

For
the
Future

24/7
pharmacies



South
Australian
Labor

24/7 pharmacies

COST: \$900,000

A Malinauskas Labor Government will support three pharmacies across Adelaide to open their doors overnight – and provide medication and care when South Australian families most need it and help reduce pressure on hospitals.

The 24-hour pharmacies will provide peace of mind for families and reduce pressure on hospital emergency departments which are often a last resort for people seeking urgent medication and parents trying to manage their children's high fevers.

Three pharmacies will be chosen across the northern suburbs, southern suburbs and central Adelaide, with funding to support them to stay open after hours.

A Labor Government will allocate \$900,000 over three years to back the plan, with funding going towards logistical arrangements and security for the pharmacies.

The three pharmacies will be appointed through a tender process, with geographical location one of the key priorities.

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.

Published 17 March 2022

Supporting local pharmacies to provide better access to health services

COST: \$1.75 million

Community pharmacists are the health professionals we interact with the most – whether it's renewing scripts, addressing a cold, or seeking advice on improving our wellbeing.

But community pharmacists can do more – and want to do more – to help address health issues early and keep people out of hospital.

A Malinauskas Labor Government will invest \$1.75 million over four years to support South Australians seeking care and their pharmacies through:

- ✓ Enabling pharmacists to conduct medication reviews for people with complex health needs and multiple medications who often end up in emergency departments
- ✓ Providing mental health first aid training for pharmacists across SA, equipping them to better help people with mental ill-health warning signs
- ✓ Improving access to palliative care medication after-hours for carers and patients
- ✓ Supporting pharmacies to improve access for patients for help with respiratory illnesses



Medication reviews for frequent hospital attendees

COST: \$1 million

Labor will support pharmacies to conduct medication reviews for people who often end up in hospital EDs due to medication issues.

This will apply to patients who have been prescribed a large number of medications or a high-risk medication, have seen significant changes to their medication, or have a history of re-entering hospital due to medication issues.

Readmission rates are too high, especially for older South Australians and those with complex or multiple health issues. One factor contributing to these readmissions is poorly managed or incorrect medication.

Labor will rollout medication reviews for patients discharged from the Royal Adelaide Hospital and Flinders Medical Centre, with over 1,000 reviews to be conducted annually through the program at a cost of \$1 million over four years.

Better access to palliative care medication

COST: \$250,000

Labor will expand the availability of palliative care medications in pharmacies, ensuring that the clinicians caring for South Australians approaching end of life can access the treatments they need.

South Australians approaching end of life are seeking help at emergency departments due to a lack of much-needed palliative care medications available after hours to enable them to be treated at home.

More than 1 in 4 pharmacies don't stock palliative care medications, due to the relatively fast expiration of these medications, and regional pharmacies often buy and then bin the stock before it can be used.

A network of at least 30 pharmacies will be supported to provide the medications and support palliative care patients at a cost of \$250,000 over four years.

Mental health training for pharmacists

COST: \$350,000

For many South Australians, a pharmacy is the first point of access to health care. This means that pharmacists are in a unique position to identify early warning signs of poor mental health that might otherwise go unnoticed and undiagnosed.

Labor will invest in mental health training for pharmacists, allowing them to identify and respond to the early warning signs of mental ill-health.

The program would target providing the training to at least 1,000 pharmacists and pharmacy staff at a cost of \$350,000 over four years.

Supporting pharmacies to respond to respiratory illness

COST: \$150,000

Labor will work with pharmacists and doctors to develop a trial of how community pharmacy can help improve patient access to testing and anti-viral treatments for respiratory illnesses such as the flu and ultimately reduce pressure on emergency departments.

We will invest \$150,000 to fund the cost of a trial to explore better ways that pharmacies can help to keep people healthy and out of hospital, working together with General Practice and other health providers.

