

Media Release

The Hon Melissa Horne MP
Minister for Ports and Freight
Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Minister for Health Infrastructure



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LIFE-SAVING EQUIPMENT BOOST FOR VICTORIAN HOSPITALS

The Allan Labor Government is supporting hospitals with the new and upgraded medical equipment they need to deliver world-class healthcare to all Victorians.

Minister for Health Infrastructure Melissa Horne today visited the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre to announce the successful recipients in the latest round of the Medical Equipment Replacement Program (MERP). The grant program provides funding to hospitals to upgrade vital medical imaging and surgical equipment.

As part of the latest round, eight health services will share in \$35 million for a total of 10 projects.

The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre will upgrade its Diagnostic Computer Tomography Unit – a critical piece of equipment that can identify lung cancer in eligible, asymptomatic, high-risk patients.

The Royal Children’s Hospital will upgrade an ultrasonic aspirator to support young patients receiving liver transplants and epilepsy surgery.

Alfred Health will upgrade and install two major pieces of equipment – a wide bore MRI scanner with bariatric capability will provide faster scans to more patients and a new stereotactic navigation system will support the work of the neurosurgery team when treating complex conditions such as brain cancer, epilepsy, and trauma injuries.

Monash Health will upgrade both its neurosurgical microscope and angiography system, supporting safer, more precise surgery capabilities

Other health services receiving funding from this round includes Austin Health for a PET/CT Unit, St Vincent's Hospital for an Ear Nose and Throat Surgical Navigation System, and the Royal Melbourne Hospital for a new CT scanner.

While Grampians Health will receive funding for a new Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography (SPECT-CT) unit – to assist cardiac and oncology patients with treatment, boosting nuclear medicine in the region.

This year’s *Victorian Budget 2025/26* has invested an additional \$52.3 million in MERP to fund the next round of grants – bringing the Government’s total invested in MERP to \$367.3 million over the past decade.

The MERP will continue to support hospitals to upgrade and install new, modern medical equipment across the state so that Victorians can have access to the very best care, close to home.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Health Infrastructure Melissa Horne

“This is an important program that delivers our world-class hospitals the latest medical equipment – giving more Victorians access to the very best care, close to home.”

“This investment is also about backing our dedicated healthcare staff, ensuring they have cutting-edge equipment available when they need it, whether it is in the operating theatre or imaging to make a diagnosis.”