



Media Release

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Women and their families need a streamlined health system with less out of pocket expenses

Women's Health Victoria welcomes the \$890m for Victorian Hospitals out of the National Health reform COAG deal, although concerns remain that there is not enough focus on prevention and health promotion if the proposal passes in the Senate.

Women's Health Victoria Executive Director Marilyn Beaumont said that there were some initial concerns with the reforms, and that WHV would be seeking clarification from the Brumby government on what the reforms will mean for Victoria.

"At first glance the scope of reforms seem limited to hospitals and doctors, when health is a much broader issue than service delivery.

"We at Women's Health Victoria would like to see the incorporation of prevention and health promotion measures to reduce pressures on the hospital setting.

"There is something to be said for tackling the problem before it becomes one," Ms Beaumont said.

"For women, the major issues around hospitals and health care include:

- getting the right care at the right time
- a system that is easy to understand and navigate
- inability to access certain services because of the expenses

"For some families, some health care services are out of bounds because of the cost. WHV hopes that healthcare reform will assist Victorian women who struggle financially to access the services they and their families need.

"An increase in workforce numbers needs to include nurses and allied health professionals, not just doctors, to ensure better service delivery across patient care.

"Often, women tell us that they don't always get the most appropriate care at the right time, so major health reform should streamline the process and ensure that this happens less often. We also want to make sure that the work of Victoria's community health system and women's health services are not lost in this process."

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