



Stat Report 2018/09

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Victoria's Budget and Healthcare

This year's Victorian Budget is a mixed bag. While the Union welcomes the additional funding boost for life saving medical equipment; the additional funding towards regional and rural health care; and the big boost in funding for mental health, we are again disappointed by the Andrews Government failure to invest in scientists and the scientific workforce in Victoria's public healthcare system.

While providing much needed funding for life saving equipment, it's also vital that funding is allocated specifically to ensure the necessary scientific workforce is available to operate and calibrate equipment. And without our scientific workforce analysing samples and providing diagnoses, doctors and nurses are unable to deliver the treatments patients need.

The Victorian Government, regardless of which party is on the government benches, must end the failed practice of outsourcing public pathology laboratories to private providers. It doesn't make sense to allow private providers who are only interested in making profits deliver sub-standard pathology services which are critical to understanding what is wrong with a patient and the treatment they need.

As mentioned the Union does welcome the additional injection of \$705 million for mental health services including additional funding specifically for mental health staff. Funding for additional mental health staff has been announced at being \$32.5 million, which is much-needed boost in this massively growing area in health. There is also welcome news with the increased funding of mental health services run by community health sector providers.

The funding outcome is a huge result for mental health services in Victoria and reflects the strong advocacy work the VPA Inc has been doing especially around workforce matters.

Unfortunately for our colleagues working hard in our hospitals' pharmacies, there is nothing in this budget for them.

While this budget continues to ignore significant aspects of our healthcare system in Victoria,

there is growing recognition within the Andrews Government that outsourcing public pathology laboratories is failing and not delivering the essential services needed in our public hospitals at the level of quality required. And it is disappointing to see that this Budget failed to deliver for pharmacists who continue to be squeezed to do more work without being properly supported or seeing investment in the pharmacist workforce.

Victorian Governments must do more to properly fund public healthcare, especially our medical scientists, psychologists and pharmacists who are the essential backbone to Victoria's world-class healthcare. We hope that in the next Labor budget the needs of scientist and pharmacist workforces especially, are better met.

The Union will continue to work with the Victorian Government to ensure that our ongoing concerns about adequate funding and privatisation of public hospitals' pathology laboratories are acknowledged and addressed.



Rally to Change the Rules

A mass rally will be held on 9 May at 10am starting at Victorian Trades Hall.

Australia workplace rules are well and truly broken. It's evident when private sector employers can effectively freeze wages as they drag out bargaining or refuse to negotiate a new agreement. It's evident when young people are being regularly exploited as they're not paid properly or have their wages stolen. It's also evident the rules are broken when workers can't withdraw their labour while employers can sue workers and unions for any lost productivity.

Closer to home, Dorevitch Pathology refusing to negotiate wage increases for its entire scientific workforce since July 2007 and locking-out workers who pursue increases is a stark example of how badly the current rules are broken.

Let's change the rules!

The Union will be joining with others to show our support for changing the rules that have given big business too much power. We will be meeting at the Union's offices at 62 Lygon St at 9:30am before joining the rally at 10am at Victorian Trades Hall.



Help spread the message about the rally and [share our image with your friends and colleagues on Facebook](#) or your favourite social media platform.

Scientist Progression at Alfred Health

Following on from the work the Union has been doing on scientist progression at the RCH, members at Alfred Health informed the Union of their ongoing barriers to progression.

This has led to Alfred Health confirming that progression to Grade 2 for scientists will be backdated to 28 December last year. Alfred Health has also confirmed that payroll have actioned the new annual leave clause, and we expect that annual leave should now be accruing at a higher rate. This has also been backdated to 28 December last year.

Make sure you check your pay slip for the increase in annual leave which should be included in the next pay cycle if it hasn't happened already.

No Pay? No Way! 2018 Survey

The Union wants to be able to better understand the nature and extent of unpaid work, and more importantly, how unpaid work has changed and the impact it has on members over time. That's why the Union is continuing with our "No Pay? No Way!" survey we started in 2014.

[Please take a few minutes to do our survey and help us continue to highlight the issues around unpaid work and its impact.](#)



AHP Committee Vacancy

Unfortunately due to a resignation a casual vacancy now exists on the AHP Committee and as such expressions of interest are now being called to fill this casual vacancy. To be eligible to be considered you must be a financial member of the AHP.

Expressions of interest must be received by Paul Elliott in writing no later than 5pm on 25 May.

Completed expressions of interest can be sent to enquiry@msav.org.au

Psychologists: If you need help at work you need the VPA Inc.

If you are a psychologist and not in the VPA, you are taking unnecessary risks with your reputation and career. [Download an application form and join today.](#)

Common beaches of employment entitlements and negotiation of enterprise agreements

The VPA routinely assists members over issues such as harassment and bullying, under classification, organisational re-structuring, incorrect calculation of leave entitlements and health and safety. In addition, it negotiates enterprise agreements for psychologists in the public and private sectors to ensure that rates of pay and conditions remain up to date.

Support the Healthy Futures campaign



The Union strongly believes that climate change is union business. We know that climate change threatens our health by increasing the risks of heatwaves, bushfires, droughts and storms, displacing people and straining our health systems.

And right now HESTA and First State Super (FSS), Australia's biggest health industry super funds, are investing our money in fossil fuels - coal, oil and gas.

Join us in asking HESTA and FSS to divest from fossil fuels at www.healthyfutures.net.au/divest.

Stopping Gendered Violence at Work

Far too often women are attacked, harassed and threatened in their workplaces. And it needs to stop. That's why the Union is fighting back against gendered violence in the workplace – it's a very serious occupational health and safety issue.

Gendered violence is like a disease in our workplaces. Working women's experience of violence

at work indicates that the problem of gendered violence is endemic in our workplaces.

Sign up to support the campaign at: <http://www.unionwomen.org.au/stopgv>

Do you need access to Domestic Violence services?

If you're experiencing domestic violence and need help, here is a list of Victorian services which may be able to assist you.

[Safe Steps \(formerly Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service of Victoria\)](#)

[Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria \(FVPLS\)](#)

[Centre Against Sexual Assault \(CASA\) Forum](#)

[Community Legal Centres](#)

[Court Network](#)

[Domestic Violence Victoria](#)

[Elder Rights Advocacy \(ERA\)](#)

[Elizabeth Morgan House Aboriginal Women's Service](#)

[inTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence](#)

[Men's Referral Service](#)

[No To Violence](#)

[QLife Australia](#)

[Seniors Rights Victoria \(SRV\)](#)

[The Jewish Taskforce Against Family Violence](#)

[Victoria Legal Aid \(VLA\)](#)

[Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency](#)

[Women with Disabilities Victoria \(WDV\)](#)

[Women's Housing Ltd](#)

[Women's Information Referral Exchange \(WIRE\)](#)

[Women's Legal Service](#)

[Women's refuges](#)

Worth Reading: Climate change: Australia's position is unconscionable for a wealthy country

""There is no planet B" says President Macron in an electrifying speech to Congress, yet for most of us climate change is of much less concern than the cost of living, taxes, schools and health services.

As a slow creeping threat, "unlikely to affect me much anyway", climate change is easy to dismiss and therefore is never high on the election stakes where it is easy for our leaders to say they are doing everything they should — which they are not.

So as a doctor, why am I distressed by the announcement that gas resources in NT are to be developed and fracked? After all, the [NT government](#) indicates it can be managed safely, will occur in sparsely populated regions, will bring jobs and profits for shareholders and restitution for languishing state and federal budgets?"

Read the entire article by David Shearman on the ABC website at:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-04-29/climate-change-health-impacts-who-adani-nt-fracking-australia/9702386?section=analysis>

Worth Reading: China's recycling 'ban' throws Australia

into a very messy waste crisis

"Federal Environment Minister Josh Frydenberg is meeting with his state and territory counterparts today. Top of their agenda? The recycling crisis precipitated by the China "ban".

States and councils around the country have been struggling since the imposition of import restrictions that exclude 99% of the recyclables that Australia previously sold to China.

Hopes are high that the federal government will step in and take a clear role. Proposed solutions include investing in onshore processing facilities and local markets, incentives or mandates to use recycled content, and grants and rebates for innovative approaches that go beyond recycling to designing for prevention and reuse.

But what is the ban and why is it such an issue?"

Read the entire article by Jenni Downes and Elsa Dominish in The Conversation at: <https://theconversation.com/chinas-recycling-ban-throws-australia-into-a-very-messy-waste-crisis-95522>

Worth Reading: As Wentworth slips quietly onto the ABC, the series still asks tough questions about gender politics

"In early March, the ABC issued a press release announcing that the "multi-award-winning Australian drama Wentworth" would make its free to air television debut on April 12. "This ground-breaking and much acclaimed Foxtel drama", it went on, has not only been enormously popular "worldwide", but also garnered a swag of nominations and awards, including one from the Monte Carlo TV festival. Somehow overseas recognition still seems to count for so much more when it comes to assessing the value and impact of Australian screen productions.

What isn't mentioned in this release, clearly intended to reassure the ABC audience that what they will see has already acquired a patina of glory, is the fact that Wentworth is a reimagining of the very humble, but completely revolutionary, Australian soap opera Prisoner. The home-grown Nunawading based show was broadcast twice a week from 1979-86 while rapidly garnering a worldwide audience as [Prisoner Cell Block H](#) and inspiring a series of remakes. This included an American version, [Dangerous Women](#) (1991), that both glamorised and sanitised the original."

Read the entire article by Sue Turnbull in The Conversation at: <https://theconversation.com/as-wentworth-slips-quietly-onto-the-abc-the-series-still-asks-tough-questions-about-gender-politics-95068>

Worth Reading: The Dreamtime, science and narratives of Indigenous Australia

"Scientific and Indigenous knowledge systems have often been in conflict. In my view, too much is made of these conflicts; they have a lot in common.

For example, Indigenous knowledge typically takes the form of a narrative, usually a spoken story about how the world came to be. In a similar way, evolutionary theories, which aim to explain why particular characters are adapted to certain functions, also take the form of narratives. Both narratives are mostly focused on "origins".

From a strictly genetic perspective, progress on origins research in Australia has been particularly slow. Early ancient DNA studies were focused on remains from permafrost conditions in Antarctica and cool temperate environments such as northern Europe, including Greenland.

But Australia is very different. Here, human remains are very old, and many are recovered from very hot environments."

Read the entire article by David Lambert in The Conversation at:

<https://theconversation.com/the-dreamtime-science-and-narratives-of-indigenous-australia-95919>

Worth Reading: New blood test brings hope to women with life-threatening pregnancy condition pre-eclampsia

"Medical experts say a new blood test that can predict who will develop the potentially deadly pregnancy disorder pre-eclampsia will save mothers and babies from life-threatening complications and premature birth.

Melbourne's Royal Women's Hospital is Australia's first medical centre to introduce the simple test which flags the risk of developing the condition and enables early treatment for those women found to be at risk.

Pre-eclampsia is the most common serious medical disorder in pregnancy and can be life-threatening for both mothers and babies.

One in 20 pregnant women develop pre-eclampsia, which causes dangerously high blood pressure and can threaten a woman's vital organs including the brain, liver and kidneys.

Pre-eclampsia can affect an unborn baby's placenta and decrease the foetal supply of oxygen and food leading to slower growth in the womb, premature birth and, in some cases, death."

Read the entire article by Freya Michie in the ABC at: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-05-03/new-blood-test-for-deadly-pre-eclampsia-pregnancy-condition/9723950>

Join the Union

Are your workloads increasing? Are your stress levels increasing? Are you doing longer hours at work? Join the Union today!

To protect our professions and stand up for our rights at work we must strengthen our collective voice by increasing our membership. You can help by sharing one of the images below on Facebook.



**WE DIAGNOSE AN INCREASE
IN PAY OF 3.25% PER YEAR
OVER 4 YEARS.**

[Share on Facebook](#)



HERE'S SOMETHING TO ANALYSE:
**WE GOT PSYCHOLOGISTS A PAY
INCREASE OF 3.25% P.A.**

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WE WON PHARMACISTS AN EASY
TO SWALLOW **3.25% PER YEAR
PAY INCREASE.**

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Your Union is on Facebook

Keep up to date with what's happening by liking us on Facebook

[Medical Scientists Association of Victoria](#) | [Victorian Psychologists Association Inc](#) | [Association of Hospital Pharmacists](#)

Get the most out of the Union's website

The Union's website has a number of special features for members. These features, like the Members section and the Forums, require you to have a log-in and password.

But to ensure that your privacy is protected we have created the website in such a way that you will need a separate log-in and password for the Members section and the Forums section. It might seem to be inconvenient but it does better protect you and your private information. It also means that we can be more certain about the source of a hack if such an event is ever to arise.

Australian Unions Member Benefits app

Over the last month Australian Unions launched some new and exclusive Member Benefits - did you see our recent email telling you about this? If not, check your inbox! Search for "Lifestyle Rewards" for your login code.

Our program has expanded to include:

- Discounted movie tickets for Village, Hoyts, Palace and Event cinemas.
- Discounted electronic gift cards including major theme parks, zoos and aquariums.
- A discounted accommodation booking site.
- A new secure member only website and smart phone app.

All this is free to all members of affiliated unions. If you have not got a login and would like join in [register for Member Benefits now.](#)



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