

## Labor 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><b>Enable our workforce to deliver more care</b></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>	n/a	<p>Since 2014, the Andrews Labor Government has invested over \$2 billion in the training and development of the health workforce.</p> <p>In addition to this Labor has invested in the following initiatives to support the health workforce to deliver more care including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$270 million to support the training and recruitment of 17,000 nurses and midwives including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Scholarships to pay for the undergraduate degrees of more than 10,000 students of nursing and midwifery</li> <li>○ Scholarships to pay for 1,000 qualified nurses and midwives to re-enter the workforce</li> <li>○ Scholarships to pay for 2,000 Enrolled Nurses to train to become Registered Nurses</li> <li>○ Scholarships to pay for the postgraduate specialisation of 2,980 nurses and midwives in fields such as critical care and emergency.</li> <li>○ Funding for an additional 150 Registered Nurses to become Midwives.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- Additional funding to maximise graduate and postgraduate intakes within public health services.
- Funding to support the training and recruitment of 160 aboriginal health workers.
- \$4.73 million to implement advanced allied health roles in 26 health services to support allied health professionals to work to their full scope
- \$5.6 million to support 288 enrolled nurses to transition to practice in public health services
- \$59 million for 1,125 Registered Undergraduate Students of Nursing per annum to take up work in public health services (2,250 total) - supporting the nursing workforce to work to the top of their scope
- \$9.8 million for 75 per annum Registered Undergraduate Students of Midwifery to take up work in our public health services (150 total) – supporting the midwifery workforce to work to the top of their scope
- \$15.7 million to support the upskilling of 1,400 nurses, perioperative nurses, theatre and sterilisation technicians to support increased surgical activity.

A re-elected Andrews Labor Government will also:

- Provide \$20 million to establish the Paramedic Practitioner role with an agreed model of care that can strengthen our ambulance service, while easing pressure on our busy hospitals at the same time.
- Train and employ at least 25 Paramedic Practitioners by 2026 – with scholarships to study to become a Paramedic Practitioner.

<p><b>Flexibility for a modern health workforce</b></p> <p>Government, services, colleges, unions, and peaks to come together to discuss the future of the healthcare workforce.</p>	n/a	<p>Labor is already working closely stakeholders across the sector to develop a new Victorian Health Workforce Strategy. We have also established a Health Workforce Advisory Council of health workforce experts to help guide this important work.</p>
<p><b>Recruit and retain healthcare workers for better care</b></p> <p>A large-scale healthcare sector strategy and recruitment campaign to build our domestic workforce.</p>	n/a	<p>Since coming to office the Andrews Labor Government has recruited <b>26,000</b> additional healthcare workers.</p> <p>Labor is training and hiring thousands of nurses and paramedics and making it free to study nursing and midwifery. Our healthcare workforce package will deliver free degrees, training and upskilling for the next generation of nurses and midwives.</p> <p>The Government’s Healthcare Worker Winter Retention Strategy offered payments of up to \$3,000 for eligible Victorian public health service employees.</p> <p>This comes on top of our \$255 million Hospital Surge Support Allowance to support the attraction and retention of patient facing staff in key areas of our hospitals and ambulance services.</p>
<p><b>Maintain our hospital and community health facilities</b></p> <p>Creation of a Health Infrastructure Maintenance Fund to provide expert support, maintenance, and</p>	n/a	<p>The Andrews Labor Government’s grant programs including the Metropolitan Health Infrastructure Fund, the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund, the Medical Equipment Replacement Program and the Engineering Infrastructure Replacement Program have allocated more than <b>\$1 billion</b> to health services and agencies in the past 4 years representing more than 2,000 locally delivered projects. These have included funding for medical equipment, infrastructure upgrades and expansions.</p>

<p>regulatory compliance.</p>		<p>\$790 million Regional Health Infrastructure Fund (RHIF) - established in 2016 - funded more than 480 projects to date across regional Victoria at almost every health service. The complete list of programs is available here and you can search by name, suburb or postcode. The 2022-23 Budget delivered \$300 million towards the Fund, adding to the \$490 million previously delivered under the fund towards 488 projects.</p>
<p><b>Upgrade our physical and digital infrastructure</b></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>n/a</p>	<p>Labor established the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund (RHIF) in 2016 and Labor also established the Metropolitan Health Infrastructure Fund (MHIF) in 2021. In addition, since coming into government, the Andrews Labor Government has invested \$280 million to replace critical medical equipment under the Medical Equipment Replacement Program (MERP) and approximately \$275million as part of the Engineering Infrastructure Replacement Program (EIRP).</p> <p>The 2022-23 Budget delivered \$300 million towards RHIF, adding to the \$490 million previously delivered under the fund towards 488 projects. Grants are available for a range of projects including construction, equipment, IT and new technologies, as well as for compliance related works.</p> <p>Grants are also available for these projects under the MHIF, supported by \$225 million in funding from the Andrews Labor Government.</p>
<p><b>A clear and transparent infrastructure roadmap</b></p> <p>A public list of major future infrastructure priorities that are funded or under consideration, so that our hospitals and community health</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>Since coming to office the Andrews Labor Government has delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (2016)</li> <li>• The new Bendigo Hospital (2018)</li> <li>• Monash Children’s Hospital (2017)</li> <li>• Victorian Heart Hospital (2022)</li> <li>• Joan Kirner Women’s and Children’s Hospital (2019)</li> </ul> <p>And the Labor Government is currently delivering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major expansion to Frankston Hospital (due for completion in 2026)</li> </ul>

services can plan for the future.

- New Footscray Hospital (2025)
- New Melton Hospital (2029)
- New Barwon Women’s and Children’s Hospital
- Major expansion to Ballarat Hospital (2027)
- Expansions or redevelopments at Warrnambool, Maryborough, Latrobe Regional Hospital, Goulburn Valley Health, Angliss Hospital and Emergency Department expansions at Casey and Werribee Mercy.
- A new Arden medical precinct with new campuses for the Royal Melbourne and Royal Women’s Hospitals, as well as redeveloping the Parkville campuses

A re-elected Andrews Labor Government will deliver:

- Second stage of works at Wonthaggi Hospital
- A new Queen Elizabeth II Hospital at Ringwood
- Major expansion and upgrade to Monash Medical Centre
- A new hospital for West Gippsland
- The *Hospital Plan for the North*, redeveloping the Austin and Northern Hospitals

**A No Gap Guarantee for Urgent Care Centres**

n/a

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

The Andrews Labor Government has made significant investments towards a range of initiatives to take pressure off emergency departments, which are facing record demand.

We are establishing 25 Priority Primary Care services across Victoria help ease pressure on emergency departments, give people faster care for urgent but non-critical conditions and free up critical resources for patients with more serious needs. Patients will be able to access services, free of charge.

**Keep health funding above inflation**

n/a

Commitment that the healthcare funding for public health and

The Victorian Budget 2022/23 delivered a 7 per cent increase in health funding, from \$23.386 billion in the Victorian Budget 2021/22 to \$25.018 billion in the Victorian Budget 2022/23, exceeding the cost of inflation - which is lower in the healthcare sector than across the broader economy.

community health services will be, at least, exceed inflation for the duration of the next term of government.

In response to the Delta and Omicron waves, the Government invested \$4.2 billion on top of the \$23.38 billion to support our ongoing pandemic response, bringing the Revised Budget estimate spend for 2021-22 to \$27.05 billion.

The additional \$4.2 billion included increased support to hospitals, purchasing of RAT tests and PPE, vaccination support for vulnerable Victorians, and funding boosts to our GP respiratory clinics.

**Funding reform to keep Victorians healthy and out of hospital**

n/a

We will continue to advocate strongly through the Health Ministers' forum and at National Cabinet, for a fairer share of Federal health funding for Victoria.

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.



**For further information contact**

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