

# Media Release

**The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP**

Leader of the House

Minister for Health

Minister for Health Infrastructure

Minister for Medical Research



Friday, 19 May 2023

## COMMUNITY TO HELP SHAPE BARWON WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S

The Andrews Labor Government is calling on the Geelong community to help shape the new flagship Barwon Women's and Children's by joining a new Community Consultative Committee.

Minister for Health Infrastructure Mary-Anne Thomas today announced that Lyons Architecture has been appointed to design the new hospital and that a new Community Consultative Committee (CCC) will be established – to ensure local ideas and incorporated into the final design.

The Barwon Women's and Children's will include paediatric and maternity services including multi-day beds, birthing suites, induction spaces, operating theatres and outpatient clinic rooms.

A neonatal and parent care unit that provides care for sick and preterm babies in the first few weeks and months of life will also be included, ensuring local mums can stay close to their loved ones after giving birth.

The new hospital will provide world-class women's health by growing Barwon's Health capacity to deliver maternity and paediatric care to ensure families can continue to access the very best care, close to home

Chaired by the Member for Geelong Christine Couzens, the CCC will include representatives from Barwon Health, the City of Greater Geelong and a diverse cross-section of the community to ensure local views are incorporated into the planning and design for this important facility.

Expressions of interest to join the committee are now open at [vhba.vic.gov.au/health/hospitals/barwon-womens-and-childrens](https://vhba.vic.gov.au/health/hospitals/barwon-womens-and-childrens).

The project is expected to support and maintain 1,500 construction jobs at the peak of construction.

Since 2015, the Labor Government has invested more than \$15 billion to build, upgrade and modernise our hospitals – with new equipment, new facilities, and entirely new hospitals.

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

*"We're getting on with delivering the new Barwon Women's and Children's so locals can get the very best care, close to home – when they need it most."*

*"Geelong is one of Australia's fastest growing communities and we're delivering the world-class health care they need and deserve."*

### Quotes attributable to Member for Geelong Christine Couzens

*"I'm looking forward to working with our Community Consultative Committee to ensure the new Women's and Children's reflects the needs and diversity of the community."*

*"The new hospital is a major community asset and we want local ideas, to help shape it and make sure it's delivering the care that the community needs, and deserves."*

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