

VHA State Election Platform 2022

Modernising the delivery of healthcare

Victoria's public health and community health services need investment and support to ensure they are in the best condition to deliver the care that the community deserves.

Infrastructure funding neglects the basics

While the Victorian Government dedicated \$2.5 billion to health infrastructure in the last Budget, only \$55 million was dedicated to maintaining the current asset base. Health services tell us they are having to use money intended for upgrades just to meet basic compliance requirements.

\$2.5 billion health infrastructure

\$55 million maintaining the current asset base

The rapidly changing nature of how healthcare is delivered will require changes to how our hospital-based services and community health services are designed.

In addition to physical infrastructure, investing in the digital capabilities of our health system will lead to better care. Building on the successful boost to telehealth services during the pandemic, government-supported improvements to digital health can improve safety and help to connect services for patients.



What can government do to modernise Victoria’s health infrastructure?

The VHA is seeking the following infrastructure-related commitments in its campaign ahead of the 2022 state election. These commitments have been developed through extensive engagement with Victoria’s public health and community health services.

Maintain our hospital and community health facilities



We want the next Victorian Government to invest in maintaining and upgrading our existing buildings to modernise our delivery of care.

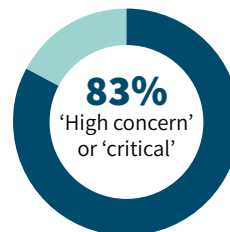
Ensuring the basic running of our health and community health facilities is critical to the delivery of healthcare. Adequate maintenance and repair of our buildings require access to the appropriate skills and funding to get the right advice, planning and trades.

A dedicated and comprehensive fund to maintain our health facilities will help minimise service disruptions and support the capacity of the whole system.

Investments in maintenance funding helps avoid major replacement costs in the future, supports healthcare services, and improves safety for patients and staff.

Rural health infrastructure is of critical concern

83% of rural and regional health service members described the state of their infrastructure as ‘high concern’ or ‘critical’ – 27% of which reported that their infrastructure needs often impact their ability to deliver services.



State Government must support maintaining our health facilities by:

- creating a new multi-year Health Infrastructure Maintenance Fund
- providing access to appropriate infrastructure expertise.

Upgrade our physical and digital infrastructure



We want to see a commitment to extend and increase the Regional and Metropolitan Health Infrastructure Funds to help address increasing pressure on our health system’s buildings and IT infrastructure.

In response to the increase in pressure on our health system, our hospitals and community health services are constantly looking at different ways to upgrade and modify their buildings and IT systems.

Upgrades to our digital health and IT infrastructure are just as important to improving our healthcare as expansions or redesigns of existing facilities. Ensuring the security of patient records and modernising clinical systems will reduce administrative burden on healthcare staff and improve safety and quality.

Ongoing State Government investment is critical to making sure that the capacity, efficiency, and safety of care is maintained in a period of extraordinary demand.

State Government must support upgrading our health facilities by:

- increasing the Metropolitan Health Infrastructure Fund and extending it for a full term of government
- increasing the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund
- making the funds easier and quicker to access for public and community health services.

A clear and transparent infrastructure roadmap



The VHA is calling for the creation and maintenance of a public list of major future infrastructure priorities that are funded or under consideration, so that our hospitals and community health services can plan ahead.

With little to no spare cash to invest in major capital projects, our public hospitals and community health services rely heavily on government to fund infrastructure. However, there is a lack of clarity on the criteria and timelines on how State Government determines which projects get funded.

Transparency in assessing the needs and funding status of major hospital infrastructure projects is needed to help our healthcare providers plan for the future.

Funding based on evidence, not politics

Major funding announcements for healthcare infrastructure should not be considered a political decision – they should be assessed on evidence and the healthcare needs of all Victorians.

The Australian Government’s [Infrastructure Priority List](#) provides a potential case example for Victoria to follow to capture the infrastructure needs and projects in various stages of development within the healthcare sector.





State Government must support a transparent health infrastructure process by:

- creating a more transparent process to accept major infrastructure bids from public health and community health services
- establishing a public list of funded and unfunded projects, as part of an infrastructure roadmap.

Without these commitments from government, Victoria's public health and community health services will continue to be challenged by ageing infrastructure, disconnected digital health services, and a lack of transparent planning.

If you care about the state of your local health service, **#VoteForHealth**

Take action to support your local health service to deliver the care that the community deserves ahead of the Victorian election 2022.

-  Find out what the major parties are saying about health by following our election commitment tracker <https://padlet.com/VHA2022/voteforhealth>
-  Ask your local MP what they are doing to support your local hospital and community health services
-  Find out which local candidates are committed to improving the quality of local health services
-  Write to your local MP to let them know that health is important to you (we've created [this handy resource](#) to guide you)



Read the VHA's full State election platform at www.vha.org.au/policy-and-advocacy/agenda-2022/

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