



Right care, right place, right time

The Victorian Government is taking action to ensure that all Victorians have access to high quality health care – the right care in the right place, at the right time.

The 2009-10 State Budget continues to implement the Government's election commitment to meet growing needs for hospital services and continue to improve access for all Victorians to our world class health care services.

A total of \$825.9 million over five years will be made available to health services to improve patient flow and support system capacity improvements, and strengthen hospital performance in the face of existing and emerging challenges facing Victorian health services.

Investment of \$374.4 million over four years will address challenges presented by growth in population and disease burden, constraints in the primary care sector, and the cost impacts of new technologies and treatments.

Specifically, in 2009-10 this funding includes:

- \$57 million (\$237.1 million over four years) to meet anticipated growth in emergency (admitted and non-admitted) and critical care services.
- \$16.2 million (\$67.4 million over four years) to meet unavoidable growth for radiotherapy, chemotherapy, dialysis and blood services.
- \$5.8 million (\$24.1 million over four years) to provide new growth in mental health services.
- \$7.5 million (\$31.2 million over four years) to support the expansion of sub-acute services.
- \$3.5 million (\$14.6 million over four years) to support paediatric and genetic services.

The funding provided in 2009-10 will meet anticipated growth in patient demands by increasing the capacity of the system to:

- treat an additional 30,000 emergency patients
- provide additional 29,000 inpatient treatments
- support an additional 2,800 chemotherapy outpatients
- provide additional 3,200 palliative and 2,000 post acute care services
- expand mental health inpatient services at Maroondah Hospital and strengthen clinical capacity at secure extended care units.

The funding provided for emergency and sub-acute services is also aimed at meeting Victoria's commitment as part of the National Partnership Agreement on Hospital and Health Workforce Reform. Funding of \$45 million is also available in 2009-10 to treat an additional 9,000 elective surgery patients.

The budget also provides \$406.5 million over five years for a beds package to treat thousands of extra patients in Victorian public hospitals. The new beds package will improve bed access and patient flows, and will see additional beds in acute, sub acute and critical care services across the state.

This initiative includes funding to increase capacity to treat more highly-dependent patients outside of intensive care units (ICU), and to enable emergency departments to see and treat patients quicker.

Additional services will also be funded to support people living in nursing homes so they can be treated at home and avoid, where appropriate, visits to the emergency department. The funding will also boost community rehabilitation services.

From 2009-10, the beds package for Victorian hospitals includes:

- \$34 million per year for 100 acute beds to treat an extra 10,500 patients
- \$10 million per year for four ICU beds and two NICU beds to treat an additional 540 patients
- \$31 million per year for 170 sub acute beds enabling an additional 2,400 patients
- \$10 million per year for diversion programs for emergency department and short stay capacity, community based rehabilitation and additional ED diversion under the hospital admission risk program.

Funding of \$25 million is also provided in the budget to support our public hospitals. This initiative funds a range of projects to deliver clinical practice improvements, new technologies, and a range of cost controls reforms to better manage and utilise hospital resources.