



Stat Report 2022/10

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The Victorian Budget and a Federal Election

This week the Victorian budget was handed down.

Members may have missed it given the attention and focus on the federal election.

This year's state budget is primarily focused on health and healthcare. It's easy to see why with the significant and large investments across Victoria's health sector have been decided.

Disappointingly though, the Premier made no mention of healthcare workers beyond doctors, nurses and paramedics for their work in protecting and caring for Victorians during the pandemic, which is still very much on-going.

The Union is very happy to see increases in funding to mental health again in this year's budget which demonstrates a significant investment in mental health care over the last few budgets with dedicated funding for increasing the psychologist workforce.

The budget allocates an additional \$1.3 billion for the mental health system to continue expanding mental health services across Victoria and upgrading facilities.

It is great to see the Victorian Government deliver \$250 million to fund a two-year Australian-first pilot scheme that would give paid sick leave to casual and contract workers in selected industries.

Unfortunately, there is no new funding allocated to hospital pharmacists or the pharmacy workforce beyond what was included in last year's state budget.

However, without plans to address climate change and the structural changes needed in our state's economy, the Victorian Government has missed an opportunity to address this front-of-mind issue in this year's budget.

Meanwhile, after delivering a federal budget that does nothing to help Australians during a difficult time in Australia and globally, there is a federal election campaign raging.

The Morrison Government has been missing in action when it comes to the important issues challenging our nation and our futures. Morrison's government has overseen cuts to healthcare and aged care over the past 3 years, despite claims otherwise.

No-one can forget the terrible response to the COVID-19 pandemic by the Morrison Government.

The complete failure to deal with quarantine which is entirely a federal government responsibility. The Morrison Government also failed elderly Australians living in aged care facilities and the people working in those facilities.

The Morrison Government failed to secure vaccines leaving us behind compared to other western liberal democracies. Scott Morrison had the temerity to claim it wasn't a race when in fact it was as other nations raced to secure vaccines to protect their citizens.

They even failed to roll out personal protective equipment relying on state governments to scramble for essential equipment to keep health workers safe during the pandemic.

Addressing climate change is clearly not a priority for the Morrison Government, which relies on sneaky accounting tricks to claim Australia is 'on track' to reduce emissions, while at the same time attempting to lock in fossil fuels.

The Morrison Government refuses to ensure that there is a holistic approach to addressing healthcare issues arising from the impacts of climate change. These are impacts that Australians are already experiencing, with record flooding and bushfires so bad the smoke from it was seen in countries around the world; and it's only going to get worse as the window for action rapidly closes.

Instead of supporting Australian families, the Morrison Government keeps looking after their rich mates to ensure they get richer.

Just think back to the millions of dollars that large companies, like Harvey Norman, got through the pandemic without having to pay it back when they recorded surging profits; and the incredible rorts of a range of government programs.

We can't afford another 3 years of a Morrison Coalition Government. It's time for a change – this election the Union encourages member to put the Liberals last – it's where they put you.

Public Sector Bargaining Update

In good news for Public Sector members, I'm happy to report that the Union is very close to finalising the drafting of the new agreement.

Once the drafting has been finalised, it only requires the formal approval of the Victorian Government through Cabinet approval, before members will be able to vote on it.

If you are experiencing issues at work, make sure you contact us by calling on 9623 9623 or emailing us at enquiry@msav.org.au

In solidarity
Paul Elliott
Secretary

Positions not backfilled?

Let us know

Union Round Up

Forensicare – Bargaining Update

With the Mental Health Agreement now drafted, the path is clear for the Forensicare Agreement to be completed.

The parties have raised concerns that drafting is taking some time, and that we want to accelerate this process to try and get it finished as soon as possible.

We have now scheduled meetings every 2 days to try and finalise drafting within the next couple of weeks.

Any questions, please contact Lisa at lisaa@msav.org.au

Monash IVF Counsellors – Bargaining Update

We met with Monash IVF to negotiate the Counsellors Agreement last Thursday.

At this meeting, we discussed concerns about the proposed classification structure. Monash IVF also provided us with a financial package for consideration.

This was circulated to members this week and a members meeting is planned next week to discuss the offer and next steps.

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa at lisaa@msav.org.au

Monash IVF Scientists – Bargaining Update

We last met with Monash IVF to negotiate the Scientists Agreement last Thursday 21 April.

At this meeting, we walked through the entire agreement, and raised outstanding concerns. A comprehensive update was sent out to members this week sharing details about the status of all claims.

We have time scheduled with Monash IVF next week to discuss wages and the overall package, which is still at 2%.

Please direct any questions you may have to Lisa at lisaa@msav.org.au

Genesis – Bargaining Update

We last met with management in December 2021. At this meeting, Genesis let us know that they would provide us with an overall package, which will include a wage offer, and will respond to any outstanding claims in late February/early March.

Since then, we have followed up several times requesting an offer and to reengage in meetings.

Genesis have let us know that they need another month to meet.

We have reached out to members to ask your feedback and whether you're comfortable with us waiting.

Contact Lisa if you have any questions at lisaa@msav.org.au

New Agreement at Wyndham Clinic

Congratulations to members at the Wyndham Clinic who have voted up the new agreement. With the positive vote, it now goes to the Fair Work Commission for approval.

Once it has received approval from the Fair Work Commission it will come into force. Rest assured the Union will inform members as soon as it has received approval.

If you have any questions, please contact Heidi at heidib@msav.org.au

Public Sector Bargaining and Maternity Leave

Numerous members have contacted the Union over the last few weeks about their maternity leave entitlement as bargaining for a new Public Sector agreement continues.

The Union's advice is that members should apply for their current existing leave entitlement of 10 weeks and once the new agreement is in place, to apply for the additional 4 weeks. Health services will not be able to refuse as the maternity leave entitlement is part of the Union's heads of agreement, which back-dates pay and leave entitlements to December 2021.

If you have any questions, contact the Union at enquiry@msav.org.au

Contacting the Union

Members can ring the Union to seek support, advice and assistance with workplace issues.

MSAV: (03) 9623 9623

VPA: (03) 9623 9625

AHP: (03) 9623 9624

As always members can raise workplace issues by emailing the Union at enquiry@msav.org.au

Membership Issues – Experiencing hardship?

Non-Members

For non-Union members who work in workplaces across our coverage; **we will give advice immediately over the phone if they join.**

In the spirit of supporting health workers through this unprecedented time we hope you might have a quiet word to colleagues who are not members and suggest that there has never been a more important time to join a Union. Let them know that it is as simple as going to our website and [clicking on the 'JOIN' link](#).

Members

If you are in the unfortunate position of being stood down or forced on to unpaid leave, [contact us to move your membership payments to a 'non-working' subscription rate of \\$8.26 per month](#).

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. [You can join quickly and easily here.](#)

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.

Right now, Aware Super, Australia's biggest health industry super fund, is

investing our money in fossil fuels - oil and gas. While they have plans to divest from fossil fuels, it's vital that we maintain the pressure to make sure they divest faster to ensure a reduction in financial issues posed by stranded assets like fossil fuelled power stations.

Join us in asking Aware Super to divest from fossil fuels at
<https://www.healthyfutures.net.au/awaresuper>

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: How can we stop fake election news spreading in migrant communities?

"Concerns about fake news and misinformation spreading on social media among Chinese communities are once again emerging, as they were during the 2019 election campaign.

There have been allegations against both major parties in recent weeks. The ABC reported a group of Liberal Party supporters systematically spread fake news about prominent Labor supporters in the Chinese community via WeChat.

At the same time, a local Labor branch in Queensland is accused of spreading a conspiracy meme against Gladys Liu, the incumbent Liberal candidate of the ultra-marginal Victorian seat of Chisholm and the first ethnic Chinese woman to serve in the House of Representatives.

Liu's supporters are also not free from controversy. Some were accused of spreading misinformation in Chinese communities during the last federal election."

Read the entire article by Wilfred Yang Wang in The Conversation at: <https://theconversation.com/how-can-we-stop-fake-election-news-spreading-in-migrant-communities-182119>

Worth Reading: Labels like 'psycho' or 'schizo' can hurt. We've workshopped alternative clinical terms

"It is common to hear people use stigmatising, discriminatory and hurtful labels such as "psycho", "schizo" or "totally bipolar". Others might minimise conditions by saying they too are "a bit OCD" because they value structure and organisation.

This kind of everyday use of pseudo-clinical terms can be upsetting for young people who are struggling with these conditions. Worse still, it can stop them seeking care.

Clinical terms can have the same effect. For our recent research, we worked with young patients, carers and clinicians to develop new mental health vocabulary that carries less stigma, but remains accurate."

Read the entire article by Andrea Polari and Suzie Lavoie in The Conversation at: <https://theconversation.com/labels-like-psycho-or-schizo-can-hurt-weve-workshopped-alternative-clinical-terms-179756>

Worth Reading: How do the major parties rate on Medicare? We asked 5 experts

"Medicare has been mentioned a lot this election campaign but we've seen relatively few substantial policy announcements from the major parties.

Voters want improvements to Medicare and the health system. More than 13% of respondents to The Conversation's #SetTheAgenda poll said health was one of the issues having the greatest impact on their life right now. Cost of living pressures were also a key concern.

As one respondent said, candidates should be talking about "increasing Medicare rebates to reduce gap payments" as they compete for votes, while another saw improving "rural and regional access to high quality care" as the key issue.

So what have the major parties committed to? And is this enough? We asked five experts to analyse and grade the major parties' Medicare policies – from A for top marks to F for a failed effort."

Read the entire article by Jim Gillespie, Lesley Russell, Richard Norman, Rosemary V Calder and Stephen Duckett in The Conversation at: <https://theconversation.com/how-do-the-major-parties-rate-on-medicare-we-asked-5-experts-182230>

Join the Union

Are your workloads increasing? Are your stress levels increasing? [Join the Union today!](#)

To protect our professions, we must strengthen our collective voice by increasing our membership. You can help by sharing the image below on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Reddit or your favourite social media platform.



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](#)

Australian Unions Member Benefits app

As a Union member you get access to exclusive Member Benefits. The 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 – that means you! If you have not got a login and would like join in [register for Member Benefits now.](#)



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