

# Media Release

**The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP**

Leader of the House

Minister for Health

Minister for Health Infrastructure

Minister for Medical Research



Wednesday, 7 December 2022

## DELIVERING BETTER CARE AND MORE UPGRADES AT OUR HOSPITALS

The Andrews Labor Government is making sure our public hospitals and health services have the best facilities and the latest equipment to continue providing world-class care and treatment for all Victorians.

Minister for Health Infrastructure Mary-Anne Thomas today announced 10 metropolitan health services and community health services and two Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations will share in \$25 million through the latest round of the Labor Government's *Metropolitan Health Infrastructure Fund* (MHIF).

This investment includes \$1.4 million for the Monash Medical Centre to upgrade and expand antenatal clinics, providing quality pregnancy care to even more expecting mums across the southeast.

Monash Children's Hospital will also receive funding to upgrade five inpatient rooms to better protect children battling cancer and better support their families.

The Labor Government has a strong record of supporting Monash Health – we have already expanded the emergency department, creating an extra 34 beds to support an extra 46,000 patients every year.

But there's more to do – and this re-elected Labor Government will invest \$510 - \$560 million for a major upgrade of the Monash Medical Centre, delivering a new operating theatre complex, intensive care unit and birthing suites, to provide world-class care for families in the south-eastern suburbs.

The MHIF will also support the Royal Children's Hospital to purchase new operating theatre equipment used in about 60 per cent of surgical procedures – helping reduce waiting lists. Other health services to benefit include:

- Alfred Health
- Peninsula Health
- Western Health
- Northern Health
- First Peoples' Health and Wellbeing
- Eye and Ear Hospital
- Eastern Health
- VAHS
- Your Community Health
- Banyule Community Health

Established as part of the *Victorian Budget 2020/21*, the MHIF invests in construction and refurbishment projects, equipment, technology and other vital upgrades to expand capacity, improve patient amenity and enhance safety.

The funding supports smaller projects to meet growing demand and upgrade vital infrastructure – helping patients get the best possible care and return home sooner. With a total investment of \$225 million, the MHIF has funded 72 projects at health services and agencies across Melbourne to date.

The Labor Government also established the *Regional Health Infrastructure Fund* in 2015 – now worth \$790 million, which has funded more than 630 projects for regional health services – the largest investment ever dedicated to our rural and regional health services.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Health Infrastructure Mary-Anne Thomas

*"This is about delivering targeted upgrades that make it easier for our dedicated nurses and doctors to continue doing what they do best – saving lives."*

*"By investing in new, modern infrastructure for our public hospitals, we're making sure every Victorian can access world-class health services, no matter where they live."*

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