MEDIA RELEASE

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Doctors call for stronger healthcare commitments as AMA Victoria releases updated election scorecard

AMA Victoria has released an updated election scorecard tracking the commitments made by Victoria's political parties to reform the state's health system, calling on all parties to strengthen their healthcare policies ahead of the State election on 28 November, just 12 days away.

The scorecard forms part of AMA Victoria's ***Don't get sick in Vic*** election campaign and assesses the major political parties against ten key priorities for improving healthcare for the people of Victoria.

The scorecard measures each political party's support against AMA Victoria's ten commitments:

- **Victorian Labor :** Nine partly committed, one not committed.
- **Liberal–National Coalition:** Eight partly committed, two with no response or unclear positions.
- **Pauline Hanson's One Nation:** Seven partly committed, three with no response or unclear positions.
- **Australian Greens:** Ten partly committed.

No party has yet fully committed to any of the ten priorities.

AMA Victoria President Dr Simon Judkins said healthcare was a major issue for Victorian voters and the scorecard would help them understand what each party was prepared to deliver.

"Healthcare is one of the most important issues facing Victorians, and patients and their families want clear information on what the next Victorian Government will do to improve the services they rely on.

"While we welcome the commitments political parties have made so far, there is still major work to be done to address the serious challenges facing our health system.

“We are very mindful that there is a significant difference between simply ticking a box and putting forward meaningful policies, and then actually delivering on those commitments when the opportunity arises.

“What we really want to hear from political parties is how and when they are going to deliver these reforms, so Victorians can clearly understand which parties are genuinely committed to working with doctors to address these complex challenges facing our health system.

"With less than two weeks until Victorians go to the polls, now is the time for all political parties to put their cards on the table, and to come forward with stronger and more comprehensive commitments to improving healthcare in our state.”

Dr Judkins said doctors and patients faced the consequences of a health system in crisis every day.

"Across Victoria, patients are waiting unacceptable periods for hospital beds, specialist appointments and essential treatment, while doctors are dealing with understaffing, fatigue and unsustainable workloads.

"Our emergency departments are under enormous pressure, but these problems extend well beyond emergency care. A shortage of hospital beds, limited rehabilitation and community services, and insufficient medical staff are creating bottlenecks throughout the entire health system.

"We also need to ensure Victoria can attract and retain the doctors required to deliver safe, high-quality healthcare, with competitive working conditions, sustainable workloads and better protection against fatigue.

"These are interconnected problems that require comprehensive, long-term reform, not isolated policy announcements that simply shift pressure from one part of the health system to another."

Dr Judkins said AMA Victoria's ten priorities provided political parties with a clear framework for addressing these challenges and delivering meaningful improvements for patients.

"AMA Victoria is politically nonpartisan. Our role is not to tell Victorians how to vote, but to ensure they have the information they need to make their own decisions.

"We welcome further commitments from all political parties over the next two weeks and will continue updating our scorecard as new policies are announced.

"With the election fast approaching, we urge every party to commit to AMA Victoria's ten priorities and demonstrate how they intend to deliver the healthcare system Victorians need and deserve."

AMA Victoria will publish its final election scorecard in the week leading up to polling day, giving voters a clear assessment of each party's commitments.

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AMA VICTORIA – STATE ELECTION SCORECARD

OUR TEN COMMITMENTS	Australian Labor Party	Liberal–National Coalition	Pauline Hanson's One Nation	Australian Greens
1 End dangerous delays in hospital care.	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 Make specialist care visible and navigable.	✓	✓	✓	?
3 Restore capacity for severe and acute mental illness.	✓	✓	?	✓
4 Give chronic pain proper priority.	✓	?	?	?
5 Keep general practice, community health and private specialist practice viable.	✓	✓	?	✓
6 Build the medical workforce Victoria needs.	✓	✓	✓	✓
7 Give doctors' time back and support safe, sustainable careers.	✓	✓	?	✓
8 Deliver regional and rural health equity.	✓	✓	✓	✓
9 Protect prevention and act earlier.	✓	✓	?	✓
10 Connect the system and make reform work.	✓	?	✓	?

✓ Committed ✓ Partly committed ✗ Not committed ? No response or position unclear