

# STATE BUDGET

## 2018-19

### MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING STEPHEN WADE MLC MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 4 September 2018

#### **State Government invests in regional health**

The Marshall Liberal Government is investing in hospital and health services across regional South Australia to improve the health outcomes of people living outside of metropolitan Adelaide.

“The State Government has a deep connection with, and commitment to, the regional communities that provide so much support for all South Australians,” said Minister for Health and Wellbeing Stephen Wade.

“The 2018-19 State Budget demonstrates the depth of the Liberal Government’s understanding of the needs of people across regional South Australia.”

Health funding initiatives for regional South Australia contained in the 2018-19 State Budget include:

- \$140 million over ten years for country health capital works to significantly improve our regional hospital and health infrastructure;
- \$20 million over four years to develop and implement a rural workforce strategy to address the shortage of health practitioners in rural areas;
- \$8.5 million over three years for the construction of a new 24 bed aged care facility in Strathalbyn and the future fit out of the Kalimna Hostel. A community consultation process will determine if the Kalimna Hostel will be used to refit the site for aged care accommodation or transform it into an aged services hub
- \$7.0 million over three years to upgrade the emergency department at the Murray Bridge Soldiers’ Memorial Hospital;
- \$6.9 million over four years to deliver additional chemotherapy services in regional areas allowing patients to receive life-saving treatment closer to home. A further \$5 million has been provided for the implementation of a single state-wide chemotherapy prescribing system;
- \$2.1 million over two years to deliver on the Marshall team’s election promise to expand and upgrade the renal dialysis unit at the Mount Gambier Hospital. Two renal dialysis chairs will be added enabling a further eight patients to receive treatment in Mount Gambier each week;

# STATE BUDGET

## 2018–19

- \$1.0 million over four years for the South Australian Healthy Towns Challenge to enable rural and regional communities to apply for a grant of up to \$50,000 to help improve the health and wellbeing of their communities;
- \$1.0 million this year to upgrade the fire protection system at the Lighthouse Aged Care Home in Kingston;
- \$720,000 over four years for the Ardrossan Hospital to fund the Marshall team's election promise to enhance services such as Accident and Emergency, Palliative Care and Sub-Acute Care at this community-owned facility;
- \$605,000 over four years to upgrade surgical facilities at the Yorketown Hospital and employ additional nurses;
- \$500,000 this year for the McLaren Vale District War Memorial Hospital to fund the installation of solar panels to significantly reduce the energy costs of the hospital and upgrade hospital infrastructure delivering on a Marshall team election promise;
- \$337,000 over four years to increase paediatric services at the Mt Barker Hospital;
- \$160,000 over two years for a pilot program for an intensive outpatient rehabilitation program in the Riverland to reduce the harm associated with the use of crystal methamphetamine in regional and remote communities;
- \$100,000 this year to fund the development of a business case to assess the need for a new Barossa Hospital as per the Marshall team's election promise; and
- \$50,000 this year to support the establishment of a permanent renal dialysis unit on the APY Lands run by Western Desert Dialysis.

Importantly, the State Budget also provides \$3.6 million in annual funding for governing boards, including six in country South Australia, that will put decision-making closer to the people who deliver and receive health care.