

Media Release

The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP

Leader of the House

Minister for Health

Minister for Health Infrastructure

Minister for Ambulance Services



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NEW GEELONG KIDS' ED HITS HALFWAY MARK

The Allan Labor Government is on track to deliver a dedicated children's emergency department at the University Hospital Geelong, giving local families access to world-class emergency care, close to home.

Construction of the \$20 million facility has now reached the halfway mark as works on the new clinical areas near completion.

The project's next stages will see the delivery of new administration areas for staff and a reconstructed main drop off point for the emergency department.

The new paediatric emergency department is purpose-built to ensure a calm environment, and with increased capacity it will help meet rising demand across the region, helping to reduce wait times and possible delays to treatment.

The new children's emergency department will include 28 additional dedicated treatment spaces including two fast-track and eight short-stay beds – with new treatment rooms and support spaces and a separate paediatric triage system and waiting area.

The project has created around 60 local construction jobs and is on schedule for completion later this year.

The investment builds on more than \$500 million from the *Victorian Budget 2022/23* for the flagship Barwon Women's and Children's Hospital.

More information: vhba.vic.gov.au/health/hospitals/university-hospital-geelong-childrens-emergency-department.

Quote attributable to Minister for Health Infrastructure Mary-Anne Thomas

"This is a critical project for children and families across Geelong – it will help to meet growing demand in the region, while ensuring care is delivered in an environment suitable for kids."

Quote attributable to Member for Geelong Chris Couzens

"Our hardworking doctors and nurses at University Hospital Geelong have one of the state's busiest emergency departments – that's why we're making it bigger and better for Geelong kids now and into the future."

Quote attribute to Member for Lara Ella George

"The new, modern and child-friendly ED is taking shape and is on track to provide our community with the best care at some of the most stressful times for parents and children."

Quote attributable to Member for Bellarine Alison Marchant

“This dedicated children’s emergency department ensures the kids in our region get the care they need, when they need it.”

Quote attributable to Member for South Barwon Darren Cheeseman

“The new children’s emergency department will ensure our growing Barwon community has access to the world class healthcare facilities they deserve close to home.”