

Media Release

The Hon Melissa Horne MP
Minister for Ports and Freight
Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Minister for Health Infrastructure



Wednesday, 12 March 2025

BETTER, FASTER CARE FOR LOCALS AT BIGGER SWAN HILL ED

The Allan Labor Government is continuing to deliver regional Victorians world-class care closer to home, no matter where you live.

Minister for Health Infrastructure Melissa Horne today visited Swan Hill District Health to officially open the new \$65.7 million emergency department, which has more than doubled the available treatment spaces – to help improve wait times and give more locals access to the emergency care they need, closer to home.

This important health infrastructure project has redeveloped the emergency department and added an additional four-bed short-stay unit, an isolation room and a behavioural assessment room.

The new and expanded emergency department means the dedicated team of doctors and nurses will be able to treat more than 25,000 patients each year – helping to reduce wait times for locals needing emergency care.

In addition, the new short stay unit will also ensure patients requiring treatment and supervision for less than 24 hours receive the quality care they need while emergency beds are available for more serious cases.

The new emergency department was designed with input from hospital staff, with an emphasis on boosting patient privacy, providing a modern and efficient working environment and ensuring the hospital can meet both the existing and future health needs of the local community.

The project is jointly funded with the Allan Labor Government investing \$35.7 million and the Albanese Labor Government contributing \$30 million.

This funding was in addition to more than \$7 million received by Swan Hill District Health through Victorian Government grant programs including the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund and Medical Equipment Replacement Program for upgrades and equipment.

Delivered by the Victorian Health Building Authority and AW Nicholson, further works are now underway to deliver a new cafeteria and Community Mental Health facility which are expected to be completed in mid-2026.

Quote attributable to Minister for Health Infrastructure Melissa Horne

"We're proud to deliver this state-of-the-art emergency department for Swan Hill and the surrounding region, ensuring more locals have access to the best care right on their doorstep."

Quote attributable to Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas

"Not only will the new emergency department help to improve wait times and patient experience, but the modern facility will also help Swan Hill District Health attract and retain doctors and nurses to the area."

Quote attributable to Senator for Victoria Jana Stewart

"I grew up in Swan Hill and have spent my fair share of time waiting in the ED, so I know how much this new emergency department in Swan Hill - treating over 25,000 patients a year - will mean for the community."

Media contact: Max Resic 0435 256 250 | max.resic@minstaff.vic.gov.au

Quote attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes

"The new emergency department upgrade will mean faster, better emergency care for Swan Hill locals, ensuring they get the right treatment, in the right place, at the right time."