

Hospital gets a big tick

MOUNT Alexander Hospital has met five of nine State Government benchmarks, the *Your Hospitals* report reveals.

Health Minister Daniel Andrews praised the hospital for treating more patients during the 2008-09 financial year than in the 2007-08 period.

Mr Andrews said Mount Alexander Hospital had met targets including:

- Going on bypass 2.6 per cent of the time, well inside the 3 per cent target;
- Treating 100 per cent of Category I emergency department patients within the recommended time;
- Treating 82 per cent of Category 2 ED patients within the recommended time, exceeding the 80 per cent target;
- Treating 100 per cent of urgent elective surgery patients within the recommended time; and
- Treating 92 per cent of non-urgent elective patients within the recommended

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time, exceeding the 90 per cent target.

Mr Andrews said hospitals throughout the state were kept busy in the past financial year.

“Hospitals admitted 1,420,788 patients in 2008-09 an increase of 27,608 people, or 2 per cent, compared with the previous year. Total bed days increased by 32,617 days,” he said.

“More than 19,000 extra patients attended emergency departments in May and June this year — an 8.6 per cent increase compared to the previous year — as the impact of swine flu spread through the community.

“Hospital staff did a tremendous job coping with the increased demand and I want to thank them for their efforts. More than 1,355,400 patients attended 24-hour emergency departments in 2008-09.”