

# Health technology news

## Message from the Minister



I am pleased to present this fourth edition of *Health technology news*. The Health Technology Program now sits within the newly formed Department of Health. The recent *Expression of Interest* call for 2010-11 funding of new health technologies attracted a large number of submissions and many reflected collaboration between health services. Through this program we will continue to encourage innovation and rapid translation of evidence into practice.

In August, Southern Health, supported by the department, presented a workshop on 'disinvestment' – or removing outdated or ineffective practices and health technologies. It is pleasing to report that this meeting (the first of its kind in Australia) attracted participants from across Australia and New Zealand. Southern Health is funded to investigate local opportunities for disinvestment, and outcomes will be of interest to government and other health services alike.

Also in August, I announced a \$1.2 million investment in laser technology to assist health services treat prostate disease. The department's Health Technology and Statewide Surgical Services Programs are collaborating to fund this technology. This should have a significant impact on waiting lists and patient outcomes. It is an excellent example of different parts of the department working together to improve people's lives.

Victoria continues to provide support to other jurisdictions as they develop processes and mechanisms to support decision-making and funding around the appropriate introduction of new health technology. The recent establishment of QPACT in Queensland heralds an exciting development in inter-jurisdictional cooperation and should lead to sharing of information about, and coordination of activities related to, health technology uptake.

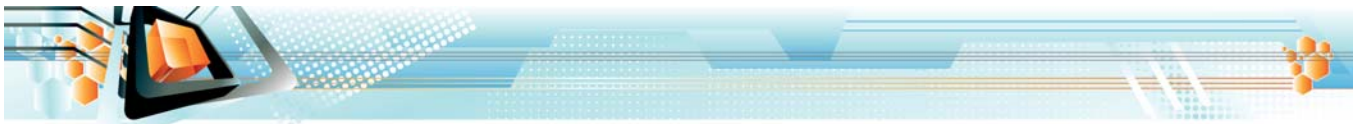
I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the new Chair of the Victorian Policy Advisory Committee on Technology (VPACT), Associate Professor Richard King. Richard is a well-respected physician with a long pedigree in health technology assessment and uptake. I look forward to Richard's contribution to VPACT and to seeing his vision unfold for Victoria's Health Technology Program.

**Hon Daniel Andrews MP**  
**Minister for Health**

October 2009

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## Victorian Policy Advisory Committee on Technology (VPACT) Committee members

<i>VPACT members</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
<b>Associate Professor Richard King</b>	VPACT Chair, Program Director for Medicine and Diagnostic Imaging and Pathology, Southern Health
<b>Ms Sophy Athan</b>	Consumer representative
<b>Ms Liliana Bulfone</b>	Senior Research Fellow, School of Health and Service Development, Deakin University
<b>Professor Rob Carter</b>	Chair in Health and Human Services Economics, Deakin University
<b>Professor Chris Christophi</b>	University of Melbourne Department of Surgery, Austin Hospital. Chair New Technology Committee Austin Health
<b>Associate Professor Caroline Clarke</b>	Executive Director, Medical Services, Royal Childrens Hospital
<b>Associate Professor Noel Cranswick</b>	Director of Australian Paediatric Research Unit, Royal Children's Hospital
<b>Associate Professor Paul Desmond</b>	Director, Department of Gastroenterology & Clinical Director, Specialist & Critical Care, St Vincent's Hospital
<b>Mr Steven Fitzpatrick</b>	Director Management Accounting, Alfred Health
<b>Associate Professor Richard Gerraty</b>	Director, Research Education & Stroke Service, The Alfred
<b>Associate Professor Stacy Goergen</b>	Director of Research, Department of Diagnostic Imaging, MMC
<b>Dr Jennifer Johns</b>	Medical Director, Specialty Services CSU, Austin Hospital
<b>Professor Ken Thompson</b>	Director of Radiology, The Alfred. Member of MSAC and the Medical Device Incident Review Panel of TGA
<b>Professor Ingrid Winship</b>	Executive Director of Research & Chair in Adult Clinical Genetics, Melbourne Health
<b>Dr Gavin Wright</b>	Thoracic Surgeon, St Vincent's Hospital and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
<b>Professor John Zalcborg</b>	Chief Medical Officer & Director, Division of Haematology & Medical Oncology, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

## Profile on the VPACT Chair, Richard King



Richard King is the Program Medical Director for Medicine, Diagnostic Imaging and Pathology at Southern Health. Richard is a general physician, gastroenterologist by training. Richard:

- is a member of Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) and is on HTAi's special interest groups in relation to disinvestment and hospital-based health technology assessment
- has been a member of the Medical Benefits Advisory Committee, which was the forerunner to MSAC (Medical Services Advisory Committee) for the Commonwealth Department of Health, and was on MSAC for six years
- set up the first health service New Technology Committee in Victoria in 2001, and has been instrumental in setting up the disinvestment (SHARE) Program at Southern Health
- has been a member of the Review Committee of the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing Enquiry of Medical Assessment.

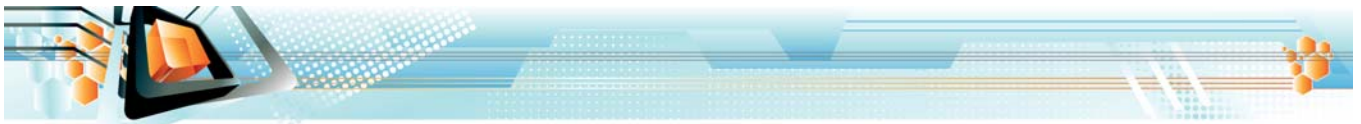
We look forward to the expertise Richard will bring to VPACT in his role as Chair.

## New VPACT members

The Department of Health is delighted to have five new VPACT members and a new Chair. The new members are:

- Associate Professor Richard King (Chair), Southern Health
- Professor Chris Christophi, Austin Health
- Professor Ken Thompson, Alfred Health
- Professor Ingrid Winship, Melbourne Health
- Mr Steven Fitzpatrick, Alfred Health
- Associate Professor Caroline Clarke, Royal Childrens Hospital
- Dr Gavin Wright, St Vincent's and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

We welcome all new members, and look forward to their valuable input into VPACT.



## New Technology Program 2010-11 Funding

A new step in the 2010-11 New Technology Program funding submission process has been implemented. The new process will streamline the process and involves health services providing *Expressions of Interest*. These have been evaluated, with short-listed *Expressions of Interest* being developed into full business cases for consideration by VPACT.

Short-listed technologies being developed into full business cases are:

- Confocal Endomicroscopy for real time microscopic imaging of the gastrointestinal mucosa
- Capillary Array Sequencer for sequencing of DNA samples
- Continuous Glucose Monitoring for real time glucose monitoring for selected adult patients with type 1 diabetes mellitus
- Intraoperative O-arm Navigation for intraoperative multiplanar three-dimensional anatomy imaging
- Low Frequency Ultrasound Debridement for debridement of chronic leg ulcers
- Robotic Seed Low Dose Rate Brachytherapy for prostate cancer
- Sinuplasty for treating frontal sinusitis
- Sir-Spheres for inoperable liver tumors
- Spyglass direct cholangioscopy for bile duct diagnosis and therapy

The department has received positive feedback regarding the new process and we hope the process will lead to further engagement with clinicians and more collaboration between health services.

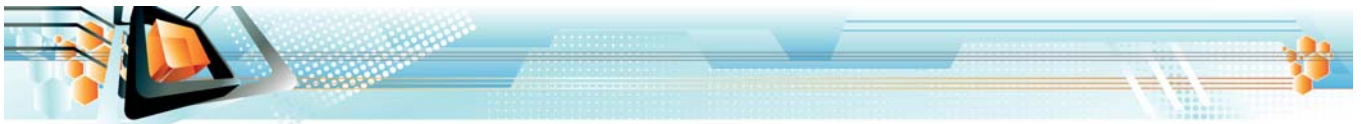
## 2010-11 New Technology Program funding submission timelines

Action	Date
<b>Deadline for Full Submission</b>	11 December 2009
<b>VPACT recommendations of full submissions</b>	16 February 2010
<b>DoH funding decisions</b>	March 2010
<b>Implementation</b>	1 July 2010

## Health Technologies funded in 2009-10

The New Technology Program is continuing to fund the following health technologies in 2009-10:

New Technology item	Health service
<b>MRI for diagnosis of cardiac pathology</b>	The Alfred
<b>MRI for 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester fetal diagnosis</b>	Monash Medical Centre
<b>Bone anchored hearing aids for ear canal atresia and chronic middle/outer ear disease</b>	Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital/The Alfred
<b>Paediatric dystonia for complex movement disorders</b>	Royal Children's Hospital
<b>Percutaneous sclerotherapy for peripheral AVMs</b>	Monash Medical Centre
<b>Endobronchial ultrasound-guided FNA for lung cancer staging</b>	Austin Hospital
<b>MRI-guided ultrasound for treatment of uterine fibroids</b>	Royal Women's Hospital
<b>320-slice cardiac CT for diagnosis and monitoring of coronary and congenital heart disease</b>	Monash Medical Centre
<b>Rapid determination of BRCA 1 &amp; 2 status</b>	Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre/Royal Melbourne Hospital
<b>LDL apheresis for homozygous FH</b>	Austin Hospital
<b>RF HALO Ablation for Barrett's Oesophagus</b>	St Vincent's Hospital/Royal Melbourne Hospital



## Health Technologies to commence funding in 2009-10

<i>New Technology item</i>	<i>Health service</i>
<b>Greenlight laser for benign prostatic hypertrophy</b>	Southern Health
<b>Fibroscan for assessing liver disease</b>	Alfred, Austin, Southern, St Vincent's Health
<b>Liquid chromatography/tandem mass spectrometry for measurement of immunosuppressive agents in transplant patients</b>	Alfred Health
<b>Free Light Chain High Cut Off protein analysis membranes</b>	St Vincent's, Austin, Southern, Royal Melbourne, Barwon and Alfred Health
<b>Direct Diaphragmatic Pacing for chronic ventilatory failure</b>	Austin Health
<b>Gated radiotherapy for breast and lung cancer</b>	Alfred Health

## HealthPACT update

At its August meeting, HealthPACT reviewed the following new or emerging health technologies and made the associated decisions:

- Dynamic wound closure system – monitor over 12 months.
- Single incision laparoscopic surgery for cholecystectomy – monitor over 12 months noting the lack of safety data.
- Minimally-invasive robot-assisted unicompartmental knee arthroplasty – do not progress as no evidence that better alignment translates into improved patient outcomes.
- Intra-abdominal vagal blocking for obesity – do not progress due to lack of evidence.
- Mini-cardiopulmonary bypass system – do not progress as not registered with TGA.
- Pumpless extracorporeal interventional lung assist (iLA) system – assessment of ECMO devices under consideration.

- Percutaneous aortic valve replacement – although not registered by TGA, continue to monitor, noting need to survey existing activity across Australia.
- Implantable gastric stimulator for morbid obesity - do not progress since no evidence of significant weight loss.

Links to all HealthPACT reports and decisions are available through the horizon scanning website at [www.horizonscanning.gov.au](http://www.horizonscanning.gov.au).

Other HealthPACT items to note include:

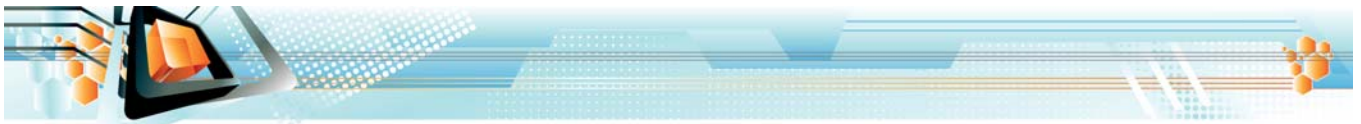
- An assessment of Image Guided Radiation Therapy (IGRT) and Intensity-Modulated Radiation Therapy (IMRT) is currently underway.
- A planning session considered the following:
  - 2009-10 work plan
  - revised terms of reference reflecting revised governance of HealthPACT
  - information presented in and priority setting of Prioritising Summaries
  - coordination of HTA activities across Australia.
- Professor Brendon Kearney from SA has been reappointed Chair of HealthPACT.

## HTA review update

The Commonwealth review of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) processes continues. The review examines the processes and relationships between the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC), Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC), Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), and the Prosthesis and Devices Committee.

The call for submissions for the review closed at the end of May 2009. There were 86 submissions received, many of which were quite detailed. As part of the 'issues identification phase' of the review, nine stakeholder focus groups were conducted and 14-15 bilateral meetings were held with peak stakeholder bodies. The review is now moving into an 'options development phase'.

Further information is available at [www.health.gov.au/htareview](http://www.health.gov.au/htareview).



## Sg2 Presentation

A presentation on selected technologies will be held by Sg2, an international health care research and consulting company, with clinical and technical expertise in new technologies.

See [www.sg2.com](http://www.sg2.com) for further information on Sg2.

Sg2's imaging expert will be giving a presentation on Operating Theatre imaging, which will cover:

- Intraoperative O-Arm Navigation system
- Confocal Endomicroscopy
- Spyglass direct cholangioscopy

The presentation will be held on 11 November between 9.00am and 10.30am at the department.

If you would like to attend, further details can be found on the new technology website, [www.helath.vic.gov.au/newtech](http://www.helath.vic.gov.au/newtech).

## Sustainability in Healthcare by Allocating Resources Effectively (SHARE) Program

Health Technology disinvestment: tests, drugs, clinical practice



*At the recent SHARE Program workshop, L-R Dr Adam Elshaug, Adelaide University, Assoc Prof Richard King, Southern Health, Prof Janet Hiller, Adelaide University.*

On 27 August 2009, a workshop was held at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons to consider 'disinvestment' in health technology. This workshop was hosted by Southern Health, in conjunction with the Department of Health as a part of the SHARE program. The aim of the workshop was to consider how we might remove outdated or ineffective practices and health technologies from practice.

The day began with a presentation from Adam Elshaug and Janet Hiller from the University of Adelaide who gave us an interesting look at disinvestment from a policy perspective. Following this, a health economics perspective was presented by Duncan Mortimer and Anthony Harris from the Centre of Health Economics at Monash University. The day concluded with Claire Harris and Ian Larmour from Southern Health who gave us a local health services perspective based on work accomplished as part of the SHARE program and the Therapeutics Equivalence program and Southern Health.

The workshop was very successful and attracted over 70 participants from Victoria, interstate and New Zealand. Government, health services, academic and research groups, professional associations and consumers were all represented. Feedback has been positive and attendees have suggested establishing a national annual forum on disinvestment. A report of the workshop, along with slides of the presentation will be made available on the New Technology website shortly. For more information please contact Luisa Chaves at [luisa.chaves@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:luisa.chaves@dhs.vic.gov.au)

## Nationally Funded Centres (NFC) update

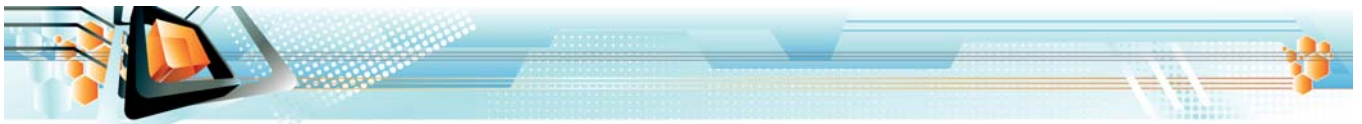
Assessment is underway for the following three procedures, which have been proposed as new NFC Programs:

- Paediatric Lung Transplantation
- Norwood procedure for Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome
- Peritonectomy plus hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy for pseudomyxoma peritonei and peritoneal mesothelioma.

The following Victorian NFC Programs have estimated they will undertake the indicated activity in 2009-10:

- Paediatric Heart Transplantation (RCH): six procedures (three with and three without Ventricular Assist Devices)
- Paediatric Liver Transplantation (RCH): 12 procedures
- Pancreas Transplantation (MMC): 12 procedures

Further information about NFC Programs is at [www.health.vic.gov.au/newtech](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/newtech).



## Tiny teen a transplant first

(Article from health Victoria)

Weighing in at just over 22 kilos and standing a mere 132 centimetres, Brooke Howe, 13 is believed to be the smallest and lightest patient to undergo a lung transplant in Australia.

The diminutive patient, who makes up for her small frame with a big personality, recently underwent a double lung transplant at the Alfred Hospital.

Brooke, who suffers from Cystic Fibrosis, was placed on The Alfred's lung transplant list earlier this year.

Initially, Brooke thought she might have to wait a year or more for the possibility of a transplant.

But, in a rare stroke of luck, Brooke received organs from a young donor only days later.

With a growing reputation for excellence in paediatric lung transplantation, The Alfred is the only facility in the country equipped with the expertise and resources to support a patient like Brooke.

Paediatric Lung Transplant Consultant Glen Westall said while her size presented some challenges in terms of the surgery, the on-going care for a young patient like Brooke remained extremely complex.

'Everything from medication doses and anaesthesia levels to the provision of a stimulating rehabilitation program for a young person needs to be taken into account,' Dr Westall said.

'For a hospital used to treating adults, this presents its own set of unique challenges.'

Dr Westall said with support from Ronald McDonald House Charities, several Alfred staff have travelled to some of the leading paediatric lung transplant centres in the United States and the United Kingdom in recent years to help establish this highly-specialised program.

He said Brooke, who is the ninth child to undergo a paediatric lung transplant at The Alfred since the program's establishment in 2005 in collaboration with the Royal Children's Hospital, had responded extremely well.



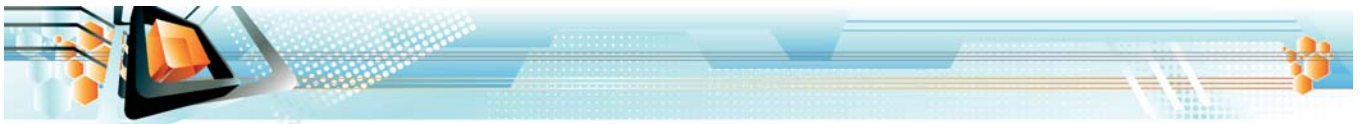
*Recipient Brooke Howe and her Paediatric Lung Transplant Consultant Glen Westall at The Alfred.*

Almost immediately after her surgery, Brooke noticed a big difference in the range of things that she could do and is enjoying the simple things like walking without the aid of oxygen and brushing her hair.

The vivacious Sydney teenager is looking forward to playing netball and hanging out with her friends.

### Links to recent media events

- Groundbreaking surgery gives hope to quadriplegic (ABC News Victoria) [www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/27/2725818.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/10/27/2725818.htm)



## Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Agency Profile



The Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation funded

by Canadian federal, provincial and territorial governments to provide Canadian health care policy managers with evidence-based information on emerging and existing medical devices. The agency was founded in 1989 and has since been a leader in the area of HTA.

CADTH supports decision makers determine which technologies should be used to achieve the best outcomes for both patients and the health care system.

CADTH's program not only provides impartial, rigorous, evidence-based reviews of clinical and cost effectiveness but also considers the broader impact of drugs and health technologies into the Canadian health system. The HTA process examines technologies at all stages of their life cycles, from development through to maturity and obsolescence. Topics for assessment can be proposed by anyone through the CADTH website and are prioritised with the help of CADTH's Advisory Committee on Pharmaceuticals and the Devices and Systems Advisory Committee.

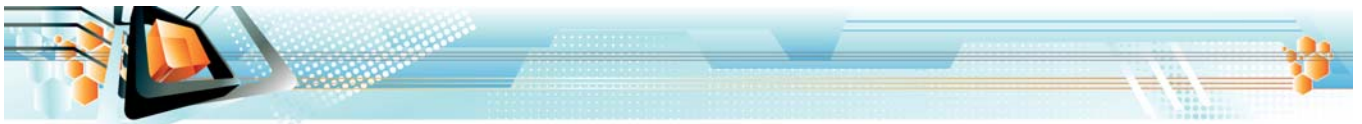
CADTH introduced the Health Technology Inquiry Service (HTIS) in 2005 to provide Canadian health care decision makers with access to available health technology information based on the best available evidence, in a quick and efficient manner. CADTH also publishes a regular newsletter on new and emerging health technologies.

CADTH is recognised as a world leader in HTA and works closely with agencies nationally and internationally.

Recent publications include:

- Radioimmunotherapies for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma: Systematic Review of Clinical Effectiveness, Cost Effectiveness and Guidelines
- Computed Tomography for Paediatric Patients: Review of Clinical Effectiveness and Indications for Use
- Fecal Immunochemical Tests for Colorectal Cancer Screening: A Systematic Review of Accuracy and Compliance
- Laparoscopic Diaphragm Pacing for Tetraplegia
- TomoTherapy, Gamma Knife, and CyberKnife Therapies for Patients with Tumours of the Lung, Central Nervous System, or Intra-abdomen: A Systematic Review of Clinical Effectiveness and Cost-Effectiveness
- Technologies to Reduce Errors in Dispensing and Administration of Medication in Hospitals: Clinical and Economic Analyses
- Endobronchial Ultrasound for Lung Cancer Diagnosis and Staging: A Review of the Clinical and Cost Effectiveness
- Health Technology Update Issue 11
- Anti-TNF- $\alpha$  Drugs for Refractory Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Clinical-and Cost-Effectiveness Analyses
- Dabigatran or Rivaroxaban Verses Other Anticoagulants for Thromboprophylaxis After Major Orthopedic Surgery: Systematic Review of Comparative Clinical-Effectiveness and Safety

For more information, including publications, please visit CADTH's website at [www.cadth.ca](http://www.cadth.ca)



## Useful links

### Australia

- Australia and New Zealand Horizon Scanning Network  
[www.horizonscanning.gov.au](http://www.horizonscanning.gov.au)
- Australian Safety and Efficiency Register of New Interventional Procedures – Surgical (Royal Australasian College of Surgeons)  
[www.surgeons.org/asernip-s/](http://www.surgeons.org/asernip-s/)
- Medical Services Advisory Committee  
[www.msac.gov.au](http://www.msac.gov.au)
- Adelaide Health Technology Assessment  
[www.adelaide.edu.au/ahta](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/ahta)

### North America

- Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health  
[www.cadth.ca/index.php/en/home](http://www.cadth.ca/index.php/en/home)
- Health Technology Evaluation and Assessment in Ontario  
[www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/mas\\_mn.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/mas/mas_mn.html)
- Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) [www.htai.org](http://www.htai.org)
- Evidence-based Practice Centres / Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality  
[www.ahrq.gov/clinic/techix.htm](http://www.ahrq.gov/clinic/techix.htm)
- BlueCross BlueShield Technology Evaluation Center [www.bcbs.com/blueresources/tec](http://www.bcbs.com/blueresources/tec)

### Europe

- National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (UK) [www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)
- National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment programme (UK) [www.ncchta.org](http://www.ncchta.org)
- EuroScan (European Consortium)  
[www.euroscan.bham.ac.uk](http://www.euroscan.bham.ac.uk)
- Cochrane Library  
[www.thecochranelibrary.org](http://www.thecochranelibrary.org)

## Contact details

For information and advice about the New Technology Program, Health Technology Strategy or other related areas, please contact one of the following in the department's Genetics & Health Technology Unit:

### Dr Paul Fennessy

Manager, Genetics & Health Technology  
Phone: 9096 2142  
Mobile: 0429 019 289  
email: [paul.fennessy@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:paul.fennessy@dhs.vic.gov.au)

### Ms Siegi Schmidmaier

Senior Project Officer  
Phone: 9096 1296  
email: [siegi.schmidmaier@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:siegi.schmidmaier@dhs.vic.gov.au)

### Ms Luisa Chaves

Project Officer  
Phone: 9096 1410  
email: [luisa.chaves@dhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:luisa.chaves@dhs.vic.gov.au)

## Accessibility

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This document is also available in PDF format on the internet at [www.health.vic.gov.au/newtech](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/newtech).