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## Cut silly red tape and save health system

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Bureaucratic red tape and “stupid stuff” across hospitals is costing workers and patients time – and the Victorian healthcare system money.

As hospitals face increasing pressure to save costs, the Australian Medical Association Victoria has taken aim at waste and duplication.

President Dr Jill Tomlinson said there were “absolutely

millions of dollars of savings that can be made by getting rid of stupid stuff” in a system with “constrained budgets and overstretched resources”.

“Every dollar we have and every moment that healthcare workers have should be spent where it matters most, which is direct patient care,” she said.

The AMA has written to Victorian politicians this week for their support and launched a petition urging Premier Ja-

cinta Allan to back the “get rid of stupid stuff” initiative.

They pointed to two examples – online training videos and excessive data collection – but also have created an online form for workers to report their own ideas.

Dr Tomlinson said doctors would spend one to two days a year completing online modules, but many were a “box-ticking” exercise that did not improve patient care.

“As an example, every year, I as a surgeon and every other doctor, have to complete modules on hand hygiene,” she said. “It might be something that schoolchildren would find helpful but these are qualified healthcare practitioners.”

A government spokesman said “delivering the best possible care” was their priority and they would continue to “invest in measures that improve patient outcomes”.