

With just over a week until the next government of Victoria is decided on Saturday 24 November, parties continue to campaign.

The Greens have issued a big commitment to advocate on a number of community health promises, which are in line with the VHA's Stand with Community Health campaign.

Further analysis and detail is also available on the Coalition's funding commitment to launch a revitalised health promotion campaign, the announcement by Labor, later matched by the Coalition to redevelop Maryborough Hospital, and Labor's community hospital announcement. All health announcements, so far, are displayed in a table, and were up to date as at Wednesday 14 November.

This is the last edition of the Victorian Election Alert before the election. Follow the VHA on Twitter and Facebook to keep up-to-date until 24 November. A post-election Victorian Election Alert will be released in the next VHA Update.

Please contact the VHA for further information or feedback on any of the announcements.

Greens stand with community health

Announcement

On Wednesday 14 November, the Australian Victorian Greens committed to advocate for a \$360m investment boost into community health. The commitment is aligned with the VHA's election position on community health, with promises to:

- invest of \$160 million to double the number of eligible people accessing public dental treatment
- leverage of existing funds and provide a \$200 million boost to community health infrastructure and services, targeting areas of greatest need
- make community health services preferred suppliers for the Victorian Government
- support a \$4 million pilot project to establish partnerships and treatment pathways between public hospitals and community health services.

In the lead up to the Victorian election, the VHA, together with the state's 29 community health services, has called on the next government to better leverage and support community health services to meet the needs of clients and communities through the Stand with Community Health campaign.

As part of its announcement, the Greens also committed to advocating on a number of prevention initiatives including the banning of sugary drinks and confectionery from health services. The VHA welcomes initiatives that focus on keeping people healthy, reducing preventable disease and reduces the growing strain on the state's public hospitals.

Reaction

The VHA welcomes this announcement by the Greens and the party's support for the Stand with Community Health campaign. For more on the VHA's response, click [here](#).

Analysis

This is the first commitment announced in this election directly for community health services from a major party; the other party to publically support the Stand with Community Health campaign has been the Reason party.

The two major parties have released policies related to community health, however, the VHA encourages a matching of the Greens commitment, so that community health services can continue to not only meet the needs of growing communities but play an even greater role in supporting the broader health system.



Coalition announces funding for ‘Life. Be in it.’

Announcement

Matthew Guy, leader of the Victorian Liberal Party, announced on Sunday 11 November that the Coalition would invest \$60m over five years into a revitalised ‘Life. Be in it.’ campaign to promote positive health and wellbeing for all Victorians

The new ‘Life. Be in it.’ campaign would look to promote positive health and wellbeing for all Victorians, attempting to mitigate significant factors for chronic diseases. This would include a state-wide media and social media campaign as well as targeted grass-roots, evidence based, initiatives that would deliver in multiple settings, including people’s workplaces, schools and childcare centres and local councils and communities.

Reaction

The VHA welcomes Sunday’s announcement, with health promotion playing a significant role in reducing the strain on the Victorian health system. The VHA identified initiatives that keep people healthy such as this campaign as important to supporting demand management in its 2018 Victorian Election Positions.

Analysis

The revitalisation of the ‘Life. Be in it’ campaign was first announced in October. With health promotion and prevention funding taking downward turns in recent state and commonwealth budgets, it is positive to see a strong investment in longer term solutions that keep people healthy.

Support for Maryborough Hospital

Announcement

On Wednesday 31 October, Premier Daniel Andrews announced that a re-elected Labor Government would complete a major redevelopment of Maryborough Hospital, implementing a recently completed masterplan for the facility.

Shortly afterwards, at the same hospital, local Liberal MP Louise Staley announced the Coalition would match that investment.

Both parties promised \$100 million to transform the Maryborough Hospital, with the development to be completed in stages. The redevelopment would include a new building on Maryborough

District Health Service's Maryborough campus, and an additional building to replace the hospital's ageing urgent care centre. There would be more acute medical beds, acute surgery beds, another operating theatre, and more consultation rooms. The proposal also includes a community health centre.

Reaction

The VHA welcomes the support from both the major parties for this infrastructure investment. Though the VHA urges any new government to develop a transparent and needs based strategy to guide investment in the state's health infrastructure, to ensure appropriate prioritisation and greater transparency, as set out in the VHA's 2018 Victorian Election Positions.

Analysis

This was the first infrastructure announcement that received the support of both major parties, despite a raft of infrastructure promises. Maryborough is in the Ripon electorate, which is the most marginal regional seat in this election. In 2014, the Coalition won the seat from Labor with a majority of 0.75%

Further detail: new community hospitals

On Sunday 28 October, Premier Daniel Andrews launched the Labor election campaign with \$1.38bn in health funding announcements. One of these announcements was \$675 million to build and upgrade ten community hospitals across Victoria. These announcements were covered in the last edition of the Victorian Election Alert.

Since then, more detail has been provided on the community hospital announcement. If re-elected, new community hospitals would be built at Whittlesea, Eltham, Point Cook and Fishermans Bend, while existing services in Craigieburn, Cranbourne, Pakenham, Philip Island, Sunbury and Torquay would be expanded to become community hospitals. More information, including a fact sheet, on these specific announcements is available [here](#).

Party	Announcement	Funding	Members Impacted	Notes	Source
Greens	Restore funding to mental health. This includes \$200m over 4 years for community mental health for those not NDIS eligible	\$270m	This will benefit providers of community mental health, as well as the state's hospitals if it can reduce emergency mental health admissions.	Labor recently announced \$70m over 2 years for community mental health as well as a Royal Commission into mental health.	Greens
Greens	Replace the ambulance membership system and fees, with the Greens Government making up the shortfall to Ambulance Victoria	\$668m	This will impact hospital members.		Greens
Greens	Aboriginal Health Commissioner	\$20m	This would impact all members		Greens
Greens	Funding for community health services	\$364m	This would impact community health services and their connected services.	The VHA and Victoria's 29 registered community health services have been running the 'Stand with Community	Greens

				Health' campaign during this election. The Greens Party have pledged their support the campaign and its 'asks'. Go to standwithcommunityhealth.org.au to find out more.	
Greens	Health prevention program support	\$15m (annually)	The public education campaigns may encourage the public to use members' preventative services.	Includes proposals to restrict advertising of sugary drinks and junk food targeted at children. The funding would go towards public information and education to reduce preventable diseases	Greens
Greens	Establish two new sexual health centres in Victoria.	\$5m	This would impact services who offer sexual and reproductive services.		Greens

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
Coalition	National Centre for Farmer Health	\$4m	Local services as well as wider regional members will be impacted.	The policy was originally announced by Labor before being announced by the Liberal Party. It is welcome to see both supporting the same policy, so could happen in other healthcare areas	Mary Wooldridge
Coalition	Fund the Bowel Cancer Action Plan	\$2m	Health services that provide colonoscopy services will be impacted.		Liberal
Coalition	Supplying free flu vaccines for all Victorian children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years	\$7m	Health services that provide primary health services such as immunisation will be impacted.		Liberal

Coalition	Mandatory drug and alcohol treatment for young people whose offending or risky behaviour is a result of severe substance abuse	\$30m to create new facilities, \$20m annually thereafter to run the facilities.	There has been no information supplied about who will run the facility.		Liberal
Coalition	Brighter Futures fund to establish integrated children's centres in Victoria's most disadvantaged rural and regional areas	\$80m	Rural and regional health services, particularly community health services if they can tender, will be impacted.		Nationals
Coalition	Community based palliative care in Victoria	\$140m	Services that provide community palliative care will be impacted.		Liberal
Coalition	Upgrade the Sandringham Hospital through investing in new outpatient facilities	\$2.5m	This will impact Alfred Health and their services, as well as local services.		Matthew Guy

Coalition	Expansion of home and community care and support for Victorians with chronic disease and other conditions	\$175m	All services who provide hospital in the home services.	There is insufficient detail in the chronic health announcement to understand if community health services may be able to provide some services.	Liberal
Coalition	Build a new West Gippsland Hospital, and new theatres and emergency department at Warrnambool Base Hospital	\$300m	West Gippsland Healthcare Group and South West Healthcare will directly benefit. Local services will be impacted.		Liberal Mary Wooldridge
Coalition	Build a residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre for Mildura	\$7m	This will benefit local services.		Nationals
Coalition	Develop a comprehensive state-wide health workforce strategy	\$1m	All members will be impacted.	A policy from the VHA's 2018 Victorian Election Positions.	Liberal

Coalition	Expanded mental health support for members of Victoria Police, emergency services and ambulance workers	\$6m	Members with ambulance services will be impacted.		Liberal
Coalition	Support for children with autism	\$50m	Members who provide childhood disability services will be impacted.		Liberal
Coalition	Purchase four new public robots located at Austin and Mercy Health, Monash Health, Western Health and Bendigo Health	\$20m	Local services will be definitely impacted. But, any hospital member could benefit if they choose to try and be involved.		Liberal
Coalition	Rebuild Swan Hill Hospital	\$44m	Swan Hill District Health will benefit, local services will be impacted.		Matthew Guy
Coalition	Stroke Ambulance to be based at Monash Medical Centre	\$6m	Local services will be impacted. It will also alleviate pressure on the current Stroke Ambulance based at The		Liberal

			Royal Melbourne Hospital.		
Coalition	New 32 bed ward expansion at Mildura Base Hospital	\$20m	This will benefit Mildura Base Hospital and local services, including Sunraysia Community Health Service.	Mildura Base Hospital is the only publicly-owned, privately-operated hospital in Victoria. Labor has launched a consultation on whether it should be returned to public operation.	Peter Crisp
Coalition	Yarrawonga Health hospital upgrade	\$11m	This will benefit Yarrawonga health and surrounding services.		Tim McCurdy
Coalition	Public access to care at Euroa Health	\$2.4m	This will benefit surrounding services, which previously had to care for Euroa locals.	The funding will be spread across 4 years. Strathbogie Shire has been the only shire in the state without any access to public health care.	Steph Ryan

Coalition	New innovation voucher program for Victorian Start-Ups, Small and Medium Enterprises	\$9m	This may impact members involved in medical research.	The investment is expected to facilitate up to \$18m in commercial investment.	Liberal
Coalition	Encourage increased organ donation through driver's licence applications and renewals and funding for organ registration campaign	\$2m	May increase members ability to offer transplants to clients.	Labor recently announced a new automatic assessment approach to determine whether a patient is suitable for organ donation.	Matthew Guy
Coalition	New CFA and ambulance station in Armstrong Creek	\$7.1m	This will benefit local services with increased ambulatory capacity.		Matthew Guy
Coalition	Establish an annual 'Health Volunteering' roundtable to acknowledge hospital and aged care volunteers, and research how to support them.	\$0.055m	This will impact hospital and aged care facility members across Victoria.		Matthew Guy
Coalition	Funding for a new headspace outreach program	\$1.14m	This will impact community health members if the outreach projects occur	Funding over 4 years, and will especially focus on regional areas	Matthew Guy

			in their areas.		
Coalition	Life. Be in it. 2.0	\$60m	The return of the health promotion campaign may encourage the public to use members' preventative services.		Matthew Guy
Coalition	Emergency funding for Bush Nursing Centres	\$0.3m	This will impact Bush Nursing Centre members.	Funding is over 2 years, with an extra \$10,000 for each centre each year. A future Coalition Government would look into longer term funding.	Matthew Guy
Coalition	Increase in reimbursement rates for Victorian Patient Transport Assistance Scheme	\$35.1m	This will impact specialist hospital members.		Matthew Guy
Coalition	Improve education and awareness of rare diseases to lead to earlier diagnosis	\$1m	This may impact hospital members.		Matthew Guy

Coalition	Contraceptive pills available over counter after initial GP visit	\$0	This may impact members involved in women's health.		Matthew Guy
Coalition	World first Oral Immunotherapy Allergy Trials Program at Melbourne University	\$1.5m	This may impact members involved in medical research.		Matthew Guy
Coalition	Commit to the 2030 95-95-95 United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) target by 2025, and invest in rapid HIV testing	\$3.6m	It is not certain what impact this will have on members.	The target is to have 95% of people living with HIV diagnosed, 95% of those diagnosed accessing treatment and 95% of those having treatment with an undetectable viral load.	Liberal
Coalition	New hydrotherapy pool for Connect Health and Community	\$2m	This will benefit Connect Health and Community.		Matthew Guy
Coalition	Build a 18-20 bed residential rehabilitation centre for the Latrobe Valley	\$7m	This will benefit local services.		Latrobe Valley Express

Coalition	Subsidisation of cost of parking at hospitals	\$40m (across 4 years)	This will impact hospital members.	This will provide for around an extra 125,000 subsidised car parks each year. There will also be a concession eligibility policy and promotion of concessional rates. The maximum daily rate will be frozen for two years.	Matthew Guy
Coalition	Redevelopment of Maryborough Hospital	\$100m	This will impact Maryborough District Health Service and surrounding services.	This announcement was made on the same day as the Labor announcement, and is their second joint health policy commitment.	Bendigo Advertiser
Coalition	24 hour medical centre for Phillip Island	\$1.8m	This will impact Bass Coast Health and local services.	The two-year trial will see the opening hours of the current medical centre extended to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.	Matthew Guy
Coalition	New Drouin ambulance station	\$2m	This will impact local services.		Matthew Guy

Coalition	Redevelopment of Goulburn Valley Health	\$21m	This will impact Goulburn Valley Health and surrounding services.	This funding will complete the GV Health Masterplan, deliver a Residential Mother and Baby Unit and progress early works and planning of Stage 2 of the hospital redevelopment. Labor has committed to publishing the masterplan for stage 2 of the development as well.	Matthew Guy
Coalition	Operational funding 'The Lookout' Residential Rehabilitation centre in Warrnambool	Unknown	This will impact surrounding services.	Western Region Alcohol and Drug Centre (WRAD) to run the 18 to 20-bed facility.	Matthew Guy
Coalition	Development of 'The Western Melbourne Health and Hospitals Plan'	Unknown	This will impact all services in the west of Melbourne as well as connected services.	It is a health service and infrastructure plan for Melbourne's west.	Matthew Guy
Coalition	New Community Mental Health Hubs	\$24m	This will impact surrounding services.	This will fund trials for three new Hubs at Primary Health Networks in Frankston,	Emma Kealy

ELECTION ALERT



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