

# Media Release

**The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP**

Leader of the House

Minister for Health

Minister for Ambulance Services



Friday, 29 August 2025

## **BAYSIDE HEALTH VOLUNTARY MERGER TO STRENGTHEN CARE**

More than 1.2 million Victorians in Melbourne's south, Frankston, Mornington Peninsula, Gippsland, Koo Wee Rup and Bass Coast will soon benefit from better access to the care they need with the creation of Bayside Health.

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas has approved the voluntary merger of five health services – Alfred Health, Bass Coast Health, Gippsland Southern Health Service, Kooweerup Regional Health Service and Peninsula Health – from 1 January 2026.

The five health services were able to clearly demonstrate how their voluntary merger would benefit each local community – delivering increased access to specialist services closer to home and improved patient outcomes.

The health services are already working together to improve patient care and identify areas for service improvement and development.

This includes a new public melanoma clinic at Rosebud Hospital, where patients are now able to be seen and treated in the one appointment as part of a collaboration between Alfred Health and Peninsula Health. The service is expected to scale up over time, and currently operates monthly.

Alfred Health and Peninsula Health are working together to provide public neurosurgery consultations at Wonthaggi Hospital, so people living in the Bass Coast region will soon have specialist care close to home – building on an existing arrangement that already delivers a neurosurgery clinic at Frankston Hospital.

A new process to share critical patient information and resources across the five health services will deliver faster care for patients – once a referral is accepted and a bed is booked patients will be transferred within 24 hours.

The new service will give existing staff of all health services expanded career and training opportunities – helping recruit and retain staff.

Recruitment for the incoming board has also commenced, with members to include representatives from the existing boards of the five services. The new board will be responsible for appointing a Chief Executive Officer.

The merged health service will offer a full range of connected services, supported by the latest clinical trials and research, giving patients and families a simpler, more streamlined experience across the system.

Under the merger, all existing hospitals and healthcare sites will continue to deliver programs and services for their communities and will keep their individual names.

The Allan Labor Government is investing more than \$31 billion into Victoria's health system this year, including a \$9.3 billion boost to give every public hospital certainty to keep delivering the world-class care Victorians rely on.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas**

*"The five health services were able to clearly demonstrate how Bayside Health will deliver better health outcomes, easier access to specialist care, and a more seamless experience for the 1.2 million Victorians they service."*

*"This is a great outcome for these communities as they'll have one health service to better coordinate their patient journey – with improvements already being implemented on services ahead of the formal commencement date."*

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