

# Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP  
Premier



Victorian  
Labor



**DELIVERING  
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

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## **PUBLIC IVF SERVICES TO ASSIST MORE FAMILIES TO ACHIEVE THEIR DREAM**

A re-elected Andrews Labor Government will make sure more Victorians can start a family and discover the joys of parenthood through IVF, without the high costs.

IVF can help people who want to become parents achieve their dreams, but too often, it's financially out of reach. IVF is hard enough on hopeful families, so they shouldn't have to deal with the financial pressures too.

That's why the Labor Government commissioned a landmark review of assisted reproductive treatment. The review's interim report, released today, highlights issues of affordability and access to IVF, and finds the service is out of reach for too many Victorians.

A re-elected Labor Government will establish public IVF services – bulk-billed and subsidised for low-income Victorians. A \$32 million investment will establish public IVF services that will also work with a regional health service, so that more Victorians have an opportunity to become parents through IVF.

An IVF cycle can cost up to \$15,000. But while people with fertility issues are eligible for Medicare rebates, they can still be left thousands of dollars out of pocket just for following their dreams of starting a family. For some Victorians struggling with the cost of living, this is an unavoidable barrier – and that's not fair.

About 13,000 Victorians were treated at IVF clinics in the last financial year, but less than 10 per cent accessed services at the state's only bulk-billing clinic. Only Labor will establish properly funded public IVF services, providing greater access for Victorians who want to start a family.

Labor will also crack down on unscrupulous IVF providers who prey on prospective parents and peddle false hope about their chances of becoming pregnant. We will task the Health Complaints Commissioner to lead an investigation into the dodgy, dangerous and unethical practices by IVF providers including those who fail to be upfront about success rates or costs – with hefty penalties for those who don't comply.

We will also abolish an outdated rule that allows men to control the reproductive rights of women, amending the Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act to remove the requirement that women need the approval of their former partner to access IVF using her own eggs and donor sperm.

The review of Victoria's assisted reproductive services finds that costs are a barrier for too many Victorian families. It makes a number of interim recommendations, including:

- Changing the regulations to improve access to IVF for rural and regional Victorians
- Improving reimbursements for altruistic surrogacy
- Reducing hurdles and discrimination faced by the LGBTI community trying to access IVF

Only Labor will stand with Victorians as they try to start a family. The Liberals cut a billion dollars from health when they were last in office, and these are the types of programs they'll take an axe to if they get the chance.

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**Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews**

*“IVF helps people realise their dreams of starting a family, but for many it’s unaffordable and out of reach – we’re fixing that.”*

*“We said we’d have a good look at the regulations around IVF because we have to make sure the rules keep pace with community attitudes – and now we’re going further.”*

**Quote attributable to Minister for Health Jill Hennessy**

*“This will make a big difference to Victorian women and couples who want to have children and start a family of their own.”*

**Quote attributable to Labor Candidate for Melbourne Jen Kanis**

*“The requirement that an estranged partner gives consent goes against everything we say about control and women being able to make decisions for themselves – we’re proud to be fixing that.”*