

Media Release

The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP

Leader of the House

Minister for Health

Minister for Ambulance Services



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BOOSTING RESEARCH INTO WOMEN'S HEALTH

For decades, medical research has omitted women from studies – this inequality is contributing to a lack of attention into women's health issues.

Now, the Allan Labor Government is bridging this gap, with the \$1.5 million *Women's Health Research Catalyst Grants* program helping to advance the understanding of how disease and other health issues affect women.

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas today announced the 15 successful recipients who will share in grants, ranging from \$15,000 to \$150,000 – providing seed funding for Victoria's best and brightest researchers to look at innovative ways of improving women's health.

The successful grant recipients will be conducting research on areas including sexual and reproductive health, cardiovascular health, oncology, orthopaedics and chronic pain.

Among the successful recipients is Dr Lakshini Gunasekera at Monash University who received funding to trial hormonal treatment for menstrual-related migraines.

Prof Helena Frawley, Dr Karin Jones and Dr Marlena Klaic at the University of Melbourne will also be funded to investigate clinical outcomes for a new model of care for multidisciplinary pelvic pain designed for regional areas.

Dr Louise Segan at the Baker Institute will also receive funding to better understand sex differences in symptoms and outcomes for women experiencing atrial fibrillation is a common type of irregular heart rhythm that can result in blood clots, stroke, heart failure, and other heart-related complications.

All grant recipients are undertaking research in a health or medical field, including discovery, pre-clinical, clinical or lived experience – their work further cementing Victoria's reputation as a global leader in medical research.

This work builds on the Labor Government's landmark \$153 million women's health package that is transforming the way care is delivered in Victoria –including women's health clinics, a mobile women's health clinic, Aboriginal-led clinic and virtual women's health clinic.

The package has also expanded the sexual and reproductive health hub network to 20 locations, including 12 in regional locations as well as increased access to laparoscopies for endometriosis and associated conditions, and providing scholarships for more than 150 women's specialists.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas

"Women's health issues have been overlooked for too long as a result of entrenched medical misogyny; we're making sure they get the attention and investment they need."

"These grants will help Victorian women get the care they deserve by focusing on medical conditions that affect women differently or disproportionately, and those that have not been given the attention they need in the past."

Quote attributable to Minister for Economic Growth and Jobs Danny Pearson

"Victoria is the medical research capital of Australia, and proven world leaders – we're proud to be supporting such important research right here in our state."

Media contact: Flynn Schulz 0414 672 580 | flynn.schulz@minstaff.vic.gov.au