

Cancer Council Victoria 2015-16 State Budget Summary

Prevention

Cancer Council Victoria has welcomed a strong focus on cancer prevention in today's State Budget, which includes a range of initiatives designed to reduce the impact of cancer on Victoria.

Projects in the 2015 State Budget that will help prevent skin cancers, occupational and environmental cancers and those related to smoking include:

- \$2.3 million per year for the next four financial years so SunSmart can run education campaigns that highlight the dangers of sun exposure;
- \$1.5 million per year for the next four financial years so SunSmart can manage the provision of more shading in public areas;
- \$1 million for Quitline to provide information and counselling that helps people quit smoking;
- \$42 million to remove asbestos in schools; and
- \$300,000 to commence planning on a new training facility for firefighters following the closure of Fiskville.

A key objective of Quitline in 2015-2016 will be reducing higher smoking rates among low socioeconomic groups, young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Victorians and those experiencing mental illness.

Cancer Council Victoria CEO Todd Harper said such work was a smart investment when considering a third of all cancers are preventable.

"The money being spent on prevention today will reduce the burden of disease in Victoria for years to come," Mr Harper said. "Every dollar spent on the SunSmart program, for example, results in a \$3.60 saving to the Victorian health system. We are also seeing falling melanoma rates in people who have grown up seeing Slip, Slop, Slap on their screens."

Mr Harper said the Cancer Council was also looking forward to working with the Government on ensuring obesity prevention is a priority given the link between obesity and overweight, and many cancers.

Hospitals

- \$200m for a dedicated Western Women's and Children's Hospital with 237 beds, 39 specialist nurses, 39 special care nursery cots and four theatres.
- \$106m for an expansion of Casey Hospital.
- \$85m to expand and redevelop Werribee Hospital.

Other health budget news:

Medical research institutes, teaching hospitals and universities will collaborate more in order to develop and use cutting edge developments in the treatment and diagnosis of diseases. An example is \$2 million in 2015-16 to progress planning and development of a National Centre for Proton Beam Therapy as part of the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre.

Super pharmacies across the state will stay open for extended hours under a \$29 million plan to assist families after hours. Fifteen pharmacies in metropolitan Melbourne and five pharmacies in regional Victoria will now be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.