

Wednesday, 12 August 2009



Victorian Healthcare Association

**For immediate release**

## **Department of Health Splits from the Department of Human Services**

Today the Premier of Victoria, John Brumby, announced a major restructure of health, community services and local government functions: the former Department of Human Services (DHS) will split into two departments.

The new Department of Health will be responsible for hospital performance, mental health and prevention. The new Department of Human Services will oversee services for children, youth and families, housing, disability, concessions and bushfire recovery.

The VHA provisionally supports this initiative and looks forward to receiving more detail in the near term. The VHA has long held the view that the former DHS was becoming unwieldy due to the scale of activity covered and the often competing priorities for Ministerial attention.

A VHA strategic priority is adoption by government of policy that consistently reflects the physical, social and environmental aspects of personal health status through a "whole of health" model.

The continued partnership between the two new departments, both human services and health, is vital for optimal health outcomes for all Victorians.

The Victorian Healthcare Association is the major peak body representing the public healthcare sector in Victoria. Our members include public hospitals, rural and regional health services, community health services and aged care facilities. Established since 1938, the VHA promotes improvement of health outcomes for all Victorians from the perspective of its members.

For further information and  
Interviews, contact  
Trevor Carr  
CEO  
The Victorian Healthcare Association  
(03) 9094 7777 or (0409) 362 382