

PRE-ELECTION PULSE CHECK

AN ANALYSIS OF VICTORIAN STATE GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP

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KEY LEADERSHIP INSIGHTS

VICTORIA PREPARES FOR STATE ELECTION

Victorians are preparing to cast their ballots for the State Election in what has been another turbulent year in politics. With Victoria's COVID-19 state of emergency at an end, a host of new issues from integrity to infrastructure dominate the public imagination, all of which have a bearing on the public interest and necessitate government leadership for the greater good.

HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS REPORT

The Australian Leadership Index (ALI) captures public perceptions of Australian institutions over time across three dimensions of leadership for the greater good: *Integrity*, *Contribution*, and *Competence*. In the following pages, we provide a snapshot of the ALI's findings on public perceptions of the Victorian government's performance on these dimensions in the months preceding the election.

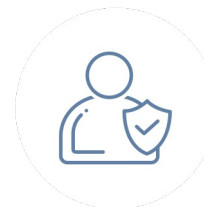
HIGHS AND LOWS

Results reveal that the Andrews government has fallen below the state benchmark on all dimensions measured by the ALI, with the worst performance perceptions on transparency and accountability (*Integrity*) and the best (though still below the state benchmark) on cultural inclusion (*Contribution*) and providing accessibility (*Competence*).



LEADERSHIP FOR
THE GREATER GOOD

54/100



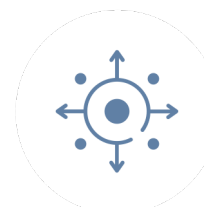
INTEGRITY

52/100



CONTRIBUTION

55/100



COMPETENCE

55/100

Sample details: These results are based a sample collected from October 2021 to September 2022, $n = 170$ (i.e., the number of observations from Victorians who rated the Andrews government) and $n = 4,165$ (i.e., the number of observations from Victorians who rated any institution across the government, public, private and not-for-profit sectors).

Note 1. The results presented in this report are a snapshot of a larger ongoing study of public perceptions of leadership in Australia. When looking at the results for Victorians rating the Andrews state government, at a confidence level of 95%, a sample of $n=170$ yields a 'margin of error' of approximately 8%.

Note 2. 'Leadership for the greater good' refers to public perceptions of leadership for the good of the public, community, or society at large. 'Integrity' refers to perceptions of transparency, accountability, trustworthiness, and several other factors. 'Contribution' refers to perceptions of contribution to financial outcomes, societal welfare, environment, and several other factors. 'Competence' refers to perceptions of purpose, skill, efficiency, and several other factors.

THE VIC GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP ROLLERCOASTER: A SNAPSHOT OF PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS FROM 2018-2021

THE RISE AND FALL OF PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

Public perceptions of Victorian government leadership for the greater good fluctuated markedly from December 2018 to December 2021, rising and falling in response to events such as the 2019/2020 bushfire crisis and COVID-19 pandemic.

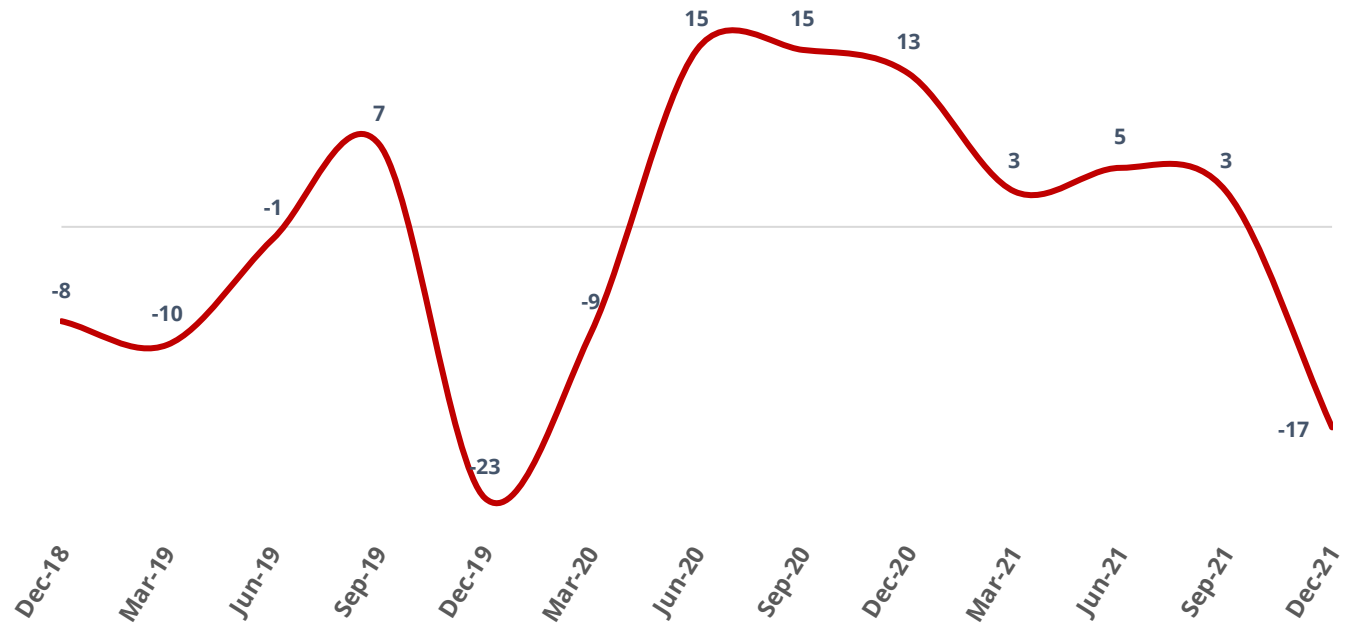
CRISIS STEWARDSHIP

Strong public support for the actions of the Victorian government in the early stages of the pandemic saw public perceptions of government leadership for the good rise and peak in mid-2020, declining thereafter.

LEADERSHIP ROLLERCOASTER

Overall, Victorians have had decidedly mixed feelings about whether the Victorian government shows leadership for the greater good.

ALI SCORE, VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT



How are ALI scores calculated? The ALI score is calculated in a similar way to the Net Promoter Score, a well-known and easily understood index ranging from -100 to +100. The ALI score for the Victorian government is calculated as the proportion of people who believe the Victorian government shows leadership for the greater good to a 'fairly large extent' or 'extremely large extent' minus those who believe that the Victorian government shows leadership for the greater good 'to some extent' or 'not at all'. Positive scores indicate that the government is perceived as serving the public interest, whereas negative scores indicate that the government is seen as self-serving.

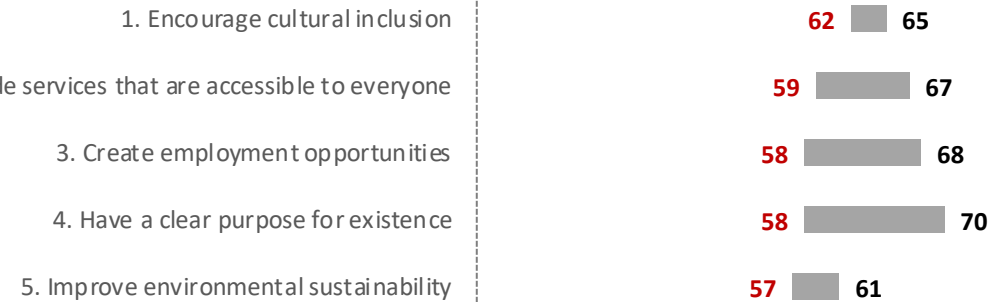
Sample details: The sample size for the period December 2018-December 2021 is 3,313, collected at a rate of an average of 254 respondents per quarter.

VIC GOVERNMENT STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

(Oct 2021 - Sept 2022)

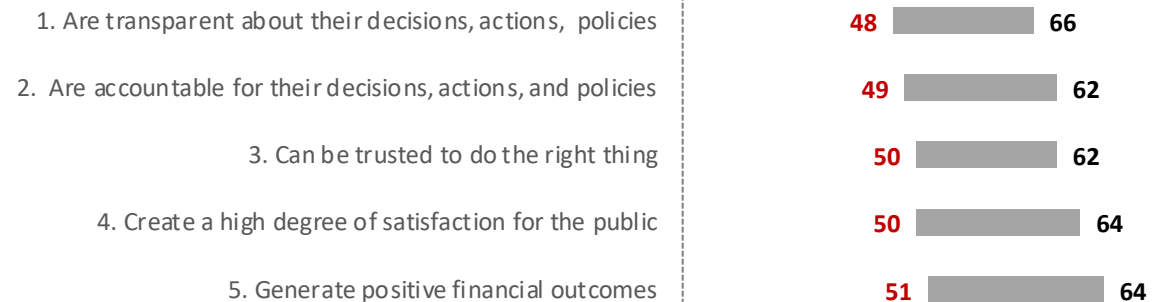
TOP 5 STRENGTHS OF THE GOVERNMENT

According to the public, the strengths of the Andrews government lie in its *Contributions* to public value (e.g., encouraging cultural inclusion, improving environmental sustainability) and *Competence* (e.g., accessibility of services, having a clear sense of purpose). However, despite these highlights, the Victorian government still performs below the state benchmark for these metrics.



TOP 5 WEAKNESSES OF THE GOVERNMENT

In stark contrast with the perceived strengths of the Andrews government – namely, its *Contribution* and *Competence* – its perceived weaknesses are largely in the domain of *Integrity*. Specifically, from the vantage point of the general public, the key weaknesses of the Andrews government relate to its perceived lack of transparency, accountability and trustworthiness.



■ Victorians' rating of the Victorian government
 ■ Gap
■ Victorian benchmark (rating all institutions)

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RECENT INQUIRIES INTO STATE GOVERNMENT CONDUCT CONTINUE TO IMPACT INTEGRITY RATINGS

ONGOING INQUIRIES INTO ANDREWS GOVERNMENT CONDUCT

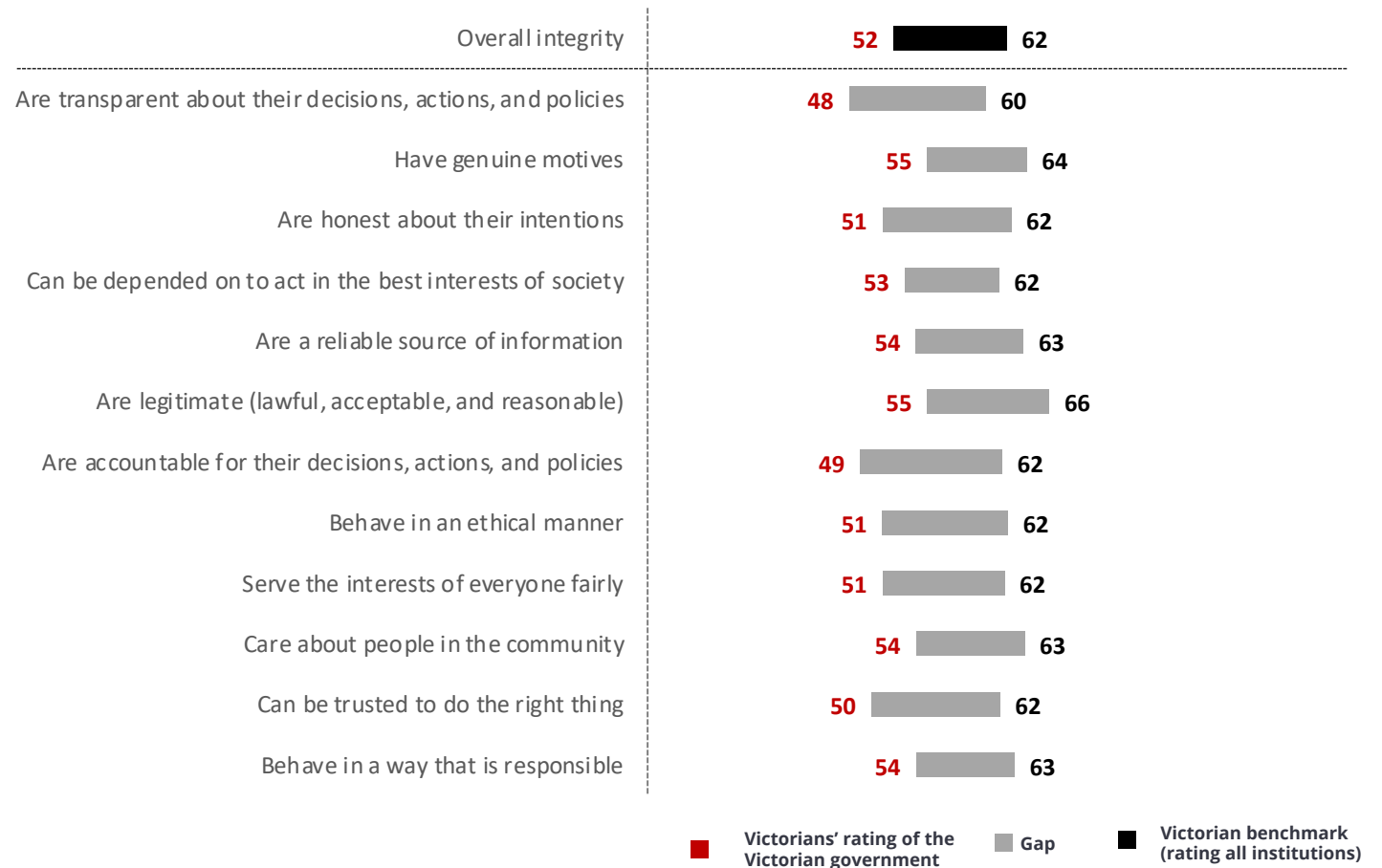
A series of formal inquiries into the Andrew’s government conduct have negatively impacted public perceptions of its integrity.

STILL SEEN AS GENUINE AND RESPONSIBLE?

Despite poor performance on integrity overall, smaller gaps were observed when it comes to having genuine motives, acting in the best interests of society, and behaving responsibly.

INTEGRITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND TRUSTWORTHINESS POOR

Overall, the Andrews government performed worst on being accountable and transparent for their decisions, actions, and policies; being trusted to do the right thing; and being honest about their intentions.



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VIC GOVERNMENT SEEN AS CONTRIBUTING TO INCLUSION AND SUSTAINABILITY, BUT NOT FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

THE CHALLENGES OF A POST-PANDEMIC ECONOMIC CLIMATE

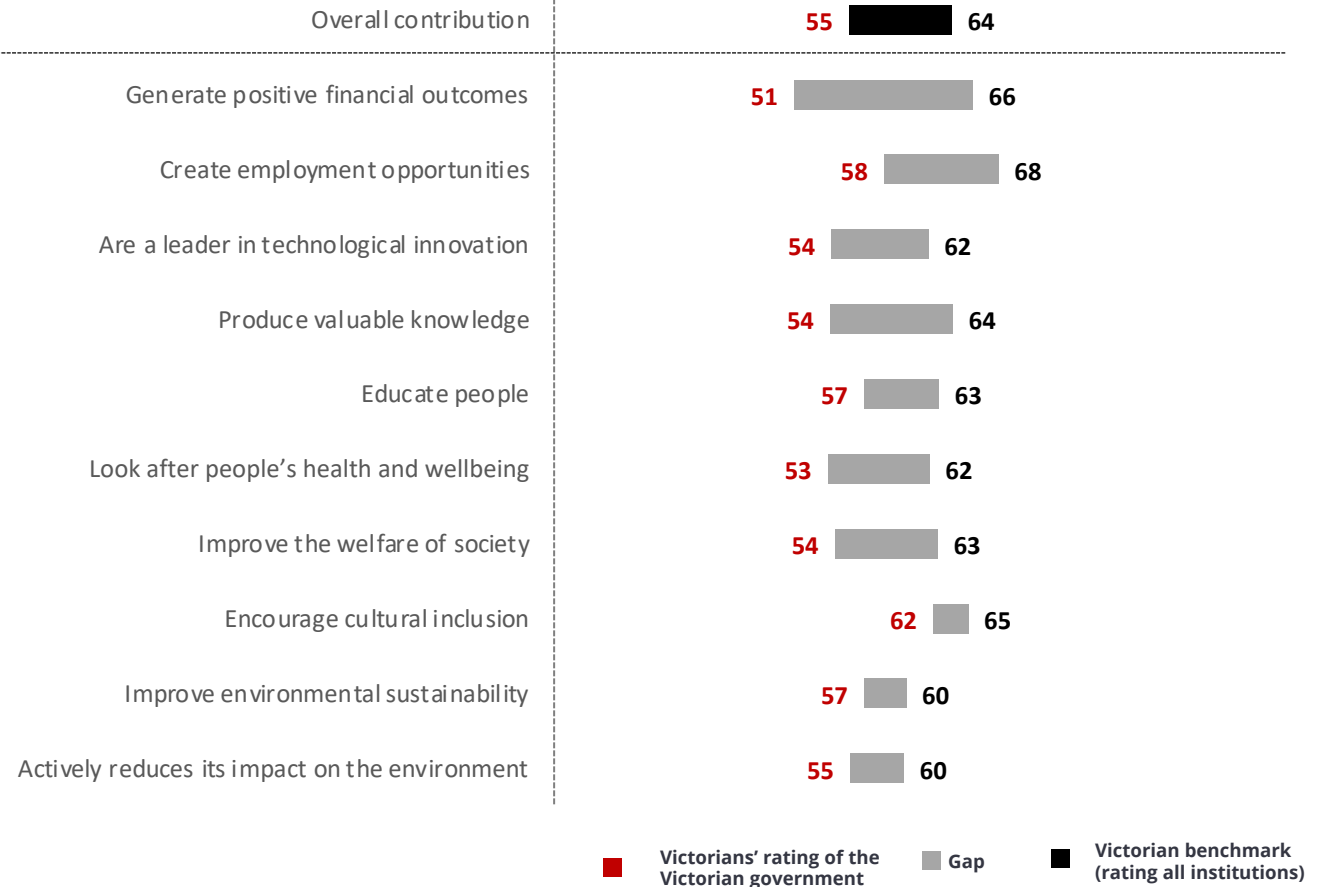
Rising cost of living, supply shortages, and volatile employment conditions, among other factors, have posed major challenges for governments at all levels to contribute to improving societal outcomes.

ANDREWS GOVERNMENT PRIORITISING INCLUSION AND SUSTAINABILITY

The Andrews government continues to perform on par with the state benchmark on cultural inclusion, improving environmental sustainability, and actively reducing its impact on the environment, which is resonating well with voters.

IMPROVEMENT IN FINANCIAL OUTCOMES AND EMPLOYMENT NEEDED

Substantial gaps exist when it comes to generating positive financial outcomes, creating employment opportunities, and the production of knowledge, suggesting these are areas where the Victorian state government must improve.



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VOTERS REMAIN SCEPTICAL ABOUT THE VIC GOVERNMENT'S COMPETENCE IN CREATING PUBLIC VALUE

COMPETENCE RATINGS REMAIN WELL BEHIND STATE BENCHMARKS

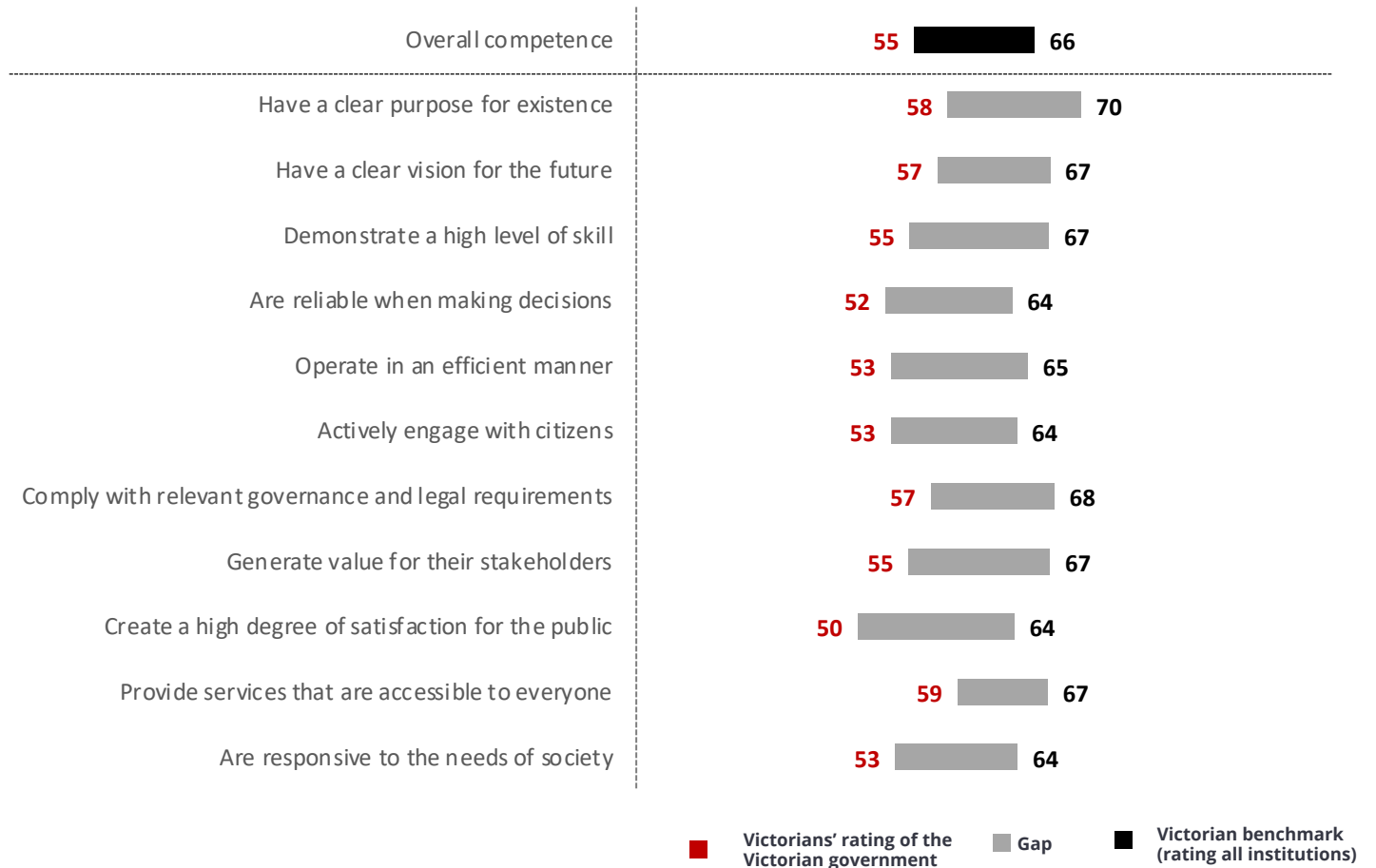
The Andrews government scores well below the Victorian state average on overall competence, as well as all 11 underlying indicators of competence.

ACCESSIBILITY, VISION, AND GOVERNANCE RATED HIGHEST

The government's top three competence indicators include providing services that are accessible to everyone, having a clear vision for the future, and complying with relevant governance and legal requirements. However, these are still low overall.

SATISFACTION, PUBLIC VALUE, AND SKILL RATED LOWEST

The government's bottom three competence indicators including creating a high degree of satisfaction for the public, generating value for their stakeholders, and demonstrate a high level of skill. All of which have substantial gaps to the state benchmark scores.



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