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For immediate release

Outpatient waiting lists

The Victorian Healthcare Association today welcomed the Victorian Opposition's health policy announcement to review the system that measures access to public health services.

The Opposition's commitment to introduce new access indicators is in line with a 2010 VHA policy paper "*Elective Surgery Waiting Lists Position Statement*" that calls on the Victorian Government to overhaul how it measures its access to public hospital elective surgery.

"For too long public and media attention has unduly focused on elective surgery waiting lists," the VHA's Acting Chief Executive, Alison Brown said.

"While these waiting lists are important they are not reliable as the predominant measure of system access," she said.

The VHA's policy paper released in March 2010 highlighted the current system's failure to measure access to public elective surgery. The VHA recommends expanded access indicators to measure:

- The time taken from a general practice referral to any definitive treatment
- The time spent waiting for all diagnoses at all hospitals

The VHA also recommends the development of improved clinical guidelines for patient prioritisation across the entire patient journey, including the referral process.

The VHA 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.

- To arrange a media interview please call the VHA's Media and Communication Officer, Kelly Meredith, on (0418) 534 511