

SA Liberal Health Policies

Repatriation Hospital

A Marshall Liberal Government will re-open the Repat as a genuine health precinct, providing hospital and other health services.

Specifically, we will:

- **Re-open operating theatres to reduce the elective surgery waiting list**
- **Re-open the hydrotherapy pool to support community health**
- **Use Ward 18 as an older persons' mental health facility to provide accommodation for people who until recently would have been admitted to Oakden**
- **Build a new older persons' mental health facility for people with Tier 7, extreme BPSD (behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia)**

We will amend planning regulations to ensure that, even if the Repat site is sold, it will remain dedicated to health care services.

QEH Cardiac Centre

A Marshall Liberal Government will undo the damage of Labor's Transforming Health cuts at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (TQEH) by strengthening the hospital as a key cardiac centre with a focus on the common acute and chronic cardiac conditions of an ageing population.

This will be part of a \$270 million upgrade to TQEH to be delivered by a Marshall Liberal Government.

We will establish state-wide planning of cardiac services which will enable TQEH to play its part in the delivery of quality, safe cardiac services.

This will include ensuring the TQEH has the capacity to deal with cardiac emergencies 24/7.

Modbury Hospital

A Marshall Liberal Government will invest in quality health care, closer to home for residents in the north-east by investing \$110 million in Modbury Hospital.

After a Liberal commitment to invest in Modbury Hospital to begin undoing more of the damage of Transforming Health, Labor has engaged in several backflips but has still failed to reinstate Modbury's High Dependency Unit (HDU).

Only the Liberals will establish a 4-bed HDU at Modbury Hospital to make more procedures possible at the hospital, provide a base for a medical emergency team, reduce the need for expensive and potentially dangerous ambulance transfers, and ease pressure on both the Modbury Emergency Department and the Lyell McEwin Hospital.

Our investment in major new infrastructure at Modbury Hospital will also deliver:

- **an extended emergency care unit allowing longer local observation and tests**

- an acute medical unit to provide more time for patients to recover before discharge
- an acute surgical unit to make possible a wider range of surgical procedures
- a purpose-built palliative care unit to provide quality end-of-life care

Palliative Care

We will invest \$16 million in palliative care to more effectively support people in the final stages of their life.

We will:

- extend community outreach palliative care services from the current weekday service to provide a 24-hour service, 7 days a week
- undertake a state-wide assessment of unmet need for palliative care
- renew palliative care services by establishing a state-wide clinical network which will undertake the urgent task of co-designing and delivering a new Palliative Care Services Plan

Noarlunga Hospital

A Marshall Liberal Government will upgrade Noarlunga Hospital to reduce the need for hospital transfers and give locals access to better health care closer to home.

Specifically, we will:

- establish a 12-bed acute medical ward, with the capacity to expand to 15 beds as demand requires
- reassess the range of services delivered across the southern region with the aim of increasing access to low and medium
- complex health services at the Noarlunga site which could include cataract surgery, palliative care and more colonoscopies
- establish a new Women's and Children's Health Hub in the Noarlunga Hospital and precinct

We will also assess the feasibility of basing a southern community midwifery service at Noarlunga.

Our commitment to Noarlunga Hospital is part of a strategic re-investment in the hospitals that bore the brunt of Labor's savage Transforming Health cuts – Noarlunga, The Queen Elizabeth and Modbury Hospitals.

Hospital Car Parking

A Marshall Liberal Government will act to ensure affordable car parking fees apply at all South Australian public hospitals.

This will include:

- reducing the weekly car park charge at the new Royal Adelaide Hospital for relatives of long-stay patients from \$65 per week to \$38 per week
- establishing a new patient and carer parking scheme to apply at all metropolitan public hospitals that includes increased support for:

- patients with frequent outpatient appointments
- parents or carers of a young child patient
- relatives or carers of long-stay patients
- family and friends of palliative care patients
- openly disclose car parking fees, fee exemptions and the availability of care park passes on both websites and at the car park sites.

Country Cancer Services

A Marshall Liberal Government will double the chemotherapy delivered in regional South Australia through a country cancer initiative.

Our aim will be to more than double the level of chemotherapy being delivered in country South Australia.

Specifically, we will:

- Invest in specialist teams at country chemotherapy units with more chemo nurses; a second medical oncologist; nurse, pharmacy and administrative support
- Undertake a pilot of an Australian-first model where a local GP receives advanced training in medical oncology
- Implement a statewide electronic cancer information and prescribing system

Country Hospitals

In addition to our commitment to addressing the backlog of capital works in our country hospitals, we also have several specific commitments to regional and country hospitals.

Murray Bridge Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Emergency Department

A Marshall Liberal Government will improve vital healthcare services by upgrading the emergency department at Murray Bridge Soldiers' Memorial Hospital. Our \$7 million investment will double the number of resuscitation and treatment bays and significantly improve the facilities, enhancing privacy and security.

Mt Barker Hospital Emergency Care

We will deliver 24-hour emergency care at Mount Barker Hospital through an ongoing 24-hour GP emergency service, with a long-term plan to see emergency care evolve as demand grows.

For example, this GP-led service could be supplemented with resources such as emergency paramedics, emergency nurse practitioners and moving to an Emergency Department.

We will also ensure the local health network engages with the Women's and Children's Local Health Network to strengthen paediatric services in the hills

McLaren Vale Hospital

A Marshall Liberal Government will strengthen McLaren Vale Hospital's capacity to provide vital health services in our southern area.

By providing a \$500,000 investment a Marshall Liberal Government will enable the hospital to upgrade its infrastructure, including enhancing surgical facilities.

This funding will also enable the hospital to install solar panels, significantly reducing the operating costs of the hospital. This means less money is spent on power bills and more can be invested back into local healthcare.

Yorketown Hospital

A Marshall Liberal Government will enable general surgery, gynaecology and urology services to remain at Yorketown Hospital by investing up to \$300,000 to upgrade surgical facilities.

We will also ensure an adequate health workforce in the area, partnering with the Rural Workforce Doctors Agency to guarantee that trained doctors and health professionals are distributed fairly across the state while also committing to a program assisting trainee doctors in regional areas.

Pharmacy Real Time Monitoring Prescription Drugs

A Marshall Liberal Government will prevent the abuse of prescription drugs by implementing real-time prescription monitoring in South Australia.

Our funding will:

- support the rolling out of monitoring software at pharmacies
- provide training and support for doctors and pharmacists to identify and help prescription drug misusers
- provide counselling and addiction treatment services.

When implementation is complete, hundreds of GP clinics, pharmacies and hospitals will be able to do an on-the-spot check before prescribing or dispensing medicines that are at high risk of misuse.

Excellence and Innovation in Health

If elected in March 2018, a Marshall Liberal Government will establish a Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Health to provide leadership and advice within SA Health and the Government on clinical excellence and innovation.

In the wake of Labor's failed Transforming Health agenda, we will ensure the focus returns to health outcomes valued by patients – quality, safety, access and results.

The Commission will be governed by a board representing consumers, nurses, doctors and other clinicians, together with members with management, financial, academic and legal skills.

The Commission will be established drawing on the experience of the New South Wales Clinical Commission, the New South Wales Agency for Clinical Innovation and the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

Bowel Cancer Prevention

A Marshall Liberal Government will implement a Bowel Cancer Prevention Initiative that will save lives by delivering vital procedures earlier and prevent bowel cancer progressing.

We will:

- wipe out, within 12 months of the election, the overdue waiting list for a colonoscopy
- regularly publish the numbers and waiting times of people waiting for a colonoscopy after a positive bowel cancer test result
- pursue the national time target for providing a colonoscopy within four months of a positive bowel cancer test result.

Targeted Preventive Health

A Marshall Liberal Government will introduce prevention strategies which target support to those who are at greatest risk.

We will identify and engage with specific individuals, sub-groups and communities at higher risk of becoming ill or becoming more ill.

A Marshall Liberal Government will have a four-pronged approach:

1. To avoid or defer the onset of disease and disabilities
2. To better manage complex health conditions for people who are most at risk of being high consumers of hospital care so that their quality of life is better
3. To provide as much care in the community as possible
4. To ensure fair access to health care across the South Australian community.

This is part our commitment to evidence-based strategies to maximise the impact of services and address the threat of ill-health.

Rural Health Workforce

A Marshall Liberal Government will address the shortage of health practitioners in country areas by providing \$20 million to develop and implement a Rural Health Workforce Plan. Our Rural Health Workforce Plan will include:

- a broad services plan for country health services; and
- a plan to recruit, train and develop the health professionals and skilled volunteers needed to deliver country health services.
- Specific measures include:
 - doubling the number of medical interns in the country
 - supporting the recruitment and retention of resident specialists
 - incentivising rural and remote Registered Midwives to undertake training for dual registration
 - strengthening Aboriginal Health Worker and Allied Health Professional training opportunities across rural and remote South Australia.

We will also work with the Commonwealth to maximise training opportunities in the country.

Building a New Women's and Children's Hospital

A Marshall Liberal Government will deliver best practice health services for women and children by building a new Women's and Children's Hospital co-located with the new Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH).

In our first 100 days, we will establish a high-level task force to drive the project and develop a fully-costed project plan, with a view to achieving co-location by 2024.

The task force will include clinicians and their health professional and industrial organisations. Engaging health professionals is crucial to avoid a repeat of the poor planning processes that led to the budget blow-out, the design and planning flaws and the ongoing operational challenges with the new RAH.

The task force will identify the capital cost of the project, the number of inpatient beds required and the state-wide models of care required to support the hospital's day-to-day operations.

Better Prevention for a Healthy SA

A Marshall Liberal Government will invest in preventative health initiatives and work to rebalance health services funding.

We will support and implement policies that encourage and enable individuals and communities to make healthy choices and will establish a Healthy Communities Program to focus on five goals.

1. Increasing physical activity by individuals and communities
2. Decreasing rates of smoking
3. Decreasing rates of problem alcohol consumption
4. Increasing access to affordable healthy food
5. Improving the knowledge of all South Australians about what it takes to be healthy

Our Healthy Communities program will be implemented at the local community level. For example, we will establish the South Australian Healthy Towns Challenge by investing \$1 million over four years to fund preventive health projects in regional areas.

Other preventative measures we will invest in include:

- education, screening and vaccination
- research, monitoring and evaluation to refresh programs and strategies to maximise the impact of prevention services
- ensuring our public health regulation adequately protects you
- providing leadership and coordination by having a Chief Public Health Officer, a separate preventative health agency within SA health, and maximising partnerships with all levels of government and non-government organisations

Hospital Outpatient Waiting Lists

A Marshall Liberal Government will enable patients and doctors to make more informed choices about treatment by ensuring you and your doctor have more information about clinic waiting times.

We will:

- **release information on outpatient clinic waiting times on a quarterly basis from 1 July 2018**
- **work with health services to develop and release robust and reliable data showing how many patients are being treated and the proportion treated within the clinically recommended timeframe for their level of urgency**
- **work to ensure specialist outpatient waiting time data is reported nationally.**

Engaging Communities and Clinicians for Better Health

A Marshall Liberal Government will recognise that health care needs and challenges can vary significantly between areas and will ensure that decisions are made as close as possible to the area and people affected.

Our commitment to engaging communities and clinicians for better health includes:

- **decentralising the public health system through the establishment of metropolitan and regional boards of management**
- **putting real responsibility and accountability at the local level, with strengthened oversight**
- **improving patient safety and holding boards accountable for delivering real progress**

Each board will have autonomy to:

- **appoint a chief executive**
- **control the health budget for the area covered by that board**
- **actively engage with communities and frontline health professionals**
- **negotiate an annual service level agreement**
- **report annually against its progress.**

The Minister for Health and Wellbeing will be empowered to intervene if a board does not meet its responsibilities, including in relation to the quality of the services provided and financial targets.

Investing in our Country Hospitals

A Marshall Liberal Government will invest in our country hospitals.

We will fix the backlog in country hospital capital works by:

- **ensuring that all money raised in local communities is spent in those communities**
- **acting with urgency to address high risk repairs and maintenance at country hospitals**
- **implementing a country capital works renewal strategy to address the maintenance backlog and plan positively for future development**
- **developing arrangements to retain part of the private patient income in local hospitals for the benefit of local services.**

This will return millions of dollars to country communities.

Renal Dialysis on the APY Lands

A Marshall Liberal Government will make it possible for patients to receive life-saving health care on the lands close to their homes by backing the establishment of a permanent renal dialysis unit at Pukatja.

This will enable Aboriginal people to live with their families while receiving treatment.

Our support will include:

- **negotiating a fair fee-for-service price for each dialysis treatment session Western Desert Dialysis delivers at the facility**
- **providing up to \$50,000 transitional funding as the facility moves to becoming a fully-funded, sustainable operation.**

Renal Dialysis Unit in the South East

A Marshall Liberal Government will improve the quality of care for patients undergoing renal dialysis in the state's South East by upgrading and expanding the Renal Unit at Mount Gambier Hospital.

We will:

- **rebuild and expand the unit to increase the capacity from four to six patients**
- **upgrade facilities within the unit to ensure it supports quality and safe care**

We will also work with the community so that public fundraising and public investment can work together to deliver a quality facility which can be as comfortable as possible.