

# News from the Minister

12 August 2009

Dear friends and colleagues,

## Sweeping restructure of health and community services



The Hon Lisa Neville MP

The Premier, John Brumby, today announced a major restructure of health and community services functions to deliver better services to Victorian families.

A new **Department of Health** will oversee all health services, mental health, aged care and preventative health in Victoria, to deliver greater accountability in hospitals.

The Premier has appointed current DHS Secretary Fran Thorn as Secretary of the new Department of Health. The Minister for Health, Daniel Andrews, remains coordinating Minister for this department.

The health and human services task has grown significantly since the 1990s, accounting for nearly \$4 in every \$10 that the State Government invests in services, employing around 13,000 staff and more than 80,000 through its agencies.

By 2030 there will be more than 1.4 million Victorians over the age of 65. The new Department of Health will focus on ensuring older Victorians can access the services they need.

A new Department of Health will focus on hospital performance, mental health and prevention as well as the crucial challenges presented by the ageing population.

A new **Department of Human Services** will oversee services for children, youth and families, housing, disability, concessions and bushfire recovery.

The Premier has appointed Gill Callister as the new Secretary of the Department of Human Services. As Minister for Community Services, I will be the new coordinating Minister for the new Department of Human Services.

With a growing population and strong birth rates, it is a critical time for Government to ensure we can provide support to vulnerable families and children. A stand-alone department is now needed to address rapidly growing demand on the health and community services sector.

Ministerial responsibilities remain unchanged under these new arrangements. There will be no job losses as a result of the reforms. The Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Helen Silver, will chair the Transition Taskforce for implementing the restructure.

I am confident that the changes will help to strengthen the support we are providing to Victorian families and I look forward to continuing to work closely with all of you on the challenges ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Neville', written in a cursive style.

**Hon Lisa Neville MP**  
**Minister for Mental Health**  
**Minister for Senior Victorians**  
**Minister for Community Services**

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