has been making a difference. For the communities we support, the organisations we partner with, and the people of Victoria.

We believe that everyone deserves the right to live a healthy life. Our mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of all Victorians.

We promote good health and help prevent chronic disease. We also look towards the next big health challenges and work with others to overcome them.

Whether it's through providing world-class health interventions, key health and wellbeing research and behaviour change campaigns, we work closely with the government and communities to share our expertise, insights and bring global best practice approaches to Victoria.



We partner in everything we do. Our partners include many different people and organisations across health, education, community, sport, arts, food sectors and the media.

We work collaboratively with them, as a trusted, independent source of evidence-informed practice and advice.

We're here to support our community, influence conversations about health and wellbeing in Victoria, and take action when it's needed most.





Historical image – smoke-free advertisement.

## Innovating for impact. It's in our DNA.

VicHealth was established by the Victorian Parliament as part of the Tobacco Act.

This Act started a ripple of change across the country and set the standard for international best practice. It banned tobacco advertising and used cigarette taxes to fund health promotion programs, anti-smoking campaigns and 'buy out' tobacco sponsorships. And it worked.

Tobacco companies no longer sponsor sports and art events. They no longer advertise in media or at sporting fields. Ultimately, branding was removed from packaging. Today, most workplaces and public spaces in Victoria are smoke-free, the legal age to buy tobacco is 18 years, and the number of adult smokers has almost halved.

It's an amazing success story from the efforts of many, and was the start of health promotion foundations being set up across Australia and in countries such as Thailand, Switzerland, Austria, the Philippines and Malaysia.

Today, we continue our focus on preventing tobacco use - as well as focusing on other important elements of health and wellbeing.

# What is health promotion?

What does it mean to promote good health? It's more than just telling people how to be healthy. It's about encouraging the actions that people, communities, organisations and governments can all take to improve health and wellbeing. It's about looking to the future and identifying emerging health challenges, and innovating and investing to find solutions. It's about creating the places, spaces, neighbourhoods and communities that lead to good health. And helping people discover ways to enjoy a happy, healthy life.



# **Our Action Agenda**

The VicHealth Action Agenda for Health Promotion 2013–2023 outlines our ambitious plan to see one million more Victorians with better health and wellbeing by 2023. It's our 10-year target and vision for a healthier Victoria.

Our Action Agenda explains how our programs meet this target and how our work meets our legislative requirements. It also shows how we're contributing to key Victorian Government priorities in health and wellbeing, mental wellbeing, fairness and inclusivity, gender equality and building capacity.

These focus areas are consistent with our obligations under the Tobacco Act. They align with the Victorian Government policy and program directions, national and international health promotion priorities, policies and research, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) charters and declarations for Health Promotion.

The Action Agenda also outlines 3 themes gender, youth and community – across our work and shows how we're strengthening our work in health equity, research and the arts.



We know that today's health issues are becoming more and more complex and it's going to take collaboration, partnerships, and new and innovative ways of working to tackle them.

# We focus on 5 strategic areas:













# CHAIR'S Report

VicHealth continues to adapt and strengthen our commitment to addressing health equity in everything we do.

As a sector leader, community partner and independent statutory authority, we are in a unique position and well positioned to contribute to the health priorities of Victorians.

#### **DRIVING IMPACT AND SYSTEMS CHANGE**

VicHealth has consolidated its place as a leading independent statutory authority and health promotion foundation - one that is effective, proactive and strives to understand the lived experiences of diverse communities across our state.

Engaging deeply with communities about their lived experiences ensures we can continue to co-design solutions based on community insights and the latest evidence. Connecting with our community to address the complex health challenges we face is an immense privilege and responsibility we acknowledge and embrace.

### **MAINTAINING GOVERNANCE AND RISK EXCELLENCE**

I welcome Phil Wade, Div Pillay and Ian Hamm to the VicHealth Board, who bring excellent diverse experience and knowledge as we start preparations for our next Action Agenda. I thank Peggy O'Neal and Veronica Pardo for their invaluable contributions to the Board during their tenures.



Maintaining our position as a world-class statutory authority that serves the people of Victoria requires strong governance and risk mitigation excellence. Through implementing better financial management and stakeholder engagement systems, we've saved an estimated \$1 million in reduced administration effort and considerably improved our overall risk rating.

#### **LOOKING TO THE FUTURE**

As we begin the transition from our current Action Agenda and look to the future, VicHealth will continue working in areas such as tobacco, alcohol, physical activity, food systems, arts and culture, mental health, policy, research, and community engagement.

We will continue to support communities where we can have the greatest impact, implementing programs and partnerships that empower vulnerable people and communities in Victoria.

Finally, thank you to all Board members, Dr Sandro Demaio, committees and the VicHealth team for your commitment to the health and wellbeing of all Victorians.

The Hon. Nicola Roxon Chair, VicHealth

Micula Corson



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE officer's Report

In 2022, VicHealth's role as a sector convenor and leader is more important than ever. Over the past year, we've invested strategically in partnerships, alliances, major campaigns and research to help deliver on our Action Agenda to improve the health and wellbeing of Victorians.



We kicked off our bold, three-year Future Healthy initiative to ensure that young people most impacted by the pandemic are not left behind. Our vision for a future with vibrant communities, where all young Victorians are socially connected, active and able to enjoy nutritious food. The voices of young people inform our Future Healthy investments, with a focus on communities experiencing systemic inequity.

In developing and implementing Future Healthy, we're listening deeply to our community - consulting and co-designing wherever possible. Our first in-depth community listening report revealed incredible insights into people's lived experiences of health and wellbeing, as well as their visions for a healthy future.

We continue our work with long-standing allies and welcome many new strategic partners. Our VicHealth Local Government Partnership and Research Partnerships with universities are just two of many examples of how we are driving change through practical actions and policies.



'This Girl Can - Victoria' continues to champion gender equality by challenging traditional stereotypes in sport, celebrating and empowering women and girls. The 2021 campaign was our most successful yet, with more than 340,000 women across Victoria inspired to get active as a result of the campaign. And 8 in 10 (81%) who became active after seeing the campaign remained active 4 months later. We're looking forward to building on these incredible results in our 2022 campaign.

#### CREATING AN ADAPTABLE ORGANISATION

This year, we also blossomed as a 'digital first' agency, by making large improvements to our IT systems for significant efficiencies.

By modernising our systems, we now have greater transparency across our business and investments, along with deeper insights and intelligence about our stakeholders and partners. This allows us to make better decisions, be more adaptable and have greater impact in terms of how we deliver and invest in health promotion for Victoria.



#### **ENABLING COLLABORATION**

We settled into our new offices at Spencer Street, West Melbourne and launched the Victorian Health Promotion Hub. The Hub is a contemporary workspace where our stakeholders and partners can come together and work collaboratively, leveraging the latest technology and ways of working – free of charge.

The Hub was officially opened by the Minister for Health Martin Foley MP on Friday 25 February 2022, attended by the VicHealth Board and major stakeholders and partners.

Over the last 12 months, we've also spent considerable time reconnecting with our partners and more regularly visiting communities and organisations throughout Victoria. Seeing health promotion work in progress and hearing from participants and communities about its impact is both energising and critical to VicHealth's continuous improvement.

#### **BUILDING BACK BETTER, TOWARDS A HEALTHIER FUTURE**

The last year has shown the importance of individual and collective health, and again highlighted the health drivers and needs of our communities, and the systems that service them.

Our role in promoting good health has never been more important. And many people share our vision for a better and fairer future, one where no one is left behind. It's with this in mind that we commence planning for our next Action Agenda, consulting deeply with communities and partners along the way.



I'd like to thank the VicHealth team for their tireless work, our partners and stakeholders for their commitment to health promotion, and the Victorian public for supporting our vision of a healthier Victoria.

As we look to 2023, we'll continue to innovate and drive change with our partners and the people of Victoria, so we can serve Victorians for years to come and improve health for everyone.

Dr Sandro Demaio Chief Executive Officer, VicHealth





This year's
Highlights



## Investing to create a healthier Victoria

As Victoria evolves and rebuilds from the effects of the pandemic, VicHealth has adapted and increased our commitment to addressing health equity in everything we do.

Building on our strengths as an independent statutory authority and sector leader, we are investing in ambitious and innovative initiatives to improve the wellbeing of Victorians.

In 2020-21, we diversified and evolved our investment model to create even more impact by partnering with local and regional community organisations to deliver place-based programs, co-designed by young people.

This included providing smaller investments to keep local organisations thriving, while also investing larger amounts for ambitious projects and partnerships that will lead to systems change.

Investing more heavily in programs for young people and communities most affected by the pandemic has been an important evolution in our work. By working with these populations to build back better and fairer, we know this is where we can have the greatest impact.

Our investments extend beyond funding - we help create partnerships, build skills and capabilities, and drive opportunities for innovation that create additional value and amplify the voices and lived experiences of Victorians.



# Did you know?

For every \$1 invested, health protection and promotion interventions return an average of \$14.30 in benefits.

Source: Masters R, Anwar E, Collins B, Cookson R, Capewell S (2017) Return on investment of public health interventions: a systematic review. Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, 71(8): 827-834.







**352** Number of organisations funded

\$28.4m Total funding amount

> (excluding expenses and project support costs)

> > \$1m

Added to funding pool due to organisational business improvements





Where we invested in 2021-22:



\$19.8m (70%) to organisations in Metro Melbourne

\$5.4m (19%) to organisations in Inner Regional Victoria

\$3.2m (11%) to organisations in Outer Regional Victoria













# **Connecting with Victorians**

During 2021-22, we regularly connected with communities throughout Victoria (in COVID-safe ways, of course!), to drive conversations and actions that support health and wellbeing for all Victorians.

- 1, 2, 3 Getting out of the office and connecting with the community.
- 4 Sandro joined Raf Epstein on ABC Drive every fortnight to share health insights.
- 5 The Victorian Health Promotion Awards celebrated the incredible work of a wide range of organisations. We hosted the Awards online, due to COVID-19.
- 6 The Victorian Health Minister, the Hon. Martin Foley MP, launched the Victorian Health Promotion Hub on 25 February 2022.











- **7** We partnered with ABC Takeover to amplify the voices and lived experiences of young people across Victoria. ABC Takeover Shepparton was the first time this initiative had been held in a regional area.
- 8 Promoting good health through the magic of a children's book in partnership with Museums Victoria.
- 9 Our Social Marketing and Communications team visiting Minus 18.
- 10 Sarah Loh, presenting at the The Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) conference.





# **Working with the** Community



# **Future Healthy**

We have a vision for a Victoria where no young person is denied a future that is healthy. We see a future with vibrant communities, where young people are connected, active, enjoy wholesome food and feel great. A future inspired by, shaped by and shared by the people of Victoria.

\$45m in investments

3 years of action

# **Countless** opportunities

to be heard

Launched in September 2021, Future Healthy is working with organisations right across Victoria to make a difference in local communities.

Future Healthy includes multiple streams of investments - major investments for new programs and a grants program supporting locally-led and statewide organisations. There is also marketing and communications activity, including advertising.



# How we're investing to create a healthy future

#### **UP TO \$50K**

Funding smaller investments of up to \$50k for grassroots community organisations, who know their local areas better than anyone and know how to make change happen (e.g. community garden, sports clubs or arts organisation)

#### \$50-\$250K

Supporting organisations who are ready to make a big difference. This could be in a geographic area or for a group of people with similar challenges around being connected, active, or accessing food that's good for them and the planet.

#### \$250-\$750K

Large investments to support major programs of work that will aim to 'move the dial' on health challenges faced by young people. These investments are targeted, working with partners who help create the biggest impact.



# The Big Connect

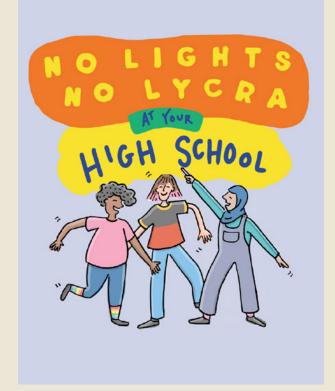
We've invested \$5 million in 27 programs that will create 100,000+ new social connection opportunities for Victoria's young people.

We're working with a range of organisations to deliver place-based and youth-led programs across Victoria's sports, active recreation, arts, cultural, youth, health promotion and community food sectors.

The Big Connect is an integrated health promotion package, including funded partnerships, sector capability building, educational support for families and a public-facing health promotion campaign.

"Research shows that building and maintaining meaningful social connections helps children, young people and their families boost their mental wellbeing, while reducing their likelihood of developing longer term ill-health."

# Dr Sandro Demaio, **CEO, VicHealth**



#### **NO LIGHTS NO LYCRA STUDENT AMBASSADOR DANCE PROGRAM**

No Lights No Lycra (NLNL) aims to reduce levels of social isolation and inactivity in young adolescents.

It fulfils several ideas that we heard in our 2021 Future Healthy Survey about what young people need in order to feel better connected, including access to safe spaces where they can 'express themselves and connect with others in healthy ways'.

NLNL also addresses findings from the 2019 VicHealth Young Australian Loneliness Survey, which found that one in 6 Victorian adolescents aged 12-17 reported problematic levels of loneliness and social isolation.

NLNL improves social connection and physical and mental wellbeing by providing young people with a safe, inclusive and non-judgemental space. The Program is not competitive and young people don't need to have special skills or training to participate.



## JumpStart!

JumpStart! is creating hundreds of community-led initiatives for Victoria's children and young people (aged 0-25, including families). Funding from \$3,000 to \$50,000 was available in 2020-21, with over \$3.75 million invested in 123 organisations, to support young people to:

Learn about their own food culture and identity and share this with others

Get physically active in welcoming and inclusive places

Connect through arts, cultural and play-based activities.





#### LITTLE SPROUTS KIDS **GARDENING PROGRAM**

Food Is Free Inc. will provide monthly educational and fun workshops - the Little Sprouts Kids Gardening Program - for Ballarat's primary school-aged children experiencing disadvantage. The workshops will enable children to connect with food and culture and learn food security, sustainability and environmental skills via organic gardening at the Food Is Free Green Space.



## Future Reset: Young People, **Arts and Mental Wellbeing**

VicHealth is investing big in the arts sector to create more opportunities for young people to build meaningful social connections and improve mental wellbeing through the arts.

We're bringing together 9 arts organisations with specialised knowledge to work with VicHealth as a collective to create a program of work to be rolled out across the state. These arts organisations are hiring 'Young Creative Leaders' from communities that experience structural inequity to create events, installations and creative activations all over the state.

Through this new process and funding model, these 9 arts organisations will collaborate in a very hands-on way with young people and their communities leading the way. All so that young people will have more ways to socialise, find their people and thrive. Future Reset will focus on providing opportunities for youth-led arts initiatives in communities where they are needed most.

Planning is in full swing for the Future Reset Summit (being held in Melbourne and in Shepparton) in October 2022. This Summit, led and curated by young people with diverse lived experience, will bring together young

creatives, changemakers and organisations to explore the role of the arts in mental wellbeing in ways that work for young people. The Summit is an opportunity for a collective re-imagining of the healthy future young people want and need.

We are also building a bespoke digital platform to act as a living archive for the process, relationships and artistic outputs created through Future Reset. The digital platform will act as a virtual gallery and a space for online engagement.

"Art is a medium to develop a sense of self and perspective of the world, and to find solidarity with other people who have similar challenges/ experiences."

# Young creative leader



Kicking off our Arts Collective collaboration.



# **Future Active: Activating Underutilised Spaces**

VicHealth, together with Reclink Australia, has commenced a major, multi-year program of work. We are moving the dial to empower young people (aged 16-25) to get active in their community.

Creating new opportunities for young people to be physically active, designed by them, for them. We're transforming spaces in communities that are not currently being used to their full potential. With a focus on 16 areas in regional and rural Victoria and outer metropolitan Melbourne, we're working with young people every step of the way.

Future Active will remove the barriers to physical activity, provide access to new spaces, more of them and more no cost/ low-cost activities. It will support more young people to do the activities they enjoy, in spaces they feel comfortable in.

Future Active will also provide local training and employment opportunities for young people.



160 sites

100,000 young people

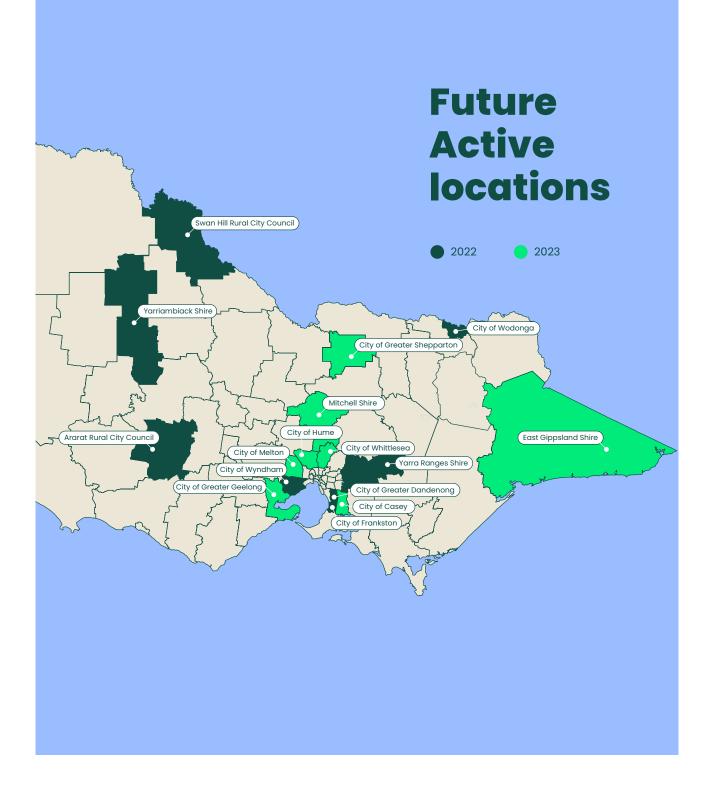
# Countless options

to get moving

"Young people have told us they want more places and spaces in their local areas to move freely and connect with others. We see an opportunity to reimagine what getting active looks like in neighbourhoods around the state."

Sarah Loh, Executive **Manager, Future Healthy Group, VicHealth** 





#### 2022

- Ararat Rural City Council
- City of Wodonga
- City of Wyndham
- City of Frankston
- City of Greater Dandenong
- Swan Hill Rural City Council
- Yarra Ranges Shire
- Yarriambiack Shire

#### 2023

- City of Casey
- City of Greater Geelong
- City of Greater Shepparton
- City of Hume
- City of Melton
- City of Whittlesea
- East Gippsland Shire
- Mitchell Shire





## **Future Healthy Food Hubs**

Our Future Healthy Food Hubs are set to revolutionise and reimagine our local food systems.

We're harnessing the collective strength of community food suppliers and organisations to deliver healthy food at affordable prices. Everyone deserves access to nutritious, delicious food.

Our Food Hubs program offers a share of \$4.15 million in funding for new and existing healthy food hubs, to accelerate and give organisations the boost they need to revolutionise the way we grow, buy and share food!

Designed by young people, for young people, these spaces bring together and educate a new generation on healthy and sustainable food sourcing and practices.

# **These Food Hubs will:**



Connect up to 50,000 shoppers

> to locally grown food per space



Provide meaningful employment

for 125 people across Victoria



Support 150

local growers and producers



Deliver 20

unique paid traineeship opportunities for young people over 2 years



# **Future Healthy Community Champions**

Our Future Healthy Community Champions are generously sharing their stories and ideas to help shape the solutions for the future. Together, we are on a mission to support Victoria's young people to lead healthier, happier lives.

Our 12 ambassadors represent Victoria's young people as part of the Future Healthy initiative. They host events, speak to media and connect with communities to share their lived experiences and drive conversations about the importance of including young people in decision making.



"I don't think people think about things being difficult if you have a disability, but it's hard to know how long to cook things for and what to do next, so I don't cook a lot when I am on my own."



"Access to fresh food and green spaces, which allow people to be active and eat well, is really important."

# Alannah

# Ashika



"I would like to see a future where people can feel safe wherever they are, as well a sense of confidence that you're part of a community and you're supported."



"I think an unhealthy future is where some of us thrive and some of us don't get that same opportunity and get left behind."



"I want everyone to have easy access to any fitness opportunity they want, no matter ability or disability or socio-economic group."



"People with disability want to stay social, and we want to be involved in groups, join trivia nights, just be interactive within our community."

# Danica

Felicia

James

Jessi





"A healthy future would be feeling limitless in your opportunity and ability to create, regardless of your level of ability or disability."



"Sport doesn't just keep me fit and healthy, it's also a good social platform where you can meet other great people along the way."



"A program where people come along and they cook with each other and they connect, I think that would be awesome."

Jet

# Josh

# Manahil



"It's important young people recognise what we can do as a community. The number one thing is to let young people lead the way. Make sure they're given resources to actually lead and design things."



"There can be anxiety around joining new groups, but when you step into one that is safe and supportive those sort of thoughts and anxieties dissipate and disappear."



"A healthy future is one where people can have safe spaces to express themselves and connect with others in healthy ways."

Mark

# Mitch

# Zahra



#### This Girl Can - Victoria

Despite the challenges of 2021, more than 340,000 women across Victoria were inspired to get active and stay active as a result of our This Girl Can – Victoria campaign, making it the campaign's most successful year yet!

#### **CAMPAIGN FINDINGS**

Research by La Trobe University\* into our 2021 This Girl Can - Victoria campaign showed:

# 1 in 6 women aged 18 to 65

in Victoria to move their bodies through its inspirational videos and free and inclusive online workouts

# 8 in 10 of the women

who got active after seeing the campaign were still keeping active 4 months later

# 3 in 5 of the women

who were inspired to get active as a result of the campaign were committed to staying active throughout the rest of the year. An additional 1 in 3 said they were somewhat committed to maintaining their activity levels.

<sup>\*</sup> La Trobe University 2021, This Girl Can Campaign Tracker, VicHealth, Melbourne





#### **JUSTINE'S STORY**

Justine Streager, age 32 from Keysborough in Melbourne, says This Girl Can – Victoria inspired her to get active and connect with other active women, while juggling motherhood, working from home and the many other challenges of life in 2021.

"I really resonate with the messaging of This Girl Can because it's all about just getting out and giving it a go without fear of judgement," Justine says.

"Worrying about what others think is something that has plagued my mind. Surrounding myself with the messaging of This Girl Can, and getting involved with activities that align with this messaging, made me feel safe to try lots of different activities."

In 2020-21, Justine tried online group training with a diverse personal trainer and couch to 5km using the NHS CHOICES UK podcast. When restrictions allowed, she also tried hiking with Escaping Your Comfort Zone, which she's now a leader for, and GO Soccer Mums.

"I've documented my experiences on Instagram and I love being encouraged by This Girl Can and seeing others doing the same as me, just giving it their best. I love making social connections and supporting and uplifting others in their fitness goals too," Justine said.

"I'm no longer sitting on the sidelines and am no longer isolated. I have community and that feels big."



#ThisGirlCanVIC

# **About This Girl** Can - Victoria

This Girl Can – Victoria campaign is about celebrating everyday women getting active however, wherever and whenever they choose. The campaign is designed to encourage, motivate, and inspire women to become more active as well as challenging traditional stereotypes.

We know moving more and sitting less benefits our overall health and wellbeing, Alarmingly, 1 in 5 Victorian women don't do any physical activity at all in a typical week. A common barrier is fear of judgement. The campaign is just one element of VicHealth's broader work to support gender equality and to both empower and enable Victorian women and girls to be more physically active.



# **Community Visits**

Throughout the year, where COVID-19 restrictions allowed, we continued visiting our partners and other organisations and community groups doing impactful health promotion work in regional and urban areas.

It's been wonderful to see and hear about the impact of their work and gain valuable insights that enable us to continue to be a responsive partner.

As part of our plan to reconnect with communities across Victoria and those we hope to meaningfully support with our work, we'll be visiting regional and metro partners and stakeholders during all of 2022.

Visiting communities gives us deeper insights into the opportunities and challenges that each community is experiencing and helps us better support the communities and partners that we serve. The knowledge we gain from our visits informs the work that we do, both now and into the future.

Even more importantly, after spending a day in the community, we always walk away feeling energised and excited to continue the work that we do.



"I found it incredibly inspiring and rewarding...to sit and listen to the community groups we support and partner with...they're so passionate about the work they do and the need to continue making a difference within their communities."

# Shannon Crane, VicHealth Media and PR Lead



# **Community Listening Report**

In 2021, we partnered with Health Issues Centre to gather insights from young people, parents and carers. We wanted to hear about their experiences, ideas and vision of what health and wellbeing looks like for them and understand what's important to them.

Above all, we wanted to give those who rarely get a say, a voice for a healthier future.

As communities start to create their 'new normal' we see an opportunity to build back healthier and fairer. With the voices of young people from across our state guiding the way, we are confident we'll create a future that is healthy for all. Young people are a positive force to be reckoned with - and we want to listen.

#### WHAT WE HEARD

Some of the main things that matter to young people, parents and carers:

- Timely access to appropriate information and education
- Access to healthy natural environments
- Access to health and community services that meet their needs
- Feeling empowered, represented and safe
- Being able to afford the resources and activities that support them
- Better access to technology and positive ways to use it
- Access to opportunities and resources
- Having suitable and affordable transport available
- Learning from the pandemic and promoting the importance of wellbeing.

"Youth-led programs created by the youth for the youth."

"Huge investments into green spaces and creating community gardens and spaces where good healthy lifestyles can happen."

"Health and climate action considered in all policy making. Reduced capacity of corporate interests to influence health policy."

"Normalising mental health and that it is ok to seek help from an early age."

"Being able to go out and dance and feel safe and respected by everyone."

"Funding for our youth in regional centres to access culture and engage with mob in regards to women's and men's business."

"Bring in more activities, whether its traveling sport or music or dance opportunities, to regional areas."

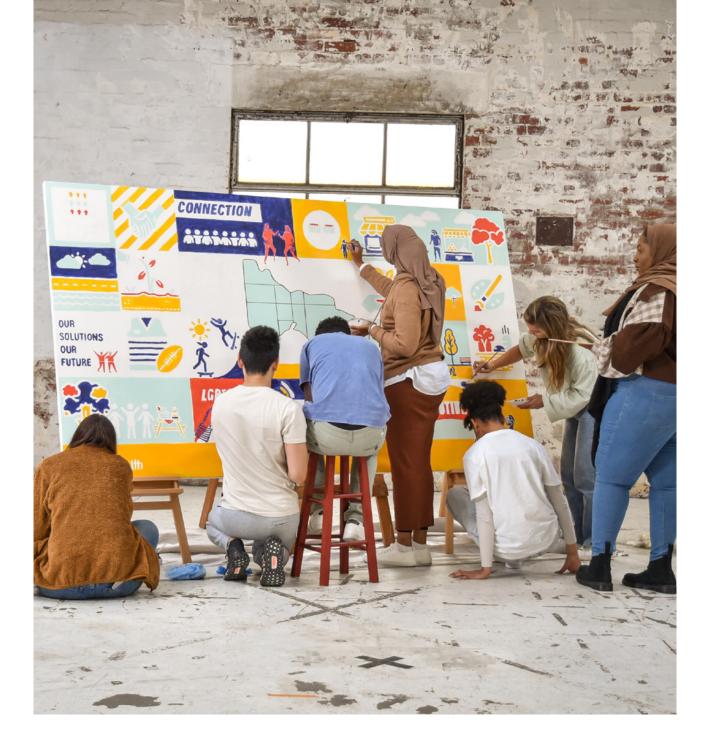
"Accessing healthy food can be difficult due to lack of options near people."

"Promoting different sports and activities (surfing, skateboarding, dance, aerobics...), as well as more information promoting healthy sleep habits, lifestyle hacks, and guidance tools to work towards a healthy lifestyle."

"More free, community based activities that bring people together."

"More safe bike routes through suburbs."





# Partnering for Greater Impact

We partner with a wide range of organisations to achieve our mission of improving health and wellbeing for all Victorians.

These include local community groups, peak bodies, other government departments and agencies, universities and research institutes, and even international organisations, such as Unicef.

These partnerships implement impactful programs, create opportunities for knowledge exchange and capability building, and enable us to deliver better health outcomes for all.



# VicHealth Local Government Partnership (VLGP)

VicHealth is partnering with Victorian councils to set our kids up for their best possible future by creating communities where children and young people grow up active, socially connected and healthy.

Through the VLGP, councils amplify the voices, ideas and experiences of children and young people in their community, embedding this work in council strategy to create a healthier future.

Councils told us they needed tailored knowledge, tools and support to be able to deliver on health promotion work in their local community.

They also told us they required partnership opportunities with VicHealth that are longerterm, strategic and aligned to their Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan cycle.

Built on these insights, we have worked with over 30 expert partners to develop a series of evidence-based health promotion modules to support councils to implement health actions at the local level and embed the needs of young people into their Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans. Each module includes detailed information to help councils implement health promotion programs in their community.

All Victorian councils have access to the modules, providing the foundations for effective health promotion work in their communities. This comprehensive suite of resources enables councils to tailor their work to suit evolving community needs.

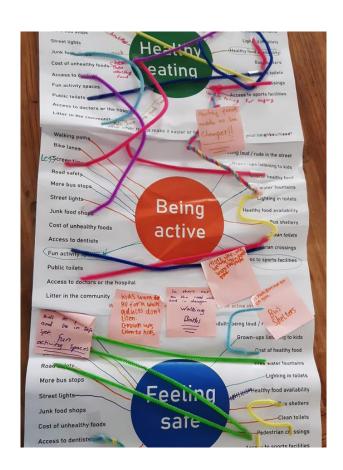
By partnering with local governments in this way we will see stronger and sustained outcomes for more Victorians.

#### KIDS CO-DESIGNING HEALTHY PLACES

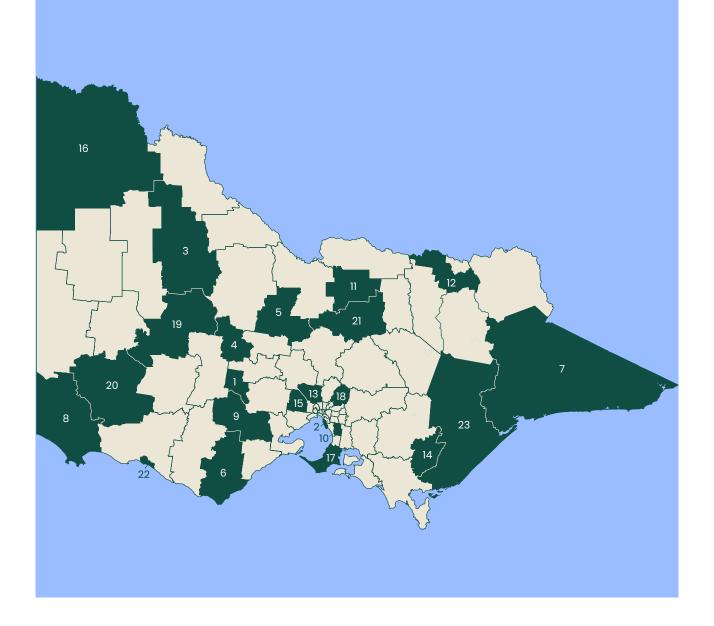
We supported Monash University to develop this project, which supports councils and schools to engage with kids to co-design healthier places. Fast-track councils used the purpose-built Kids Co-designing Healthy Places toolkit to understand children's solutions for the places they live, learn and play in.

The toolkit helps council staff build their skills in working with children, listening to and championing their ideas to include in their strategies. The toolkit also provides options for digital activities and face-to-face workshops, so kids can keep involved through different stages of COVIDSafe settings.

In Central Goldfields, kids and council officers are working together on their suggestions for improving pedestrian crossings, public toilets, registering fruit trees and feeling safe around the community.







#### **OUR PARTNER COUNCILS**

These partnerships build on existing relationships and the influential work that VicHealth has delivered with local councils since its establishment. We currently have 23 partner councils. We hope to partner with more in the future. These councils are leading the way and are committed to prioritising young people in their Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans 2021–25.

- 1. Ballarat City Council
- 2. Bayside City Council
- 3. Buloke Shire Council
- 4. Central Goldfields Shire Council
- 5. City of Greater Bendigo
- 6. Colac Otway Shire Council
- 7. East Gippsland Shire Council
- 8. Glenelg Shire Council
- 9. Golden Plains Shire Council
- 10. Greater Dandenong City Council
- 11. Greater Shepparton City Council
- 12. Indigo Shire Council

- 13. Hume City Council
- 14. Latrobe City Council
- 15. Melton City Council
- 16. Mildura Rural City Council
- 17. Mornington Peninsula Shire Council
- 18. Nillumbik Shire Council
- 19. Northern Grampians Shire Council
- 20. Southern Grampians Shire Council
- 21. Strathbogie Shire Council
- 22. Warrnambool City Council
- 23. Wellington Shire Council



## Quit

VicHealth continues its longstanding investment in Quit Victoria, providing \$5.450 million in 2021-22 to reduce the uptake to smoking among Victorians, increase successful quit attempts among people who smoke and reduce exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke. A key focus of our investment with Quit Victoria is to increase the reach and impact of smoking cessation with high smoking rate populations.

VicHealth's investment supports Quit's work in:

- · Public advocacy, community engagement, communications and public education
- Policy and advocacy
- Technology and service innovation
- · Data collection and analysis



#### **BRINGING AI TECHNOLOGY TO QUITLINE**

After a successful pilot in 2020-21, Quit introduced its newest staff member to Quitline - Matilda.

Powered by AI, Matilda makes calls to Quitline users asking simple follow up questions about their smoking cessation journey. This ongoing contact and encouragement is a key part of supporting people to quit smoking.

Matilda is now a part of the Quitline team, helping Quit proactively re-engage with people who might want more help to stop smoking.

#### **CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY**

Quit delivered a number of public education campaigns in 2021-22.

'Sticky Blood' highlighted how deadly cigarette smoke is for the heart and the



link between smoking and Australia's single biggest killer, heart disease. The campaign explained how within ten minutes of inhaling cigarette smoke, your blood becomes sticky and increases the risk of dangerous clots which can lead to a catastrophic heart attack. The campaign resulted in higher Quitline engagement and doubled calls from people with low socioeconomic backgrounds.

#### **BUILDING SECTOR CAPABILITY**

In 2021-22, Quit published numerous resources for the Health Promotion sector featuring information and statistics on smoking, guidance on developing community-level initiatives, vaping resources, and settings-based resources. This included an evidence-informed Health Promotion Framework for Action to guide planning, implementation and evaluation of community-level initiatives aimed at reducing tobacco-related harm. The framework details populations and settings where action to reduce tobacco-related harm should be prioritised.



# Funding world-class research

Research is at the heart of what we do, and VicHealth have continued investing in leading scientists, experts, and thinkers to help shape a healthier future.

Our research investments are critical in boosting knowledge of what drives preventable disease, and the interventions needed to make change.

Through our Impact Research Grants we are investing almost \$2 million over the next 2 years in ground-breaking research initiatives.

We will also invest \$1 million over the next 2 years in our Research Fellowship program. Enabling early-career researchers to be part of our work, networks, and communities, while contributing world-class research in line with our Action Agenda.

#### **OUR RESEARCH APPROACH**

Investigator-driven research grant programs. This includes National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) partnership grants and Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage grants, and VicHealth's own Impact Research Grants.

Commissioned research to guide our work and explore emerging research priorities.

Knowledge translation activities. Communicating research to policymakers and practitioners helps us amplify the value of our investment and bring knowledge and evidence into the real world.

Invest in a new generation of talented researchers, through our postdoctoral fellowships.

# **Meet our Postdoctoral Research Fellows** 2022-24



DR CHRISTINA ZORBAS, **DEAKIN UNIVERSITY** 

Dr Zorbas is identifying food policy options that better reflect the voices and values of those experiencing health inequities, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, migrant and refuge communities, people living in regional/rural areas, and people receiving low/no incomes.



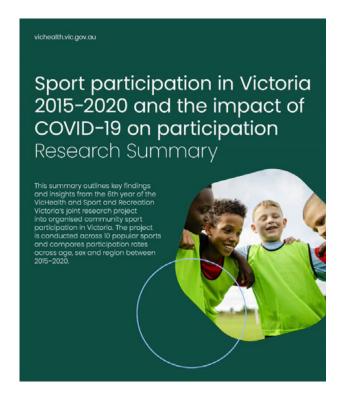
DR HANNAH PITT, **DEAKIN UNIVERSITY** 

Dr Pitt is exploring how local governments can effectively engage young people in public health advocacy strategies aimed at responding to the health threats posed by harmful industries, including tobacco, alcohol, gambling and unhealthy food.



The VicHealth team also made valuable contributions to the research base, regularly writing and publishing research papers, and commissioning reports from academic institutions. We also shared our research and our findings widely - so that others can also use evidence to support health and wellbeing right across Victoria.

We're proud to be investing in and undertaking research projects that are designed to create a healthier future for Victorians.



Sport Participation in Victoria 2015-2020 Research Summary.



DR JENN LACY-NICHOLS, THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Dr Lacy-Nichols is investigating the political influence of alcohol, gambling and ultra-processed food industries.



DR FLORENTINE MARTINO, **DEAKIN UNIVERSITY** 

Dr Martino is focusing on reducing health inequities caused by harmful industries to improve children's wellbeing.



DR ALEX CHUNG, **MONASH UNIVERSITY** 

Dr Chung is looking at food and drink marketing targeting parents and young children.





Dr Sandro Demaio at a LaunchVic Panel

#### CivVic Labs

VicHealth started a new partnership with LaunchVic to bring innovative health-tech prototypes to life to tackle the big health challenges facing Victoria's young people.

We know that technology is shaping the future of health. And Victoria's technology entrepreneurs are steering that transformation. So, we joined forces with LaunchVic to harness that power of entrepreneurship for prevention and connect with the start-up community to create locally led health-tech solutions.

This CivVic Labs challenge will see our health-tech innovators develop technology to improve young people's access to healthy food and expose sneaky digital marketing practices of harmful industries.

The innovators will develop prototypes that address these big questions:

How might we improve young peoples' access to healthy food in their community?

How might we better understand and expose digital advertising of harmful industries that impacts young people?

> The ideas will be pitched in August 2022.





## Museums Victoria

VicHealth and Museums Victoria have a shared commitment to creating healthy environments that support the health and wellbeing of children and families. Our partnership launched in 2019 with the landmark announcement to cease the sale of sugary drinks and snack vending across all Museum venues.

Since then, we have continued to work together to provide creative engagement and education opportunities for children and families through Museums Victoria's digital platforms, programming and physical venues. Notable deliverables in 2020-21 were the Grow, Gather, Share workshops and the creation of the Triceratops children's book, with healthy lifestyle messages throughout its narrative.

# **Exposing harmful digital** marketing tactics

Digital marketing largely occurs under the radar and is always evolving, making it tricky to identify and control. A crucial way to find out what marketers of harmful products (alcohol, unhealthy food, sugary drinks and gambling) are doing is to ask young people to show us the ads they see.

VicHealth, with Monash University and The University of Queensland, partnered with 204 citizen scientists (aged 16-25) who sent in 5,169 examples of harmful advertising they saw on their social media feeds across a 2-week period.

97% of the ads seen and shared by the citizen scientists were 'dark' to some degree – only visible to those targeted by the advertisers, fleeting, and not published on advertiser accounts where they can be viewed.

81% of young people involved in the study thought the advertising of unhealthy industries should be reduced and regulated. They described the targeted social media advertising using opaque algorithms as "manipulative", "creepy", and "annoying".



# Youth Peak Partnerships

We launched our partnership with key youth organisations in August 2021 to ensure that children and young people are included at the centre of health solutions.

Since the pandemic began, many young people found themselves feeling disconnected from their communities and struggled with the indirect health impacts of the pandemic.

These partnerships will be critical in better understanding young people's needs and ensuring their voices are centred when shaping health initiatives that deliver for young Victorians.

In particular, these partnerships ensure we are listening to and amplifying the voices of young people with diverse lived experiences. This includes people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, LGBTIQ+ backgrounds, people living with disabilities, and those from regional areas.

These partnerships come at a critical time as Victoria recovers from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and support our vision to build back a better, healthier and fairer Victoria for young people.

"I think young people really want to be in the room when decisions are being made about our own health and wellbeing, whether that's contributing or just listening and knowing what information is going into those decisions."

Martin Isidro, **Intercultural Young Advocacy Leadership** Group member, **Ethnic Communities Council Victoria** 







Centre for Multicultural Youth (CMY)



Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria (ECCV)



Koori Youth Council







YLab (Foundation for Young Australians)



Youth Affairs Council Victoria (YACVic)



Youth Disability Advocacy Service (YDAS)





The Hon. Martin Foley MP (Victorian Health Minister) and Dr Sandro Demaio (CEO VicHealth) launching the Victorian Health Promotion Hub in February 2022.

# Victorian Health Promotion Hub

Designed to enable innovation and collaboration, the Victorian Health Promotion Hub is a new, modern co-working space where our partners can meet and connect with us, and each other, more closely.

We know that collaboration is the foundation to success, and the Hub provides an environment that enables people and organisations working in health promotion and beyond to come together, connect and collaborate.

Our inaugural Hub partners included organisations from the arts, culture, sports, recreation, health and food systems sectors. Following the opening of the Victorian Health Promotion Hub by the Minister for Health on 25 February 2022, we conducted a pilot phase of the Hub for around 60 stakeholders and partners from March to July 2022, which proved very successful.

We also conducted a survey to glean formal feedback from pilot participants, following the commencement of a new Facilities/Hub Administrator role. We will adopt feedback prior to the Hub going live to all VicHealth partners and stakeholders on 1 August 2022.



# Victorian Health **Promotion Awards**

The new-look Victorian Health Promotion Awards celebrated and championed the achievements of volunteers, grassroots initiatives, ground-breaking research and everything in between.

In 2021 we introduced new categories, including the Future Healthy Award and Community Legend Award.

The Awards acknowledged extraordinary people, groups and projects that have made a vital difference to communities across Victoria in the past 2 years.

There were 41 finalists, from an incredible field of 154 entrants, which highlighted an amazing array of health promotion work currently happening throughout Victoria.

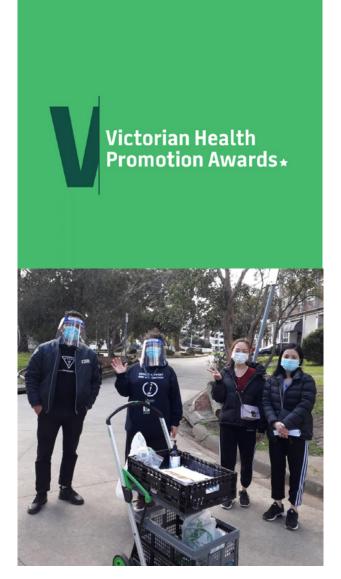
Congratulations to our 2021 Victorian Health **Promotion Award winners!** 

#### **OUTSTANDING HEALTH PROMOTION**

Bendigo Community Health Services – 5 Ways to Wellbeing. This program works with community leaders to deliver mental health promotion and illness prevention in a range of places including schools, early learning centres, community organisations and workplaces.

#### **DRIVING HEALTH EQUITY**

Zoe Support Australia. This organisation works to re-engage young mothers facing disadvantage in Mildura through social programs, education and employment, especially during periods of restrictions and isolation in Victoria.



#### **BUILDING BACK BETTER**

North Richmond Community Health -High Risk Accommodation Response. This initiative empowers residents in the local high rise public housing estates to develop their employment and leadership skills as well as build trust, positivity and collaboration while dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

# **FUTURE HEALTHY**

Monash University - Healthy Eating, Active Living Matters (HEALing Matters) Program. This program aims to improve the eating, and physical activity habits, wellbeing and life skills of young people aged 12-18 living in out-of-home care.



#### **COMMUNITY LEGEND**

Josh Collings – founder of the Acres & Acres Cooperative, a market garden initiative that aims to empower and build the capacity of people In the Upper Murray region to grow, sell and supply fresh produce for their community.

#### **LEADING HEALTH PROMOTION RESEARCH**

La Trobe University – FitSkills Partnership Project. This research aims to discover how the FitSkills physical activity program fosters positive attitudes for young people with disability.

#### **OUTSTANDING MEDIA REPORTING**

ABC Radio Melbourne – Life and Other Catastrophes. This program covers aspects of health and wellbeing, looking at mental and physical health, relationships, habits as well as social pressures. It acts as a resource, a comfort and an outlet for listeners as they are encouraged to call in to share their experiences.

#### STEPHEN WALTER EXCELLENCE IN **HEALTH PROMOTION MARKETING:**

Centre for Non-Violence - You Are Not Alone Campaign. This campaign provided information about how to seek help or support for someone experiencing abuse. It featured voices of women with lived experiences, enabling others to draw strength and hope.



While we acknowledge the incredible efforts of frontline health workers during the pandemic, the Victorian Health Promotion Awards are about celebrating initiatives that address health challenges to prevent chronic disease and to improve health and wellbeing.



#### Our team

Our people and culture drive our organisation and make VicHealth a more collaborative and inspiring place to work. We're continually improving our ways of working and using better tools and processes, while also modernising our systems, so we can achieve maximum impact.

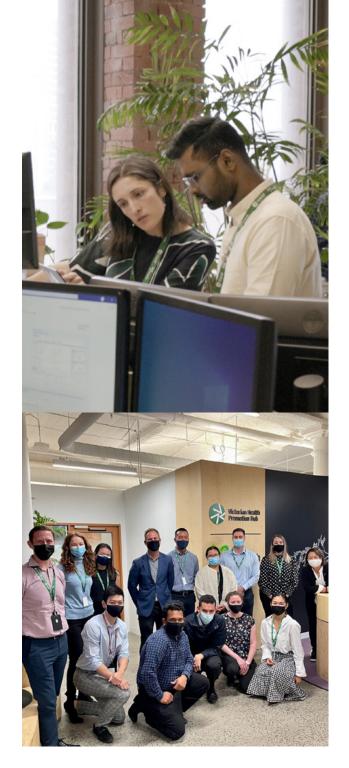
VicHealth is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion in all we do.

We have continued implementing our 'Innovate' Reconciliation Action Plan, including enhanced cultural safety training, NAIDOC leave policy, education and awareness sessions, and traineeships, through AFL Sports Ready.

We also developed our Gender Equality Action Plan 2021-25, which looks at a range of continual improvements for our organisation. These include removing systemic barriers or challenges to career progression for diverse groups of employees and improving workplace flexibility arrangements.

We have continued to build our organisational capability and improve our effectiveness to meet existing and emerging needs, so that we deliver high quality services to the Victorian community. We invested in our team's professional development in a range of ways, by reviewing our career progression opportunities and professional development policies to support our team to deliver impactful work for the Victorian community.

Our Employee Culture Charter drives our work and sets the cultural and professional standards for our team.



# VicHealth early careers group

Our Early Careers Group creates an opportunity and safe space for early career employees at VicHealth to come together for learning, conversation and networking (internally and externally). Our program offers two main event streams: 'Lunch & Learn' and 'Ask Me Anything Dinners'.



# Operational and budgetary objectives and performance against objectives

# Operational performance against budget

VicHealth's 2021–22 financial performance responded to the needs of all Victorians following 2 financial years where stakeholders, partners, and the organisation were impacted by the pandemic.

During 2021–22, VicHealth successfully introduced its Future Healthy strategy and associated Big Connect and JumpStart! funding, implemented its Move the Dial targeted funding programs, actively engaged with Local Government through its VicHealth Local Government Partnership, introduced a very successful community visits program across the state, and once again enhanced its funding and reputation in evidenced based research programs.

Total income was \$42.8m in 2021–22, up from \$42.2m in the 2021–22 budget. The increase of \$0.6m reflected \$0.5m of additional appropriation received from the Department of Health for mental and health wellbeing programs associated with Victorian Government pandemic commitments, and \$0.2m external funding for a Sport Participation Research Project and a Food Relief Nutrition Guidelines and Charter program.

Reflective of the successful implementation of new strategies and investment in its funding and programs mentioned earlier, VicHealth increased its total grants funding and program expenditure (including support costs) in 2021–22 substantially from 2020–21 levels to \$29.1m (up \$0.6m from \$28.5m or a 2.0% increase against the 2021–22 budget).

Employee expenses of \$10.0m were \$0.3m above the budget primarily due the impact of temporary staff costs following the organisational staff realignment completed in the first half of 2021–22 and the certification of salary increases within VicHealth's new Enterprise Agreement 2021 by the Fair Work Commission.

In respect to wages and on-costs, it is worth noting that in line with Victorian Government reporting according to Australian accounting standards, all of VicHealth's employee expenses are disclosed in the Financial Statements as a separate expense within total expenses. The reporting of employee expenses as a single item does not adequately reflect the role of VicHealth staff in contributing to health outcomes for the Victorian community. If staff costs associated with health promotion delivery were added to grant funding and program costs, the overall proportion of VicHealth's operating result delivering health promotion outcomes would be in the order of \$36.0m in 2021–22, over 85% of the total budgeted appropriation from the Department of Health under VicHealth's new externally focused organisational structure.

Operating costs including depreciation and amortisation of \$3.7m were \$0.1m below budget due to: lower employee development and wellbeing costs of \$0.1m primarily reflecting training costs, conference costs and personal development course costs as well as lower general administration costs of \$0.1m, both being down due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic in the first half of 2021–22. Operating costs in 2021–22 also included costs associated with organisational policy and system enhancements and the development of the next VicHealth Strategic Action Agenda as well as a \$0.06m outgoings adjustment for 2020–21 on Pelham Street, Carlton, under VicHealth's former lease.

The comprehensive result for the year was a surplus of \$0.07m from general appropriation funded activities less a deficit of \$0.07m from special purpose funded activities, resulting in an overall breakeven comprehensive result for the 2021–22 financial year.



Our operating budget performance is summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Operational performance against budget for 2021–22

	Appropria	tion funds	Special fur	purpose nds	Total		
	Actual (\$'000)	Budget (\$'000)	Actual (\$'000)	Budget (\$'000)	Actual (\$'000)	Budget (\$'000)	
Income							
Appropriation	42,590	42,141	-	-	42,590	42,141	
Other income	258	69	-	-	258	69	
Total income	42,848	42,210	-	-	42,848	42,210	
Grants & direct project implementation	29,031	28,539	66	-	29,097	28,539	
Employee expenses  - Health promotion delivery  - Management & support	8,025 2,006	7,776 1,944	- -	- -	8,025 2,006	7,776 1,944	
Operating costs	3,712	3,847	_	_	3,712	3,847	
Total expenses	42,774	42,106	66	-	42,840	42,106	
Operating surplus/(deficit)	74	104	(66)	-	8	104	

Under section 33 of the Tobacco Act 1987, the budget of VicHealth must provide for payments to sporting bodies (not less than 30%) and to bodies for the purpose of health promotion (not less than 30%). These important statutory requirements were both achieved.

The VicHealth Board also sets the following guidelines on grant expenditure for the financial year.

These targets, among other criteria, are used to guide the level of investment in each strategic imperative and in research and evaluation. The statutory objective of payments to sporting bodies is a key reason VicHealth's expenditure on physical activity is significantly higher than on other imperatives.



Our performance against these targets is summarised in Table 2.

Table 2: Performance against statutory and VicHealth Board policy expenditure targets(i)

Performance measures	2021–22 guideline	2021–22 budget (\$'000)	2021–22 actual	2021–22 amount (\$'000)
Statutory expenditure target <sup>(ii)</sup>				
Sporting bodies	At least 30%	13,116	30.5%	12,853
Health promotion	At least 30%	14,656	37.0%	15,592
Board policy expenditure guideline	iii)			
Promote healthy eating	5%	6,357	10.3%	4,340
Encourage regular physical activity	21%	8,254	22.0%	9,271
Prevent tobacco use	13%	4,018	14.0%	5,900
Prevent harm from alcohol	5%	1,338	4.9%	2,065
Improve mental wellbeing	8%	7,805	16.4%	6,911
Research and evaluation <sup>(iv)</sup>	12%	3,705	13.1%	5,520

#### Notes:

- (i) Percentage figures are calculated as expenditure as a proportion of our budgeted government appropriation for the financial reporting period. For the 2021–22 financial year our budgeted appropriation was \$42.1m. Figures exclude payments sourced from special purpose funds unless otherwise indicated.
- (ii) Spend against statutory expenditure targets is not exclusive of spend against the Board's policy targets. Expenditure coded against the statutory targets is also coded against the Board's expenditure targets. Expenditure on 'health promotion' in this instance is defined as total grant payments less grant monies issued to sporting bodies.
- (iii) Strategic imperative spending allocations against the Board policy expenditure guideline reflected impacts to spend allocation caused by the coronavirus pandemic to deliver outcomes for Victorians.
- (iv) The research and evaluation figure may include expenditure allocated to other statutory and Board expenditure categories.



# 5-year financial summary

Table 3: 5-year financial summary

	2022 (\$'000)	2021 (\$'000)	2020 (\$′000)	2019 (\$'000)	2018 (\$'000)
Operating statement					
Revenue from government	42,590	41,312	41,272	40,505	39,863
Other income	259	70	119	222	226
Total income	42,849	41,382	41,391	40,727	40,089
Grants and funding	29,097	26,624	28,392	28,819	26,596
Employee expenses(i, ii, iv)  (i) Operational  (ii) Once off costs (including targeted separation packages, pandemic related contract extensions and working from home allowances)  (iii) Total	10,031	9,662 886 10,548	9,940 - 9,940	8,832 - 8,832	8,964 - 8,964
Operating costs (including depreciation/amortisation)(iii)  - Operational  - Once off costs (including relocation and lease related expenses)  - Total	3,522 190 3,712	3,355 477 3,832	3,066 - 3,066	3,263 - 3,263	2,803 - 2,803
Total expenses	42,841	41,004	41,398	40,914	38,363
Net surplus/(deficit) for the period	8	378	(7)	(187)	1,726
Balance sheet					
Total assets	13,018	14,837	8,774	8,105	7,935
Total liabilities	7,169	8,996	3,311	2,635	2,279
Total equity	5,849	5,841	5,463	5,470	5,656

- (i) Around 80% of VicHealth's operational staffing costs relate to health promotion delivery, with the remainder providing overall management and support.
- (ii) Expenditure in 2020-21 related to one-off expenditure associated with organisational restructure and staffing impacts of the pandemic.
- (iii) Expenditure in 2020–21 related to one-off expenditure associated with VicHealth's relocation to the Victorian Health Promotion Hub lease at 355 Spencer Street, West Melbourne.
- (iv) The increase in operational employee expenses over the 5 years primarily reflects salary increases under VicHealth's 2017 and 2021 Enterprise Agreements.



# **Major changes affecting** performance

VicHealth's 2021–22 financial performance responded to the needs of all Victorians following two financial years where stakeholders, partners, and the organisation were impacted by the pandemic.

During 2021-22, VicHealth successfully introduced its Future Healthy strategy and associated Big Connect and JumpStart! funding, implemented its Move the Dial targeted funding programs, actively engaged with local government through its VicHealth Local Government Partnership, introduced a very successful community visits program across the state, and once again enhanced its funding and reputation in evidenced based research programs

Reflective of these strategies and its investment in its funding and programs, VicHealth increased its total grants funding and program expenditure (including support costs) in 2021–22 substantially from 2020–21 levels to \$29.1m (up \$2.5m from \$26.6m or a 9.4% increase).

Total income was \$42.8m in 2021–22, up from \$41.4m in 2020-21. The increase of \$1.4m reflected a 2% increase in indexation of the annual appropriation under the Tobacco Act from the Department of Health in 2021–22, a further \$0.5m of additional appropriation received from the Department of Health for mental and health wellbeing programs associated with Victorian Government pandemic commitments, and \$0.2m external funding for a Sport Participation Research Project and a Food Relief Nutrition Guidelines & Charter program.

Resulting from the additional revenue, total expenses increased to \$42.8m, up \$1.8m from 2020–21. Expenditure on grants and program funding (including support costs) of \$29.1m was up \$2.5m since last year reflecting the successful implementation of VicHealth's new health promotion strategies referenced earlier.

Employee expenses and other operating costs (including depreciation and amortisation) have decreased by \$0.6m due to the net effect of:

- Decreases in operational employee expenses primarily under the new VicHealth Enterprise Agreement 2021 of \$0.5m in 2021-22 following redundancies within the organisational restructure in 2020-21
- Decreases in operational operating costs (including depreciation and amortization) of \$0.1m following one off expenditure associated with VicHealth's relocation to the Victorian Health Promotion Hub lease at 355 Spencer Street, West Melbourne. Operating costs in 2021-22 did however include largely one-off expenditure associated with organisational policy and system enhancements, the development of the next VicHealth Strategic Action Agenda and a \$0.06m outgoings adjustment for 2020-21 on Pelham Street, Carlton, under VicHealth's former lease.

Refer Note 3 Expenses from Transactions on pages 87–90 within the Financial Statements for 2021-22.



# Significant changes in financial position during the year

The value of total assets is \$13.0m, a decrease of \$1.8m from 2020-21, primarily reflecting depreciation and amortization following the implementation of Phoenix (see p.50), the fit-out of the Victorian Health Promotion Hub at 355 Spencer Street, West Melbourne, and recognition of right of use assets under the Accounting Standard AASB16 Leases in 2020-21. VicHealth's cash balances are \$4.3m, down \$0.9m from the year prior, primarily reflecting VicHealth's additional investment in new health promotion strategies in 2021-22

The cash balance of \$4.3m (in line with the \$4.2m minimum set by the VicHealth Board and within appropriate levels of cash reserve holdings required by VicHealth's Reserves Policy) is a sound management cash outcome, particularly reflecting the new health promotion strategy grants and programs funding introduced in 2021–22. Receivables have increased from \$1.0m to \$1.2m, mainly due to the value of GST credits receivable from the ATO following payments over the last quarter of 2021-22.

Total liabilities are \$7.2m with the decrease of \$1.8m from 2020-21 primarily related to a \$1.0m decrease in payables at 30 June 2022.

# Subsequent events

There were no events subsequent to 30 June 2022 that would impact the accuracy of these financial statements.



# **Granting of funds**

As part of its core business, VicHealth has continued to provide assistance to organisations to deliver program outputs against our strategic framework, through the granting of funds for health promotion and prevention purposes. Grant expenditure includes health promotion expenditure such as programs, funding rounds, research grants, campaigns and directly associated activities.

Significant grant expenditure is defined as:

- any grant funding round where payments to successful organisations total \$250,000 or more during the financial reporting period
- · single projects where payments to the organisation total \$250,000 or more during the financial reporting period.

Details of significant grant funding rounds are provided in Table 4.

Table 4: Grants<sup>(i)</sup> with payments totalling \$250,000 or more during the reporting period

Funding round	No. of organisations receiving payments	Payments (\$'000)
Quit Victoria 2020-24 – Partnerships	1	5,450
Big Difference R1 – Grants	27	4,429
R1 JumpStart Tier 2	92	2,804
VLGP fast-track Councils	16	1,349
RSA Partnerships 2021-22	9	850
Impact Research Grants 2022	6	601
AWAG 2017-22 – Grant Round Participation	3	400
PG 2020-21 R1 up to \$50k	34	289
Impact Research Grants 2021	3	269
VLGP modified fast-track councils	7	263



<sup>(</sup>i) The table relates to payments made during the financial year. The funding or grant round may have been awarded in a previous year or the current year and/or may be part of a multi-year funding agreement.

Details of significant project payments to individual organisations are provided in Table 5.

Table 5: Organisations receiving grant payments totaling \$250,000 or more during the reporting period

Organisation name	Project name(s)	Payments (\$'000)
Quit Victoria – The Cancer Council Victoria	Quit Victoria 2020–24	5,450
Deakin University	ADVANCing Equity and commUnity voiceS in food policymaking (ADVANCE-US)	271
	Developing a public health advocacy framework for engaging young people in local Harmful Industries Monitoring Hub Fellow-3	
	Harmful Industries Monitoring Hub Fellow-3	
	Making big business everybody's business	
	Supporting food companies and retailers to implement policies for improving population nutrition	
Monash University	Animating alcohol culture change amongst male hospitality students and workers	266
	Co-designed adapted postnatal mental health promotion program for CALD families	
	Harmful Industries Monitoring Hub Fellow-2	
	Preventing harm from alcohol in women attending breast screening services	
	Using ambulance data to create a contemporary model of alcohol-related harms	



# VicHealth organisation structure, culture, capability and capacity

# VicHealth organisation structure



#### **PEOPLE AND CULTURE**

Ensure that VicHealth's culture and people management practices support effective execution of the organisational strategy.

#### **CORPORATE SERVICES GROUP**

Provide finance; budgeting; facilities, fleet and administration management; business planning; information technology and information management; policy management; business improvement and project management; risk management; contract management and procurement; manage the governance framework to support the work of VicHealth's Board and associated Committees; and manage the Victorian Health Promotion Hub.

#### **POLICY, STRATEGY AND IMPACT GROUP**

Ensure VicHealth's research investments, policy influence and strategic direction contribute to the health promotion capacity of VicHealth and add value to the public policy process to deliver sustained health benefits for Victorians.

#### **FUTURE HEALTHY GROUP**

Design and execute program investment, grants, funding rounds, and partnership activities to maximise outcomes of the Action Agenda for Health Promotion.

# SOCIAL MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

Amplify and deliver health promotion activities to improve the health and wellbeing of all Victorians. Develop and deliver multi-channel social marketing and communications initiatives including media and public relations, social media, events, digital marketing, branding, social marketing campaigns, design and multimedia content.



# **Executive Management**

The following people held executive management positions as at 30 June 2022:



**DR SANDRO DEMAIO** Chief Executive Officer



**SARAH LOH** Executive Manager, Future Healthy Group



**KRIS COONEY** Executive Manager, Policy, Strategy, and Impact Group



**REBECCA AHERN** Executive Manager, Social Marketing and Communications Group



**PAUL CRAPPER** Executive Manager, Corporate Services Group



**PADAM CHIRMULEY** Executive Lead, People and Culture



# **Victorian Health Promotion Hub**

Following VicHealth's relocation to 355 Spencer Street, West Melbourne, on 25 March 2021, the Victorian Health Promotion Hub was opened by the then Minister for Health Martin Foley on 25 February 2022 and commenced its pilot operation of welcoming VicHealth partners and stakeholders over the remainder of the 2021–22 financial year. Registrations and access to the full spectrum of VicHealth partners and stakeholders will commence on 1 August 2022 for the benefit of all Victorians.

# **Core Systems Replacement** Project - Phoenix

Following VicHealth's implementation in late July 2020 at a final cost of \$2.1 million, VicHealth's grants, stakeholder and project management system known as Phoenix has delivered significant risk reductions, cost savings in administrative burden and greater collaboration across all health promotion groups and teams within the organisation.

A benefits realisation project conducted over a 2-year period by VicHealth internal auditors RSM, to examine pre and post Phoenix grant, stakeholder and project management highlighted that the implementation of Phoenix had:

- · achieved estimated cost saving of \$1.0 million per annum in relation to reduced administrative effort
- lowered the organisation's risk rating in relation to the risk of making poor health promotion investment decisions as well as reduced the organisation's overall risk profile.

# **Employee Committees**

VicHealth has several cross-organisational employee committees or groups to assist management in operations:

- Executive Leadership Team
- Management Team
- VicHealth Consultative Forum
- · Diversity and Inclusion Committee, including a Reconciliation Action Plan sub-committee (being planned)
- Employee Wellbeing and OHS Committee (EWOC)
- Incident Management Team
- Business Continuity Management Team
- ICT Governance Committee

In addition to these formal groups, there are a range of other cross-functional groups that are convened from time to time to support VicHealth's operations.

# **Child Health and Safety**

To achieve the best outcomes for children who engage with VicHealth or engage with services to children funded by us and as a key risk mitigation strategy, VicHealth will work to and provide funding in line with the National Principles for Child Safe Organizations and Victorian Child Safe Standards and meet obligations under the National Redress Scheme.

In 2021–22 VicHealth has developed and implemented the necessary Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy and Procedures as well as supporting statement of commitment and code of conduct and has actively updated our existing organisational policies and agreements, which are impacted by child safety and wellbeing standards and obligations. VicHealth's funding, risk management, insurance, legal, communications, procurement, privacy, people management and records management operations are all impacted by the required changes.



#### **VicHealth Board**

The VicHealth Board members during the year were:



#### THE HON. NICOLA ROXON, CHAIR

Nicola Roxon joined the VicHealth Board as Chair in November 2020 and also serves on the Workforce and Remuneration Committee.

The Honourable Nicola Roxon is an experienced Chair and non-executive director who has served in various board roles for the last 8 years. Currently she is Chair of HESTA, a large health and community sector superannuation fund, and a nonexecutive director of listed companies Dexus and Lifestyle Communities, and the charity Health Justice Australia, Nicola Roxon served as a member of the Australian Parliament for 15 years, representing the Western suburbs Melbourne seat of Gellibrand.

Elected at 31, she served as Australia's Health Minister for 4 years from 2007 and oversaw major reforms to Australia's public hospital, primary care and preventative health systems. In 2011 Nicola became Australia's first female Attorney-General, and the Minister for Emergency Management in 2012. She has received national and international awards in recognition of her public health work, particularly in tobacco control.

With Nicola's leadership, Australia successfully introduced a world first: all tobacco sold must now be in plain packaging with large, graphic health warnings. Trained as a lawyer, protecting the dignity of workers and promoting the standing of women has been a hallmark of Nicola's career. Prior to entering parliament, Nicola worked as an industrial lawyer, union organiser and an Associate to High Court Judge Mary Gaudron. Nicola resigned her ministerial positions February 2013 and finished her period in Parliament in August 2013.

#### **DR SALLY FAWKES, DEPUTY CHAIR**

Dr Sally Fawkes has served on VicHealth's Board since 2016, including as Chair (Acting) for periods in 2019 and 2020, and currently chairs the Workforce and Remuneration Committee.

Dr Sally Fawkes is an independent consultant and researcher, with an adjunct appointment at La Trobe University.

She brings diverse, extensive experience to her VicHealth Board roles. Following posts with the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr Fawkes has been expert advisor to WHO for over 25 years. She has worked in Asia and Pacific, Europe and Middle East on projects spanning futures thinking in policy, national health promotion systems, leadership development, and urban health/Healthy Cities.

Dr Fawkes is currently Chair, Governance and Policy Working Group and Treasurer for the International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals & Health Services' Governance Board, following terms as Vice-Chair. She led development of the Network's 2021-2025 Global Strategy.

Her career in Australia has featured frontier roles centred around health promotion innovation at several Victorian hospitals, Victorian Healthcare Association and Deakin and La Trobe universities. Previous governance roles include Council of Academic Public Health Institutions Australasia Executive Committee, Women's Health Victoria Board, Vision 2020 Australia Global Committee and community health services.

Dr Fawkes holds a Bachelor of Science, Graduate Diploma in Health Education, Master of Business Administration and PhD (health policy). She is Associate Fellow of Australasian College of Health Service Management and Full Member of Association of Professional Futurists. Her current professional interests are in conceptual and policy breakthroughs to drive investments in future generations' health and wellbeing.





#### **NICK GREEN OAM OLY**

Nick Green joined the Board of VicHealth in July 2014 and has served time on the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and is currently a member of the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Advisory Committee.

Nick Green is an experienced leader who has worked in senior roles across global corporations, national sport and publicsector organisations. He is currently a Director and Industry Practice Leader at Aon, a global provider of risk management, insurance and professional services. Previous to this role, Nick Green was the Chief Executive Officer of Cycling Australia.

Nick has extensive experience in commercial growth, people and stakeholder leadership, governance and government relations. He has held many voluntary positions including President - Victorian Olympic Council, Chairman – Julius Patching Foundation, Director of the Australian Olympic Committee and Director of Leadership Victoria.

Nick is a dual Olympian and has attended eight Olympic Games in various roles. He was the Chef de Mission for the 2012 Australian Olympic Team.

Nick has received life memberships of the Victorian Olympic Council and Rowing Australia, awarded an Order of Australia Medal and inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame, in recognition of his contribution to sport. He is a Fellow of Leadership Victoria and studied at VCAH Burnley (now Melbourne University) and the Melbourne Business School.



#### **IAN HAMM**

Ian Hamm joined the VicHealth Board in October 2021.

A Yorta Yorta man, Ian Hamm has extensive government and community sector experience, particularly at executive and governance levels. Ian has overseen major policy and strategic reforms for government and community organisations.

He works with people from a vast array of backgrounds, managing complex and sensitive relationships to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. Ian was CEO of a major Aboriginal community organisation from January to August 2018.

Ian sits on a number of boards and chair and member. He also devotes himself to improving the representation of Aboriginal people on boards and other high-level governance, through strategic action, advocacy and mentoring.





#### **CATHERINE HARDING**

Catherine Harding joined the VicHealth Board in March 2020 and currently serves on the Workforce and Remuneration Committee.

Catherine Harding is a non-practicing lawyer who has spent over 15 years working in social policy across the government, non-profit and corporate sectors across Australia. Currently the Chief Operating Officer at Australia for UNHCR, Catherine is driven to find creative and innovative solutions to complex problems, and is experienced in setting organisational strategies to drive the growth and performance of organisations.

Catherine's career has encompassed policy areas including justice, health, education, family violence, sport and human rights as a Director at KPMG, and in prior roles with the Victorian and Australian Governments. She is a passionate public health advocate, and has worked on healthy eating campaigns with The Good Foundation and Jamie Oliver.

Catherine has served as a non-Executive Director of Vicsport since 2018 and previously at GenWest (formerly Women's Health West).



#### **PEGGY O'NEAL AO**

Peggy O'Neal served on the VicHealth Board from January 2020 to February 2022.

Peggy O'Neal has specialised in superannuation and financial services law for more than 25 years, is presently a consultant to Lander and Rogers. She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds senior board and advisory roles within the financial services and community sectors.

Peggy has been president of the Richmond Football Club since October 2013, having served on the Club's board since 2005. She is the first woman to be president of an AFL club.

In 2014 she chaired the Victorian Minister for Sport's year-long Inquiry into 'Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation' and until 2018 was convenor of the Minister's Change Our Game Champions program.

She has served on Victoria's Ministerial Council on Women's Equality, the Australian Institute of Sport Athlete Wellbeing and Engagement Advisory Committee, and the AFL's Mental Health Steering Committee.

In 2019, Peggy was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for her services to Australian rules football, financial services, law and women in leadership roles. She has an honorary Doctor of Laws from Swinburne University. On 1 January 2022, she became chancellor of RMIT University





#### **VERONICA PARDO**

Veronica Pardo served on the VicHealth Board for two terms from November 2015 to November 2018, and from July 2019 to June 2022.

During that time, she served on the Workforce and Remuneration Committee and the Reconciliation Action Plan Committee.

For 3 years to the end of 2021, Veronica Pardo was the CEO of Multicultural Arts Victoria. the state's leading organisation on diversity in the arts, having spent 10 years leading Arts Access Victoria with a focus on cultural participation by people with disability and those experiencing mental health issues.

Veronica is an experienced leader who has led an ambitious agenda of social and artistic transformation in the creative industries. She has spearheaded campaigns relating to social justice, equity and the inclusion of all people in arts and culture, as audiences and cultural innovators.

Veronica has held senior roles in the non-government sector and academia, leading significant research projects aimed at embedding meaningful and lasting change, towards equality.



#### **PROFESSOR ANNA PEETERS**

**Professor Anna Peeters joined the** VicHealth Board in July 2019 and currently serves on the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

Professor Peeters is Director of the Institute for Health Transformation and Professor of Epidemiology and Equity in Public Health at Deakin University. She is Past President of the Australian and New Zealand Obesity Society and sits on national and international advisory boards and steering committees. In 2014 she was awarded the World Obesity Federation Andre Mayer Award for research excellence in obesity and a Churchill Award for innovative work in equity and population prevention.

Professor Peeters leads the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence into Healthy Food Retail (RE-FRESH, 2018–2022) and is the recipient of an NHMRC Investigator Grant (2020-25).





#### **DIV PILLAY**

Div Pillay joined the VicHealth Board in July 2021 and currently serves on the Workforce and Remuneration Committee.

Div Pillay is an experienced and respected diversity and inclusion practitioner, leader and advocate, for over 20 years. She is an entrepreneur, leading award-winning consultancy, MindTribes and social enterprise, Culturally Diverse Women. Prior to founding MindTribes in 2012, Div held senior human resource leader roles in public and private sectors, working across Australia, Malaysia, India, the Philippines and South Africa (where she was born and raised). She utilises all of these diverse experiences to take a human centric approach to addressing equity and equality. Her work is backed by her education in behavioural psychology, economics and business. She holds a Masters in Human Resource Management.

Div is award winning and recognised for her impact, being named as one of the 100 Women of Influence (AFR & Qantas) 2018. In 2021 she was named as one of two Australians in a Global List of 25 Influential leaders by the (AACSB), the world's largest business education alliance. Div has been a Board Director at STREAT 2018-21 and is currently the Chair of Diversity and Inclusion Committee at the American Chamber of Commerce, since 2019. She is passionate about health equity, specifically the impact on mental health from exclusionary acts and behaviours, like racism, bullying, harassment and gender inequality.



#### **STELLA SMITH**

Stella Smith joined the VicHealth Board in September 2018 and currently serves on the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

Stella Smith is the Chief Executive of Crime Stoppers Victoria and has previously held senior executive roles with Melbourne Victory Football Club and 'Life. Be in it' Australia.

Stella is also a Director of Blue Light Victoria and a 'Change Our Game' Ambassador through the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation.

Stella has broad experience in community, government and stakeholder engagement, advertising and health promotion. Her experience spans commercial, sport and the not-for-profit sectors. Stella has also previously held board positions with Women's Health East and the Melbourne Victory FC Academy and has considerable experience in community sporting organisations.

Stella holds a Master of Marketing and Graduate Diploma of Business. She is passionate about promoting gender equality, encouraging social inclusion and using sport to create greater opportunities for community engagement.





#### **PHIL WADE**

# Phil Wade joined the VicHealth Board in October 2021.

Phil Wade is a marketing, eCommerce, and digital professional. He is currently the Director of Marketing for the Bunnings Group and has held various director and leadership roles across the world at the Qantas Group, TJX, Unilever, and Wesfarmers.

He is an experienced Non-Executive Director and Independent Advisor and has a deep passion for health and wellbeing and equality of outcomes for all.

Phil holds a master's degree in Politics and Economics from the London School of Economics. He is part of a global family, originally British but now a dual Australian citizen living in Melbourne with his South African wife and two children.

## The Members of Parliament appointed to the Board in October 2019 are:



#### **SARAH CONNOLLY MP**

Sarah Connolly is a member of the Parliament of Victoria in the Legislative Assembly. She represents the multicultural district of Tarneit, located in Melbourne's outer west.

Her Electorate of Tarneit sits within one of Australia's largest growth corridors. Sarah currently chairs the Legislative Assembly's Environment and Planning Committee, and sits on the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee.

Sarah is a highly qualified policy and regulatory expert, community advocate and engagement specialist. Prior to entering politics, she worked for over a decade across the country on Australia's energy future. She has worked at the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Australian Energy Regulator and across public and privately owned energy networks.

Prior to that, she worked in various areas of the criminal justice system. Sarah holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Queensland and Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice from the Queensland University of Technology.





#### **ANDY MEDDICK MP**

Andy Meddick is a dedicated social justice advocate and the Animal Justice Party Member for Western Victoria. He is passionate about bringing positive policy and legislative change to improve the lives and safety of Victorians.

Since being elected to the Victorian Parliament in 2018, he has served as a member on the Environment and Planning Committee and the Electoral Matters Committee. He has also chaired 2 taskforces. one of which established LGBTOIA+ Safe Spaces across Geelong, the Surf Coast and Ballarat – with a focus on youth mental health support and suicide prevention.

Prior to being elected, Andy worked for many years in the construction industry, which lead to him becoming passionate about workplace occupational health and safety. He has been proud to support reforms to protect working Victorians in his time in parliament.

Andy is passionate about mental health, healthy eating and the wellbeing of Victorians.



#### **BRIDGET VALLENCE MP**

Bridget Vallence was elected to the Victorian Parliament in November 2018 to represent the Evelyn District and is the Shadow Minister for Industry, Manufacturing, Innovation, Medical Research, and the Digital Economy since September 2021.

Previously, Bridget was the Shadow Minister for Environment & Climate Change, Youth Affairs, and Equality between March 2020 and September 2021, and the Shadow Cabinet Secretary and Shadow Assistant Minister for Industry between December 2018 and March 2020.

Bridget has served on the Parliament's Public Accounts and Estimates Committee (PAEC), which examines expenditure of public money to improve outcomes for the Victorian community, and the Parliament's Environment and Planning Committee.

Prior to entering Parliament, Bridget worked for 16 years in the automotive industry as a procurement professional in both the manufacturing and retail sectors in Australian, Asian, and global markets, and is also experienced with organisational change and business transformation projects.

Bridget holds a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Commerce (Honours) from the University of Melbourne. She is passionate about helping people, volunteer groups and businesses to thrive, and lives in the Yarra Valley with her husband and 2 sons. Bridget Vallence is an associate member of the Lilydale RSL, a patron of Seville Community House, and a Director of Mont De Lancey Historical Museum in Wandin.



## **Board Committees**

#### FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

The purpose of the committee is to assist the VicHealth Board with fulfilling its governance duties by ensuring that effective financial management, auditing, risk management and reporting processes (both financial and non-financial) are in place to monitor compliance with all relevant laws and regulations and ensure best practice. Table 7 lists the members on this committee and their attendance at meetings in the last financial year. In 2021–22 the Committee has expanded its focus to include cyber security oversight as a key risk mitigation function.

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Chair, Gaye Mason, is also an ex-officio member of the VicHealth Board. Her role as Board Advisor ensures that the Board has direct input from the Committee on financial, budget and risk management related matters.

#### **RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE**

The purpose of the committee is to establish, monitor and ensure VicHealth's accountability and delivery against the actions within the Reconciliation Australia and Board approved Reconciliation Action Plan; provide strategic advice to the CEO on VicHealth's delivery against the Reconciliation Action Plan; and assist VicHealth's engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and individuals to assist VicHealth deliver its Reconciliation Action Plan.

## **WORKFORCE AND REMUNERATION** COMMITTEE

The purpose of the committee is to provide strategic advice on workforce strategy and planning, remuneration, human resource policies and alignment of VicHealth's policies with relevant industrial relations and employment legislation and Victorian Government policies. Additionally, the committee reviews the CEO's performance and remuneration.



# Meetings

	Board		and	Finance, Audit and Risk Committee		rce and eration nittee	Reconciliation Action Plan Committee *	
	Chair: T Nicola			Chair: Gaye Mason		air: Fawkes		
Board members	E	Α	E	Α	E	Α	E	Α
The Honourable Nicola Roxon	6	6			5	5		
Sarah Connolly MP	6	6						
Dr Sally Fawkes	6	6			5	5		
Nick Green OAM	6	6	3	3			1	1
Catherine Harding	6	6			5	5		
lan Hamm	4	3						
Andy Meddick MP	6	4						
Peggy O'Neal AO	4	4						
Veronica Pardo	6	5			5	5	1	1
Prof. Anna Peeters	6	6	1	1				
Div Pillay	5	5			5	5		
Stella Smith	6	6	4	4				
Bridget Vallence MP	6	4						
Phil Wade	4	4						
Independent members								
Gaye Mason #	6	6	4	4				
Joanne Booth			4	4				
John Gavens			4	4				

E = Meetings eligible to attend

A = Meetings attended

\* = Chair position vacant

# = Board Advisor



# **VicHealth Governance Charter**

The VicHealth Governance Charter was reviewed by management and approved by the Board in 2021–22.

The Governance Charter had many amendments over the last 10 years but had not had a full 'best practice' review and refresh since the 2009–10 financial year. Accordingly, redrafting the Charter:

- achieves a VicHealth Governance Charter that brings it in line with best practice in Victorian Government
- simplifies the VicHealth Governance Charter and improves the readability with references to VicHealth policies rather than having policy and operational matters embedded in the Charter
- · makes a distinction between legislative, strategic, and operational considerations in the Governance Charter that have accumulated over time
- ensures the Governance Charter accords with all Victorian Government requirements
- · identifies the strategy makers and decision makers and their distinction from stakeholder governance groups whose advice enhances VicHealth's governance and decision making.

# **Stakeholder Group Governance Policy**

The Stakeholder Group Governance Framework comprises 6 types of stakeholder groupings used as needed to support the development, implementation and operation of VicHealth's work. They exist to provide VicHealth management with informed recommendations and advice to assist hem in making decisions that are in the best interests of VicHealth, its stakeholders and the wider community.

The Stakeholder Group Governance Policy was reviewed by management and approved by the Board in 2021–22 to ensure the stakeholder groups under the policy continue to provide health promotion advice to support VicHealth's governance and decision making.

The groups consist of:

Expert Panels: provide diverse perspectives, with technical or lived experience experts, in relevant areas. These panels provide VicHealth with guidance as to the future strategic direction of VicHealth in relation to a particular area of interest. An expert panel will be established for a period of 2 years.

**Taskforces:** provide operational advice and implementation input to VicHealth on VicHealth's strategic imperatives and other key strategic priorities. A Taskforce will be established for 1 year (renewable as required).

Leaders' Forums: provides a leadership role across health promotion related matters in Victoria, to advise VicHealth and support the health promotion work of their own organisations. The Leaders' Forums will be established for an indefinite period of time.

Public Health Leaderships Groups: comprises policy makers, experts and public health leaders to provide thought leadership and policy coordination for specific public health priority issues.

Groups will be established with an ongoing tenure, with a yearly review.

Roundtables: a meeting on a priority issue to commence a conversation or discuss ideas for future strategies and action. Roundtables are scheduled as required and are one-off meetings or gatherings.



Assessment Panels: guide funding, grant decisions and/or procurement decisions. Assessment Panels have a more operational perspective to assist in guiding the organisation in its expenditure of public funds. An Assessment Panel will be established for a finite period and is likely to meet over a short period of time (e.g. 3 months).

During 2020-21 the following groups were convened:

#### Public Health Leadership Groups

- Health Promotion Peaks CEO Group
- State Health Prevention Agencies Collaborative Meetings

## **Expert Panels**

- Arts Expert Advisory Panel
- Research Expert Advisory Panel

#### **Assessment Panels**

- · The Big Connect Grant Round Assessment Panel
- JumpStart! Grant Round Assessment Panel
- Future Healthy Move the Dial Tender - Activating Underutilised Spaces
- Future Healthy Move the Dial Tender - Future Reset: Young People, Arts and Mental Wellbeing
- Future Healthy Move the Dial Grant Round - Future Healthy Food Hubs
- VLGP Fast-track Intake Panel
- VLGP Module Implementation Panel
- VLGP Community-Driven Implementation **Funding Panel**
- VLGP Evaluation Panel
- Supply of community engagement expertise to reduce alcohol harm
- Impact Research Grant Round 2022–23 Assessment Panel

#### Roundtables

- VLGP First 2000 module roundtables
- Integrating wellbeing into the business of government roundtable
- Harmful industries roundtable

#### Other

- Food Security/Food Systems COVID-19 **Working Group**
- Healthy Supermarket Communities of Practice

In addition to these groups, VicHealth consulted with a range of other health experts and stakeholders on specific health promotion and prevention topics and projects.

#### Patron-in-Chief

VicHealth is pleased and honoured to have as its Patron-in-Chief, the Hon. Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria.



# **Workforce data**

# Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) management

VicHealth success starts with the health, safety and wellbeing of our people and teams.

By looking after our health and wellbeing, we put ourselves in the best position to deliver our commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of all Victorians, including those who experience the greatest barriers.

So, as we moved out of lockdowns in 2021, we recognised the need to support staff in a new phase of the pandemic, which included:

- appointing a new, fixed-term, role of Wellbeing Assistant, to help teams coordinate their return to the office and continue to deliver consistent OHS practices
- · continuing our commitment to flexible working arrangements, in line with State Government guidelines
- COVID-19 specific supports, such as ergonomic assessments relating to the hybrid working model, installation of air purification units, introduction of touch free sanitising stations and
- · support for "Mental Health May" via education and two employee wellbeing workshops on resilience and hybrid working with caring responsibilities
- online yoga classes, as well as in-person events such as birthday celebrations to enhance social connection.

These initiatives were supported by VicHealth executive leaders and managers and actioned by the Employee Wellbeing and OHS Committee (EWOC).

Our performance against key OHS indicators during the past 2 financial years is summarised in Table 10.

Table 10: Performance against OHS management measures

Measure	Indicator	2021-22	2020-21
	No. of incidents	1	3
Incidents	No. of hazards reported	0	0
	No. of standard claims	0	0
Claims	No. of lost time claims	0	0
	No. of claims exceeding 13 weeks	0	0
Claim costs	Average cost per standard claim <sup>(i)</sup>	0	\$0

# **Equity, diversity and inclusion**

VicHealth has a deep and long-standing commitment to gender equality and preventing violence against women and minority groups in our community.

A significant milestone in support of this commitment was achieved with the preparation and submission of VicHealth's 2021–2025 Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP), which fulfils the organisation's obligations under the Gender Equality Act 2020 (Vic).

The priority areas in the GEAP are:

- understanding intersectionality and improving data management
- eliminating sexual harassment and gendered violence in the workplace
- removing the systemic barriers or challenges to the career progression of diverse groups of employees
- improving workplace flexibility arrangements.



<sup>(</sup>i) Average cost per claim includes medical expenses only and does not include salary or wages.

VicHealth's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, comprising employee representatives from across the organisation, will have a critical role in executing on this plan.

## **Reconciliation Action Plan**

VicHealth continues to focus on supporting First Nations people by integrating its actions under its Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) with its operations. Key actions taken include:

- Future Healthy Group has developed a plan for engaging with Aboriginal organisations and has drafted an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Engagement Guidelines
- · NAIDOC Week leave, leave to attend Aboriginal community meetings, leave to attend Annual General Meetings of Aboriginal community organisations, Ceremonial leave, and First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria leave, were all included or enhanced in VicHealth's new Enterprise Agreement
- Cultural Safety Training through VACCHO was rolled out on 3 and 26 August 2021 and 30 March, 26 April and 31 May 2022
- Education and awareness sessions were held during June, commencing with National Reconciliation Week from 27 May to 3 June and concluding with NAIDOC Week
- A relationship with AFL SportsReady was established with a trainee engaged in the Social Marketing & Communications team
- Participation of the Planning and Business Improvement Manager in the Barring Djinang Leadership program within Victorian Government.

The VicHealth Board's RAP Committee has met regularly since September 2020. VicHealth has appointed an Indigenous woman to the position of Committee Chair, and she is expected to join the first meeting in the new financial year.

# Public Sector professionalism and integrity

VicHealth continues to implement the directions provided by the Victorian Public Sector Commissioner (VPSC) relating to strengthening the efficiency, effectiveness, and capability of the organisation to meet existing and emerging needs and deliver high quality services to the Victorian community.

In order to do this, VicHealth regularly reviews its suite of detailed employment policies, including policies relating to recruitment, selection, diversity and inclusion, harassment and bullying, performance management, learning and development, grievance resolution, management of conflicts of interest and gifts, benefits and hospitality.

In support of the above, VicHealth continues to embed its staff-driven Employee Culture Charter. The Charter outlines 4 principles that set the cultural and professional standards to which we all commit and expect other employees to demonstrate: Trust, Challenge, Accountability and Results. At the end of the year, peer-based recognition is awarded to staff members who best demonstrate these principles.



# **Workforce data**

Table 11 describes the profile of VicHealth's workforce.

Table 11: Workforce data

		All emp	oloyees	;			Ong	oing	g		Fix	Fixed term		n & casual	
	Numbe	er (HC)	F	TE	Full-tim	ne (HC)	Part-tin	ne (HC)	F	ΤΕ	Numb	er (HC)	F	ΓΕ	
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021	
Gender															
Male	26	18	25.4	17.9	19	15	1	1	19.9	15.9	6	2	5.5	2.0	
Female	56	53	52.2	48.1	36	28	11	14	43.8	38.7	9	11	8.4	9.4	
Self-described	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0	
Age															
15-24	3	2	3.0	2.0	3	1	0	0	3.0	1.0	0	1	0.0	1.0	
25-34	36	22	35.1	20.6	23	13	1	0	23.6	13.0	12	9	11.5	7.6	
35-44	24	25	21.7	22.8	14	15	8	8	19.8	20.9	2	1	1.9	1.0	
45-54	13	16	12.3	15.3	11	11	1	5	11.8	15.2	1	1	0.5	1.0	
55-64	5	6	4.8	5.3	4	3	1	2	4.8	4.5	0	1	0.0	1.0	
65+	1	0	0.7	0	0	0	1	0	0.7	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0	
VicHealth EA															
Grade A	2	2	1.5	1.5	0	0	2	2	1.5	1.5	0	0	0.0	0.0	
Grade B	7	2	6.6	1.0	4	0	0	0	4.0	0.0	3	2	2.6	1.0	
Grade C	20	14	19.6	13.2	14	11	1	1	14.6	11.6	5	2	5.0	1.6	
Grade D	33	31	30.1	29.1	18	17	8	8	23.8	23.1	7	6	6.3	6.0	
Grade E	14	17	13.8	16.3	13	11	1	3	13.8	13.5	0	3	0.0	2.8	
Grade F	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0	
Total VicHealth EA (A-F Grade)	76	66	71.6	61.1	49	39	12	14	57.7	49.7	15	13	13.9	11.4	
Senior employe	es														
Executives	6	5	6.0	4.9	6	4	0	1	6.0	4.9	0	0	0.0	0.0	
Total senior employees	6	5	6.0	4.9	6	4	0	1	6.0	4.9	0	0	0.0	0.0	
Total other	0	0	0.0	0.0	6	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0	
Total employees	82	71	77.6	66.0	55	43	12	15	63.7	54.6	15	13	13.9	11.4	

All workforce data figures reflect active employees in the last full pay period of June of each year.

'Ongoing employees' means people who were active in the last full pay period of June and who are engaged in an openended contract of employment, and executives engaged on a standard executive contract unless they are employed for

'FTE' means full-time staff equivalent. 'HC' means headcount.

Headcounts exclude those persons on leave without pay (including on unpaid parental leave) or absent on secondment, external contractors or consultants, temporary staff employed by employment agencies, and a small number of people who are not employees but appointees to a statutory office, as defined in the Public Administration Act 2004 (e.g. persons appointed to a non-executive board member role, to an office of Commissioner, or to a judicial office).

Executives include the Accountable Officer (CEO).



# **Executive officer data**

An executive officer is defined as a person employed as a public service body head or other executive under Part 3, Division 5 of the Public Administration Act 2004. All figures reflect employment levels at the last full pay period in June of the current and corresponding previous reporting year. Table 12 outlines the number of executives (including the Accountable Officer) employed in the last pay period in June. The table includes executives on parental leave arrangements.

Table 12: Breakdown of executive officers

		Ju	ıne 2022			Ju	ıne 2021	
	Male	Female	Self- described	Vacancies	Male	Female	Self- described	Vacancies
Chief Executive Officer	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Executive Managers	1	3	0	0	1	2	0	1
Executive Leads	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total	3	3	0	0	3	2	0	1

Table 13: Reconciliation of executive numbers

		2021–22	2020–21
	Executives with Total Remuneration Package (TRP) over \$150,000*	5	4
Add	Vacancies (Table 12)	0	1
	Executives employed with TRP below \$150,000	0	0
	Accountable Officer (Chief Executive Officer)	1	1
Less	Separations	0	1
Total 6	executive numbers at 30 June	6	5

A summary of executive remuneration is contained in the Financial Statements (Note 8.5).



<sup>\*</sup> Executive remuneration is based on full-time annualised base salary.

# Other disclosures

## **Consultancies**

Table 14 details the consultancies valued at more than \$10,000 that were engaged in the last financial year.

Table 14: Details of consultancies over \$10,000 (excluding GST)

Consultant	Purpose of consultancy	Total approved project fee (\$'000)	2021–22 actual expenditure (\$'000)	Future expenditure (\$'000)
Worklogic	Organisation Culture Review	23	23	-
Proximity Advisory Services Pty Ltd	Website Development Requirements	41	41	-
Crewmojo Pty Ltd	HR Performance Measurement System	14	14	-
The Anderson Partnership Pty Ltd	Executive Coaching	54	54	-
First Person Consulting Pty Ltd	Transitioning to a Systems Based Organisation	45	45	-
Jaen Corp Pty Ltd	Culture Leadership	27	27	-
Ensemble Strategy	Support for Development of Next VicHealth Action Agenda	30	30	-
Pitcher Partners	Governance Charter & Stakeholder Group Governance Policy Review	35	35	-
	and Victorian Government Purchasing Board Compliance			

Note: Consultancy agreements cover the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

Unless otherwise indicated, there is no ongoing contractual commitment to these consultants. These consultants may be engaged beyond June 2022 as required.

Consultants disclosed in this table exclude consultants engaged under a VicHealth grant or funding agreement.

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

In 2021-22, there were 37 consultancies where the total fees payable to the consultants was less than \$10,000. The total expenditure incurred during the financial year in relation to these consultancies was \$232,000 (excluding GST).



# Information, communication and technology (ICT) expenditure

Table 15 details the ICT expenditure during the financial year.

# Table 15: ICT expenditure during **2021–22 (excluding GST)**

Expenditure	(\$'000)
Business as Usual ICT expenditure	1,477
Non-Business as Usual ICT expenditure Total = A + B	1,532
Non-Business as Usual Operational expenditure A	1,316
Non-Business as Usual Capital expenditure B	216

# **Advertising expenditure**

In the last financial year, VicHealth delivered one campaign for which the campaign/media expenditure was greater than \$100,000 (see Table 16).

Table 16: Advertising expenditure exceeding \$100,000 during 2021–22 (excluding GST)

Campaign	
Name of campaign	This Girl Can
Campaign summary	This Girl Can – A statewide mass media campaign aimed at increasing physical activity and supporting gender equality. This campaign empowers women to be active however, wherever and whenever they want.
Start/end date	1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 <sup>(i)</sup>
Advertising (media) (\$'000)	13
Creative and campaign development (\$'000)	24
Research and evaluation expenditure (\$'000)	75
Other campaign expenditure (\$'000)	276

<sup>(</sup>i) This campaign is ongoing into the 2022-23 financial year.



# Table 16: Advertising expenditure exceeding \$100,000 during 2021–22 (excluding GST) (cont'd)

Campaign	
Name of campaign	Future Healthy
Campaign summary	Future Healthy – A statewide, multi-year plan aimed at creating a future that is healthy for all Victorians – with a focus on young people and health equity. The program is inspired by, informed by and shaped by Victorians.
Start/end date	7 September 2021 to 30 June 2022
Advertising (media) (\$'000)	0
Creative and campaign development (\$'000)	74
Research and evaluation expenditure (\$'000)	28
Other campaign expenditure (\$'000)	818

# Compliance with the **Building Act 1993**

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

# Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information Act 1982 allows the public a right of access to documents held by VicHealth. Information is available under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 by contacting the following person:

Information Coordinator Victorian Health Promotion Foundation 355 Spencer Street West Melbourne VIC 3003 Phone: (03) 9667 1333

Additional information about how to lodge an FOI request is available from the VicHealth website.

VicHealth received no Freedom of Information requests in the reporting period.



# Compliance with the Protected Disclosure Act 2012

The Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012 (Vic), encourages and assists people to make disclosures of improper conduct by public bodies, public officers and public sector employees.

The Act further provides protection to those who make disclosures in accordance with the Act and establishes a system for the matters disclosed to be investigated and for rectifying action to be taken.

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

During their induction, VicHealth employees are provided with information on the Act and its operation and the ways in which they can make a disclosure.

Additional information about VicHealth's protected disclosure policy and process is available from the VicHealth website.

No disclosures were made within the financial reporting period.

# Compliance with DataVic **Access Policy**

Consistent with the DataVic Access Policy of the Victorian Government, the information included in this Annual Report will be available at www.data.vic.gov.au in machine-readable format. VicHealth will progressively release other data in the future as appropriate.

#### **Local Jobs First Act 2003**

VicHealth abides by the requirements of the Local Jobs First Policy in its procurement practices.

During the reporting period, no tenders or projects were deemed as falling within the scope of Local Jobs First Strategic Project (those with a budget of \$50 million or more), Local Jobs First Standard Project (those with a budget of \$3 million or more in metropolitan Melbourne or \$1 million in rural Victoria) or projects that the Major Projects Skills Guarantee has been applied to.

# National Competition Policy

During this reporting period, VicHealth did not undertake any activities that require reporting against the National Competition Policy.



# Office-based environmental impacts

In late 2021–22, VicHealth commenced a carbon footprint assessment of its operations at 355 Spencer Street, West Melbourne, and expects to move to a carbon neutral footprint in 2022-23.

VicHealth understands its responsibility to use its resources more efficiently and reduce our impact on the environment. VicHealth also acknowledges the complementary role that a healthy environment plays in supporting the social and economic determinants of health.

During the reporting period, VicHealth continued its commitment to environmental sustainability by continuing to operate through:

- its operation of the Victorian Health Promotion Hub at the 1880s Sands & McDougall building at 355 Spencer Street, West Melbourne, within an environmentally sustainable office fit-out
- · using AFS and PEFC certified recycled paper where the paper supplier contributes to the planting of two trees for every one tree used in producing the paper
- · using sustainable choices for office supplies
- · purchasing fair-trade coffee
- providing public transport tickets for staff travelling to and from meetings
- · promoting the use of the Melbourne Bike Share scheme
- · use of a hybrid fleet vehicle.

# **Victorian Government Purchasing Board Procurement** Reform Initiative - Effective 1 July 2021

VicHealth is included as an agency in the Victorian Government Purchasing Board's (VGPB) procurement reform initiative.

As of 1 July 2021, VicHealth is working to ensure compliance with the VGPB's procurement governance framework. In the past VicHealth has aligned itself to VGPB procurement policies. However, VicHealth has made changes to existing policy, practices and processes and is introducing new strategies to comply with the expansion.

# **Revised Victorian Government Risk Management Framework** - Effective 1 July 2021

The Victorian Government Risk Management Framework (VGRMF) provides a minimum risk management standard for the Victorian public sector. The framework applies to departments and public bodies covered by the Financial Management Act 1994. VicHealth is implementing the revised VGRMF, which took effect on 1 July 2021.

VicHealth has attested to its compliance to the revised VGRMF in 2021-22.

The key change impacting VicHealth is the introduction of AS ISO 31000:2018 Risk Management Guidelines to replace the AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines, and VicHealth has changed its Risk Management Policy and Framework to align.



VicHealth has policies, processes and practices that align to the revised VGRMF, including:

- annual review of VicHealth's Risk Management policy and framework
- · defining and reviewing VicHealth's risk appetite annually
- · strategic and business planning decisionmaking that embeds risk management
- ensuring we minimise our insurable risk exposure by reviewing our insurance requirements with the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority annually.

## **ICT Governance**

VicHealth's 2021-24 ICT 3 Year Strategy was completed, endorsed by the ICT Governance Committee, and approved by the Executive Team in 2021–22. The key strategic principles, which underpin the ICT Strategy are:

- · a digital-enabled organisation
- better, fairer, more accessible ICT services
- a thriving health promotion sector.

VicHealth's ICT Governance Committee formed in 2020-21 compromising key Executives, Business Process Improvement and ICT Management and an external ICT Advisor, continue to meet on a monthly basis to ensure the activities of the ICT team are focused on the delivery of VicHealth's ICT Strategy, ICT decisions of the VicHealth Board, the creation of value for VicHealth and compliance with Victorian Government ICT and Information Management Policy.

# **Additional information** available on request

In compliance with the requirements of the Standing Directions of the Minister for Finance, additional information has been retained by VicHealth and is available to the relevant Ministers, Members of Parliament, and the public on request (subject to Freedom of Information requirements).

For further information, please contact:

Chief Finance and Accounting Officer Victorian Health Promotion Foundation 355 Spencer Street West Melbourne VIC 3003 Phone: (03) 9667 1333



# **Integrity, Fraud** and Corruption **Declaration**

I Sandro Demaio certify that VicHealth has put in place appropriate internal controls and processes to ensure that Integrity, fraud and corruption risks have been reviewed and addressed at VicHealth during the year.

Dr Sandro Demaio Accountable Officer VicHealth

26 August 2022

# **Data Integrity** Declaration

I Sandro Demaio certify that VicHealth has put in place appropriate internal controls and processes to ensure that reported data accurately reflects actual performance. VicHealth has critically reviewed these controls and processes during the year.

Dr Sandro Demaio Accountable Officer VicHealth

26 August 2022

# **Conflict of Interest Declaration**

I, Sandro Demaio, certify that VicHealth has put in place appropriate internal controls and processes to ensure that it has complied with the requirements of hospital circular 07/2017 Compliance reporting in health portfolio entities (Revised) and has implemented a 'Conflict of Interest' policy consistent with the minimum accountabilities required by the VPSC. Declaration of private interest forms have been completed by all executive staff within VicHealth and members of the Board, and all declared conflicts have been addressed and are being managed. Conflict of interest is a standard agenda item for declaration and documenting at each Board meeting.

Dr Sandro Demaio Accountable Officer VicHealth

26 August 2022



# Notes to the financial statements

for the year ended 30 June 2022

# **Attestation of compliance** with Ministerial Standing Direction 5.1.4.

I, Nicola Roxon, Board Chair on behalf of the Responsible Body, certify that VicHealth has no Material Compliance Deficiency with respect to the applicable Standing Directions under the Financial Management Act 1994 and Instructions.

The Hon. Nicola Roxon

Micula Coron

Chair of the Board

26 August 2022



#### Victorian Health Promotion Foundation

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