

For
the
Future

Limestone
Coast
Health



South
Australian
Labor



Acknowledgment of country.

We acknowledge and respect the Traditional Custodians whose ancestral lands we live and work upon and we pay our respects to their Elders past and present. We acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual connection and the relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country. We also pay our respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their nations in South Australia, as well as those across Australia.

Foreword

The pressures on our failing health system are not just confined to metropolitan Adelaide. Ageing infrastructure, staff shortages, and scarce resources have left many regional communities exposed.

Which is why it is all the more insulting that the Marshall Liberal Government has been determined to push ahead with their plan to spend \$662 million to build a new basketball stadium in Adelaide rather than investing in our health system.

I have made it clear this is not the approach a Government I lead will take.

I will divert at least \$100 million of the funds Premier Marshall has destined for his basketball stadium into upgrading and improving our regional health system. Improved hospitals, more ambulances and paramedics and greater mental health and drug rehabilitation support.

The Limestone Coast plays a key role in the economic and social fabric of our State with important industries including forestry, agriculture, aquaculture, wine and tourism.

At the heart of the region is Mount Gambier, the State's second largest city with almost 30,000 people in the city and environs. I recognise the importance of the region to the future of South Australia and that is why Labor has developed a series of health initiatives specifically for the region.

That's why a Malinauskas Labor Government will invest \$52.7 million into improved health care in the region with a series of initiatives.

They include:

- ✓ Upgrading Mt Gambier and Naracoorte Hospitals
- ✓ Enter into a 7-year funding agreement with Keith Hospital to give that community certainty over the future of its local hospital.
- ✓ Providing additional mental health, drug and alcohol detox beds for the region
- ✓ Recruiting an additional 24 paramedics and ambulance officers for the region
- ✓ Providing a nurse-patient ratio guarantee
- ✓ Recruiting and retaining more doctors to work in our regional hospitals

South Australians in the Limestone Coast should have access to quality healthcare in their community where it is possible. That must be the priority over spending hundreds of millions of dollars on a basketball stadium in Adelaide.



Peter Malinauskas MP
SA Labor Leader



Steven Marshall and the Liberals

want to spend

\$662m

on a basketball stadium
in Adelaide





Photo: ABC

**Peter Malinauskas and Labor
will invest that \$662m
fixing our
health system**

INCLUDING

\$52.7m on healthcare in the Limestone Coast

A Malinauskas Labor Government will:

UPGRADE MOUNT GAMBIER HOSPITAL

COST: \$24 million

In recent years, demand on Mount Gambier's mental health and emergency services has substantially increased, without the equivalent resources to keep up.

A Labor Government will invest \$24 million to upgrade Mount Gambier Hospital, including:

- ✓ \$8 million to upgrade Mount Gambier emergency department
- ✓ \$11.4 million to double the hospital's mental health unit with six more beds
- ✓ \$4.6 million to fit-out and operate two dedicated drug and alcohol detox beds

Emergency department upgrade

Labor will invest \$8 million to upgrade Mount Gambier Hospital emergency department, increasing hospital capacity and improving safety and security for both staff and patients.

Mental health beds

The South East has been crying out for additional mental health support.

Labor will invest \$11.4 million to build and operate six new mental health beds at Mount Gambier Hospital – doubling the size of their mental health unit.



Drug and alcohol detox beds

Community health workers have warned there is an urgent demand for drug and alcohol detox beds in the South East.

Without these beds, people experiencing significant drug and alcohol dependency are far more likely to be repeatedly in and out of hospital – which doesn't help them in the long term, and adds pressure on hospital beds.

Labor will invest more than \$4.6 million to fit-out and operate two dedicated drug and alcohol detox beds in the Mount Gambier Hospital.



A Malinauskas Labor Government will:

DRUG REHABILITATION BEDS

COST: \$3.5 million

A Malinauskas Labor Government will further invest \$3.5 million to boost drug and alcohol services in Mount Gambier by funding and operating four additional drug rehabilitation beds in the community.



A Malinauskas Labor Government will:

DELIVER AN EXTRA 24 PARAMEDICS AND AMBULANCE OFFICERS FOR THE REGION

COST: \$7.4 million

A Labor Government will invest \$7.4 million to recruit 24 additional paramedics and ambulance officers to improve ambulance coverage in the South East.

This commitment will deliver 18 more paramedics and six ambulance officers to deliver:

- ✔ A new 24/7 paramedic crew based at Mount Gambier
- ✔ A new 12-hour regional transfer crew based at Mount Gambier
- ✔ A new 12-hour regional transfer crew based at Keith, reducing demand on resources diverting from the region.

The ambulance crews will be in place by July 2024.



A Malinauskas Labor Government will:

UPGRADE NARACOORTE HOSPITAL

COST: \$8 million

Naracoorte Hospital is part of the Upper South East Health Service.

The facility includes 39 public beds, six day surgery beds and two operating theatres along with an attached residential aged care unit.

The local community has been calling for a modernisation of this vital facility.

Labor will provide \$8 million as the first stage of a major redevelopment of Naracoorte Hospital.



A Malinauskas Labor Government will:

END YEARS OF UNCERTAINTY FOR KEITH HOSPITAL

COST: \$9.75 million

A Malinauskas Labor Government will sign a 7-year funding agreement with Keith and Districts Hospital and put an end to years of uncertainty surrounding its future.

Labor will invest \$1.5 million per annum in the hospital in an agreement stretching until 30 June 2029.

With its current contract expiring at the end of 2022, Labor will lock in \$750,000 in the hospital for the first six months of 2023, and \$1.5 million for following six financial years, totalling a \$9.75 million commitment over seven years.

Keith and Districts Hospital is not-for-profit, and run by the community and has provided vital health services to the local community for more than 65 years.

However, the hospital has lurched from funding crisis to funding crisis and has struggled to retain staff because of a lack of longer-term funding certainty for the facility.

The hospital operates a 24/7 emergency department and services roughly 12,000 residents across the Coorong and Tatiara District Council areas - including along the high trafficked Dukes Highway.

In 2019 the hospital came within days of having to close after a stand-off with the Marshall Liberal Government. Back then Minister Wade told the Hospital to “*adjust the level of services*” if it couldn’t deliver services within the limited budget.

A Malinauskas Labor Government will:

ADDRESS WORKFORCE SHORTAGES IN THE REGION

Guarantee nurse-to-patient ratio for country hospitals

Nurse-to-patient ratios guarantee a minimum number of nurses and midwives for a certain number of patients, depending on the care environment. For decades they have been represented in SA industrial agreements as “nursing hours per patient day.”

For too long, nurse-to-patient ratios have been at risk of being used by governments as a bargaining chip in industrial negotiations – because they are not protected by law.

In recent years, the Victorian and Queensland Governments have acted and enshrined these protections into law. Those laws have worked successfully and made care safer, governments more accountable, and ensured nurses and midwives are well-supported.

A Malinauskas Labor Government will enshrine nurse-to-patient ratios into law, to protect our nurses and ensure patients in regional South Australia get the care they need.

Listen to country doctors

The Marshall Liberal Government continues to demonstrate little respect for the State’s regional doctors, ignoring desperate pleas for help as country communities battle the dangers of worsening medical workforce shortages.

The Rural Doctors’ Association of South Australia have warned “SA’s country doctors are being left out on a limb by SA Health – and that limb is close to snapping.”

Unlike the Liberals, a Malinauskas Labor Government will work with country doctors to address critical workforce shortages and develop a long-term plan to address this worsening crisis.







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