

Friday, 6 May 2022

## PUTTING PATIENTS FIRST IN KEYSBOROUGH

The Andrews Labor Government is putting patients first in Keysborough.

Across our nation – and around the world – the pandemic has put unprecedented pressure on health systems. From a sharp increase of critical COVID patients to disrupted care, resulting in longer hospital recovery time, the last two years have really knocked our health system around.

When we came to government, we put an end to the war on our paramedics. We took ambulance response times from the worst in our history to the best. Now – just like we did before – we'll ease the pandemic pressure on our hospitals and our healthcare workers.

The *Victorian Budget 2022/23* will invest over \$12 billion to put patients first, with a *Pandemic Repair Plan* for more staff, better hospitals and first-class care.

Our healthcare workers have been on the frontline of this pandemic, and we know how important it is that we support them into the future.

We're backing our healthcare workers with training and the extra pair of helping hands they need, so they can give you the very best care.

That's why the Budget is delivering funding to train and hire up to 7,000 new healthcare workers, including 5,000 nurses.

We'll provide 1,125 new Registered Undergraduate Nursing Positions and 75 new Registered Undergraduate Student of Midwifery roles over the next two years, and we're also recruiting up to 2,000 ex-pat and international healthcare workers through a global workforce recruitment drive.

Right around the nation, demand for emergency services is at an all-time high. Our Triple Zero call-takers and dispatchers are dealing with unprecedented call volumes.

But when you call for an ambulance, every Victorian should have the confidence one will arrive. That's why we're delivering another 90 paramedics - which means we've added 790 extra paramedics to the workforce since we came to government.

And to help our frontline workers reach Victorians who need help faster, we're investing \$333 million to add nearly 400 new staff to increase Triple Zero call taking and dispatch capacity for Triple Zero services, including ambulances, and training more operators to allocate calls across the state.

We're also going to make sure that every local community gets the health infrastructure and services they deserve. That's why this Budget invests \$2. billion to build new hospitals and deliver upgrades to health services in every corner of our state, including \$12 million for Victoria's second Mobile Stroke Unit at the Monash Medical Center in Clayton.

By expanding our emergency departments, adding more surgical beds to get more elective surgeries done and increasing maternity care services – this Budget will ensure more Victorians get the very best of care, close to home.

As we roll-out our *Pandemic Repair Plan* to make sure people in Keysborough get the care they deserve, we're also getting on with delivering the schools, roads and public transport services they rely on.

To make sure every young Victorian gets the education they need for the career they want, the new VCE Vocational Major and Victorian Pathways Certificate will replace VCAL, offering students more choices, a higher-quality curriculum and better workplace experiences – preparing students to jump into further study, training at TAFE or work as soon as they leave school.

The VCAL reforms will save many Victorian families up to \$1,000 by cutting out-of-pocket costs, with students no longer having to pay for essential learning materials for VET studies.

Continuing our commitment to improve the inclusive nature of school facilities and practices, Athol Road Primary School, Springvale South, has received funding to construct a new accessible toilet adjoining the school's inclusive education learning area.

Local communities also deserve great places to play sport and under an Andrews Labor Government, they will have them. We're investing \$88 million to build, upgrade and renovate community sporting infrastructure. This includes up to \$400,000 to upgrade changerooms and community spaces at the Serbian Sports Centre in Keysborough.

With this year's Budget, the Andrews Labor Government will make a meaningful investment to support vulnerable Victorians into safe and secure housing. We're investing over \$75.3 million to provide vulnerable people with support to get into safe, secure housing.

We're also continuing to make central Noble Park a more lively, more attractive place for families and businesses, building on the work we've already done to create a safe, engaging and accessible community. We are supporting the revitalisation of Noble Park through our successful Suburban Revitalisation Program delivering on-ground works and initiatives for the local community. This is part of an overall budget package worth \$9.73 million.

Our public transport system is also receiving further improvements to train travel including making train stations on the Dandenong line more accessible through a package of upgrades to station platforms including at Springvale, Sandown Park, Yarraman and Dandenong. We are also investing in bicycle parking facilities at stations through a \$2.66 million program, which will deliver a mix of bicycle parking upgrades at 15 priority train stations across the state including Springvale and Noble Park.

We're continuing to support on-demand workers and giving eligible casual and contract workers up to five days of sick and carer's pay, so Victorians don't have to choose between their health, and the health of their loved ones.

But that's not all. We know that many Victorians are still paying too much for their energy bills – that's why we're stepping in to help families get the best deal. We're providing a once-off \$250 payment for all Victorian households that use the Victorian Energy Compare (VEC) website – the Victorian Government's independent price comparator website – to search for the cheapest electricity plan that suits their needs.

With this Budget, we're getting on with delivering for all Victorians.

#### **Quotes attributable to Member for Keysborough Martin Pakula**

*"Families in Keysborough deserve the best local health and community services. It's why we're investing in the Victorians who deliver them, so they can do what they do best – look after us."*

*"Community sport is all about bringing people together. I'm excited that the Serbian Sports Centre will receive upgraded changerooms, ensuring players can play the sport they love in world-class spaces."*

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