

APPENDIX: Consumer-related announcements in Budget 2022/23

OVERVIEW

- \$4.2 billion for the ongoing pandemic response, including:
 - \$522 million to hospitals for treating COVID-19;
 - \$1.1 billion to purchase and distribute free rapid antigen tests to schools, hospitals and Victorians with disability;
 - \$284 million for PPE;
 - \$258 million to protect and vaccinate Victorians against COVID-19; and
 - \$110 million for COVID-19 care pathways and continuing the 28 general practitioner respiratory clinics
- \$1.5 billion for COVID Catch-up to improve surgical capacity
- \$698 million for Better at Home
- \$372 million for mental health workforce
- \$300 million for the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund
- \$135 million to supporting Victorians with disability who aren't eligible for the NDIS
- \$124 million for more paramedics and improving ambulance performance

Funding is provided to (sorted by subject area):

Research

- Development of a business plan and investment case to expand stem cell research and translational regenerative medicine capabilities at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute
- Establish a **new public health stream of the Victorian Medical Research Acceleration Fund**. A competitive annual grant round will support public health research into emerging challenges and targeted approaches to help promote better health outcomes for Victoria's most disadvantaged cohorts.
- Establish a new Victorian Industry Investment Fund (VIIF) stream of the Victorian Jobs and Investment Fund. Grants provided through the VIIF will support fast growing and expanding businesses, including in supply chains that underpin economic resilience.

Families, Fairness and Ageing

Community Participation

- Stronger communities: Support the social recovery of Victorian communities through funding boost provided to the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program, and a package of food relief support..

- Sikh Volunteers Australia Incorporated to purchase and operate free food distribution vans and for the improvement of facilities at Uniting Prahran.

Ageing Well in Victoria – Social recovery for older Victorians and carers

- Continue the Victorian Seniors Festival including online video entertainment and radio programs, the Recognising Senior Victorians in Aged Care program and COVIDSafe live performances in aged care facilities and in regional towns with high populations of seniors.
- Continue the Career Pathways into Employment for Unpaid Carers program to deliver tailored employment support.
- **Review into digital connectedness** for senior Victorians.

Youth

- Continuing initiatives that support young people at risk of disengagement - Empower Youth program will be continued, providing early intervention case management to vulnerable young people. Continued support is also provided for young people to participate in Scouts and Girl Guides.

Health

- **Better at Home** - continue healthcare in the home through use of home-based and virtual care models **where clinically appropriate and selected by patients.**
 - includes funding to support activity growth and maturation of new shared service models.
 - fund the expansion of a pilot model between health services providing transitional care in home like settings while patients await National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) packages.
 - pilot a virtual specialist clinic model that enables Aboriginal Victorians to access care on Country.
- **COVID catch-up plan** - increase **surgical activity**, exceeding pre-pandemic levels by 25 per cent. Funding will provide 40 000 extra surgeries in the next year, building up to a total of 240 000 surgeries annually by 2024. Includes:
 - establishment of Rapid Access Hubs
 - public use of private surgical capacity
 - more activity in the public system, including more same-day surgeries and increased twilight and after-hours work
 - support for the training of an additional 400 perioperative nurses
 - upskill 1 000 nurses, train additional theatre and sterilisation technicians, and
 - the international recruitment of 2 000 healthcare workers.
 - transform Frankston Private Hospital into a public surgery centre to deliver additional capacity.
- Enabling care and meeting demand for hospital services - Funding to **support service delivery and performance in Victoria's hospitals**, including more emergency department staff, additional highly specialised therapies, and to support new wards.
- Funding for **Ambulance Victoria to recruit new paramedics** and enhance fleet management, rostering and support functions in order to meet growth in demand for ambulance services

- A second Mobile Stroke Unit will also be established to improve access to pre-hospital stroke treatment
- **Community Health Care.** Funding to:
 - continue and expand services to asylum seekers in Victoria,
 - strengthen community-based healthcare, by increasing the delivery of services for people who have deferred care, and supporting the integration of general practitioners into 20 registered community health services.
 - support the design of a **new community-based model of care for people diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes**, providing early intervention and care via community health services.
- **Health Protection.** Funding to:
 - scale down the COVID-19 public health response in 2022-23 to transition from crisis response to a public health stewardship role to minimise harm and support Victorians who are most at risk. This includes targeted outbreak management in high-risk aged care and health settings via local public health units and multidisciplinary mobile teams.
 - testing and pathology costs and for support functions including data and intelligence, call centre operations, commissioning and legal capability.
 - continued operation of **local public health units** and additional public health capacity to support these services, including intelligence, **community engagement**, digital capability and the design and delivery of Aboriginal-specific initiatives.
- **Health services**
 - support public health prevention, regulation and response programs, including the establishment of sexual and reproductive health services, increased funding for women's health services, continuing the Healthy Heart Victoria program in the Loddon Mallee region, and increased oversight of Victoria's drinking water supplies.
 - a review into current clinical placement activity to improve the quantity and quality of clinical placements across healthcare disciplines and expand allied health advanced practice service models in public health services to support the career development of allied health professionals.
 - operationalise **82 new beds in Victoria's mental health system** to improve access to acute care for those experiencing mental illness as well as increased bed-based support for people experiencing eating disorders
 - foster connection and reduce social isolation in vulnerable groups by establishing **ten new social inclusion action groups** in local government areas. Mental health training for Auslan and deaf interpreters is also funded to increase the availability of credentialled interpreters.
 - a range of initiatives to deliver a mental health and wellbeing system that is reoriented towards community-based treatment, care and support. This includes:

- integrated treatment, care and support for people with a co-occurring mental illness and substance use or addiction to be established in all Adult and Youth Area Mental Health and Wellbeing Services
- **Barwon Women's and Children's Hospital** - to expand women's and children's services at University Hospital Geelong.
- **New Melton Hospital** - to construct a new tertiary Melton Hospital in Cobblebank, which will provide 24-hour emergency services supported by over 100 medical and surgical beds, intensive care unit, maternity and neonatal services, mental health services, ambulatory care, and a range of clinical supports
- establish additional capacity at **Werribee Mercy Hospital, Northern Hospital and Casey Hospital**. This includes the establishment and staffing of modular units to alleviate demand on health service emergency departments by providing triage, assessment, respiratory clinic, and urgent care clinic functions
- Additional funding is provided to the **Regional Health Infrastructure Fund** to improve the quality and amenity of infrastructure across a range of rural and regional health services. This funding will allow health services to respond to local priorities and maintain and enhance their service delivery capacity. The funding boost takes the investment in this fund to more than \$790 million
- **Safer digital healthcare** for Victorian public health services - to upgrade the network infrastructure needed to support and deliver patient-related services such as pathology, diagnostic imaging and patient management systems.
- strengthen cybersecurity measures for Victorian public health services and Ambulance Victoria.
- Mental Health Clinical Care:
 - replace and expand the existing mental health facility to increase acute and community mental health services at Goulburn Valley Health in Shepparton
 - implement contemporary mental health information infrastructure comprising an **electronic statewide mental health and wellbeing record**, mental health information and data exchange, and online portal for Victorians experiencing mental illness or psychological distress to support personalised and integrated mental health and wellbeing services.
 - new emergency department mental health and alcohol and other drug crisis hub at the **Latrobe Regional Hospital**.
 - progress service and capital planning to establish the Victorian Collaborative Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing