

Media Release

The Hon Martin Foley MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Ambulance Services

Minister for Equality



Monday, 18 January 2021

MILESTONE FOR SHEPPARTON HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT

The Andrews Labor Government is ensuring the Goulburn Valley community has access to the health services they need, thanks to a major boost to facilities for Goulburn Valley Health.

Minister for Health Martin Foley today visited Shepparton Hospital to officially open the new inpatient unit – providing 74 new hospital beds and expanded emergency facilities.

The new inpatient unit includes 10 Critical Care Unit beds to treat the sickest patients, 64 inpatient beds and four new operating theatres. It's part of the Labor Government's \$229.3 million redevelopment of Goulburn Valley Health.

The upgrade works have also doubled the capacity of Shepparton Hospital's emergency department, providing 36 treatment spaces, including nine short stay beds for patients who need care for less than 24 hours.

The new inpatient unit and emergency department expansion are a key part of delivering new and expanded facilities to ensure those living in Shepparton and surrounds can gain faster access to first class care, closer to home.

Last year, the redevelopment also delivered a new single-storey dialysis unit which provides capacity to treat twice as many patients. Local new mums will also have everything they need closer to home with a 12-bed maternity unit, 10-cot special care nursery and a 12-bed paediatric ward, which are expected to be completed in mid-2021.

An additional \$2 million from the *Regional Health Infrastructure Fund* has been provided to start planning for the second stage of the Goulburn Valley Health redevelopment at Shepparton Hospital. The redevelopment program is creating more than 140 jobs during peak construction.

Facilities to support our healthcare workers in the area also being upgraded, thanks to the Government's \$9.8 million *Worker Wellbeing Package*, which is supporting healthcare workers who have been tirelessly looking after the Victorian community during the coronavirus pandemic.

Under the program, Goulburn Valley Health been awarded more than \$545,000 for upgrades to staff facilities including change rooms, kitchen improvements, landscaping and furniture for an outdoor meals area to staff can keep COVIDSafe at Shepparton Hospital.

The Labor Government has invested more than \$8 billion in health infrastructure since 2015, delivering the largest health building program in the state's history.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Health Martin Foley

"It's vital that our regional centres have the health facilities they need to care for the local community – we're delivering the very best services for Victorians no matter where they live."

"This major redevelopment will give local families peace of mind that when a loved one falls ill, they will be able to access the very best care, close to home."