

STATE BUDGET

2021-22

MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING HON STEPHEN WADE MLC MEDIA RELEASE

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Operation Health Recovery - massive \$7.4 Billion spend on health in 2021-22 to fix ramping, ease pressure on emergency departments

In a huge shot in the arm for the state's health system, the Marshall Liberal Government next year will commit a record \$7.4 billion in health spending to fix ramping, ease pressure on hospital emergency departments and boost resources to support all South Australians.

The investment – which includes hiring 74 additional ambulance staff, fast-tracking elective surgery and delivering a landmark mental health package to further tackle bed block in hospitals - is almost \$900 million more than was spent in the final year of the former Labor government, including \$28 million more for the SA Ambulance Service.

There are now more doctors, nurses and midwives and more ambulance officers in South Australia's public health system than ever before in the state's history.

In another major announcement, the Marshall Liberal Government will invest \$1.95 billion* on a landmark new Women's and Children's Hospital (nWCH), securing the project for South Australian women, children, babies and their families for generations to come.

Key initiatives in the State Budget 2021-22 include:

- A \$163.5 million mental health package, including the establishment of a new Crisis Stabilisation Centre in the northern suburbs, a new older persons mental health facility at Modbury Hospital and the extension of the Adelaide Adult Mental Health Care Centre to operate 24 hours a day
- An \$86.1 million investment over two years to help fast track the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine to South Australians
- A further \$149.2 million over two years to support the continuing public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- \$393 million over five years to re-cast SA Health's financial improvement targets, as it continues to respond to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic
- \$45.1 million over four years to fund an additional 74 FTEs for the South Australian Ambulance Service, as well as additional ambulances and fit-out works at stations to accommodate the additional crews
- A \$20 million investment to help reduce the backlog of people waiting for elective surgery procedures following the COVID-19 pandemic
- \$1 million to complete a business case, and a further \$5 million to acquire suitable land and begin early works on a new Barossa Hospital
- \$3 million in 2021-22 and \$5.3 million ongoing from 2022-23 to continue the Meningococcal B immunisation program for South Australian babies and young people.

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Minister for Health and Wellbeing Stephen Wade said the Marshall Liberal Government was delivering on its promise to invest in a better health system for South Australians.

“The health and wellbeing of South Australians is our number one priority, and this significant investment demonstrates our commitment to deliver,” said Minister Wade.

“Our health and economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been world-leading and our investment in this year’s budget will ensure that our response continues to keep South Australia safe and strong.

“This investment will help the South Australian health system to recover from the impacts of COVID.

“Our \$86 million investment in the COVID-19 vaccine program will help us fast track the roll out expanding our network of clinics across the State.

“Our commitment to deliver better health infrastructure right across the board will see us build a new \$1.95 billion Women’s and Children’s Hospital and deliver on our commitment to upgrade and expand hospital emergency departments across the state.

“While Labor’s *Transforming Health* disaster downgraded hospitals across Adelaide and closed a hospital entirely, we are improving South Australia’s health services to ease pressure on our emergency departments, reduce ambulance ramping and deliver health care closer to home.

“Our \$163.5 million mental health package will strengthen the State’s mental health system, responding to short, medium and long term needs, creating a more flexible and resilient system.

“A further \$20 million will help reduce wait times for patients awaiting elective surgery. We have made excellent progress in reducing the backlog of procedures following the COVID-19 shut downs and this investment will further support those efforts.

“We are providing funding for an additional 74 South Australian Ambulance Service FTEs, to support a more responsive service for South Australians. We are also getting on with delivering critical roster reform for our ambulance crews so that ambulance availability better aligns with patient demand, supporting the safety of South Australians.

“We are committed to building a new hospital in the Barossa and our \$5 million investment will ensure we can acquire suitable land and begin early works on a purpose-built health care facility that meets the significant population growth projected to occur in the region and consolidating ageing facilities that currently service the community.

“The Meningococcal B immunisation program has been highly effective in reducing disease in those high-risk age groups. These positive impact and effectiveness measures are likely to improve further with the extension of this program which will vaccinate a larger number of children and adolescents in South Australia.

“The latest Marshall Government budget builds capacity in our hospitals and health services, keeps our state safe and strong through the pandemic, and supports a better health system for all South Australians.”

**New Women’s and Children’s Hospital costing subject to Infrastructure South Australia review which may impact estimated project costs*