



## Stat Report 2014/14

### The Victorian Budget and Health

This week the Napthine Government handed out down its latest Budget for Victoria.

Unfortunately for most Victorians this budget contains little relief from increasing living costs, despite reducing living costs being a key promise of the Victorian Coalition at the last election.

But what does this Budget put towards health and healthcare? In a word – little.

The Union's analysis of the Budget is that, while spending big on health infrastructure, it has failed to adequately address the dwindling professional health workforce.

There is nothing in Victoria's budget to increase health services by addressing the cuts to the professional health workforce.

The Napthine Government can't expect to improve health outcomes while replacing highly qualified staff with less qualified staff under the banner of allied health assistants. The Premier and Minister for Health, David Davis, are failing to realise that to truly lift health outcomes for all Victorians means properly staffing hospitals and community health centres.

The Budget should've been about making sure Victoria has the best and brightest scientists, psychologists and pharmacists working in our hospitals and community health centres delivering high quality outcomes for patients.

To truly improve health care outcomes for Victorians, the state government must invest in its workforce, not find new ways of outsourcing services to providers only interested in profits or dumping down the workforce required to deliver quality health outcomes to patients.

The Union has called on the Napthine Government to rethink its healthcare spending and focus on rebuilding the professional health workforce needed to meet the growing demand.

Rest assured the Union will be taking it up with the Minister when he attends Annual Conference on 30 May.

### MSAV | VPA | AHP Annual Conference

**Annual Conference is on Friday 30 May at 9am for a 9:30am start to 5pm.**

This is the first Annual Conference ever held by the Union to discuss and debate the political and industrial challenges facing us and our sector.

And to make sure it is memorable event we have an exciting

**Come to  
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agenda.

Dr Rosemary Kelly will be joined by Craig McGregor, secretary of the Victorian Health Professionals Association, for our panel discussion on the state of public health in Victoria.

Craig will bring invaluable perspectives on healthcare based on their members' experiences.

And to illustrate the importance of our Union we've secured David Davis, Victorian Minister for Health; Gavin Jennings, Victorian Shadow Minister for Health; and Colleen Hartland, the Victorian Greens health spokesperson to share their party's vision for public health in Victoria. This will be a pertinent discussion given the Victorian Budget being handed down this week.

Plus you'll have an opportunity to ask them the tough questions about public health.

We're also looking forward to hearing from First State Super who will speak about superannuation and the Low Income Super Contribution scheme.

And the in-coming secretary of Victorian Trades Hall Council, Luke Hilakari, will attend to discuss the "We Are Union" campaign.

### **The Annual Conference is free and open to all members.**

#### **Conference Details:**

**Date:** 30 May 2014

**Time:** 9am to 5pm

**Venue:** DownTowner on Lygon at 66 Lygon St, Carlton - [check it out on Google Maps](#)

**Door Prize:** By attending you're in the draw to win a Kindle donated by the ACTU

#### **Confirmed Speakers:**

- David Davis – Victorian Minister for Health & Ageing
- Gavin Jennings – Victorian Shadow Minister for Health & Mental Health
- Colleen Hartland – Victorian Greens spokesperson for health
- Dr Rosemary Kelly – Secretary, MSAV | VPA | AHP
- Craig McGregor – Secretary, Victorian Health Professionals Association
- Luke Hilakari – Secretary-elect, Victorian Trades Hall Council

**Check out the Agenda – [click here](#) | Register your attendance – [click here](#)**

## VCS reaches Agreement

Members at the Victorian Cytology Service (VCS) have been negotiating for an agreement and recently the proposed Enterprise Agreement was put to a vote of members.

We're happy to say the ballot for the Enterprise Agreement has delivered a "yes" vote with 58% of voters supporting the agreement.

Whilst there are a few disappointing elements in the agreement – the much discussed discipline and dispute resolution clauses in particular – overall the MSAV and VCS members were able to negotiate a good agreement that will serve VCS members well in the coming years and deliver a much deserved pay rise (with very significant back pay).

The MSAV will ask to be a party to the agreement through the Fair Work approval process, so the Union will be able to enforce members' rights in the coming years.

It's clear that the involvement of the Union in this process has led to a strengthening of employment conditions at VCS and to an improved understanding of the importance of well-constructed agreements. This is an excellent outcome.

The Union congratulates its VCS members for reaching an agreement with good conditions, which ensures they're keeping pace with pay in the industry

## Changes at ISIS Primary Care

After receiving reports from members about possible changes to funding for ISIS Primary Care's Gamblers' Help program, the Union has received notification from ISIS Primary Care that there will be organisational changes as a result of government funding changes.

While the Union has been notified that changes are impending at ISIS Primary Care, we have only just received the Change Impact Statement. The Union will go through the CIS to be clear about what changes will take place; the extent of the changes; and which staff may be directly affected by the changes.

After the Union has gone over the CIS, we will provide advice and assistance to members directly impacted.



## Senate Inquiry into Australia's Innovation System

With a federal government that seems to have misplaced the importance of science to the future development of Australia, a landmark inquiry into Australia's innovation system has been secured by the ALP and the Australian Greens.

The Inquiry comes at a particularly important time as many of the solutions to the big challenges facing Australia will come from our science community and the innovation our science community generates. The Inquiry's terms of reference are very broad so as to capture the full breadth of the science community and its contribution to Australian life.

Included among the terms of reference for the Inquiry are:

- The need to attract new investment in innovation to secure high skill, high wage jobs and industries in Australia, as well as the role of public policy in nurturing a culture of innovation and a healthy innovation ecosystem;
- The Australian Government's approach to innovation, especially with respect to the funding of education and research, the allocation of investment in industries, and the maintenance of capabilities across the economy; and
- Policy actions to attract, train and retain a healthy research and innovation workforce.

You can read the entire Terms of Reference for the Inquiry at:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Economics/Innovation\\_System/Terms\\_of\\_Reference](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Economics/Innovation_System/Terms_of_Reference)

The Union is very clear about the importance of science to Australia, especially for the ongoing healthcare needs of all Australians, and will be making a submission to the Inquiry.

We strongly encourage individual members to make their own submission.

**Submissions to the Inquiry close on 31 July 2014.**

For more details about this important Inquiry and to make a submission visit:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Economics/Innovation\\_System](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Economics/Innovation_System)

## Worth Reading: "Abbott and Hockey more Prince John than Robin Hood"

"In politics, one should never opt for a balanced and thoughtful description of the truth when

wild exaggerations will do. Especially when you want to take from the poor and give to, if not exactly the rich, at least the investor class. Tax concessions to superannuants and those using negative gearing amount to more than the aged pension. Yet there is no mention of that; the silence is deafening.

The Commission of Audit's 86 recommendations to the Federal Government have prompted outbursts of alarm and criticism for those affected: mostly in the health sector and the aged. It is likely most of them will not be adopted, just another episode in the softening-up process the Government is orchestrating. Two messages are being sold: 'We have to do something drastic,' and 'We will all try to share the pain.' Thus Treasurer Joe Hockey can 'refuse to rule out any recommendations' then listen to the huge sighs of relief on Budget night."

Read the full article at [Eureka Street](#)

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**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
**30 MAY 2014**  
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- All orders are shipped direct from the winery (for iust

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## Benefits for Union Members

As a union member, you can take advantage of the collective buying power of more than 1.9 million members to get discounts on a great range of products and services.

ACTU Member Connect makes sure the products and services are from companies you can rely on to deliver high-quality products with reliable customer service.

There is more information about a range of other benefits union members can access at <http://www.memberconnect.com.au/> or you can call ACTU Member Connect on 1300 362 223.

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