



MAJOR INVESTMENT NEEDED TO TREAT SICK HEALTH SYSTEM

The AMA in South Australia (AMA(SA)) is today releasing its priorities for improving 'a system in crisis' at the 2022 state election.

AMA(SA) President Dr Michelle Atchison said the [2022 State Election Priorities](#) outlines eight topics of major concern as South Australia continues to work through the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

'On behalf of patients, carers and family members, AMA(SA) asks for a commitment to injecting the health system with the investment it needs – funding that will overhaul the health system so it can cope with existing demands and evidence-based predictions for the future,' Dr Atchison said.

'We're asking South Australian voters to scrutinise what their candidates are recommending to fix the health system. We're asking every voter to consider where their vote will go, and what that vote could mean for their health and that of their parents and children.

'The health system was in crisis before COVID-19. The pandemic has crushed it – and in the meantime added an enormous burden to health care workers who have continued to give their all, often with insufficient breaks, time off and relief, to protect us all.'

AMA(SA) 2022 Election Priorities highlights three areas that require urgent improvements across the health system.

1. Ease the public hospital logjam

- Create more mental health beds for non-acute patients, and increase investment in services for people with addiction, to alleviate pressure on emergency departments
- Increase pressure on the Federal Government for public health and to manage care in the community for Australians with disabilities and those who are ageing, so they do not occupy hospital beds and contribute to 'logjam'
- Increase funding for community-based palliative services across the state

2. More data, more access

- Increase availability of and access to objective data and insight that will provide the evidence for how best to invest in health-related policies, programs and care for South Australians
- Make available data from across the system for research to improve health outcomes and attract and build world-class research capacity

3. Equal access to equivalent care

- Increase investment in rural health services, increasing the health and wellbeing of rural residents and the current and future economic and social 'health' of their communities
- Establish measurable targets for the care for patients with physical and mental health issues

24 February 2022

Media contact: Senior Policy, Media and Communications Advisor Karen Phillips, 0402 103 451



The specific areas in which investment is needed for more and better services are:

- COVID care and responses
- Ramping and logjams
- Rural health
- Mental health
- Services for women and children
- End of life care
- The future workforce
- Innovations in care.

Dr Atchison said investment in public health avoids a situation where many more dollars must be spent on hospital staff and the infrastructure needed to accommodate patients requiring admission and hospital treatment.

'We ask that as the incoming government examines its books, it recognises that a focus on public health is the economically justifiable foundation of a healthy and strong community,' she said.

Dr Atchison will release the *AMA(SA) 2022 State Election Priorities* outside the AMA(SA) office at 175 Fullarton Road, Dulwich, at 1.30 pm today.

According to COVID guidelines and to minimise noise interruptions, the media conference will be staged on the steps of the AMA(SA) building, in Swift Avenue, Dulwich.

24 February 2022

Media contact: Senior Policy, Media and Communications Advisor Karen Phillips, 0402 103 451

MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE