

For  
the  
Future

100 More  
Doctors



South  
Australian  
**Labor**



For illustration purposes

#### 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 ramping crisis is wearing our doctors down.

Doctors are doing the absolute best they can for their patients, but there's only so much they can give when the system meant to support them, and their patients, is falling apart.

Under the Liberals, doctors' calls for resources and support have been dismissed.

It's an entirely unsustainable way to operate our hospital system, and it needs to change.

Here's my message to doctors.

We cannot fix this ramping crisis if we don't have you by our side.

You've offered up solutions, and we've heard you loud and clear.

First on the agenda – more doctors.

**Labor will invest \$62 million to recruit a 100-strong team of additional doctors over the next four years, providing higher quality hospital care for more South Australians.**

These additional doctors will enable more patients to be seen and treated, improving the flow of patients through hospitals and freeing up beds – allowing paramedics to bring patients into ED.

Labor's package will include hiring 50 more resident doctors working across our public hospitals, and 10 specialist doctors deployed to country communities facing critical shortages.

These 100 additional doctors will be recruited over and above any existing growth of activity factored into the health budget.



Peter Malinauskas MP  
SA Labor Leader





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## WHY WE'RE DOING THIS

Doctors are working dangerous hours, struggling to keep up with demand under extreme understaffing and hospital overcrowding.

The Salaried Medical Officers' *'Our Time to Care'* campaign found it was commonplace for doctors to work 70 to 80-hour weeks, skip their breaks, and then often get rostered on-call afterwards.

Doctors newly entering the health system have faced extreme bullying and harassment, all while working horrific levels of overtime for the sake of their patients.

A 2021 Parliamentary Inquiry into Workplace Fatigue and Bullying in South Australian Hospitals found 70 per cent of junior doctors saw bullying and harassment as a workplace problem.

And the latest Medical Training Survey found 1 in 5 junior doctors reported their work had a negative impact on wellbeing most of the time, with 35% reporting personally experiencing or witnessing bullying, harassment or discrimination.

The Australian Medical Association's Hospital Health Check found a shocking 73% of doctors were concerned about making a mistake due to fatigue.

The Health Check also found 64% of doctors at the Lyell McEwin Hospital personally experienced bullying or harassment, 44% of doctors at Flinders had a roster that didn't reflect reality, and 72% of doctors

at the Women's and Children's thought reporting bad behavior would lead to consequences.

Many areas of our public health system are facing a rapid decline in doctors, finding it more difficult each year to attract and retain staff.

Country communities have raised alarm about the increased reliance on fly-in, fly-out locums, as their local doctors move or retire after years enduring extremely difficult working conditions.

Workforce shortages combined with government inaction have resulted in many doctors choosing to leave the public health system altogether. Those that remain are left overworked and fatigued.

Despite the critical need, the Liberals have no clear plan to boost doctors, and have failed to conduct long-term workforce planning to address both current and future workforce needs.

Instead, this Government commissioned corporate liquidators KordaMentha to look at savings in SA Health.

The group came back recommending cutting up to 43 doctors from the system – including surgery, mental health, and cancer doctors. Talk about wrong priorities.

# More than 100 extra doctors for our health system will include:

## 50 MORE RESIDENT DOCTORS

COST: \$20.5 million

Labor will recruit 50 more resident doctors across our metropolitan public hospitals – training the next generation and reducing pressure on existing doctors.

These doctors will be placed in areas of the highest need across our public hospital system.

15 doctors will be rapidly brought online from July, progressing to the full 50 doctors in 2025.

## 10 MORE COUNTRY SPECIALIST DOCTORS

COST: \$10 million

Labor will recruit and retain 10 new specialist doctors in the areas of most critical need, in partnership with regional advocacy groups.

These doctors will be employed at a senior consultant level – highly trained and experienced clinicians able to manage the complexity of work country hospitals present.

Recruitment will immediately commence for two specialist doctors to come online from July, progressing to 10 doctors in 2025.

## LONG-TERM WORKFORCE PLANNING

Labor will invest in planning the long-term workforce needs of our state for critical clinicians like doctors.

We will do this in partnership with clinicians and the leaders they've elected to represent them.

We will identify our state's needs, gaps and risks, and plan for the training requirements we will need for services in both the short and long term.

### Phased rollout of new doctors

2022-23	24
2023-24	53
2024-25	79
2024-25	101

