



More health  
workers for a bigger  
health system

South  
Australian  
**Labor**

For the  
Future

# Foreword

In March 2022, we inherited a public health system under significant pressure.

Our public hospitals were reeling from savage Liberal health cuts – with more than 300 frontline health workers including doctors and nurses made redundant.

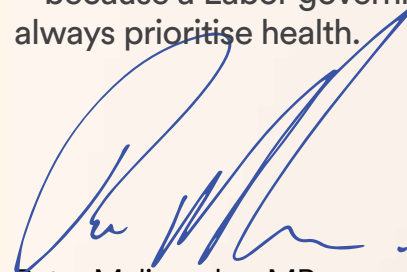
And the former Marshall Liberal Government had gone to war with our ambos, who were refused a pay rise for more than four years.

**The Malinauskas Labor Government has invested in reversing these cuts to grow our health workforce, and after four years we have both more staff on the ground than ever, and a record amount of clinicians in training to secure our future workforce.**

We committed to hire extra doctors, nurses and ambos – and we have exceeded the recruitment targets we set.

We're proud to have established workforce training programs that will staff the hospitals of our future generations, and our investment will always keep our future health needs at the forefront.

Only Labor believes in a strong, accessible public health system. That's why a re-elected Malinauskas Labor government will continue to work hard to meet the demands of a growing South Australian health system – because a Labor government will always prioritise health.



Peter Malinauskas MP  
Premier for South Australia



# LABOR'S PLAN TO:

**1** Train more country doctors in Mount Gambier

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**We have already recruited:**

**1,462 extra nurses**

**646 extra doctors**

**301 extra ambos**

**385 extra allied health professionals**

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# PARTNER WITH FLINDERS UNI TO BUILD A NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL TRAINING CENTRE IN MOUNT GAMBIER

**INVESTMENT: \$13 million**

If you live in the regions, learn in the regions and work in the regions, there is every chance that by the end of your training you will stay in the regions.

Every dollar invested in regional health services translates to more regional South Australians receiving care closer to home, which is why we've increased operating budgets in regional Local health networks by 40 per cent in just four years. That's an extra \$417 million into regional health services.

Not only that, but the Malinauskas Labor Government has invested \$400 million into capital projects in regional health facilities, compared to the paltry \$130 million committed by the former Liberal Government.

And we're doubling down on our investment in growing our regional health workforce.

**That's why the Malinauskas Labor Government will take to the election a commitment to invest \$13 million in purpose-built medical education and training facilities in Mount Gambier, training more doctors in regional South Australia.**

The investment will support Flinders University through the South Australia Rural Medical (SARM) Program - the State's first entirely rural medical degree - that gives students the opportunity to complete their entire Doctor of Medicine in regional South Australia.

This commitment builds on Commonwealth funding secured under the Increasing Rural Medical Training initiative, which delivered 30 additional Commonwealth Supported Places and \$19.7 million to expand end-to-end rural medical training across regional South Australia.

Together, State and Commonwealth funding represents a \$32.7 million investment in growing our pipeline of country doctors.

Labor's investment will expand facilities at the Flinders University campus in Mount Gambier, supporting the delivery of rural medical training for students studying in regional South Australia. The upgraded facilities will help accommodate growing cohorts and support up to 240 Doctor of Medicine students across the four years of the program, strengthening the pipeline of locally trained doctors.



# DELIVERED

## RECORD SA HEALTH EMPLOYMENT

We have more staff than ever, with more than 50,000 employees making SA Health the largest employer in the state.

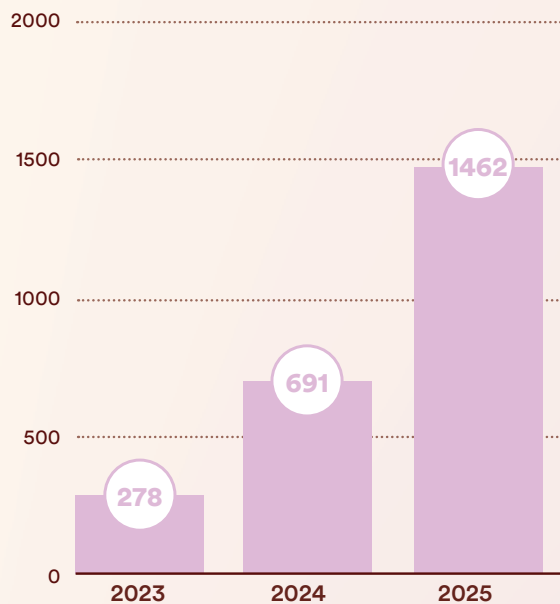
Despite a global pandemic, the former Liberal Government handed out separation packages to hundreds of our experienced health clinicians, leaving our hospitals understaffed and devoid of the leadership of senior nurses and doctors.

**The Malinauskas Labor Government has committed more than \$9 billion of extra funding into health.**

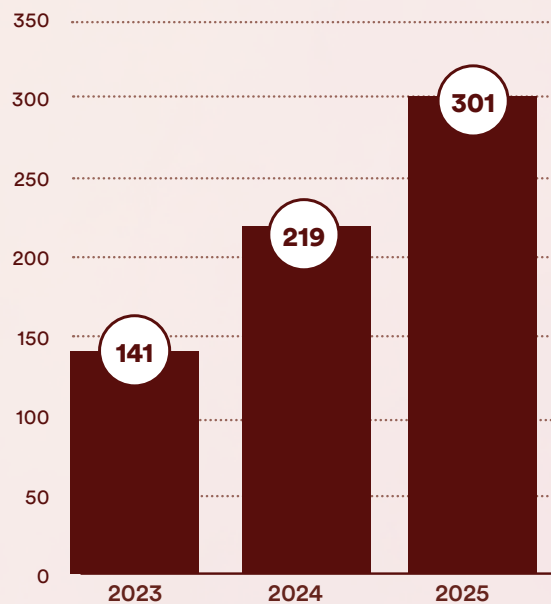
Despite committing to employing 300 more nurses, 100 more doctors and 350 more ambos at the 2022 election, we've hired almost 2,800 extra frontline staff for our public health system.

That includes more than 1460 extra nurses, more than 640 extra doctors and more than 380 extra allied health workers, all of them above the rate of attrition.

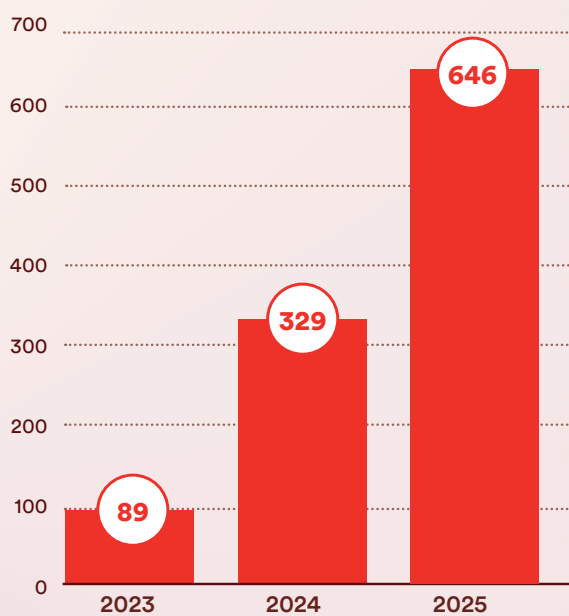




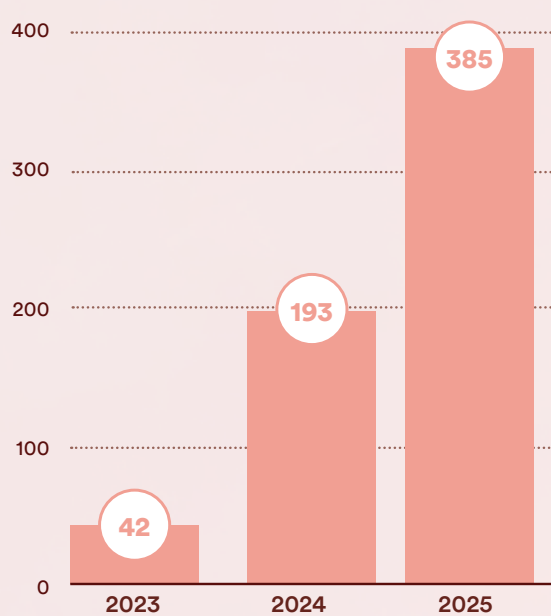
**Nurses**



**Ambos**



**Doctors**



**Allied Health**

## RECORD INTAKE OF INTERN DOCTORS

On top of our incredible recruitment drive in our first three years, the 2026 intake of intern doctors will be the highest in our state's history. South Australia will have 343 new doctors on the frontlines throughout our hospital system.



**DELIVERED**



**DELIVERED**



### Safer nursing ratios

Under new laws passed in late 2025, the Malinauskas Labor Government has established minimum nurse and midwife-to-patient ratios, fulfilling a key election commitment we made in 2022.

These nurse-patient ratios will ensure that patients receive more nursing care and safer delivery of health services.



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### More workforce incentives

South Australia is serious about attracting clinicians to regional areas. That's why we offer up to \$39,493 to attract and retain regional doctors, and up to \$6,696 a year for nurses working in rural and remote areas.



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### Nurse Practitioners for regional areas

Nurse Practitioners are incredibly qualified, and we remain committed to resourcing the employment of Nurse Practitioners in Keith and Mount Gambier to supplement accessibility to primary care.



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## More doctors on weekends

Too often, our hospitals start the week with chronic bed block due to the lack of discharges over the weekend. We've committed extra funding to fight hospital Mondayitis.

Our investment of more than \$27 million over four years is dedicated to rostering more doctors, physios, pharmacists and other staff on weekends to ensure timely 7-day patient discharges.

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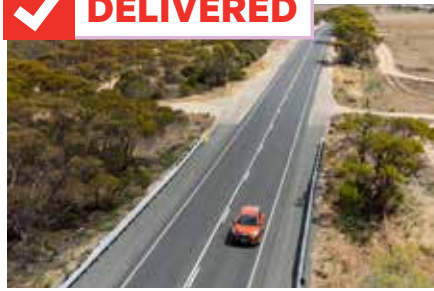


## Established Nurse Practitioners in GP Clinics

The Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Pilot has established a team of nurse practitioners to diagnose and treat a wide range of health conditions in the community.

These clinicians have extensive post-graduate clinical experience and are another avenue for people to receive care without needing to go to an ED. They have seen thousands of patients, and are a testament to the capacity of highly qualified nurses working at the top of their scope of practice.

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## Training more doctors in the regions

Through a partnership with the Federal Government, regional South Australia is hosting the highest number of doctors undertaking GP training in three years, with 196 second-, third- and fourth-year registrars working in regional SA in 2025.

The Single Employer Model (SEM) allows these trainee GPs to be employed directly by SA Health, providing certainty around where they work, their income and employment conditions like work hours, on-call obligations and leave entitlements.

It also means more hands on the ground, supporting regional GP practices and hospitals.

The SEM builds on the success of the Riverland Academy of Clinical Excellence, a similar program that has been successfully developing country doctors for years.

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## Record graduate nurses intake

Across our four years in office, SA Health has employed over 4000 graduate nurses and midwives, gaining the experience, knowledge, and clinical skills they need from our skilled staff across the state.

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## Expansion of the Mental health Co-responder

Established in 2022 as a trial, we committed to pairing a mental health clinician with a police officer to respond to mental health Triple Zero call outs.

The model has prevented almost 4,500 emergency department presentations in northern and central Adelaide and is now expanded to include the southern suburbs.

✓ **DELIVERED**



## 100 mental health and specialist learning staff in our schools

We have fully recruited 100 new mental health and learning support specialists across South Australian schools, targeting sites with the most need and ensuring more early intervention for students that need it.



## Training GPs to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)

Under life-changing reforms, we are giving South Australians more options to receive an ADHD diagnosis and prompt treatment.

In collaboration with the Colleges for GPs, Physicians and Psychiatrists, we're rolling out a new initiative to train up to one hundred South Australian GPs to diagnose and manage ADHD for their patients.



## More McGrath Foundation Nurses

One in two people in Australia will likely experience cancer in their lifetime, yet some forms of cancer have received more support than others.

In partnership with the McGrath Foundation, the Malinauskas Labor Government is committing to an additional ten McGrath Cancer Nurses across the state, four of them dedicated to regional areas.



## Growing our aged care workforce

South Australia is at the epicentre of a national crisis in the aged care system, and we must pull every lever to create new capacity.

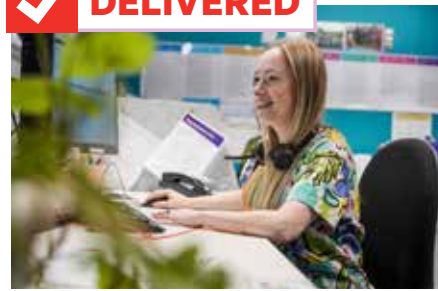
As part of that commitment, the new Findon Technical College has developed a partnership with Helping Hand Aged Care and Southern Cross Care, delivering graduates with a guaranteed career in supporting the physical, social and psychological wellbeing of older South Australians.



## AI Trials to give doctors more patient face time

Our investments aren't just targeted at more boots on the ground, we're committed to innovation that can give our clinicians more time to focus on what matters.

We're trialling a series of artificial intelligence projects that are aimed at reducing the time spent on administrative activities, giving clinicians more time with their patients and improving patient outcomes.



## Supporting private Aged Care Facilities

Established the new Integrated Care Geriatric Outreach Service for virtual and on-site clinical support to avoid hospital admissions and support placement of new residents with complex needs. These services engage SA Health's specialist workforce, including geriatricians, to support the placement of aged care residents with complex health needs.



## Re-established birthing with new workforce models at KI and Whyalla

Country birthing services are fragile - sometimes losing just a few staff can be the difference between being able to provide a safe service.

Our government established unique birthing models that have restored safe birthing services at both Whyalla and Kangaroo Island, investing in the leadership and additional staffing needed to give local women certainty.





## Expanding the pharmacist scope of practice

Through a comprehensive training and reform package for pharmacists established by the Malinauskas Labor Government, South Australians will soon be able to attend a local pharmacy for treatment of a range of conditions to boost access to fast convenient health care, including:

- ear infections
- wound management
- gastro
- acne
- shingles
- reflux
- muscle and joint pain
- prescribing hormonal contraception
- travel health advice
- oral health risk assessment
- help with quitting smoking

This is on top of reforms we've already made to open four 24/7 pharmacies, provide advice and treatment for uncomplicated urinary tract infections, and to re-supply the oral contraceptive pill.





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