Hon Harriet Shing MP

Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services
Minister for Water

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MCO-260400210

Dr Sarah Mansfield
Western Victoria Legislative Council
The Australian Greens – Victoria

Via email: council@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Dr Mansfield Sarah

Re: Petition no. 750 tabled in the Legislative Council

Thank you for tabling Petition No. 750 in the Legislative Council regarding the Allan Labor Government's decision to accept the recommendation of the *Independent Review of the Victorian Public Service*, to absorb the functions of VicHealth into the Department of Health (the department).

The Allan Labor Government remains committed to strengthening the health and wellbeing of all Victorians through a coordinated and sustained approach.

VicHealth was established in 1987 as part of the *Tobacco Act* and has played a unique role in Victoria's health ecosystem. However, since that time, the health system and the role of the department have evolved significantly.

This includes the establishment of a standalone Department of Health (the department), Local Public Health Units, and the introduction of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (the Act). The Act identifies the responsibilities and objectives of the Victorian Government and local councils in protecting and promoting the public health and wellbeing of Victorians.

Bringing VicHealth into the department will support Victoria's continued progress towards the goals of the Act. This change will strengthen our aim to give Victorians the best possible standard of public health and wellbeing.

VICTORIA State Government

The Allan Labor Government and the department are committed to promoting the health and wellbeing of Victorians and are working closely with VicHealth and our partners, to ensure that health promotion and community wellbeing remain central to our shared goals.

Yours sincerely

Hon Harriet Shing MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Ambulance Services
Minister for Water

15/6/26

cc: sarah.mansfield@parliament.vic.gov.au