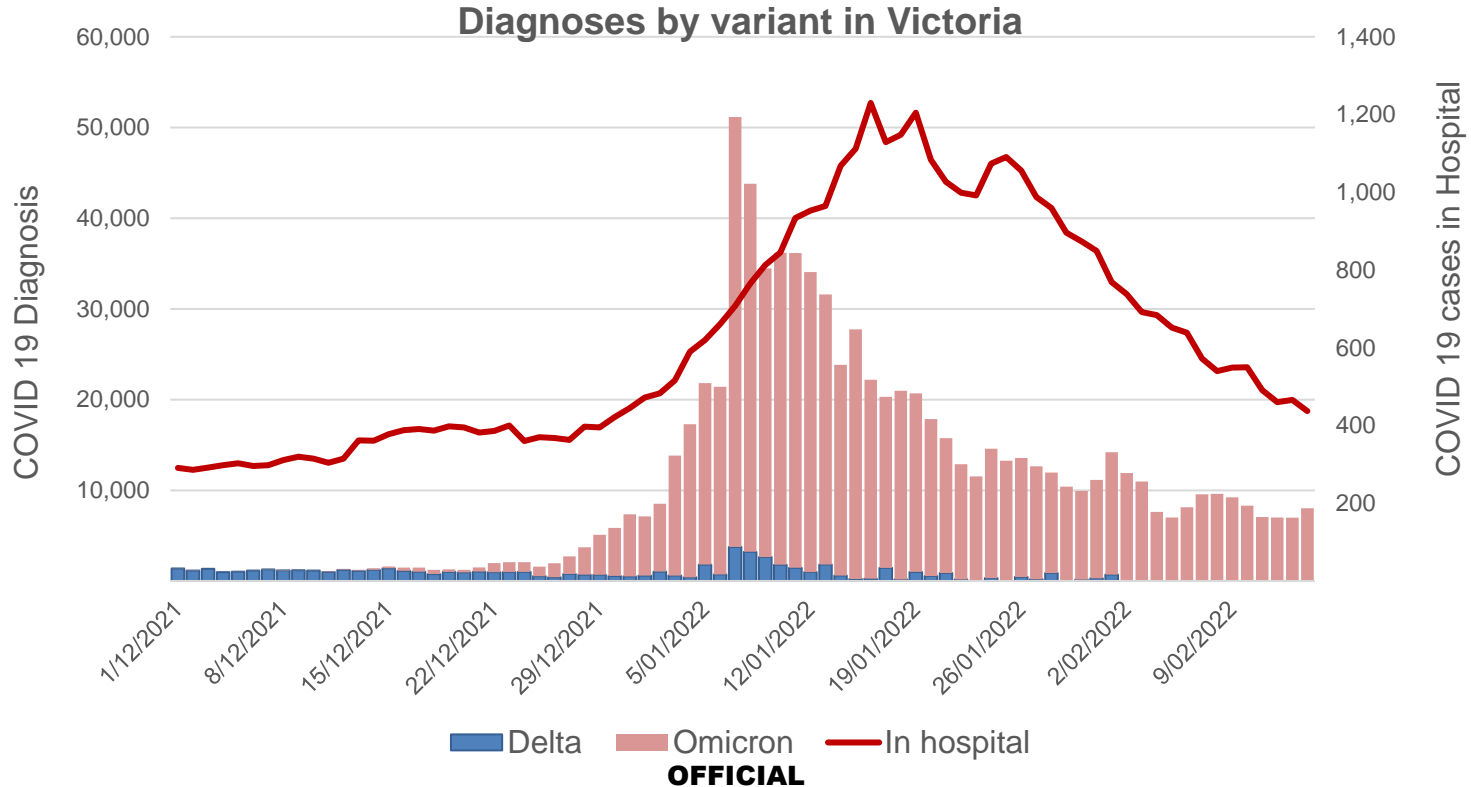# Pandemic Declaration Accountability and Oversight Committee (PDAOC) - *(Visitors to Hospitals and Care Facilities) Order 2022 (Nos. 1 and 2).*

Secretary Presentation

4 March 2022

Omicron Wave Data

Transmission and hospitalisations over Dec 1 – Feb 28

Diagnoses by variant in Victoria

Visitors to hospitals and care facilities

- Hospitals are high risk settings for COVID outbreaks with heightened exposure to risk within hospital settings for patients particularly vulnerable to COVID infection, including severe disease, hospitalisation and death

- An outbreak at a hospital has a larger potential 'footprint' than one in an aged care setting. More staff, more patients, more transient in-and-out population of both

- **Hospital patients are allowed to have visitors** under the Pandemic Orders applicable from 15 December 2021 until currently for broad-ranging circumstances including: providing essential care and support for the patient; carers for patients aged under 18; care for patients with mental illness or dementia; interpreters; and to support the patient's care upon discharge

- **Visitors to care facilities** balance the nature of the environment being akin to a residential home (which is a setting where there are no visitor restrictions) with protecting the vulnerability of its residents

Elective surgery

- The temporary pause on non-urgent elective surgery was put in place from 6 January 2022 to help hospitals respond to the increasing number of patients with COVID-19

- The reduction helped to reduce the strain on our hospitals by ensuring as many resources as possible are available across the system to manage both COVID-19 demand, as well as other patients with emergency and urgent medical needs

- Hospitals scaled up their operations to enable IVF procedures to resume on 25 January 2022

- The scaled resumption of elective surgery from 7 February 2022 across public and private hospitals balanced the health system response and workforce pressures with ensuring Victorians can access important surgery they've been waiting for.