

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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DELIVERING BIGGER AND BETTER HEALTH SERVICES IN PARKDALE

The Allan Labor Government is delivering upgraded community health and wellbeing services in Melbourne's south-east, with the refurbishment of Better Health Network in Parkdale.

Minister for Health Infrastructure Mary-Anne Thomas today visited the health service with Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Member for Mordialloc, Tim Richardson, to view the new spaces and facilities.

The more than \$2.6 million project funded through the Metropolitan Health Infrastructure Fund (MHIF) has added new multi-use rooms for primary care therapies and treatment, new reception and waiting areas, telehealth-enabled consult, interview and treatment rooms and a self-service kitchen.

The project has also delivered an outdoor space for garden therapy and sensory programs designed to stimulate the senses and provide a calming and therapeutic environment.

The upgraded and spacious facilities will ensure that more clients can be seen, helping reduce waiting lists while providing a more modern and efficient working environment for staff.

Better Health Network is a not-for-profit organisation that has been providing primary and allied health care services to the communities across south-eastern Melbourne for nearly 50 years.

The organisation delivers a wide range of public services to support community health and wellbeing including specialist medical services, dental and allied health, nursing and counselling services, aged care support and disability services.

Established by the Labor Government in 2020, the *Victorian Budget 2023/24* invested an additional \$40 million in the popular program – now worth more than \$265 million, the MHIF has funded 110 projects across metropolitan Melbourne to date.

MHIF provides funding for construction, remodeling, replacement and refurbishment projects, equipment, information and communication technology and other vital upgrade works to expand capacity, improve patient amenity, and enhance safety and infection prevention and control measures.

Funding also enables health services and agencies to adopt new technologies and deliver contemporary models of care, improving the quality and safety of care for patients and staff.

Quote attributable to Minister for Health Infrastructure Mary-Anne Thomas

"This upgraded facility will support the hardworking staff at Better Health Network to continue providing high quality care closer to home, while also improving the health and wellbeing of the local clients."

Quote attributable to Member for Mordialloc Tim Richardson

"A new and improved facility will ensure more locals can access the care and support they need, while also providing staff with a modern and efficient working environment."

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