$2.3 BILLION BOOST FOR HEALTH BUILDING PROGRAM

The new Bendigo Hospital and planning for a second hospital for Geelong are the centrepieces of the Brumby Labor Government’s 2010 State Budget’s $2.3 billion to build world class hospitals for Victorians in communities across the whole State.

The Minister for Health, Daniel Andrews, said the Brumby Labor Government had committed $473 million for the new Bendigo Hospital after announcing $55 million in last year’s Budget for the first stage of the project.

“The Brumby Labor Government is building the right infrastructure for growth to support families now and lock in a prosperous future for regional Victoria,” Mr Andrews said.

“Work is already underway on the new Bendigo Hospital, with first stage work securing the ongoing operation of the existing hospital while a new Bendigo Hospital is built on the historic Anne Caudle site.

“Preliminary works currently being undertaken include demolition of some buildings in preparation for the new facility.”

Mr Andrews said population growth meant that a second hospital was needed to service the communities of Geelong, the Surf Coast and the Bellarine Peninsula.

“The Brumby Labor Government is securing the lifestyle of families in Geelong, the Surf Coast and the Bellarine Peninsula by building a second hospital for the region,” Mr Andrews said.

“Our investment of $33.6 million to expand acute capacity at the Geelong Hospital will allow for purchase of suitable land south of Geelong and for the associated planning for the development of a community hospital to meet the needs of families moving to Geelong’s southern suburbs, the Surf Coast and the Bellarine Peninsula.

“Located in the southern suburbs growth area, the new hospital will be accessible by public transport and the Geelong Ring Road. It will allow for future expansion of health services within the region.”

Mr Andrews said the capital works program underlined the Brumby Labor Government’s commitment to ensuring the Victorian families had access to world class health facilities, no matter where they lived.

“Major redevelopments in Bendigo, Ballarat, Geelong’s southern suburbs, Leongatha and Coleraine underline the Brumby Labor Government’s commitment to rural and regional Victoria,” Mr Andrews said.

Redevelopments at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, including more theatre capacity and improved allied health services, recognise its status as the busiest hospital in Australia.
The Budget also continues Victoria’s commitment to the fight against cancer, with a $13 million State investment in the new $55 million Ballarat Regional Integrated Cancer Centre, being delivered in partnership with the Commonwealth Government.

Highlights of the 2010 State Budget health capital works are:

- **Bendigo Hospital:** $473 million for the building of the new acute hospital, additional inpatient mental health beds and a refurbished ambulatory care centre. The works will include expanded radiotherapy and chemotherapy areas, including a new radiotherapy bunker and 18 additional day oncology chairs for chemotherapy patients;
- **Sunshine Hospital:** $90.5 million for the third and final stage of the Sunshine Hospital redevelopment, providing a new four level building accommodating inpatient beds ambulatory facilities and a special care nursery;
- **Monash Children’s:** $10.9 million will expand existing paediatric services at the Monash Medical Centre, Clayton. The initiative provides 10 extra paediatric beds, four neonatal intensive care beds, five paediatric intensive care beds and the construction of additional amenities;
- **Coleraine Hospital:** $25.8 million to redevelop 10 acute beds, 27 residential beds, primary care and an emergency service area in a new purpose-built facility, collocated with the refurbished Mackie Court (24 beds). A new medical, allied health and dental centre will be constructed on land adjacent to the new development;
- **Leongatha Hospital:** $25 million for new acute patient care facilities, including inpatient and day stay beds, theatre and emergency care areas, imaging and pathology services;
- a $13 million State contribution towards the $55 million Ballarat Regional Integrated Cancer Centre, providing more radiotherapy and chemotherapy treatment for cancer patients;
- **MonashLink Community Health Service, Glen Waverley:** $9.1 million to redevelop and relocate Monashlink’s Glen Waverley site to a purpose built facility in Glen Waverley. It follows on from funding to rebuild MonashLink’s Oakleigh centre;
- expanded capacity for Barwon Health: $33.6 million for a six bed expansion of the intensive care unit and increased inpatient capacity. The funding will also allow the purchase of land south of Geelong and planning for the development of a new community hospital at this site;
- **$5 million** to support expanded surgery capacity at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, and open 10 new intensive care beds at major hospitals in Melbourne and Geelong;
- **Royal Melbourne Hospital allied health:** $10 million to redevelop allied health facilities, providing purpose built patient therapy areas, and improved access and services;
- **Northern Health Catheterisation Laboratory:** $7.4 million to expand cardiac catheterisation services, including two extra laboratories and an eight bed recovery area;
- **Austin Community Care Unit:** $14.2 million for a new 22 bed mental health Community Care Unit on the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital site;
- **Aged Care Land Bank:** $2.5 million to provide inner city land to not-for-profit aged care agencies, for the development of high care at entry residential aged care services;
- redevelop Box Hill Hospital: **$407.5 million** for more than 100 extra operating theatres and a new, expanded emergency department;
- **World-class Parkville Comprehensive Cancer Centre:** $426.1 million towards this $1.1 billion centre of excellence, which will drive the next generation of improvements in research, prevention, detection and treatment of cancer;
- **$68.9 million** for Stage 2 of the Olivia Newton-John Cancer & Wellness Centre at the Austin Hospital;
- **Wonthaggi Hospital upgrades:** $3 million for a major expansion of the hospital’s emergency department and upgrades to the maternity ward and central sterilising department;
- **Healesville Hospital:** $3 million towards the upgrade of this local hospital;
- important infrastructure works: allocation of $20 million for the four year Statewide Infrastructure Program to fund important infrastructure and building works at Victorian health services; and
- new medical equipment: $35 million for the 2010/11 allocation of the Medical Equipment Replacement Program, which allows hospitals and health services to purchase the latest medical technology.