Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

Inquiry into the Victorian Government's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

REQUEST FOR UPDATED INFORMATION

During the hearing on 12 May 2020 for the inquiry into the Victorian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee were advised that 305 beds had been added to the Victorian public health system, with a further 84 to de delivered.
What is the total number of additional hospital beds that have been added to the Victorian public health system to date?

Following on from the Minister for Health's update at PAEC on 12 May 2020, more than 400 additional ICU and general inpatient beds have now been delivered across completed projects. These comprise:

- Baxter House (former Geelong Private Hospital site): 50 consulting rooms and beds;
- Bendigo Hospital: 45 beds to create a dedicated respiratory ward;
- Shepparton Hospital: accelerated construction of the new in-patient tower comprising 88 beds;
- St Vincent's on the Park (former Peter MacCallum Centre site): 84 inpatient beds;
- Casey Hospital: fast tracked commissioning of 140 beds.

More ICU and critical care beds spaces have been made available across Victoria, bringing the current total physical ICU capable bed spaces to more than 1,500 as at 11 August 2020. Equipment is being delivered to activate these beds and there are currently 831 fully equipped ICU beds available across Victoria. Extra equipment continues to be delivered to activate these spaces, with additional beds coming online each week.

Should demand for ICU beds begin to surge, there are sufficient quantities of ICU equipment ready to be deployed to rapidly scale up capacity. Contingency plans are also in place to convert over 1,000 more spaces in operating theatres, recovery and other ward areas, and emergency department spaces to treat COVID-19 patients. If further capacity is required, a large scale up of ICUs will be delivered through the deployment of modular facilities on hospital grounds.