

2026-27 Victorian State Budget

Public Accounts and Estimates
Committee

Hon. Harriet Shing MP
Minister for Health

OFFICIAL



VICTORIA
State
Government

Department
of Health



Acknowledgment

TITLE

Bayi Dha-ang: Walk Strong
(Dhudhuroa language)

ARTIST ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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TRIBES

Gunnai, Yorta Yorta, Gunditjmara,
Dhudhuroa/Jaithmathang, Djab Wurrung, Wemba
Wemba, Wadi Wadi, Barapa Barapa, Monero,
Wadawurrung.

Key achievements 2025-26

Delivering nation leading
healthcare

Transforming Victoria's health system – innovation and access

Transforming how we deliver surgery

- On target to deliver record **210,00+** planned surgeries
- The Planned Surgery Blueprint is **reforming planned surgery** through targeted non-surgical alternatives and even more efficient use of theatres

Timely emergency care that is closer to home

- **Leading the nation** in urgent ED patients seen on time¹
- The Virtual Emergency Department has delivered **over 820,000** virtual consultations since 2020 – giving Victorians access to **free online urgent care 24/7**

Innovating care through Local Health Service Networks and Virtual Care

- Introducing **networked care closer to home** to give Victorians greater access to care like dialysis and chemo closer to home
- Commencing the Virtual Hospital Pilot to **spearhead innovation**



Accessible care, where it's needed

More urgent care clinics

- **38 Urgent Care Clinics** across Victoria providing care for when it's urgent but not life-threatening
- **Helping reduce demand** on busy Emergency Departments

More services tailored to Victorian women

- 20 new Women's Health Specialist Clinics
- Launched the **first Virtual Women's Health Clinic**
- The Mobile Women's Health Clinic is now on the road

More families accessing fertility care

- Public Fertility Care continues to change the lives of families, with **350 babies now conceived and delivered** through this nation leading program

Chemist Care Now delivering more treatments

- Expanded to include new treatments for impetigo and resupply of hormonal contraception.
- Delivered **76,000 services from over 850 chemists** across metropolitan and regional Victoria



Strengthening Victoria's health workforce

Safe staffing and expanded roles for nurses

- Implemented **Safe Patient Care Act amendments**, improving patient care and supporting staff wellbeing
- Progressed **Designated Registered Nurse Prescribing**, enabling trained nurses to prescribe medicines and improving access to care

Supporting the allied health workforce

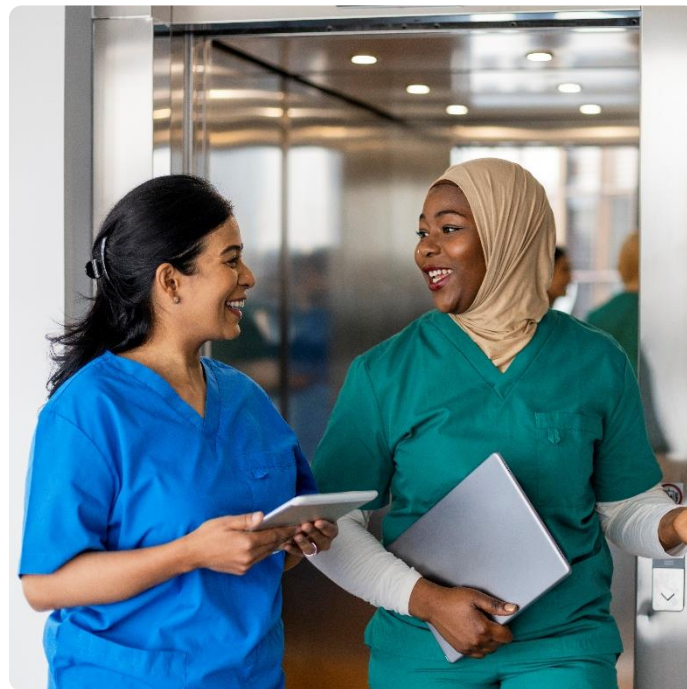
- Established the **Victorian Centre for Advancement in Allied Health**, to grow and support the allied health workforce
- Piloted the **Allied Health Reliever Pool**, a flexible workforce supply to help services keep running when staff are on leave or vacancies exist

Boosted First Nations leadership

- Launched **Governance Scholarship Program** to build board readiness and support Aboriginal leadership in health services

Safety and wellbeing

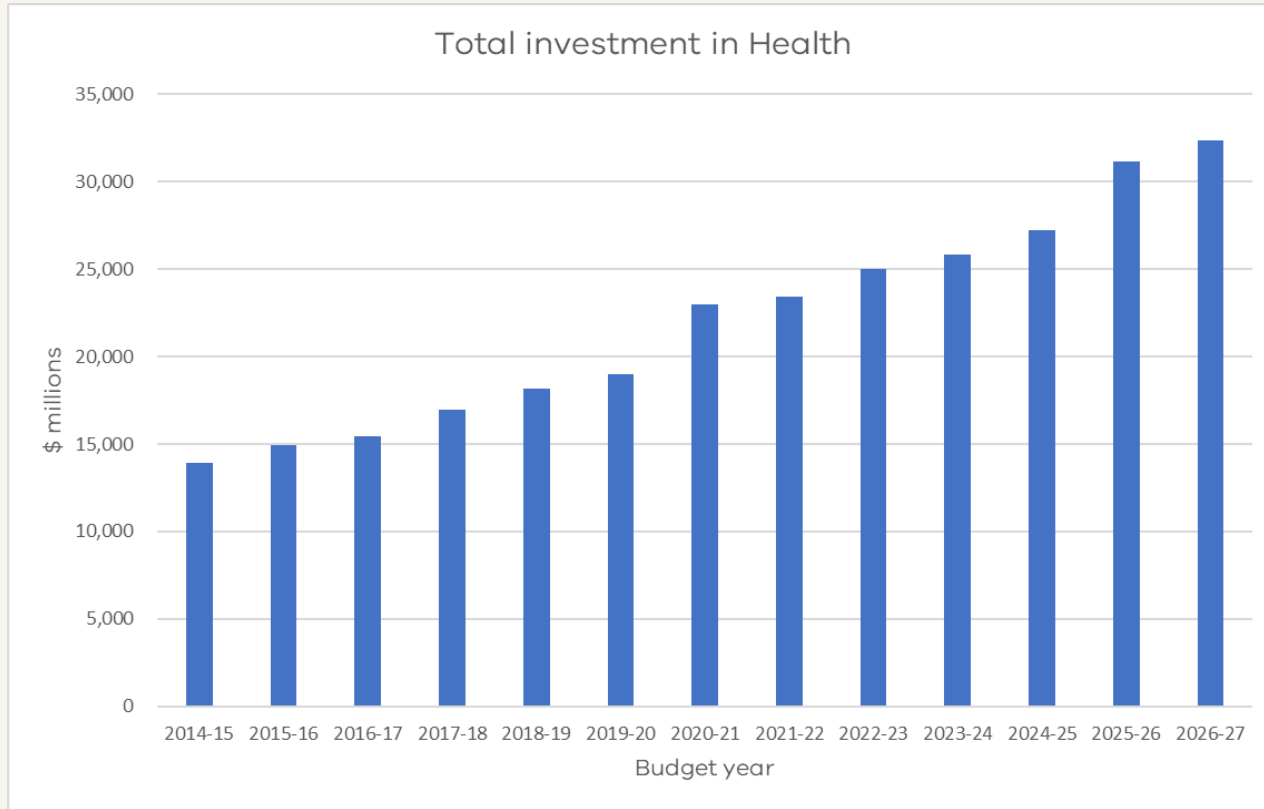
- Expanded roll out of the **Safewards** model, improving safety for staff and patients
- Continued to support programs providing free and confidential **wellbeing support for health workers**



State Budget 2026-27

Growing investment in Victoria's
health system

Investing in our healthcare system to meet increasing demand



Note: Total annual output funding for healthcare system. Does not include funding for health infrastructure



State Budget 26-27 funding overview

In 2026-27 there is funding of **\$32 billion**, we are continuing to invest in a system that reduces pressure on hospitals and supports better patient outcomes.

With care closer to home, designed around local community needs, we are making it easier, faster and more affordable for Victorians to get the care they need

\$3.9b

New investment to strengthen our **world-class health system** including:

\$1.6b

To fund every **public hospital** to **meet community needs** and continue providing the high-quality care Victorians count on

\$284m

To open and **expand newly built hospitals and community hospitals**, turning completed infrastructure into real services

Backing our health workforce

\$91.2m

To build a strong workforce for the future through **targeted workforce programs** including:



250 additional **graduate nurses and midwives**



A further **250 Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy Student Grants**



Cadetships and scholarships for **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander** students



Growing the system to meet the needs of Victorians



\$249m

To meet the needs of families in Melbourne's west through **expanded maternity services**



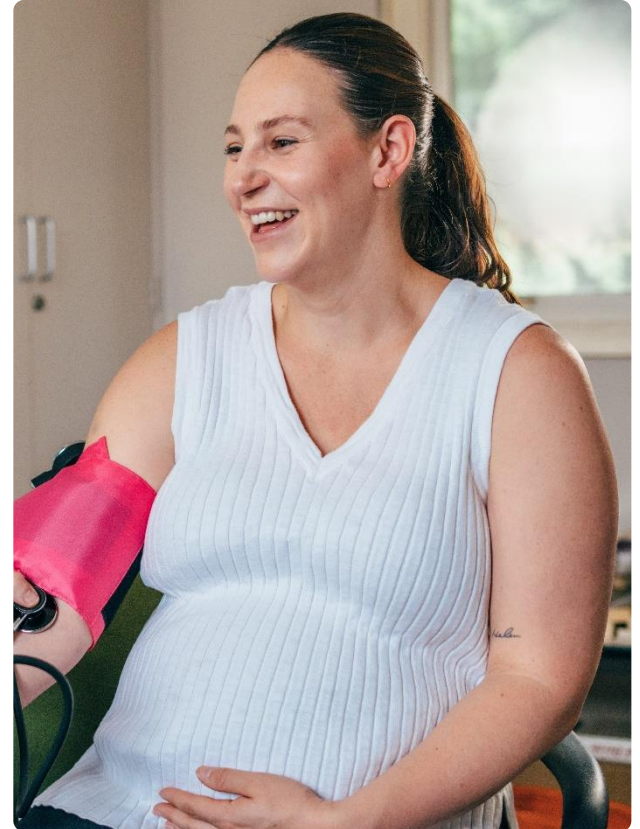
\$33.3m

To **expand VicKey**, a digital platform supporting clinicians to focus on care



\$109m

For **planned surgery and specialist appointments** to improve access for our youngest Victorians and their families



More services and better access



\$49m

to support the operation of **Local Health Service Networks** to bring care closer to home

\$34m

for **Local Public Health Units** and the delivery of the frontline public health system and functions that keep Victorians safe and well

\$30m

to strengthen **palliative care**, providing supports closer to home for Victorians and their families, friends and carers

\$21m

for **chronic disease prevention and management programs** to help keep Victorians healthy

\$10.3m

for **cancer prevention** including Victoria's **SunSmart** programs

Delivering care closer to home



\$130m

To continue the **Better at Home program**, helping patients get out of hospital and return home faster after surgery

\$20.5m

To deliver more **at-home, life-preserving dialysis care**, supporting more than 100 patients every year

\$3.1m

To extend the **Virtual Hospital pilot**

Equitable access to care

\$30.6m

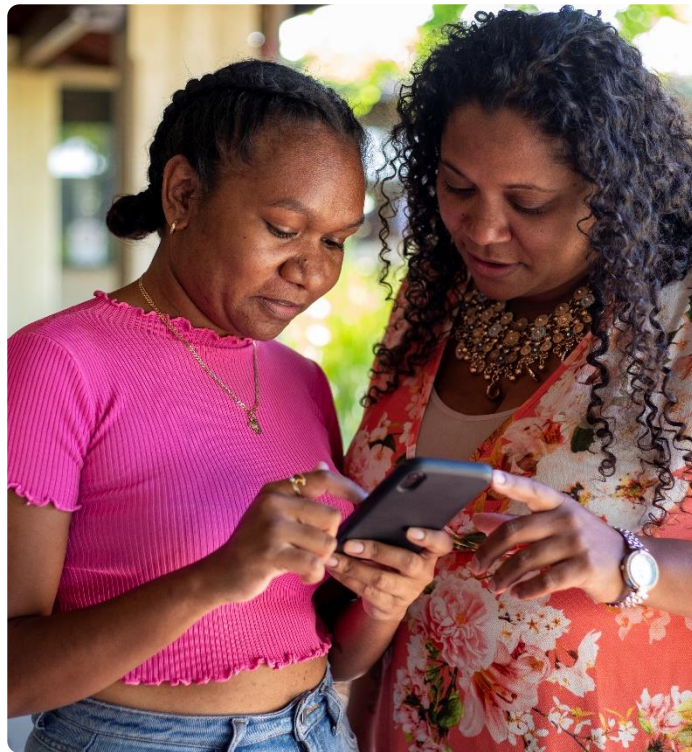
To help deliver the **Wathaurong Dreaming Project** – delivering **culturally safe care** in a holistic and integrated facility

\$43.4m

For **public fertility care**, ensuring more equitable and affordable access for Victorians, as well as maintaining **Australia's first public egg and sperm bank**

\$9.2m

For 12 **women's health promotion** organisations to **keep Victorian girls and women well**



Thank you

