



Health 2040: Achievements and next steps



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Acknowledgements

The Victorian Government would like to acknowledge and thank the individuals and organisations from across the health sector and broader community who contributed to the development of *Health 2040: Achievements and next steps*.

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Where the term 'Aboriginal' is used it refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Indigenous is retained when it is part of the title of a report, program or quotation.

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Ministerial foreword

Health 2040: Advancing health, access and care sets out the Victorian Government's vision for the future of healthcare in Victoria. It is built around the three goals of better health, better access and better care. These reform directions prepare Victoria to meet the challenges of rising demand and chronic disease, to make best use of innovation and put people at the centre of their care.

This document, *Health 2040: Achievements and next steps* describes key actions the government has already taken to help all Victorians achieve their best possible health. It also highlights the next steps in key areas.

Focusing on urgent priorities, the government has invested to boost health infrastructure. Mental health and elective

surgery have been expanded to ensure people get the care they need. More support has also been provided to our workforce, with a renewed focus on building safe health workplaces that are free from violence and discrimination.

In response to a census of hospital bed and operating theatre capacity, the government has worked with the health sector to open beds and theatres across Victoria, and established Better Care Victoria to improve access through innovation. A statewide infrastructure plan is now being developed to plan for the whole health system over the long term.

Better, safer care, our response to *Targeting zero, the review of hospital safety and quality assurance in Victoria*, provides the blueprint to make sure that

our world-class care is matched by a world-class quality and safety system.

Important reform and investment has also been taking place across government, through action to strengthen education, provide more housing, more public transport, and more liveable communities. A coordinated, whole of government 10 Year Plan to end family violence has recently been released, following a record \$572 million investment through the last Budget.

Together with the health system reforms, and the other key achievements outlined in this document, they reflect the Victorian Government's commitment to delivering real and tangible improvements to the health and wellbeing of every Victorian.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jill Hennessy'.

Hon Jill Hennessy MP

Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Martin Foley'.

Martin Foley MP

Minister for Housing, Disability and Ageing
Minister for Mental Health
Minister for Equality
Minister for Creative Industries

Ambulance Entry Only





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Better health

The government is working to make healthy choices easier by building healthier places to live, work and play, and by supporting people to pursue healthier lifestyles. We are taking steps to promote health early in life and in communities that are at greater risk of illness, with a strong focus on supporting Victorians who suffer discrimination or disadvantage.





What we have done

In working to achieve this, we have:

- **expanded maternal and child health services** in growing communities, so that Victorian families can continue to have access to highly qualified maternal and child health nurses (\$133 million over four years)
- taken action to cut smoking with a **ban on smoking in outdoor dining areas and regulation of e-cigarettes**
- protected young Victorians and their families with **No Job No Play** policies that require up-to-date vaccinations to enrol in kindergartens and childcare centres
- saved lives by restoring the **Parents Whooping Cough Vaccine Program**, halving the number of cases of babies with whooping cough in the last year (\$8.4 million over four years)

- established the **Latrobe Valley Health Innovation Zone**, the first of its kind in Australia, where we will work with the community to design new prevention, screening and early intervention initiatives to keep people healthy (\$27.3 million over five years)
- improved the health and wellbeing of refugees and asylum seekers, by providing access to key services and programs that promote community participation and belonging (\$18 million over four years)
- upgraded buildings, grounds, changerooms and training facilities across the state through the **Community Sports Infrastructure Fund** (\$100 million over four years), including \$10 million to build and upgrade women's changerooms and facilities, the single biggest investment in women's participation in sport by any state government.

We have also taken action to:

- allow local pharmacists to administer life-saving, government-funded influenza and whooping cough vaccines
- halve the suicide rate, including through place-based suicide prevention trials that will test a wide range of prevention approaches at the local level, through community organisations, health services, schools, police and ambulance services (\$27 million over four years)
- help sports clubs, parks and playgrounds provide much needed shade through the **Community Shade Grants Program** to help reduce the incidence of melanoma, one of the most common cancers in Victoria (\$10 million)
- promote walking and cycling through a \$100 million **Safer Cyclists and Pedestrians Fund** and set up **Active Transport Victoria** to oversee this investment (\$3.3 million over three years)

- support healthier eating by requiring large chain food outlets and large supermarkets to display the kilojoule content of food and drinks on menus, menu boards, price tags and online menus
- introduce active and healthy ageing advisers, who will work with a wide range of services to promote physical, social and emotional wellbeing for older people, particularly those experiencing disadvantage and social isolation
- eliminate hepatitis B and C (viral diseases causing inflammation of the liver) as a public health concern by 2030, by reducing new infections and increasing rates of diagnosis, treatment and cure, as well as addressing stigma and discrimination.

Next steps to better health

Towards the goal of better health, we plan to:

- launch the **Aboriginal Health, Wellbeing and Safety Plan**
 - an integrated approach to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people
- strengthen hospital responses to family violence, so that more people who are experiencing family violence, or are at risk of family violence, are linked to the support they need
- build and open new mental health facilities that focus on early intervention, including:
 - the **Early in Life Mental Health Service** in conjunction with Monash Medical Centre (\$14.6 million)
 - a Women’s Prevention and Recovery Care Service (\$8.4 million)
 - a statewide Child And Family Mental Health Intensive Treatment Centre (\$7.3 million)
- promote healthy eating and physical activity for young people in out-of-home care by building skills and knowledge in nutrition, cooking and exercise.



Towards tobacco-free living

About 4,000 Victorian lives are lost each year as a result of smoking. The government is committed to stopping these avoidable deaths.

In early 2016, the government introduced new bans on smoking within four metres of the entrances to public hospitals and community health services, schools, childcare centres, kindergartens and preschools, and many government buildings, including parliament, courts and police stations. This will help reduce the estimated \$2.4 billion in direct health costs and loss of productivity associated with smoking.

Smoke-free areas protect the community from exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke, make smoking in the community less acceptable, and support people who have quit or are trying to quit.

Creating the Latrobe Valley Health Innovation Zone

The Latrobe Valley is now a designated Health Innovation Zone, the first of its kind in Australia. It will include the Latrobe Health Assembly, which will put the community front and centre in identifying health priorities and designing healthcare services. A Latrobe health advocate will further strengthen the community's voice on health. The government is investing \$27.3 million to respond to the community's health needs and ideas.

This commitment follows the inquiry into the 2014 Hazelwood mine fire. The inquiry found that no single service or organisation can improve health outcomes alone. Quality and availability of housing, education, nutritious food, employment, social support, healthcare and security in early life all play an important role. The Health Innovation Zone is part of a whole-of-government approach to planning a better future for the Latrobe Valley.

VaxOnTime

It is easy to forget when a child's vaccination is due. To help parents keep up to date with their child's vaccination schedule, the Department of Health and Human Services has developed a new app, VaxOnTime. The app sends parents a reminder when an immunisation is due, helps them find and make an appointment with the nearest immunisation provider, and provides a link to trusted information on the Better Health Channel.

VaxOnTime will help increase the immunisation rate amongst Victorian children. Although 93.2 per cent of Victorian five-year-olds are fully immunised, above the national average, it is less than the 95 per cent coverage needed to stop virulent diseases such as measles from spreading. Along with the No Jab, No Play laws that came into force on 1 January 2016, VaxOnTime will help protect all Victorian children.

Better access

The government has addressed critical gaps in access to care, investing in key infrastructure and expanding services across the state. We are working to ensure that Victorians from all backgrounds can get care when they need it, with new technologies to improve access in rural areas, and by making healthcare more inclusive, accessible and convenient.



What we have done

In working to achieve this, we have:

- delivered the best ambulance response times in five years by better supporting paramedics, introducing new ambulances, and rebuilding and upgrading ambulance stations through the \$60 million **Response Time Rescue Fund** (\$144 million over four years)
- delivered **Australia's largest ever boost to elective surgery** funding in 2016-17, to treat 200,000 patients, reducing the waiting list for elective surgery to the shortest it has been in 17 years (\$335 million over four years)
- created extra capacity to treat an extra 20,000 people each year through the **Hospital Beds Rescue Fund** (\$200 million over four years)
- invested in new and upgraded hospital buildings and equipment across the state (\$560 million) including:
 - \$200 million for the new **Joan Kirner Women's and Children's Hospital** in Sunshine

- \$135 million for a major **expansion of Casey Hospital**, which will allow the hospital to deliver 1,300 more babies and treat an extra 26,000 people
- \$85 million to redevelop and **expand Werribee Mercy Hospital**
- \$169 million to **redevelop Goulburn Valley Health** in Shepparton
- \$150 million contribution towards Australia's first stand-alone **Victorian Heart Hospital**.

We have also taken action to:

- provide access to **medicinal cannabis** in exceptional circumstances so that children with severe and intractable epilepsy and others can access new treatments
- improve ambulance response times through the **state's biggest ever investment in ambulance services** including 450 more paramedics, six new super response centres, new ambulances and 15 new and upgraded stations across Victoria. This is on top of the funding already delivered in the 2016-17 budget

- bring care closer to home for 25,000 women through a one-stop shop for breast cancer treatment and screening at the **Maroondah Breast Cancer Centre** (\$10 million)
- help children who have suffered violence, abuse and parental neglect, by expanding specialist clinical child mental health services (\$57.3 million over four years)
- provide 24/7 access to vital medication and an after-hours nursing service in local communities through the government's **Supercare Pharmacies Initiative** (\$29 million over four years)
- establish **Better Care Victoria** to spread good practices across the health system, with funding for over 20 projects in its first year (\$10 million in 2016-17). This will bring improvements such as reduced waiting times for surgery and emergency care
- appoint Australia's first **Gender and Sexuality Commissioner** to champion the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and gender diverse and intersex (LGBTI) Victorians to tackle discrimination and improve health and wellbeing

- provide more than 70,000 school children with regular access to healthcare by introducing **Doctors in Secondary Schools** in 100 schools across the state
- establish nine new rehabilitation services that will provide up to 500 people with treatment for drug dependence, as part of the **Ice Action Plan** (\$18 million over four years)
- provide additional services so that people with a mental illness can receive the support they need to live in the community, providing 80 more adults and 500 more older people with intensive specialist care (\$88.2 million over four years)
- expand intensive care and support to an additional 60 young people experiencing an eating disorder, and their families (\$4.4 million over four years)

- provide help for our most vulnerable Victorians by reinstating funding for services for young people with mental illness and psychiatric disability, who are homeless (\$5 million over four years).

Next steps to better access

Towards the goal of better access, we plan to:

- deliver vital projects under the **Regional Health Infrastructure Fund** to ensure that Victorians, regardless of where they live, have access to quality healthcare when they need it (\$200 million)
- develop new roles for pharmacists, nurses, health assistants and paramedics to better use the skills of the workforce in the community
- further improve ambulance responses in rural Victoria by trialing and implementing new models of community paramedicine, freeing up ambulances for vital emergency responses by creating more options for non-emergency transport, and further improving statewide call-taking and dispatch performance

- deliver statewide reforms to increase capacity and reduce demand for specialist clinic services, including improving clinical referrals and patient pathways, supporting digital health solutions and helping health organisations to continuously improve and innovate
- use mobile phone text messages to help people with chronic disease get convenient and tailored reminders and advice, so they can manage their conditions and remain well
- deliver a long term strategy for contemporary, safe, high-quality and sustainable healthcare through the **Statewide System Design, Service and Infrastructure Plan**
- expand and improve forensic mental health services for better health outcomes, safer communities, and reduced contact with the criminal justice system.



New funding for innovation to improve access

Better Care Victoria identifies, scales and embeds innovation in the Victorian health system. It was established in 2015 and is governed by an independent board of experts, which is advised by consumers and emerging clinical leaders. The government provided \$10 million in its first year, to fund innovation projects to improve access to high quality services, including outpatient, maternity and emergency care and help health organisations to continuously improve and innovate.

Better Care Victoria has already funded 22 innovation projects, including a new model for rapid access to palliative care in the home and a community-based cancer survivor clinic with links to primary care and specialist services.

Helping health and community services to deliver more inclusive services

Members of the LGBTI community generally experience worse health and wellbeing outcomes than other Victorians. This largely results from the stigma and discrimination that people from LGBTI communities often experience as part of their everyday lives.

To address this, the government launched its Rainbow eQuality Guide in June 2016 to help health and community services become more welcoming, safe and easy to access for the LGBTI community.

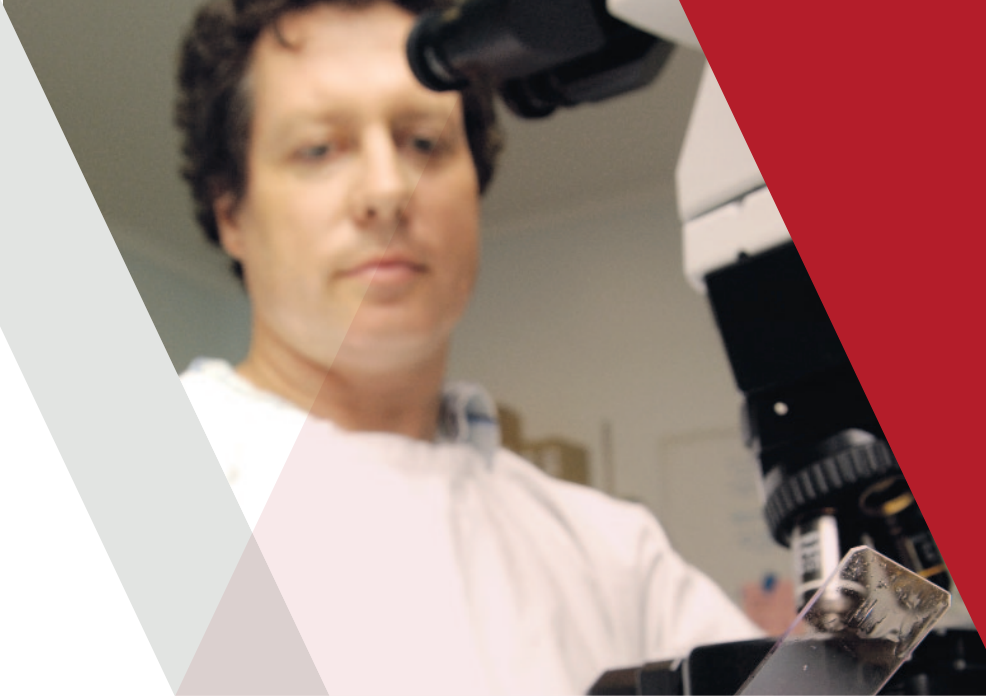
BreastScreen Victoria is already working to make its services more inclusive. Based on the results of a survey of lesbian, bisexual and transgender women aged 40 years and over, BreastScreen Victoria arranged training for staff and worked with Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria to develop more inclusive services.

Getting care where it is needed through new telehealth services

The government is working to provide a better health system where all Victorians – no matter where they live – can access the care they need, when they need it. The government has invested \$5 million to set up or expand telehealth services, so that rural and remote patients can access face-to-face consultations with their medical specialist in the comfort of their own home or their local health service.

Better care

The government has acted to provide state-of-the-art infrastructure, funding and technology to support world-class healthcare. We have invested in research that will deliver the next generation of treatments, and we are implementing significant reforms to ensure the highest standard of quality and safety.



What we have done

In working to achieve this, we have:

- commissioned a sweeping independent review of hospital safety, and moved to strengthen quality and safety with **Better, Safer Care**, the most significant overhaul of Victoria's health system in decades
- opened the purpose-built, state-of-the-art **Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre**, bringing together cancer research and treatment to deliver real benefits for cancer patients. This will help deliver the **Cancer Plan 2016-2020** target to reduce the number of cancer-related death by 10,000 by 2025
- invested in paramedics, nurses and other health care workers through enterprise agreements that recognise the true value of our workforce
- protected patient safety and delivered better outcomes by establishing minimum **nurse and midwife to patient ratios** in hospital services
- invested in local services and system-wide reform to **halve the suicide rate by 2025**.

We have also taken action to:

- reduce the number of Victorians dying from overdoses by acting on **real-time prescription monitoring**. This will save lives and reduce the number of people taken to emergency departments with overdoses by hundreds every year (\$29.5 million over four years)
- provide early diagnoses for 2,500 children and adults by investing in the **Melbourne Genomics Health Alliance**. This will help people with conditions such as epilepsy, leukaemia, cancers, childhood diseases and disorders affecting the nervous system get treatment sooner (\$25 million over four years)
- provide **pre-exposure prophylaxis** to 2600 people across the state from a wide range of backgrounds. It is expected that pre-exposure prophylaxis will reduce HIV infections in Victoria by up to 30 per cent (\$1.4 million)
- make public hospitals and mental health services safer by protecting staff, patients and visitors through the **Health Service Violence Prevention Fund** (\$20 million over four years)
- **modernise Melbourne's public sector residential aged care**, by committing funds for a new 90-bed public sector residential aged care facility in Kew (\$57.6 million)
- advance Victoria's position as a world-leading centre of medical research, with new funding guided by the ambitious **Health and Medical Research Strategy 2016-20** (\$19.8 million over four years)
- secure the future of Victoria's mental health system by developing a **10-Year Mental Health Plan**
- support the development of Australia's first research and education centre for biomedical engineering by contributing \$60 million to the **Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery**. This will advance cutting edge treatments such as robotic hands, spinal cord repair and 3D printing for use in surgery.

Next steps to better care

Towards the goal of better care, we plan to:

- improve hospital safety and quality of care for patients. The government is acting immediately to establish:
 - **Safer Care Victoria** – a new agency dedicated to improving quality and safety
- the **Victorian Clinical Council** to embed clinical expertise in decision making, so that hospitals are safer for Victorian patients
- the **Victorian Agency for Health Information** to increase accountability and drive service improvement
- a **Ministerial Board Advisory Committee** to make sure hospital and health service boards have the right skills, knowledge, experience and diversity
- create new models of integrated care for vulnerable families who need a mix of health and social care
- conduct systematic measurement of patient-reported outcomes to support effective and patient-centred care
- establish the **Centre for Mental Health Workforce Learning and Development** to improve practice, research, collaboration and access to expertise across the mental health workforce.

Patient outcomes matter

Understanding the impact of care can empower patients to make better informed decisions with their clinicians. It can also help us to invest in care that works. The Royal Melbourne Hospital is developing meaningful outcome measures for patients with hip and knee osteoarthritis, such as improving mobility and pain reduction after surgery.

This project is part of the International Consortium for Health Outcomes Measurement, which brings together patients, clinicians and researchers from around the world. The findings will be shared across the state to improve the quality of care for all Victorians.

Better care for Aboriginal children

New funding is helping Aboriginal children with complex needs to get timely and culturally appropriate paediatric, mental health and speech assessment, and treatment. The approach recognises that cultural connection is an important part of social and emotional wellbeing.

The Victorian Aboriginal Health Service delivered the first pilot for around 100 children, including some who temporarily live with carers other than their families. The initiative is now being expanded to two community health clinics in the north and west of Melbourne.

Supporting end-of-life choices

In November 2016, and in line with the Government's election commitment, the parliament passed new laws to make it easier for people to make decisions about how their care should be managed at the end of their lives. The new laws will also help health professionals to understand people's treatment preferences and end-of-life care choices, including through advance care planning.

Advance care directives are legally binding documents designed to make a person's preferences for future medical treatment clear, in case they are unable to do so. The new legislation will make it easier for Victorian patients to have their end-of-life care wishes known and respected.



**Better health
better access
better care**