

Media Release



The Hon Jill Hennessy MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services

Tuesday, 28 July, 2015

LABOR'S FUNDING BOOST FOR AUSTIN HEALTH

The Andrews Labor Government is providing hospitals with extra funding to ensure Victorians can get the care they need when they need it.

Minister for Health Jill Hennessy today announced the 2015-16 budget allocations for Victorian hospitals, including \$578.4 million for Austin Health.

This is \$21.5 million more than Austin Health was provided in last year's State Budget.

In 2015-16, the Andrews Labor Government is spending a total of \$15.85 billion across the entire health system; in hospitals, ambulance services, mental health and drugs services, aged care, community health and public health services.

This is an increase of six per cent on 2014-15.

Victorian hospitals alone will share in \$9.4 billion, which is \$451.8 million (5 per cent) more than was provided in 2014-15.

This additional funding will support health services to meet the increasing demands of a growing and ageing population, expand and improve services and care, and reduce waiting times.

The Government's extra investment in hospitals will enable an additional 60,000 patients to be admitted to Victorian hospitals, and an extra 40,000 patients to be treated in emergency departments, each year.

The Government has also invested more than \$560 million to build new hospitals, expand and redevelop health and ambulance facilities, and purchase and upgrade equipment.

In addition, the Government has provided \$200 million for a Hospital Beds Rescue Fund to open beds and points of care at hospitals across Victoria. This will enable hospitals to treat more patients sooner and reduce waiting times for elective surgery and emergency care.

Austin Health has received funding to open six elective surgery beds, which will enable it to treat an extra 750 patients each year.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Health, Jill Hennessy MP

"We are providing extra funding to hospitals; we are building and expanding health services; and we are improving care in our communities. We are putting patients first."

"Not only are we investing more in health than the previous Liberal Government, we are also making important reforms so that our health system improves and Victorians can get the care they need, when they need it."

Quotes attributable to Member for Ivanhoe, Anthony Carbines MP

"The Andrews Labor Government is getting on with rebuilding our health system so that Victorians can get the care and treatment they need and deserve."

"The doctors, nurses and staff at Austin Health do such a fantastic job. I'm proud to be part of a government that is investing in our health system which means they can provide even more care for our loved ones."

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