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Diabetes prevention and management: A strategic framework for Victoria 2007-2010

Today marks the first time the world has observed World Diabetes Day as a United Nations Day. This decision recognises both the debilitating and costly impact of diabetes as well as the threat it represents to nations in achieving personal, social and economic goals into the future.

It is estimated that diabetes affects 246 million people worldwide and that by 2025, this figure will rise to more than 380 million. Diabetes is pervasive with developed countries such as Australia experiencing growing prevalence affecting men and women, the elderly and increasingly the younger population.

Our government is committed to taking action on diabetes. Current indications are that there are 190,000 Victorians with type 2 diabetes, the most common form of diabetes, and as many again whose diabetes remains undiagnosed. Around 15,000 Victorians are diagnosed every year with type 2 diabetes and there are estimated to be another 500,000 Victorians at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

Responding effectively to improve health outcomes associated with all forms of diabetes is a priority for our government and we recognise this will require strengthening prevention and management systems. The strategic directions outlined in *Diabetes prevention and management: A strategic framework for Victoria 2007-2010*, provide a focus for concerted and collaborative action across the continuum of care, highlighting opportunities to build on current initiatives and to extend our capacity to achieve a reduction in the prevalence of diabetes and its severe complications.

Through existing, emerging and new partnerships to realise the breadth of integrated action required for the successful prevention and management of chronic diseases such as diabetes, I am confident that Victoria can successfully take up the urgent challenge of reducing the impact of diabetes in our community.

Diabetes prevention and management: A strategic framework for Victoria 2007-2010 provides a valuable context for our continued action on this issue of importance to all Victorians.

**HON DANIEL ANDREWS MP
MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

14 November 2007