

21st October 2025

Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas, MP
Minister for Health
Minster for Ambulance Services
Sent via email only: mary-anne.thomas@parliament.vic.gov.au
cc: deborah.simmons@minstaff.vic.gov.au

Dear Minister Thomas,

Re: Lung Foundation Australia's 2026/2027 Budget Proposal

Lung Foundation Australia welcomes the opportunity to submit our 2026-27 Victoria budget priorities (**Attachment 1**). Lung Foundation Australia is the only charity and leading peak body of its kind in Australia that funds life-changing research and delivers support services that give hope to people living with lung disease or lung cancer. Since 1990, we have been working to ensure lung health is a priority for all, from promoting lung health and early diagnosis, advocating for policy change and research investment, raising awareness about the symptoms and prevalence of lung disease, and championing equitable access to treatment and care.

Poor lung health remains a significant concern in Victoria, with one in three Victorians expected to experience a lung condition in their lifetime. Lung disease is a leading contributor of death, disability, lost productivity, and preventable hospitalisations. Lung health is shaped across the life course - beginning before birth - and influenced by air quality, infections, workplace exposures, smoking, vaping, and broader social determinants.

Strategic investment in lung health at every stage of life can reduce hospitalisations, extend healthy life expectancy, and help build a more resilient and productive Victoria.

We have identified five priorities for investment in the 2026-27 Victorian Budget:

- 1) \$1.7m per year, for four years, to increase access to Specialist Lung Cancer Nurses across Victoria.
- 2) \$650,000 per year, for four years, to help fund our clinician-led Respiratory Care Program to support Victorians living with COPD.
- 3) \$350,000 to develop public resources on air pollution to build the climate resilience of Victorians.

FREE CALL
1800 654 301

Level 4, 12 Cribb Street, Milton QLD 4064
PO Box 1949, Milton QLD
enquiries@lungfoundation.com.au | www.lungfoundation.com.au



ABN: 36 051 131 901

- 4) \$180,00 per year, for 2 years, to fund a Lung Cancer Screening Priority Populations Engagement Officer based in Victoria.
- 5) \$350,000 to develop targeted e-cigarette resources for young adults.

These recommendations are evidence based and align with key Victorian Government strategies, including the *Victorian Public Health & Wellbeing Plan 2023–2027*, *Health and human services climate change adaptation action plan 2022–2026*, *Victoria's Climate Change Strategy*, *Victorian cancer plan 2024-2028*, and the *Department of Health Strategic Plan 2023-27*.

Further detail is provided in the attached budget submission. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our proposal. To arrange a meeting, please contact Lily Grigsby-Duffy, Policy and Advocacy Lead at lilyg@lungfoundation.com.au.

We look forward to continuing our work together to improve lung health outcomes for all Victorians.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Brooke

Chief Executive Officer
Lung Foundation Australia

FREE CALL
1800 654 301

Level 4, 12 Cribb Street, Milton QLD 4064
PO Box 1949, Milton QLD
enquiries@lungfoundation.com.au | www.lungfoundation.com.au



ABN: 36 051 131 901