



More support
for regional
health patients

South
Australian
Labor

For the
Future



Foreword

SA Labor has made an unprecedented investment into our regional health system.

The facts speak for themselves.

Over four years, the former Liberal Government only committed \$130 million to upgrade our country hospitals. In contrast, the Malinauskas Labor Government has committed \$400 million, including \$144 million in our most recent budget alone.

During our term, we have also increased the operating budgets for our regional health networks by 40 percent, up a massive \$417 million.

And while we continue to grow and deliver more services closer to home, we know that there are regional South Australians who need to come to Adelaide for specialist treatment. It's disruptive and for families with a sick child, it is often the most stressful experience of their lives.

That's why we've got their backs.

A re-elected Malinauskas Labor Government will fund the purchase of a new site for Ronald McDonald House; and boost the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme to support the expansion of accommodation for regional families receiving treatment in Adelaide.

Our commitment will ensure South Australia has the most generous and accessible health travel subsidy program in the country.

SA Labor believes that all South Australians deserve access to quality public health care no matter where they live – that's why we will continue to invest in health care for regional South Australians.



Peter Malinauskas MP
Premier for South Australia



Labor's plan to provide more support for Regional Patients

1 Boost the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATs) Accommodation Subsidy from \$44 to \$110

2 Expanded Eligibility to the PATs Fuel Subsidy

3 Unlock Development of a \$60 million Cancer Council SA Northern Accommodation Lodge

4 \$8 million to secure land for new Ronald McDonald House

Major Expansion of the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS)

PATS delivers critical financial assistance to regional and remote South Australians who need to travel for essential medical treatment, often staying overnight for days and sometimes weeks.

We want to reduce the financial burden so that they can focus on their treatment and recovery, without stressing about excessive costs.

That's why, we're strengthening PATS so it is the most accessible and generous subsidy scheme in the nation.

Building on our doubling of the fuel subsidy in 2023, a re-elected Malinauskas Labor Government will nearly triple the accommodation subsidy from \$44 to \$110; - up to \$154 with an approved support person.

Currently the PATS travel subsidy is only available for patients who travel more than 100 kilometres each way and does not include cumulative travel.

This can be incredibly tough for those who travel shorter distances for life-saving cancer or dialysis care multiple times a week.

That's why a Malinauskas Labor Government will also broaden the fuel subsidy eligibility to include regional patients who travel over 300km a week for renal or oncology treatment, saving regional South Australians thousands of dollars a year.

PATS doesn't just help regional South Australians coming to Adelaide, it supports the operations of not-for-profit organisations providing accommodation for those who need it.





Unlock Development of a \$60 million Cancer Council SA Northern Accommodation Lodge

Cancer Council SA's current Greenhill Road Accommodation Lodge is a safe haven for regional South Australians, and their families, who need a place to stay when they travel to Adelaide for cancer treatment.

However, many South Australians receive critical cancer care further away at the Lyell McEwin Hospital, and Cancer Council SA projections show that demand for accommodation services in Adelaide's north will outstrip supply.

A re-elected Malinauskas Labor Government's increased PATS accommodation subsidy will unlock a significant commitment from Cancer Council SA towards building a new \$60 million accommodation facility with up to 50 beds in the northern suburbs to help ease the burden for people travelling for cancer treatment. The project is expected to support an additional 2,500 patients and their families a year.

\$8 million to secure land for new Ronald McDonald House

Ronald McDonald House is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, which has provided crucial accommodation and support for over 25 years to more than 7,000 regional South Australian families with seriously ill and injured children.

Not only does this remove the stress of sourcing accommodation at such an anxious time, it also provides a range of services and facilities for families to support each other and enable complete focus on what matters – their sick or injured child.

With an average length of stay of almost 20 nights, Ronald McDonald House provides children and their families with free accommodation, meals, transport, social supports and access to psychologists and financial counsellors.

Each year, they host over 300 families at their facility near the current Women's and Children's Hospital. Too often, demand has outstripped available rooms and the organisation has to turn away families in legitimate need.

With construction of the bigger and better new Women's and Children's Hospital currently underway, a re-elected Malinauskas Labor Government will support Ronald McDonald House with \$8 million to secure land at the former Coca Cola site, just 600 metres from the new hospital's front door.

With the land secured, Ronald McDonald House will launch a fundraising campaign to build its new facility, at least tripling its capacity for regional children and families, ready for the new hospital's completion in 2031.



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