

Media Release

The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP

Leader of the House

Minister for Health

Minister for Ambulance Services

Minister for Women



Friday, 13 February 2026

FASTER CARE FOR MORE VICTORIANS

Victorians are still getting care sooner, even with record demand across the health system in the last quarter.

The median emergency department wait time held steady at 15 minutes – seven minutes faster than pre-pandemic.

This is despite more than 513,000 presentations in October-December – the highest on record.

Ambulance call outs also remained high with more than 100,000 Code One responses in the quarter.

Despite the demand, paramedics spent less time waiting at hospitals and more time responding to emergencies.

Nearly three quarters of patients taken to hospital by ambulance were transferred within 40 minutes – the best result in five years.

These results are backed by the Allan Labor Government's investments, including the *Standards for Safe and Timely Ambulance and Emergency Care*.

The standards are about supporting the healthcare workforce and getting patients world-class care faster.

In quarter two, Victorians also received planned surgery faster than the same time last year.

More than 53,000 planned surgeries were delivered – 87 per cent of these were completed within recommended timeframes, the best quarterly result in four years.

Labor's planned surgery reforms continue to ensure the most urgent category one patients are seen within 30 days.

The median time to treatment for less urgent surgeries improved on the same time last year. Category Two wait times reduced a further three days and Category Three another eight days.

Investment in alternative care options is helping drive these results – giving Victorians more options for urgent care.

The Victorian Virtual Emergency Department handled nearly 80,000 calls in the last quarter, 32 per cent more than the same time last year.

Urgent Care Clinics have now supported more than one million visits, diverting less serious cases away from EDs.

A new Virtual Hospital pilot run by the Royal Melbourne Hospital and Austin Health is also providing specialist hospital care to patients in their own homes.

Labor delivers world-class care when Victorians need it. Jess Wilson's Liberals will cut jobs and close hospitals.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas

"More Victorians are receiving care than ever before, and even with this demand, care is being delivered faster."

"This world-class care wouldn't be possible without our dedicated nurses, doctors, ambos and health workforce."

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