

VHA State Election Platform 2022

Supporting Victoria's healthcare system

Ambulance code 1 callouts



97,884

Highest on record

↑ 5%
from same 2021 Qtr

↑ 16%
from previous Qtr

Emergency department presentations



486,701

Highest on record

↑ 1.4%
from same 2021 Qtr

↑ 5.1%
from previous Qtr

Victorian Skills Plan forecast



65,000

additional needed

65,000 additional
health and community
services needed by
2025 – including
6,500 more nurses

Community health services keep people well and out of hospital



556,000

avoidable ED presentations

In 2020–21, 556,000
avoidable ED
presentations could
have been diverted
through primary
health settings

More than **20%** of hospitalisations for Victorians aged 65+ could have been prevented by appropriate care in primary health and community settings

Our public health system was designed in a world that no longer reflects what is needed for the future. The lessons from our pandemic response have shown that innovative and creative solutions can ease the burden on our workforce, prevent hospital admissions, and improve patient care. Such innovations can also improve cost efficiency within the system.

Health systems around the world are updating their thinking about how they should be designed to meet current and future demands. These include making sure that the make-up of the healthcare workforce, the physical and digital infrastructure, and funding models are modernised to rise to the challenge.

The current pressure on the health system shows we need to think differently. With increasing demand for acute services, funding models need to encourage greater care in the community – so that urgent care is available to those that need it. Keeping Victorians out of hospital will lead to benefits in the long term.

What can government do to support Victoria's health system?

The VHA is seeking the following commitments in its campaign ahead of the 2022 state election. These commitments have been developed through extensive engagement with VHA members. They represent significant areas of reform that need State Government intervention during the next four-year term.

Without these commitments from government, our health system runs the risk of being burdened by archaic and outdated practices that are no longer relevant in today's world.



WORKFORCE

Enable our workforce to deliver more care

Increase and expand Victoria's 'full scope' workforce programs to ensure clinical skills and expertise are used in the most effective way.



Flexibility for a modern health workforce

Government, services, colleges, unions and peaks to come together to discuss the future of the healthcare workforce.



Recruit and retain healthcare workers for better care

A large-scale healthcare sector strategy and recruitment campaign to build our domestic workforce.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Maintain our hospital and community health facilities

Creation of a Health Infrastructure Maintenance Fund to provide expert support, maintenance, and regulatory compliance.



Upgrade our physical and digital infrastructure

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.



A clear and transparent infrastructure roadmap

A public list of major future infrastructure priorities that are funded or under consideration, so that our hospitals and community health services can plan for the future.



FUNDING MODELS

Funding reform to keep Victorians healthy and out of hospital

The next Victorian Government will lead, develop and support new funding models for out-of-hospital care, with Victoria to be a leader and champion for funding change nationally.



Keep health funding above inflation

Commitment that healthcare funding for public health and community health services will, at least, exceed inflation for the duration of the next term of government.



A No Gap Guarantee for Urgent Care Centres

The Victorian State Government to fully fund rural Urgent Care Centres so that no Victorian will have to pay for emergency care.



All Victorians can **#VoteForHealth**

Everyone deserves access to high-quality public healthcare in Victoria.

If you care about your health, and the health of your family, friends and community, take action to support the Victorian health system 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 improve access to health services in your area



Find out which local candidates are committed to improving the quality of health services and the care they deliver



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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