

Media Release

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier

Victorian
Labor

**DELIVERING
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Tuesday, 20 November 2018

A BIG UPGRADE FOR OUR ICONIC ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

A re-elected Andrews Labor Government will expand our treasured Royal Children's Hospital so our kids can get out of the waiting room and into world-class care faster.

The Royal Children's Hospital has provided world-class care for generations. Victorians are in awe of the hard-working expert clinicians – and the brave kids who are there undergoing treatment.

Built by Labor, the Children's has become one of the world's leading institutions for paediatric health, attracting patients with the highest needs from around the globe – including Bhutan's Nima and Dawa – the conjoined twins separated by a Victorian surgical team earlier this month.

We said we'd make sure families from all over Victoria could access the very best treatment and care at the Children's. We have done what we said, delivering record funding every year for doctors, nurses and specialists to do what they do best.

We've ramped up the Royal Children's Hospital's ability to fight the flu, with improved short-stay capacity to handle the high winter surge. We've rolled out a cutting-edge real-time emergency department monitoring system, so that parents can make the right decisions about where to send their kids when they get sick, but there's more to do.

Labor will invest \$31 million on a major expansion of the Royal Children's Hospital, with a state-of-the-art new ward and a bigger and better emergency department.

A new 30-bed flexi-ward will cater for young patients with a range of different illnesses, including cancer. Labor will also boost the emergency department's capacity by 20 cubicles, so that children and their parents can be seen faster and put on track to treatment.

The Victorian Liberals cut a billion dollars from health when they were last in office, and to make matters worse, they're refusing to stand up for Victorian patients as Scott Morrison takes an axe to Victorian hospitals from Canberra.

Not only does Scott Morrison refuse to fund free flu shots for kids under five, he's also clawing back \$201 million from our hospitals for services they've already provided. For the Royal Children's Hospital, that's an \$8.3 million cut – and that would hit doctors, patients and parents hard.

Only Labor delivers the very best healthcare that families can count on.

Quotes attributable to Premier Daniel Andrews

"As parents, we all want to know that our kids will get the best care when they get sick. I've experienced firsthand how terrifying having to go to the Children's can be – but with the best care, patients and their parents are in great hands."

"Labor proudly built the Royal Children's Hospital, but we know there's more to do, because delivering the best treatment for young Victorians is so important."

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Quote attributable to Minister for Health Jill Hennessy

“This will make a huge difference for families. It will mean patients get the very best care when they need it most – and will make us all even prouder of the Royal Children’s Hospital.”