

Media Release

The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP

Leader of the House

Minister for Health

Minister for Health Infrastructure

Minister for Ambulance Services



Thursday, 28 March 2024

INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING BOOST AT ECHUCA REGIONAL HEALTH

The Allan Labor Government is delivering important infrastructure upgrades at Echuca Regional Health, ensuring Victorians living along the Murray River have access to the best healthcare, closer to home.

Minister for Health Infrastructure Mary-Anne Thomas today announced \$9.7 million boost via the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund (RHIF), with the grant to help deliver a new, fit-for-purpose equipment upgrades.

The project will involve the co-location of the Central Sterile Services Department and Oral Health Unit in the refurbished Lumeah building at Echuca Regional Health, providing a modern and more efficient working environment for staff.

Equipment upgrades will ensure sterilising systems meet the latest standards while moving the Oral Health Unit and creating a separate waiting area for children.

The project will also deliver a new modern reusable medical devices facility to improve cleaning processes, reducing the risk of procedures being cancelled and taking pressure of hardworking staff.

This funding builds on the Labor Government's investment in health facilities in Echuca with more than \$15.3 million awarded to Echuca Regional Health through RHIF – including more than \$2.2 million provided previously to replace medical equipment, clinical furniture and operating theatre equipment.

Across Victoria, the latest round of RHIF grants is supporting rural and regional hospitals, community health services and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations to ensure they can continue to provide safe and efficient care to local communities.

With 45 projects across 39 rural and regional health services, the program is ensuring communities continue to have access to high-quality care, no matter where they live – with the delivery of these projects also supporting hundreds of jobs across the state.

Established by the Labor Government in 2016 and overseen by the Victorian Health Building Authority, the RHIF program is now worth \$790 million with more than 675 projects funded for regional health services – the largest investment ever dedicated grants program in Victoria's history.

For more information vhba.vic.gov.au/health/regional-facilities/regional-health-infrastructure-fund.

Quote attributable to Minister for Health Infrastructure Mary-Anne Thomas

"RHIF is delivering important upgrades to our regional health services like here in Echuca – ensuring hardworking staff have a modern, safe and efficient workplace to deliver the best care to locals that need it."

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes

"These state-of-the-art medical upgrades at Echuca Regional Health will ensure more locals can access the treatment they need, closer to home."

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