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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Brumby fails Geelong Hospital**

The latest report on Victoria's hospitals shows that under the stewardship of Minister for Health, Daniel Andrews, the Brumby Government has failed to adequately fund Geelong Hospital.

Member for Western Victoria, David Koch said the report shows Geelong Hospital failed four out of eight government benchmarks.

"Geelong Hospital had 128 more patients on the waiting list than at the same time last year; and from 2006-07 to 2007-08 it had an increase of 930 patients waiting for more than eight hours on an emergency department trolley; an increase of over 900 patients waiting for more than four hours before being treated; and a 53% increase in patients waiting more than a year for elective surgery.

"The poor results for Geelong are a consequence of the Brumby Government inadequately funding public hospitals and across the State Victorians are waiting longer for elective surgery or to obtain treatment in emergency departments.

"This report reveals a system under intense strain and shows that more than 37,000 patients are waiting for elective surgery.

"State wide the Brumby Government has failed five out of nine of its own performance benchmark standards. This scathing report card on Victoria's health points to a health system in crisis.

"Hospitals have failed to meet most of their targets and the number of patients waiting for urgent treatment has doubled. More patients each year are not getting treated on time and hospitals are struggling to find beds to move patients out of emergency departments.

"Victoria has the lowest per capita hospital funding of any State and there are more than 363,000 patients missing out on clinically appropriate care. We are the worst at treating category two emergency patients with more than one in five patients missing out on urgent care in less than ten minutes.

"This shocking report card also shows Victorian hospitals have the worst performance on treating category three emergency patients with more than three in ten patients missing out on care within thirty minutes and the worst performance on category two elective surgery patients on time with three in ten patients missing out on much-needed elective surgery within ninety days.

"Victorian hospitals, doctors, nurses and patients are all suffering under the enormous pressure of over eight years of inadequate funding.

"The Brumby Labor Government cannot be trusted to deliver timely healthcare and to do what is best for hospitals and patients.

"Minister Andrews must address the lengthening waiting times particularly in the Geelong Hospital by providing the necessary resources so that patients have timely access to hospital beds", said David Koch.

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