

Greens response to the Victorian Healthcare Association’s election platform survey

On behalf of the Victorian public health sector, the Victorian Healthcare Association (VHA) is seeking commitments for a recovery health agenda for the state election that will ensure Victoria’s public healthcare system will rise to meet current and future demands.

The VHA is the peak body that represents the state’s public hospitals, Ambulance Victoria, community health services, and public aged care providers.

The VHA’s 2022 election platform can be found here: [Victorian Healthcare Association’s \(VHA\) 2022 election platform](#)

We are seeking your responses to our election asks below. These responses will be published on our website.

The VHA is seeking commitment to:	Does your party endorse this policy? (Yes/No)	Comments
<p>Enable our workforce to deliver more care</p> <p>Increase and expand Victoria’s ‘full scope’ workforce programs to ensure clinical skills and expertise are used in the most effective way.</p>	Yes	The Greens recognise too many current health roles are unnecessarily doctor-centric, leading to treatment gaps and delays, especially in primary care. We need to train nurse specialists for more clinical roles.
<p>Flexibility for a modern health workforce</p> <p>Government, services, colleges, unions, and peaks to come together to discuss the future of the healthcare workforce.</p>	Yes – provided working conditions are not eroded.	The Greens believe that health workers deserve to be paid fairly, but understand work conditions, opportunities and flexibility are also what generally attracts and retains health professionals in the sector throughout their working lives.
<p>Recruit and retain healthcare workers for better care</p> <p>A large-scale healthcare sector strategy and recruitment campaign to build our domestic workforce.</p>	Yes	The Greens support initiatives and incentives to attract healthcare workers. We will advocate for a more strategic, data informed workforce strategy that focuses as much on retention as recruitment.
<p>Maintain our hospital and community health facilities</p>	Yes	The Greens are concerned that more glamorous health infrastructure

<p>Creation of a Health Infrastructure Maintenance Fund to provide expert support, maintenance, and regulatory compliance.</p>		<p>announcements are receiving higher priority than essential maintenance and functionality upgrades. We support the VHA’s call for the establishment of an infrastructure fund.</p>
<p>Upgrade out physical and digital infrastructure</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Greens support long-term funding arrangements, and the VHA’s calls for ongoing increases to the infrastructure funds beyond indexation.</p>
<p>A clear and transparent infrastructure roadmap</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Greens strongly support a transparent, evidence-based, and non-partisan, roadmap and tracking of infrastructure spending operating over and beyond election cycles.</p>
<p>A No Gap Guarantee for Urgent Care Centres</p> <p>The Victorian State Government to full fund rural Urgent Care Centres so that no Victorians will have to pay for emergency care.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The Greens believe no Victorian should have to pay for emergency care regardless of where they live. The Greens have committed \$200m over the forward estimates for free Primary Care in areas of need.</p>
<p>Keep health funding above inflation</p> <p>Commitment that the healthcare funding for public health and community health services will be, at least, exceed inflation for the duration of the next term of government.</p>	<p>Yes, in principle.</p>	<p>The Greens believe that healthcare funding for public health and community health services must be sufficient to meet the level of community need.</p>
<p>Funding reform to keep Victorians healthy and out of hospital</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Current health funding models are wasteful and inefficient, and we urgently need to explore all alternatives.</p>



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