RURAL HEALTH WORKFORCE
GROWING THE WORKFORCE TO DELIVER CARE STATE WIDE

2036
2036
WILL MARK OUR STATE’S BICENTENARY

By the time our State turns 200 years old, I want South Australia to be a place of prosperity.
Planning and delivering on my vision for a better future starts now.
This policy is just one part of our plan to deliver a clear and responsible pathway to recovery and success.
See where it fits in below

1.0 GROWING OUR ECONOMY
2.0 THE BEST EDUCATION SYSTEM
3.0 BEING A HEALTHY STATE
   3.1 Protecting your health
   3.2 Delivering person-centred care
   3.4 Making health care accessible across the city and across the State
4.0 STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES
5.0 BUILDING OUR STATE
6.0 ENSURING SAFETY AND JUSTICE
7.0 PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT
8.0 EMBRACING OUR UNIQUE CULTURE
9.0 RUNNING AN EFFICIENT AND STABLE GOVERNMENT
“Our country health services are at risk from a shortage of health practitioners, particularly those with advanced skills.”
THE PROBLEM

Under Labor, an increasing shortage of health practitioners and, in particular, practitioners with advanced skills has left country health services vulnerable to closures and cutbacks.

For example, the number of volunteer ambulance officers has fallen significantly making it difficult to fill rosters at some stations.

There are ongoing challenges in sustaining midwifery services.

While the number of rural GP’s has increased significantly over the last 15 years, fewer General Practitioners have the specialist procedural skills (e.g. anaesthetics, gynaecology) needed to maintain services in the regions.

There is an alarming shortage of specialist skilled health professionals in our rural areas.

A rural health workforce plan is key to ensuring country health services are sustainable.
If elected in March 2018 a Marshall Liberal Government will provide $20 million over four years 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.

Our Rural Health Workforce Plan will:

- Recognise the responsibility of SA Health to support health services beyond hospitals and health services, including general medical practices and Aboriginal-controlled community health services;
- Allocate teaching hospital funding to country LHNs in recognition of the fact that almost one-third of South Australians live in the regions. This will empower country LHNs to negotiate cooperative shared training arrangements with metropolitan LHNs. The transition will occur in a timeframe agreed as part of the rural health workforce planning process; and
- Ensure that the Plan is supported by robust governance which engages country Local Health Networks (LHNs).

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

A Marshall Liberal Government will:

- Double the number of medical interns in the country;
- Develop pathways for both rural generalists and GPs with procedural capabilities, with medical student and graduate training opportunities at country general hospitals being supplemented by placements in metropolitan hospitals;
- Support the recruitment and retention of resident specialists in country South Australia through the engagement of interns, registrars and career medical officers with specialist skills; and

The Rural Health Workforce Plan will build on the work of the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency and use the ‘R2R: Road to Rural General Practice’ as a starting point for the general practice element.
The Rural Health Workforce Plan will specifically look for opportunities to develop and strengthen the nursing and midwifery workforce, including through:

- Registered Nurse/Midwife collaborative graduate programs in regional, rural and remote South Australia;
- Incentivising rural and remote Registered Midwives to undertake training for dual registration; and
- Improving access to midwifery continuity of care models within country LHNs.

We will review the sustainability of country ambulance services and look in particular at ensuring the Ambulance Service strives to accommodate the changing employment and volunteering patterns in rural and regional areas.

A Marshall Liberal Government will strengthen Aboriginal Health Worker and Allied Health Professional training opportunities across rural and remote South Australia.
“We will provide $20 million to implement a Rural Health Workforce Plan over four years that recruits, trains and develops the health professionals and skilled volunteers needed to deliver country health services.”

Steven Marshall, State Liberal Leader
If you would like to provide feedback on our policy or learn more about our plan, please get in touch via:

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