

2018 state election

Health industry priorities for Victoria

PRIORITY Establish the Office of Health Industry Victoria

The health industry is an economic priority for Victoria with world-class capabilities and international competitive advantages. Currently, government services and policies related to health industry economic development are fragmented; they are spread across multiple departments and siloed, creating inefficiency and reduced policy effectiveness. In many instances, economic development funding programs are not industry specific and have not directly serviced the needs of the health industry.

Policy recommendations

1. Establish the Office of Health Industry as a government agency that prioritises the economic development of the health industry in Victoria.
2. Collect, analyse and disseminate health industry metrics to track economic outcomes.
3. Introduce a dedicated voucher funding program for product development and innovation in the health industry and provide facilitation and support for commercialisation activities.
4. Administer a health industry skills development fund to support initiatives to promote skills acquisition, including a Leaders for Health Industry program.
5. Create a health industry taskforce, comprised of industry representatives, to work with the Office and the relevant ministers on strategy, programs and policies that ensure Victoria retains competitive advantage in the global economy.

PRIORITY Create a Health Industry Hub for Victorian SMEs

The Victorian health industry is one of the most innovative sectors of our state's economy. The sector is comprised primarily of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), with many companies directly employing fewer than 20 people, creating fragmentation across the sector. There are currently no commercial co-working or business parks that provide a place and space where Victorian SMEs in the health industry can go to grow.

Creating a Health Industry Hub that supports a critical mass of SMEs co-located in one place will drive a culture of commercialisation and innovation in Victoria. The focus of the hub will be to lift industry competitiveness, enhance skills and knowledge exchange, leverage capability across the sector and create a sense of identity and scale for Victoria's growing health industry.

Policy recommendations

1. Create an industry-designed co-working location with private and shared facilities for health industry companies that can host up to 200 professionals.
2. Support the growth and competitiveness of SMEs through access to infrastructure and economies of scale through shared services.
3. Foster a culture of collaboration and innovation by establishing a vibrant working environment that offers leadership and skills development opportunities.
4. Provide a focal point for Victoria's health industry to engage with researchers, international VIPs, government, investors and stakeholders that builds the profile and identity of the sector.



PRIORITY Increase clinical trial activity

Victoria has a strong and growing clinical trials sector that provides patients with access to new treatments, provides innovative products with development pathways to market and creates economic opportunities for the state with over 2000 jobs currently supported in the sector. To remain globally competitive, Victoria must address challenges in patient recruitment, clinician engagement, workforce capability and international profile. By addressing these issues, we believe clinical trials activity can be increased by 50% over five years and deliver health and economic benefits to Victoria.

Policy recommendations

Increase clinical trial activity in Victoria by 50% over five years by:

1. Increasing recruitment rates by delivering a patient recruitment and stakeholder campaign.
2. Developing our capability by investing in the clinical trials workforce.
3. Attracting international sponsored trials to Victoria by enacting a clinical trials attraction plan and marketing strategy.
4. Taking a stronger national leadership role on clinical trial reform at a Federal level through COAG processes.

PRIORITY Boost advanced manufacturing for the health industry

In 2016, Victoria exported pharmaceutical products to the value of \$1.56 billion, representing 47% of Australia's total pharmaceutical products. These products are among the state's top five manufactured goods exports. To secure this industrial base for Victoria and compete with world leading high-value manufacturing locations, the health industry needs to adopt innovative advanced manufacturing processes, develop a skilled workforce, ensure industry sustainability and engage with the global supply chain. This will prevent industry decline, boost productivity, generate new export growth and increase the economic value of advanced manufacturing for the health industry in Victoria.

Policy recommendations

To secure, innovate and grow advanced manufacturing activity in Victoria's health industry and increase the value of the sector by 50% over the next 10 years.

1. Create a Health Industry Manufacturing Fund to support sector innovation and growth initiatives.
2. Establish fellowships to support industry-based learning and develop a skilled health industry manufacturing workforce.
3. Develop a health industry manufacturing sustainability strategy.
4. Promote Victoria's health industry manufacturing capacity to the world.



**BioMelbourne
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Progressing BioIndustry

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