

For  
the  
Future

Upper  
Spencer  
Gulf 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 is 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 well in excess of \$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 Upper Spencer Gulf hosts three of the State's biggest cities; Whyalla, Port Augusta and Port Pirie and a population estimated at around 55,000.

I recognise the importance of the region to the future of South Australia and that is why Labor is committing to a series of health initiatives specifically for the region.

A Malinauskas Labor Government will invest \$33.1 million into improved health care in the Upper Spencer Gulf, with a series of initiatives to significantly boost ambulance coverage and upgrade regional hospitals.

They include:

- ✓ \$12 million to upgrade Port Pirie Hospital for an emergency department upgrade, the first stage of a major redevelopment of the hospital
- ✓ \$8 million to upgrade facilities and infrastructure at Port Augusta Hospital
- ✓ \$3.5 million for four community drug rehabilitation beds at Port Augusta
- ✓ \$7.4 million for 30 more paramedics and ambulance officers in the region
- ✓ \$2.2 million for paramedics in neighbouring Yorke Peninsula, to ease pressure on Port Pirie and support the fantastic work of local volunteer ambulance officers

South Australians in the Upper Spencer Gulf should have access to quality healthcare in their community. 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**

\$33.1 m on healthcare in the Upper Spencer Gulf

## A Malinauskas Labor Government will:

# INCREASE AMBULANCE COVERAGE IN THE REGION

**COST: \$9.6 million**

Paramedics have reported a significant gap in their coverage across the Upper Spencer Gulf. The issue extends down into the Yorke Peninsula, where paramedics from further north can get diverted – leaving their local community uncovered.

Local ambulance volunteer crews do amazing work keeping their communities safe, but they can only do so much – sometimes, they need back-up.

Labor will invest \$7.4 million to deploy 30 additional paramedics and ambulance officers in the Upper Spencer Gulf. This will include –

- ✓ A new 24/7 emergency crew based in Whyalla – 12 more paramedics, starting in July 2024.
- ✓ One new 12-hour regional transfer crew – three paramedics and three ambulance officers – based in Peterborough, commencing July 2024. This crew will provide paramedic support to aid volunteer ambulance crews – a first for this community.

# Concern over ambulance shortage

Parents of a 14-year-old boy in Whyalla were forced to drive him to the hospital when an ambulance was not available, and a patient having a seizure had to wait for an ambulance to arrive from Port Augusta in the latest revelations about the state's health system.

- ✓ Two new 12-hour regional transfer crews. These teams will comprise of six paramedics and six ambulance officers based in Whyalla and Port Augusta, to transport patients and respond to lower-acuity 000 calls – commencing July 2025.
- ✓ Labor will invest \$2.2 million for paramedics in the neighbouring Yorke Peninsula area to ease pressure on paramedics in Port Pirie and to provide the region 24/7 paramedic coverage, and bolster support to the fantastic work of local volunteers. This will include:
  - ▶ A new 24/7 emergency crew based in Wallaroo, in place by July 2025. This crew will ease pressure on Upper Spencer Gulf paramedics who can get drawn to respond to cases in the Yorke Peninsula, leaving the north uncovered
  - ▶ A new community paramedic in Wallaroo. This senior paramedic will provide support to local GPs and medical staff, and provide community health support across the Yorke Peninsula.



## A Malinauskas Labor Government will:

# UPGRADE PORT AUGUSTA HOSPITAL

**COST: \$8 million**

Labor will invest \$8 million to upgrade ageing infrastructure at Port Augusta Hospital, including improving the hospital's security system. Labor will ensure Port Augusta has access to a modern fit-for-purpose facility.



**A Malinauskas Labor Government will:**

# UPGRADE PORT PIRIE HOSPITAL'S EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

**COST: \$12 million**

The Port Pirie hospital is the largest in the Yorke and Northern Local Health Network – and it is long overdue for an upgrade.

Local health leaders have called for an urgent investment in the hospital's ageing infrastructure, identifying the emergency department as their top priority.

Labor will invest \$12 million to upgrade the emergency department, as the first stage of major developments required at this hospital.

**A Malinauskas Labor Government will:**

# INVEST IN FOUR COMMUNITY DRUG REHABILITATION BEDS IN PORT AUGUSTA

**COST: \$3.5 million**

Labor will further invest \$3.5 million to boost drug and alcohol services in Port Augusta by funding four additional drug rehabilitation beds in the community.

**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.”

The Upper Spencer Gulf community knows acutely the impacts of the rural doctor workforce crisis, with Peterborough's only GP clinic announcing its closure in April last year.

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.

