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For immediate release

Peak health body seeks 2020 health plan in state budget

A peak health group is calling on the Victorian Government to commit to a 2020 Health Plan in Tuesday's Victorian State Budget.

The Victorian Healthcare Association (VHA) rates the plan as one of its main state budget priorities.

VHA chief executive, Trevor Carr said the plan is long overdue and would complement the state's existing water and transport plans.

"A 10-year service and infrastructure plan for the state's public healthcare system is needed to set priorities for capital funding, based on need and where investments will boost productivity," Mr Carr said.

"The plan will allow for better planning of the state's vital public health infrastructure. It will also put an end to accusations of political bias over where and when money is handed out for capital works."

Rural Victoria is in dire need of new funding for capital works, with many of its health services in rundown buildings - increasing the cost of treating each patient.

Mr Carr said over the past decade only 17 per cent of capital funding went to rural Victoria, despite 27 per cent of the country's population living there.

In total, the VHA calculates that in the period 2011-2020, Victoria's public health system needs:

- Investment in new infrastructure of at least \$6.2 billion
- Investment in infrastructure renewal of \$4.7 billion
- Investment in service growth of \$650 million a year
- Increased investment in Information and Communications Technology of \$150 million a year for four years

The VHA's chief executive, Trevor Carr will be in the budget lock down and is available for pre and post budget interviews.

The VHA is the peak body representing the public healthcare system in Victoria. Its members include public hospitals, rural and regional health services, aged care facilities and community health services.

A copy of the VHA's 2010-2011 Victorian State Budget Submission can be obtained by telephoning (03) 9094 7777.

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