

STATE BUDGET 2020-21

MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING HON STEPHEN WADE MLC MEDIA RELEASE

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Supporting South Australians through COVID Recovery

An extra \$15.1 million to support the mental health of South Australians through the COVID-19 pandemic is being provided in the State Budget 2020-21 by the Marshall Liberal Government.

Minister for Health and Wellbeing Stephen Wade said the Marshall Liberal Government was committed to working hand-in-glove with the community to respond to the dual economic and health challenges presented by COVID-19.

“This year has presented unprecedented challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, bushfires and drought, but we have responded by ensuring there is more support and resources available than ever before to support our community,” Minister Wade said.

“The Marshall Liberal Government has already boosted funding for mental health by almost \$20 million since the 2018 election and spends 10 per cent more than the national average on mental health services.

“This extra funding further consolidates our support for the mental health and wellbeing of all South Australians.”

The broad range of services to be funded includes initiatives for children and young people impacted by social isolation and the economic impacts of COVID-19, as well as counselling, and drug and alcohol services.

The funding boost will add to the \$7.6 million announced earlier this year as part of South Australia’s immediate mental health and wellbeing response to support bushfire affected communities.

Funding of \$5.3 million for the Statewide Wellbeing Strategy which encourages South Australians to **Open Your World** to sports, arts and physical activity during the pandemic has also been secured.

The Marshall Liberal Government has also reaffirmed its commitment to a new, world-class Women’s and Children’s Hospital, collocated with the Royal Adelaide Hospital by budgeting \$685 million over the forward estimates to commence the landmark build.

This is in addition to \$50 million in additional sustainment works that continue to be delivered by this government at the current WCH site, such as a new Special Care Baby Unit and the Paediatric Emergency Department upgrade.

A further \$83 million for the 2020-21 financial year will also be provided to support the Marshall Liberal Government’s continued strong plan to protect South Australians from the health impacts of COVID-19.

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This funding, of which an expected \$41.5 million is expected to be recouped from the Commonwealth and via hotel quarantine charges to returning travellers, includes increased resourcing for SA Health's communicable disease control branch and contact tracing capacity, continuing the operations of the State Control Centre and Emergency Call Centre, expansion of SA Pathology testing capacity, and hotel quarantine operations.

In other new initiatives in this year's Budget, the Marshall Liberal Government will also provide \$157,000 over two years to establish a silicosis disease register.

The register will help early diagnosis and treatment of the lung disease to ensure South Australians get the care they need sooner.

The Marshall Liberal Government will also invest \$42.8 million for a series of important health infrastructure projects throughout the state including:

- **A NEW** \$4.3 million ambulance station at Port Augusta
- **A \$4 MILLION** boost for Strathalbyn Aged Care Lifestyle facilities to further support the soon-to-be constructed facility
- **COMPLETION** of the Kalimna Hostel redevelopment (additional \$2 million; total of \$3 million)
- **A \$15 MILLION** expansion of the Gawler Hospital emergency department
- **LIFT** upgrades at Modbury Hospital (\$1.5 million)
- **\$10 MILLION** boost for regional health sustainability works
- **\$6 MILLION** to build a new ward and develop a model of care that supports patients with brain and spinal injuries to transition from rehabilitation to the community.

"The Marshall Liberal Government has responded to the biggest health challenge of our time by delivering a Budget that is focussed on protecting the physical and mental health of South Australians both now and into the future," Minister Wade said.

"A series of regional projects forms part of our \$1.7 billion health capital program over the forward estimates, which is also continuing the substantial upgrading of our major metropolitan hospitals, commencing construction of a new Women's and Children's Hospital, and delivering on the commitment to build what matters for South Australians."