

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier

Victorian
Labor

**DELIVERING
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Monday, 12 November 2018

BUILDING EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS GEELONG KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES CAN COUNT ON

A re-elected Andrews Labor Government will build a new emergency department devoted to children and their families at Barwon Health – giving parents peace of mind that their kids will get calm, compassionate and dedicated care when they need it most.

There's nothing quite as scary as when your child is sick or injured – and there's nothing more reassuring than knowing they're in the best hands. Victoria is home to the world's very best doctors and paediatric specialists – and they deserve first class facilities to match.

The Andrews Labor Government is already building the flagship \$33 million Barwon Health North hub – a one-stop shop for all the services families need to access. We've also invested \$10 million to investigate options for transforming Geelong Private Hospital on Ryrie Street into a Women's and Children's Hospital.

But with more than 200,000 Victorian kids presenting at emergency departments last year, there's more to do.

That's why Labor will build dedicated flagship kids' emergency departments at Barwon Health, as well as at the Maroondah, Frankston, Casey and the Northern hospitals.

The \$62.4 million investment will reconfigure or expand existing emergency departments, so that kids and their parents have their own dedicated space and staff when they need it most. It's all about providing the very best tailored care that kids and their parents can count on.

Kids' emergency departments are all about making sure that when children go to hospital, they can be treated in a more welcoming, kid friendly and less clinical environment, making the experience that little bit easier to manage.

To give our kids the best care, we've made the flu shot free for kids under five – going it alone because the Morrison Liberal Government refuses to fund it. More children than ever are now protected, with rates of flu plummeting this winter thanks to our investments.

We've also made landmark investments in genomic testing for rare conditions, so that parents and clinicians desperate for answers can diagnose our sickest kids, faster.

The Liberals went to war with our paramedics and left our sickest patients waiting for an ambulance. Given the chance, they'll do it again, taking an axe to health, and cutting, closing and privatising, because that's what they do.

Only Labor will build the health system and hospitals families can trust when they need it most.

Quote attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

“As a parent, I know there's nothing more terrifying than when your child gets sick. Our hospitals do a great job, but tailored emergency departments will make sure kids get the best care – and only Labor will build them.”

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Quote attributable to Member for Geelong Christine Couzens

“We’ll make sure Geelong’s kids get the quick, dedicated care they need so that they, and their parents, feel better, sooner.”

Quote attributable to Member for Bellarine Lisa Neville

“Going to hospital can be an upsetting experience for kids, so having a dedicated space and staff will mean their time is hopefully that little bit less difficult.”

Quote attributable to Member for Lara John Eren

“This is Labor getting it done for Geelong families. The choice couldn’t be clearer: it’s between Labor, who invests in hospitals and healthcare, or the Liberals, who cut, close and privatise every chance they get.”

Quote attributable to Labor Candidate for South Barwon Darren Cheeseman

“This will make a big difference for local families when their child gets sick or hurt. The hospital can be a stressful experience, so we’ll take action to make it as easy as possible.”