

Media Release

The Hon Martin Foley MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services
Minister for Equality



Saturday, 23 October 2021

BOOSTING HEALTHCARE WORKERS WELLBEING AND SAFETY

The Victorian Government is ensuring our dedicated healthcare workers in our hospitals and ambulance services have the wellbeing support they need to continue delivering the high-quality care Victorians deserve.

Minister for Health Martin Foley today announced a \$32 million package supporting our dedicated healthcare workers will be fast tracked – offering a range of mental health initiatives and practical supports, for them and their families.

Many of our healthcare workers – who we all depend on – are exhausted after more than 20 months of sustained pressure across the system due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Extensive workforce wellbeing programs will be set up by all Health Services and Ambulance Victoria to support the health, safety and wellbeing of the workforce, which is expected to be further tested as restrictions ease, with modelling suggesting daily cases will remain in the thousands for some time.

The state-wide program will support a range of psychological and psychosocial initiatives to be implemented in consultation with staff.

These initiatives may include psychologists and counsellors on site to provide proactive support to workers, coaching for staff in new leadership roles, additional workplace rest and recovery spaces, meal delivery to support convenient healthy eating during and after work hours, or programs to better support families.

The Government is delivering a record investment to support our frontline healthcare staff across metropolitan Melbourne and rural Victoria as we work to minimise COVID-19 hospital admissions and roll out *Victoria's Roadmap to Delivering the National Plan*.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Health Martin Foley

“The coming months will be incredibly hard on our healthcare workers in hospitals and ambulance services – this is about supporting them so that they can continue to deliver the very best care for all Victorians.”

“Whether it’s dedicated mental health support there on shift with them, or simple things like meals for the family or a space to catch your breath – it all adds up and helps our healthcare workers continue doing such a great job.”