

PROMOTING SAFER PATIENT OUTCOMES ON A GLOBAL SCALE

Assistant Treasurer, Robin Scott, welcomed medical indemnity insurers and experts from around the world to the Victorian Managed Insurance Authority's (VMIA) inaugural Global Medical Indemnity Forum.

The forum, which was held on 4 and 5 December, gathered insurers, healthcare professionals, and academics to share their insights into medical indemnity and discuss initiatives to improve patient safety.

Victoria enjoys a world-class healthcare system, however patient care can be complex and sometimes results in errors that can carry devastating impacts for both patients and clinicians. Discussing data, causes and prevention approaches enables leading thinking to be applied in a local context.

A feature of the forum's program was VMIA's Incentivising Better Patient Program – an initiative that encourages health services to increase their uptake of evidence-based maternity training in return for a partial refund on their obstetrics insurance premiums.

The Incentivising Better Patient Safety program is expected to channel up to \$16 million back into the health sector over a five-year period for the benefit of Victorian women, babies and families.

Attendance at the forum included a range of insurers and medical indemnity experts from organisations including: Allied World Assurance Company (Europe), CRICO (USA), Hempsons (UK), NHS Resolution (UK), Accident Compensation Corporation (New Zealand), National Treasury Management Agency (Ireland), Medical Professional Liability Association (UK), Medical Protection Society (UK), Medical Professional Liability Association (USA), Leeds Institute of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences (UK) and University of Kansas Medical Center (USA).

As the State's insurer, VMIA is responsible for providing medical indemnity insurance and risk advice to the public healthcare sector and rural doctors across Victoria. The Global Medical Indemnity Forum is part of VMIA's patient safety program.

Quotes attributable to Assistant Treasurer, Robin Scott.

"It's exciting to see Victoria hosting the best and brightest minds in the medical indemnity space in the interests of improved patient safety.

"Victoria's health system is among the best in the world and continuing to collaborate on global best practice will help us ensure we maintain excellent standards of care into the future."

Quotes attributable to Victorian Managed Insurance Authority, CEO Colin Radford.

"VMIA's Global Medical Indemnity Forum is fostering collaboration between healthcare services and insurers on a global scale for the benefit of all patients and their families.

"Harm prevention is on the agenda because, ultimately, both health care services and insurers have a vested interest in better patient outcomes and reducing the human cost of error.

"We are seeing insurers use incentive schemes to drive safety practices and give back to hospitals investing in tackling specific areas of risk."