

Post-election analysis edition | 29 November

Following months of campaigning, on Saturday 24 November Victoria voted for the re-election of the Andrews Labor government.

The Victorian Healthcare Association congratulates the Premier and Victorian Labor on their success and looks forward to working with the returned government on their health agenda that was a clear priority during the campaign. The VHA notes and thanks all parties for their health policies announced during the campaign period, clearly showing the essential care the health sector provides to all Victorians.

While the results are still being finalised, particularly in the upper house, it is clear that Labor will command an increased majority in the legislative assembly and are likely to have increased numbers in the legislative council.

Over the campaign, Labor unveiled an array of policies, with a particular emphasis on hospital infrastructure and workforce announcements. Some announcements, such as the community hospitals initiative, show a commitment to getting the sector to work more closely together to reduce demand on an already overburdened hospital system, a key tenet of the VHA's 2018 Victorian Election Positions.

When the VHA launched its 2018 Victorian Election Positions earlier this year, on behalf of its members, it called for an urgent reset and rethink of our public health system, which is under more strain and more pressure than ever before.

The VHA trusts that the Victorian government will continue to focus on health over the course of the next Parliament, and is committed to working with the re-elected government on implementing and broadening their healthcare policies, with the assistance of the sector.

The VHA and its members will continue to engage the government to support a stronger health system and guarantee that Victorians are receiving the right care, in the right place, at the right time.

This final Victorian Election Alert edition, following the re-election of the Andrews Labor government, contains all the announced health policies of the incoming government. The VHA is continuing its analysis of these policies, which will form part of its future advocacy.

For more information contact the VHA on 9094 7777 or vha@vha.org.au

Party	Announcement	Funding	Members Impacted	Notes	Source
Labor	National Centre for Farmer Health	\$4m	Local services as well as wider regional members will be impacted.	This is similar to an election announcement made in 2014 and delivered in the first Andrews government's budget	Premier
Labor	\$50M Nursing and Midwifery Workforce Development Fund	\$50m	All services that employ nurses will be impacted.	400 new postgraduate scholarships for nurses and midwives.	Premier
Labor	Re-development of Frankston Hospital	\$562m	Local services will be impacted.		Labor
Labor	Help implement Victorian Carer Strategy 2018-22	\$53.5m	Community health services may be impacted.		Premier
Labor	Expansion of the Latrobe Regional Hospital at Traralgon	\$217m	Latrobe Regional Hospital and local services will benefit.	A \$79m expansion was only opened this year, which improved emergency service provision.	Premier

Labor	Expansion of the Angliss Hospital at Ferntree Gully	\$170m	This will benefit Eastern Health, but the healthcare hub for older people could help wider older person healthcare providers, and maybe a signal for a future approach.		Premier
Labor	Build new Footscray Hospital	\$1.5bn	Western Health and its other sites will mainly benefit, but this could also benefit other Melbourne hospitals.		Premier
Labor	Planning for a new Melton Hospital	\$2.3m	This may affect local services in the future, with planning to look at how it would link to other public hospitals.		Premier
Labor	New rehabilitation centre for Bendigo Hospital	\$60m	This will impact Bendigo Health and local services.	The new Bendigo Hospital opened this year.	Premier
Labor	Royal Commission into Mental Health	\$13.2m	This will impact all members.		Premier

Labor	Establish a training and skills program for health services workers	Unknown	This will impact all members.	Will include 100 scholarships for new opportunities, and targeted training for occupational violence.	Jill Hennessy
Labor	New 'Mental Health in Schools' program	\$51.2m	This should impact members who provide mental health services	Will allow schools across Victoria to employ over 190 qualified mental health professionals.	Premier
Labor	Build and upgrade 10 community hospitals across Victoria	\$675m	This will impact the funded services and their surrounding services.	New community hospitals at Whittlesea, Eltham, Point Cook and Fishermans Bend. Services in Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Pakenham, Philip Island, Sunbury and Torquay will become community hospitals.	Premier
Labor	500,000 more specialist appointments in regional communities	\$136.3m	This will impact all hospital members.	It will also establish an easy-to-access registry for GPs, with up-to-date information about individual hospital wait lists.	Premier

Labor	90 new paramedics, 23 new ambulances, and more ambulance stations built and upgraded	\$109m	This will impact all hospital members.		Premier
Labor	Recruit 1,100 new nurses and midwives, with increases in nurse-patient ratios	\$460m	This will impact all members.	It is believed this funding includes the \$50m Nursing and Midwifery Workforce Development Fund mentioned above.	Premier
Labor	Redevelopment of Wangaratta Hospital	\$10m	This will benefit Northeast Health Wangaratta and local services.		Premier
Labor	Redevelopment of Maryborough Hospital	\$100m	This will impact Maryborough District Health Service and surrounding services.	This will include a new building on the Maryborough District Health Service's Maryborough campus, and an additional building to replace the hospital's ageing urgent care centre.	Premier

Labor	Establish public IVF services	\$32m	This will impact services that provide IVF and maternity services.	This announcement followed the publication of the interim report of the review into assisted reproductive treatment. The report highlighted issues of affordability and access to IVF.	Premier
Labor	5 new paediatric emergency departments	\$62.4m	This will impact all services with emergency departments.		Premier
Labor	Increased funding for the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund (RHIF)	100m	This will impact all regional services.	An increase in funding for the RHIF was a policy in the VHA's 2018 Victorian Election Positions.	Premier
Labor	Stage 1 of the new public Geelong Women's and Children's Hospital	100m	This will impact all surrounding services.	This is a redevelopment of the Geelong Private Hospital which closed earlier in 2018.	Premier

Labor	Free dental care at all public primary and secondary schools through dental vans	395.8m	This will impact all dental services as well as acute services.	Expected to free up more than 100,000 places in the public dental care system each year.	Premier
Labor	Baby care package, including 7 new parenting centres and more maternal child health nurses	\$232m	This will impact all surrounding services and all services that provide maternal care.	The 7 new Early Parenting Centres will be in Geelong, Frankston, Casey, Whittlesea, Ballarat, Bendigo and Wyndham. They will provide day stays, longer residential stays and more care at home. There is no information on how many more maternal child health nurses will be recruited.	Premier
Labor	Surfers Rescue 24/7 program	\$800,000	This may impact coastal members.	The course will teach critical CPR skills, how to perform board rescues and how to apply basic first aid on the water.	Premier



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Labor	Expansion of Royal Children's Hospital	\$31m	This will impact Royal Children's Hospital	This will provide a new 30-bed flexi-ward and add 20 cubicles to the emergency department.	Premier
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