

Victorian Election 2022

Stroke Foundation Election Platform



Creating a legacy of equitable health care

The incoming Victorian Government has a unique opportunity to plan for the next decade of stroke prevention, treatment, and support. We are seeking an investment of \$13m over the next 10 years to ensure this Government's legacy saves lives for generations to come.

Over the next 10 years 70,000 Victorians will suffer a stroke for the first time. Almost 10 per cent of those will die. Thousands will be left with a lifelong disability and will depend on our already stretched health system to support their care.

Victorians already have access to the best emergency stroke treatment in the country. Through Australia's first Mobile Stroke Unit (Stroke Ambulance), patients with stroke in Melbourne receive life-saving treatment faster than anywhere else, and the ground-breaking Victorian Stroke Telemedicine Program gives Victoria's regional and rural communities 24/7 access to stroke specialists.

But many people that suffer or experience stroke are not accessing that treatment quickly enough, and too many are leaving hospital without the information and support they need to make the best recovery possible.

Recovering from a stroke relies on a chain reaction, called The Chain of Survival.

The first link is knowing the signs of stroke; every other link in the chain depends on the first person's response. Stroke Foundation wants more Australians to instantly know when a stroke is happening and make that critical triple zero (000) call to access the emergency treatment that saves lives and reduces

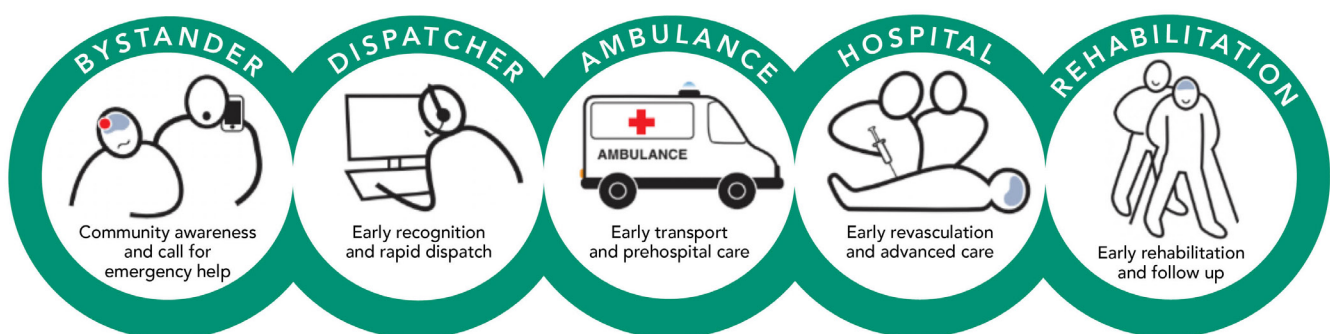
lifelong disability. Too few people know the F.A.S.T. message – Face, Arms, Speech, and Time – which signals the main signs of stroke and urges immediate action. In Victoria, 41 per cent of people cannot name a single sign of stroke and therefore will be unlikely to know they need to act quickly.

Our 2021 Acute Stroke Audit found that only 38 per cent of people with stroke arrived at hospital in the critical window of time to receive the best treatment available. If more Victorians recognise stroke and seek the life-saving emergency treatment they urgently need, they will have a much better chance at recovery. This will significantly reduce the ongoing cost of stroke on the state's economy.

At the other end of the stroke journey, 26 per cent of Victorians who have a stroke leave hospital without a discharge plan. They describe this transition to the community as "falling into a black hole", being left to find their own way through their recovery. This gap means their recovery takes longer, and puts them at high risk of more strokes, and an ongoing reliance on our already stretched health and disability support services.

Every Victorian deserves the chance to make their best recovery possible following a stroke. We should all commit to this goal.

The Chain of Survival



Let's work together to make a positive, long-term change.

\$10m Over 10 Years

Stroke Foundation F.A.S.T. Education

The 2021 annual Stroke Foundation F.A.S.T. Awareness Survey found that 41 per cent of Victorians would not recognise any of the most common signs of stroke, and only 24 per cent know two of the three main signs.

We are asking the incoming Victorian Government to invest \$10m over the next 10 years to help us deliver F.A.S.T. education and awareness.

This rolling program will reach all corners of the State and ensure that Victorians in every home and workplace know the F.A.S.T. message.

This level of investment is a legacy action for Government. It will maximise the value and

return on the investment Victoria has already made in its stroke response systems. This investment will secure Victoria's position as the State setting the benchmark in survival and recovery from stroke.

This investment will generate benefits for generations to come, so that every Victorian who suffers stroke is given the chance to make their best recovery possible.

Budget Years	Vic Government Investment	F.A.S.T. Awareness	Health Sector Benefit
2023–2025	\$6m	2025 survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none">› 35% recognise 2 signs of stroke› 30% recognise 0 signs of stroke	
2026–2028	\$3m	2028 survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none">› 38% recognise 2 signs of stroke› 27% recognise 0 signs of stroke	› Audit indicates 20% of Victorians now access thrombolysis.
2029–2031	\$1.5m	2031 survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none">› 40% recognise 2 signs of stroke› 25% recognise 0 signs of stroke	
2032–2033	\$0	2033 survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none">› 41% recognise 2 signs of stroke› 24% recognise 0 signs of stroke	› Health economy savings of \$51m per year begin.

We know that education and awareness work.

Evaluation of a 2016 United Kingdom Act FAST campaign revealed a 78 per cent increase in stroke related emergency calls, translating to 5,300 fewer people becoming disabled, and 12,200 quality adjusted life years saved. The campaign payback was £410.9m giving a return on marketing investment of 28:1.

An Australian Government-funded national F.A.S.T. campaign in 2013–2014, delivered by the Stroke Foundation, resulted in a **5 per cent increase in F.A.S.T. awareness**, which equated to one million more Australians recognising F.A.S.T. and knowing what to do in the event of a stroke. That undoubtably saved lives.

If we flip the statistics in Victoria, we can save lives.

\$3m Over 10 Years

StrokeConnect Navigator Program

Stroke Foundation's National Acute Stroke Audit indicates 36 per cent of Victorian patients do not receive post-stroke information, and 26 per cent leave hospital without a discharge plan.

On average, 25 survivors of stroke are discharged each day from hospitals across Victoria. This means at least seven people leave without the necessary guidance and support to help them navigate the next step in their recovery from stroke. Over a year, that equates to 2,500 Victorians falling through the net.

Statistically, four in every 10 survivors of stroke will have another stroke and require hospital treatment within 10 years. Better understanding of, and access to, existing post-stroke information and secondary prevention support will reduce this, saving the health economy millions of dollars every year.

Every Victorian deserves the chance to make their best recovery possible from stroke.

Stroke Foundation will work to achieve this 10-year goal through the StrokeConnect Navigator Program, which brings together our flagship StrokeLine and our post-hospital Outreach services.

These services are currently funded by Stroke Foundation through donor funding and that limits how many Victorians we can help. After receiving treatment in Victoria's world-class stroke facilities, survivors should not be left to navigate their recovery alone.

With rolling Government investment over 10 years, we can grow this important Navigator Program. We want to be able to answer every call to StrokeLine and to proactively contact every person who leaves hospital after stroke to make sure they access the services they need to recover well. Under the StrokeConnect Navigator Program we will reduce the number of secondary strokes and help people resume their contributions in workplaces, communities, and families much sooner.

Collectively this will help more people resume productive lives after stroke, reduce hospital readmissions, and greatly reduce the burden on our stretched health system.

Budget Years	Vic Government Investment	StrokeConnect Navigator Program	Health Sector Benefit
2023–2025	\$1m	20% of overall Program cost including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">› Integration and digital platform development› New FTE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">› 10 readmissions and associated care and societal cost saved each year› 7,800 Victorians supported yearly
2026–2028	\$1m	20% of overall Program delivery costs	
2029–2032	\$1m	20% of overall Program delivery costs	

An investment in the StrokeConnect Navigator Program is a long-term investment in the health and wellbeing of Victorian survivors of stroke.