

A young girl with blonde hair in a ponytail, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and pink pants, is climbing a white metal ramp on a playground structure. The structure is green and set on a sandy ground. Large green leaves are visible in the foreground and background. The image is overlaid with semi-transparent red and pink geometric shapes.

For  
the  
Future

Funding  
HeartKids

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.

## A Malinauskas Labor Government will:

# STEPPING UP FOR HEARTKIDS

**COST: \$1 million over 4 years**

A Malinauskas Labor Government will help families of children with heart disease and congenital heart defects, by providing HeartKids with the funding boost it needs to expand its services and footprint across SA.

HeartKids is a local not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting young people affected by congenital heart disease (CHD), providing support to around 600 families with just over two full-time equivalent employees.

CHD is a general name for any type of malformation of the heart, heart valves or major blood vessels which are present at birth. The disease affects about 200 babies born in South Australia every year.

In 2019 over half of the South Australian babies born with CHD had to travel interstate for surgery – and while many HeartKids are surviving longer with medical advances, lots are faced with substantial health and social challenges.

For more than two years the Marshall Liberal Government has rejected HeartKids' pleas for support, leaving them struggling to meet growing demand.

Labor will invest \$1 million over four years, enabling HeartKids to establish:

- ✓ A specialised early intervention program for kids with CHD
- ✓ A targeted mental health program for families affected by CHD
- ✓ A regional support program, improving access to CHD services in rural and remote areas



Peter Malinauskas MP  
Labor Leader



Chris Picton MP  
Shadow Health Minister







## Early Childhood Intervention

HeartKids will develop and establish a specialised playgroup program, providing specialist support to kids with CHD to address developmental delays and get ready for school.

This will be the first ever early intervention program for kids with CHD, who aren't able to access this type of service from the NDIS.

## Family Mental Health Support

There are currently no specialist mental health support programs available for families impacted by CHD. HeartKids will develop and implement a three-stage mental health program focusing on:

- ✔ Intensive counselling for people experiencing medical PTSD or bereavement, from their experiences navigating the complex health system or losing a child to CHD
- ✔ Training peers as 'mental health first responders' to mentor families impacted by CHD
- ✔ Education programs assisting individuals to improve their mental health and wellbeing

## Regional and Remote Support

HeartKids will work with the Women's and Children's Hospital and remote Aboriginal health clinics to deliver support services for families affected by CHD in rural and remote South Australia.

These services will include HeartKids presence at regional paediatric cardiology clinics, education workshops in rural and remote communities, and partnering with Aboriginal health clinics to increase awareness and provide education on heart disease.

