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Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition Media Release

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ANDREWS FAILS PSYCHOLOGISTS & PHYSIOS

- **BRUMBY GOVT REFUSES TO BACK DOWN ON OBSTRUCTION OF SPECIALISATION REGISTRATION**

This week marks the commencement of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, yet Victorian Health Minister Daniel Andrews is still dragging his heels when it comes to specialist registration of psychologists and physiotherapists, Shadow Minister for Health David Davis said today.

“The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme is designed to provide national, uniform registration and accreditation requirements for 10 health professions,” Mr Davis said.

“However, the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council, which Daniel Andrews is a key member, has blocked the recommendations of the Physiotherapy Board of Australia and the Australian Psychological Society to recognise certain specialists in their respective fields.

“The two psychology areas – health psychology and community psychology – have a critical role in managing chronic disease and will become more important with the ageing of our population and the increase in chronic disease.

“Physiotherapists have asked that specialist registration occur for physiotherapists who have attained certain standards and additional qualifications and are able to offer genuine specialised services in particular areas.

“From all available reports, Daniel Andrews is spearheading the resistance to these important specialist registrations being recognised.

“The Minister should stop obstructing recognition of these specialised services.

“He should meet with the two professional organisations and explain why he has been fighting so hard to stymie their efforts to gain professional recognition of their services.

“Minister Andrews should cease his obstructionism and make a clear public statement reversing his current position and instead support the recommendations of both the Physiotherapy Board of Australia and the Australian Psychological Society,” Mr Davis said.

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