



Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality Register 2024-25

Date of Offer	Offer To	Offer description	Estimated/ actual value	Offering organisation	Business Associate	Offer made by and position	Cumulative value offers made	Outcome	Legitimate business benefit
26/06/2024	Deputy Ombudsman	VO staff attended as part of a community program to raise awareness of our role, engage with prisoners and deepend staff understanding of the Correctional environment. Light refreshments were served.	\$10.00	City in the Community (part of Melbourne City Football Club) via Corrections Victoria	No	George Halkias, Professional Speaker	\$10.00	Accepted	Build awareness of VO role. Build understanding among VO staff of correction environment.
26/06/2024	Deputy Ombudsman	I attended the Victorian Multicultural Awards for Excellence as a delegate of the Ombudsman. Following the ceremony there was an opportunity to network and light refreshments were served.	\$25.00	Government House	No	Government House	\$25.00	Accepted	Yes - opportunity to network with senior government officials and multicultural community organisations
26/06/2024	Deputy Ombudsman	As I recall, I was originally invited to the SAC annual dinner as part of the setting of SAC meetings early in 2024. Then around the time I resigned as a Director of the Council on 27 June, I was invited to attend the end-of-year by way of farewell. I had forgotten about this date until shortly before the event itself on 19 November. I decided on the day that I was able to attend the dinner after other plans changed, and therefore was in a position to accept the hospitality.	\$80.00	Sentencing Advisory Council	No	CEO of SAC, Paul McGorrrery	\$80.00	Accepted	Recognition of voluntary work as a public sector Director
16/07/2024	Ombudsman	Laurent Patisserie Flourless Chocolate Cake	\$25.00	DJCS	No	Catherine Roberts, Director	\$25.00	Accepted	No
17/07/2024	Ombudsman	Some Haighs chocolates	\$15.00	DPC	No	Sophie Nevell	\$15.00	Accepted	No
30/07/2024	Chief Information Officer	Round table lucheon hosted by DPC on their insights and experiences in the use of AI and chatbots to reduce costs and enhance decision making at DPC. Their experience in automation of tasks and their supporting frameworks for supporting secure, trusted AI adoption.	\$50.00	Public Sector Network	No	Carla Gianan, Delegate Campaign Manager	\$50.00	Accepted	Gaining an insight into DPCs adoption of Ai and chatbots to inform us on the direction of WoVG and guide our adoption of these technologies.

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05/08/2024	Ombudsman	Lunch at The Mandarin Conference hosted by The Mandarin and Salesforce entitled "Empowering the Public Service with Data"	\$40.00	SalesForce	No	Jessica Figueras, Advisor	\$40.00	Declined	To hear about technology and data services available to the public sector
08/08/2024	Engagement Officer	VLF have invited participants to a pizza restaurant for one evening to thank organisations for participating in the regional engagement program.	\$35.00	Victorian Law Foundation	No	Fabiola Superina, Education Manager	\$35.00	Accepted	Engagement with VLF supports community outreach to ensure vulnerable Victorians can access the Ombudsman. Accepting this offer of hospitality supports VO's strategic relationship.
08/08/2024	Engagement, Education and Prevention Manager	To thank participating entities for their contribution to the VLF Schools Law Talks in Warrnambool, the VLF is offering a pizza dinner.	\$35.00	Victorian Law Foundation	No	Fabiola Superina, Education Manager	\$35.00	Accepted	Engagement with VLF supports VO's community outreach to ensure vulnerable Victorians can access the Ombudsman. Accepting this offer of hospitality, supports VO's strategic relationship.
08/08/2024	Deputy Ombudsman	To thank organisations for participating in the in the regional engagement program, VLF have invited people for pizza one evening in Warrnambool.	\$35.00	Victorian Law Foundation	No	Fabiola Superina, Education Manager	\$35.00	Accepted	Engagement with VLF supports VO's community outreach to ensure vulnerable Victorians can access the Ombudsman. Accepting this offer of hospitality supports VO's strategic relationship.
15/08/2024	Deputy Ombudsman	Lunch with a presentation	\$50.00	The Mandarin	No	Peter Gearin, Editor, The Mandarin	\$50.00	Accepted	In 2024/25 VO will be developing a future focussed blueprint for case and complaint management systems. This event is a good opportunity to learn more about case management products available.
19/09/2024	Senior Investigation Officer	Box of chocolate	\$23.95	Anglicare	No	Anglicare	\$23.95	Surrender	No
24/09/2024	Ombudsman	Inaugural integrity oration on why integrity matters on 17 October 2024	\$25.00	Centre for Public Integrity	No	Anthony Whealy, Chair of the Centre for Public Integrity	\$25.00	Accepted	Promotes discussion on integrity in public life.
07/10/2024	Ombudsman	Invitation for MB and a guest to a reception at Govt House on Melbourne Cup Eve	\$100.00	Governor of Victoria	No	Governor of Victoria	\$100.00	Declined	Likely stakeholder engagement opportunity
09/10/2024	Investigation Report Editor	Offer is full registration for 14th National Investigations Symposium (NIS) on 28-29 May 2025, which includes all conference seccions plus morning/afternoon tea and lunch both days, conference opening/closing drinks and dinner on 28 May.	\$1,500.00	NSW Ombudsman	Yes	Jacqueline Fredman, Deputy NSW Ombudsman	\$1,500.00	Accepted	Attending NIS to present, but will also attend relevant conference sessiosn and deliver summarised material back to VO team to enhance investigative skills and knowledge.

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09/10/2024	Senior Investigations Analyst – Reports	Offer is full registration for 14th National Investigations Symposium (NIS) on 28-29 May 2025, which includes all conference sessions plus morning/afternoon teas and lunch for both days, conference opening/closing drinks and dinner on 28 May.	\$1,500.00	NSW Ombudsman	Yes	Jacqueline Fredman, Deputy NSW Ombudsman	\$1,500.00	Accepted	Attending NIS to present, but will also attend relevant conference sessions and deliver summarised material back to VO team to enhance investigative skills and knowledge.
09/10/2024	Senior Investigations Analyst – Reports	That initial offer was for one night in a hotel as part of an invitation for a two Report Editors to deliver a half-day workshop to the National Investigation Symposium in Sydney. The accommodation offer was at first declined however our conference attendance has recently been confirmed and we are now accepting it.	\$350.00	NSW Ombudsman	Yes	Jacqueline Fredman, Deputy NSW Ombudsman	\$350.00	Accepted	Presenting at NIS positions VO as a leader in the field of investigative reporting
09/10/2024	Investigation Report Editor	One night's accommodation	\$350.00	NSW Ombudsman	Yes	Jacqueline Fredman, Deputy NSW Ombudsman	\$350.00	Accepted	Presenting at the symposium positions VO as a leader in the field of investigative reporting
09/10/2024	Investigation Report Editor	One night's accommodation.	\$350.00	NSW Ombudsman	Yes	Jacqueline Fredman, Deputy NSW Ombudsman	\$350.00	Declined	Presenting at the symposium positions VO as a leader in the field of investigative reporting
14/10/2024	Ombudsman	Invitation to attend a Lander & Rogers dinner event with AmCham and Josh Frydenberg to discuss the US election.	\$120.00	Lander & Rogers	Yes	Derek Humphrey-Smith, Partner	\$120.00	Declined	No
14/10/2024	P&C Business Partner Learning & Development	Three boxes all containing the same items: 1. Safetrac - promotional postcard 2. Safetrac branded - Water bottle 3. Safetrac branded - notepad with one pen	\$100.00	Safetrac	No	Safetrac	\$100.00	Surrender	No
21/10/2024	Ombudsman	Attendance at the International Ombudsman Summit in Hong Kong on 2-4 December, including various dinners and functions, accommodation expenses and a summit meeting to discuss 'Ombudsman in a Changing World'	\$1,200.00	Hong Kong Ombudsman	No	Jack Chan, Hong Kong Ombudsman	\$1,200.00	Declined	Learning from other Ombudsman offices internationally
23/10/2024	Ombudsman	Lunch provided by prisoners at the Dame Phyllis Frost Corrections Centre	\$25.00	Corrections Victoria	No	Stephen Brown, Correctional Officer	\$25.00	Accepted	To get an understanding of the educational programs on offer to the prisoners at DPFC
23/10/2024	Deputy Ombudsman	lunch, including bread, salad and savoury pastries.	\$20.00	Corrections Victoria	No	Steve Brown, Corrections Officer	\$20.00	Accepted	The whole day visit was to provide VO Executive with context for the operating environment within prisons. Lunch was a display of the industries offered at DPFC.

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24/10/2024	Deputy Ombudsman	The event will include the PTO's Annual General Meeting. Drinks and canapes will be served from 6pm.	\$25.00	Public Transport Ombudsman	No	Georgina Anderson	\$25.00	Accepted	Keeping abreast of issues and trends in other Ombudsman type organisations
24/10/2024	Ombudsman	PTO's AGM with drinks and canapes afterwards	\$25.00	PTO	No	Georgine Anderson	\$25.00	Accepted	Staying abreast of trends in other Ombudsman organisations
24/10/2024	Deputy Ombudsman	Invitation to attend , included light refreshments afterwards. Opportunity to meet a number of integrity figures including Victorian MPs.	\$25.00	Centre for Public Integrity.	No	Catherine Williams, Executive Director, Centre for Public Integrity	\$25.00	Accepted	Opportunity to meet and discuss integrity issues with key stakeholders including retired integrity officers, MPs and academics.
29/10/2024	Ombudsman	Attend the screening with a Q&A and refreshments of 'Reclaimed Voices', a documentary created by the African Youth Initiative, hosted by the CCYP	\$25.00	CCYP	No	Leanne Barnes, CEO	\$25.00	Declined	To build relationships with the CCYP and those affected by Government decision making
30/10/2024	Ombudsman	To participate in a Monash University 'Brains Trust Roundtable' on 19 November 2024 led by Dr Cannold of Cranlana	\$0.00	Monash University	No	Zara Karaduman, Stakeholder Engagement	\$0.00	Declined	Discussion of ethical issues could inform VO work
12/11/2024	Ombudsman	A box of chocolates from The Chocolate Box	\$65.00	DPC	No	Miriam Holmes, Executive Director	\$65.00	Surrender	No
26/11/2024	Head of People and Culture	Opportunity to attend an event "Making Modern Work Work"	\$20.00	SAP	No	Dex Brumby - Account Executive	\$20.00	Accepted	Opportunity to network with other HR professionals across government, learn more about SAP
04/12/2024	Principal Investigator	Bottled water, coffee, cut fruit and cakes prepared by men in Marngoneet hospitality program.	\$10.00	Corrections Victoria	No	Coordinator of programs	\$10.00	Accepted	Stakeholder engagement through attending and meeting with a variety of other public and private sector organisations providing services to people in prisons, and making valuable connection with those we provide services to (those in prison).
04/12/2024	Senior Complaints Officer, Quality Assurance	Food and drink.	\$10.00	Marngoneet Correctional Centre	No	Marngoneet Correctional Centre	\$10.00	Accepted	No
05/12/2024	Investigation Officer	afternoon tea	\$6.00	Melbourne City Soccer Club	No	Marngoneet Correctional Centre	\$6.00	Accepted	No
05/12/2024	Investigation Officer	food and coffee	\$10.00	Corrections Victoria	No	Prisoners at Marngoneet	\$10.00	Accepted	No
08/12/2024	Deputy Ombudsman	Dinner at Melbourne restaurant for Commissioners.	\$115.00	Victorian Law Reform Commission	No	Merrin Mason, CEO	\$115.00	Accepted	Recognition of voluntary work as a Commissioner of VLRC. Opportunity to acknowledge former commissioners and senior staff at an end-of-year celebration.
09/12/2024	Complaints Officer	Food and drinks during soccer event at Marngoneet.	\$10.00	Margoneet	Yes	Staff	\$10.00	Accepted	No
10/12/2024	Ombudsman	Invitation to the Red Mass for the opening of the legal year in 2025 with a morning tea to follow	\$25.00	Committee for the Red Mass	No	Committee for the Red Mass	\$25.00	Declined	Networking with other prominent members of the legal community

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10/12/2024	Head of People and Culture	Masterclass on Healthy Work Design - Masterclass explores innovative work design strategies through the lens of wellbeing and psychosocial risk management. This session will be followed by networking and refreshments	\$25.00	Communicorp	Yes	Louise Polednik, Head of Consulting	\$25.00	Accepted	Opportunity to explores innovative work design strategies through the lens of wellbeing and psychosocial risk management along with other P&C or HSW professionals
16/12/2024	Ombudsman	Invitation to attend the flag raising on Australia Day at Government House on 26 January	\$50.00	Governor of Victoria	No	Governor Margaret Gardner	\$50.00	Declined	No
29/01/2025	Ombudsman	Dinner at the 19th Annual Victorian State Parliament Iftar Dinner	\$100.00	Australian Intercultural Society	No	Australian Intercultural Society	\$100.00	Accepted	Building relationship with community that may be impacted by Government decision making.
02/02/2025	Chief Information Officer	In-person executive roundtable to discover why process innovation is the key to unlocking better outcomes for government agencies and the citizens they serve. Hear from government leaders on how leveraging end-to-end automation can streamline operations, ensure compliance, and meet the unique challenges of the public sector.	\$25.00	Public Sector Networks	No	Ruth Derla, Campaign Manager	\$25.00	Accepted	Knowledge of current technology, trends and understanding on what other state government agencies are implementing and experiencing.
03/02/2025	Ombudsman	Invitation to attend a seminar on "ESG - from compliance to strategic advantage".	\$25.00	HLB Mann Judd	Yes	Kundai Mtsambiwa, Director	\$25.00	Declined	No
16/02/2025	Managing Principal Solicitor	Barrister Fiona McKenzie is chairing a statutory interpretation intensive seminar, run by LegalWise. LegalWise have offered Fiona a free ticket, which she has offered to VO Legal.	\$505.00	Foley's List	Yes	Fiona McKenzie, Barrister	\$505.00	Returned	Continuing professional development opportunity for VO Legal staff
17/02/2025	Ombudsman	Invitation to a reception at the NZ Parliament to farewell the outgoing NZ Ombudsman	\$50.00	NZ Parliament	No	Rt Hon, Gerry Brownlee,	\$50.00	Declined	To support the work of other Ombudsman offices
24/02/2025	Ombudsman	Cost of summit and meals to attend the Monash University 2025 Global Leaders Summit in Prato Italy from 1-3 July 2025.	\$750.00	Monash University	Yes	Professor Sharon Pickering, Vice Chancellor	\$750.00	Declined	No
26/02/2025	Deputy Ombudsman, Corporate	Clare McCartin of Davidson Search and Advisory invited me to an event including provision of drinks and canapes to recognise and celebrate International Women's Day 2025.	\$50.00	Davidson Search and Advisory	Yes	Clare McCartin, National Managing Partner	\$50.00	Declined	No
26/02/2025	Ombudsman	Invitation to the Victorian Multicultural Commission's Victorian Multicultural Festival on 22 March 2025 at 5.30pm. Complimentary tickets (tickets are \$4) plus a food voucher of unspecified amount	\$20.00	Victorian Multicultural Commission	No	Vivienne Nguyen AM, Chairperson	\$20.00	Declined	To build trusted relationships with other VPS agencies and to support diversity, inclusion and multiculturalism in Victoria

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30/03/2025	Ombudsman	Invitation to Monash University and Susan McKinnon Institute for Political Leadership hosted roundtable discussion with visiting Harvard Professor Jorrit de Jong to discuss "Leading in an Age of Uncertainty" on 14/4/25 from 3.15-5pm	\$100.00	Monash University	No	Damien Farrell, Vice President (External Engagement)	\$100.00	Declined	To inform my thinking in relation to leadership issues in the public sector
31/03/2025	Deputy Ombudsman	Lunch provided as part of Financial Counselling Victoria Housing Summit where I was a speaker	\$20.00	Financial Counselling Victoria	No	Amanda Chan, Advocacy	\$20.00	Accepted	Opportunity at lunch to network with other key stakeholders
31/03/2025	Deputy Ombudsman	Presented with a Dusk Grille Electric Oil Burner at end of presentation.	\$44.99	Financial Counselling Victoria Inc	No	Amanda Chan, Advocacy	\$44.99	Surrender	No
31/03/2025	Ombudsman	Women in Government Dinner at Minter Ellison at their offices on 13 May 2025	\$100.00	Minter Ellison	Yes	Unspecified	\$100.00	Declined	No
02/04/2025	Investigation Officer	Sandwich and snacks	\$5.00	Melbourne City Football Club	No	George Halkias, Professional Speaker	\$5.00	Accepted	No
07/04/2025	Deputy Ombudsman	Organisers of the Twinning Project - Melbourne City Football Club - provided light sandwich lunch for all participants at Dame Phyllis Frost Centre	\$10.00	Melbourne City Football Club	No	George Halkias, Professional Speaker	\$10.00	Accepted	No
13/04/2025	Ombudsman	A book by Richard Broome entitled "Aboriginal Victorians: A History Since 1800". Gift has been retained in the office collection.	\$32.00	VACCHO	Yes	Jill Gallagher, CEO	\$32.00	Accepted	To inform us of the history of First Nations people in Victoria
15/04/2025	Ombudsman	Invitation from Heide Museum to the launch of the exhibition entitled "In-Justice: Incarceration and Resilience". To be held on the evening of 30/4/25	\$40.00	Heide Museum of Modern Art	No	Steven Skala AO, Chairman	\$40.00	Declined	To be seen to support important community programs that assist with rehabilitating offenders
15/04/2025	Ombudsman	Monash University Law School is hosting a function to 'Celebrate Monash Law and Leadership', in part to celebrate the recent appointment of a new Chief Justice	\$40.00	Monash University Law School	No	Stepheh Vaughan, Dean	\$40.00	Declined	No
16/04/2025	Investigation Analyst	A paper bag with the organisation's logo on it, containing: - A thank you letter for attending a Meet the Profession Networking Event for law students - A box of Haigh's Chocolates	\$20.00	Leo Cussen Centre for Law	No	Leo Cussen Centre for Law	\$20.00	Accepted	No
21/04/2025	Ombudsman	Leading Forward Panel Discussion - a panel discussion about strategic leadership in complex times. 21 May 2025, 4.30-6.30 pm at the W Hotel	\$40.00	SHK	Yes	Andrew Richards, Senior Partner	\$40.00	Declined	As the VO cannot afford professional development opportunities, accepting this offer would have enabled me to receive some professional development

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08/05/2025	Ombudsman	Attendance at VCOSS Treasurer's Lunch at the Park Hyatt on 22 May 2025 to hear the Treasurer speak about the State budget. Two course lunch provided.	\$150.00	VCOSS	Yes	Juanita Pope, CEO	\$150.00	Accepted	Strengthen stakeholder relationships and seek insights into the State budget
11/05/2025	Manager, Policy and Research	Metal water bottle Pack of Magnetic book marks	\$20.00	Univeristy of Melbourne	No	Amy Huang, Acedemic Programs Coordinator	\$20.00	Accepted	No
14/05/2025	Information Management Lead	A complimentary "VIP ticket to a series of Information Security and Information Technology events in Melbourne this July 2025.	\$2,399.00	Corinium Global Intelligence	No	Lou Vasquez I Regional Project Manager - APAC	\$2,399.00	Declined	Learning of new advancements and case studies of successful implementations in the information security and information technoloegy space, can potentially provide valuable business insights and efficiencies for how we manage our IT operations.
19/05/2025	Ombudsman	Invitation to the Law Institute of Victoria (LIV) "LIV 2025 Victorian Legal Sector Dinner on 28 August 2025 at Zinc at Federation Square	\$150.00	LIV	No	Matthew Hibbins, LIV President	\$150.00	Declined	Possibly - to maintain a relationship with a key Victorian Government and VPS stakeholder
20/05/2025	Deputy Ombudsman, Corporate	Attendance at conference dinner with senior representatives of the local government sector	\$200.00	LGPro	No	Michelle Cox, Events Manager	\$200.00	Accepted	Engagement opportunity between VO and senior local government officers
26/05/2025	Ombudsman	Invitation to 'Alumni Conversations' which is Monash University's speaker series on Thursday 19 June at 6pm at The Edge at Federation Square	\$50.00	Monash University	No	Professor Sharon Pickering, VC	\$50.00	Declined	To strengthen stakeholder relationships
27/05/2025	IT Business Systems Analyst	Water bottle and Screen cleaner	\$20.00	Dayforce	No	Not known	\$20.00	Accepted	No
03/06/2025	Ombudsman	A book entitled "Finding Equilibriu" by Tanya Heaney Voogt. Gift to be retained in the VO offices for all staff to use.	\$37.25	AHRI	No	Debra Glowaski, General Manager	\$37.25	Accepted	No
04/06/2025	Ombudsman	Bunch of flowers delivered to office. They will be retained and placed in a common area of the office for the staff to enjoy	\$60.00	AHRI	No	Debra Glowaski, General Manager	\$60.00	Accepted	Strengthen stakeholder relationships
09/06/2025	Senior Manager, Early Resolution and Conciliation	Powerbank offered to all speakers at the conference	\$40.00	IPPA/ICAC/NSWO	No	N/A	\$40.00	Accepted	No

NOTE : As part of the system rebuild which concluded in Q4, the criteria of including the position of the offerer has now been included for reporting. Any gaps in the system records, have been rectified outside of the system and included here, for completeness.