

# Vic Gov Hackathon 2026 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## FAQs

### **What is a Hackathon?**

A Hackathon is a solutioning challenge that brings people with different capabilities together and provides them with a deliberate space to think differently. It is based on human centred design methodology and has many flavours.

The goal is to collectively solve a challenge or capture new opportunities over a 2-day period.

Participants form teams and explore solutions around a nominated theme with the support of coaches.

At the conclusion of the hackathon, all solutions are presented to a panel of judges. Selected solutions will proceed to the next phase, involving proof of technology to assess their viability for implementation

### **What is Vic Gov Hackathon 2026?**

Vic Gov Hackathon 2026 convenes participants from across the VPS to work on a small number of cross agency service and workflow challenges.

Over two days, teams of VPS staff ideate and produce validated ideas solving nominated challenges. Ideas presented feed proposals into existing departmental and governance pathways for implementation.

This innovation booster is an opportunity to connect, build skills and create ideas that make a difference to the Victorian community.

### **Where will the Vic Gov Hackathon 2026 take place?**

The hackathon requires participants to join in in-person at venue Level 9, 35 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000

### **What are the key dates for the Vic Gov Hackathon 2026?**

- 4 May to 1 June 2026 - Registrations open to join a team
- 8 June 2026 - Teams and participants confirmed
- 15 June 2026 - Judges, Coaches and Panels announced
- 22 June 2026 – Briefing session
- 1 and 2 July 2026 In-person at Level 9, 35 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000
- 2 July Solutions presentation

### **Who can participate in the Vic Gov Hackathon 2026?**

Limited spots available for Victorian Public Service (VPS) employees. Up to 15 diverse teams will be pre-allocated with a maximum of 7 members each.

- 80 internal Victorian Government employees.

### **Do I need manager approval to register my interest to participate?**

Yes.

### **Can I participate online?**

Hackathon 2026 is a two day in person session and participants are required to join in person.

A solution presentation session at the conclusion of the hackathon will be available to be viewed online via the Innovation Network.

**Will my travel to the venue be reimbursed?**

Participants will be expected to fund their own travel to the venue.

**Are you able to accommodate accessibility requirements?**

We are more than happy to ensure we can accommodate accessibility requirements. Please outline your requirements during registration and we will be in contact to confirm.

**What skills do I need to join the Vic Gov Hackathon 2026?**

Just come as yourself. Hackathons are about bringing your unique mix of skills, knowledge, and experience to collaborate and problem solve. See section on Hackathon teams for more information. Further information and coaching will be provided prior to the start of the hackathon in team briefing sessions.

**Do I need to work in tech?**

No technical expertise is necessary!

The hackathon is open to anyone that wants to develop solutions to real-life government challenges. Interest in emerging tech and future ways of working is a plus.

**What support will I receive?**

Resources available for all teams during the hackathon include a detailed briefing on how the hackathon will run, what to expect, executive coaching and team allocation.

**Do I get to pick my team?**

All Teams will be allocated based on themes and roles by the organisers.

**Do I need to bring anything?**

Everything required for problem solving, ideating and solutions will be provided to the team. To assist with research, development of presentations and communication it is recommended team members ensure they have a laptop to work with.

**What happens to chosen solutions?**

They will be sponsored to be developed further into prototypes and showcased for implementation.

**Do I get to choose the problem statement I work on?**

Participants will select their preferred problem statement once this year's themes are revealed closer to the event date.

**Will I know before the event what the problem statement is?**

The detailed problem statement for each theme will be announced at Hackathon Day 1 opening launch session at 9am 1 July 2026.