



**Government
of South Australia**

Treasurer

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TRS21D3465

Mr David King
Chair, RACS SA State Committee
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons
24 King William Street
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Dear Mr King

Thank you for providing the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons' *Election Issues* document.

Please find attached a consolidated response on behalf of the Government.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rob Lucas'.

Hon Rob Lucas MLC
Treasurer

14 March 2022

2022 South Australian Election

Response to Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

The Marshall Liberal Government has boosted capacity right across our health system with a record \$7.4 billion investment in health, in addition to a \$3 billion hospital build program, to help fix ramping, ease pressure on hospital emergency departments and deliver quality health care for South Australians, closer to home.

The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) SA Election Statement addresses a number of health policy matters, the Government's position in respect to these matters is set out below.

Emergency Surgery and Ramping

The Commission for Excellence and Innovation in Health, established by the Government, has established a Clinical Network concentrating on Surgery and Perioperative Care, which will inform planning for future services for Emergency Surgery. The Government appreciates the strong participation of the College in the Network.

Clinician Engagement

The Government is committed to working with clinicians and consumers in the delivery of health services. This was a key principle of the devolution of health governance, and it is a statutory requirement of our Local Health Network Boards to develop and publish clinician and consumer engagement strategies.

Clinician engagement has been further supported by the establishment of the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Health, which brings together clinician and consumer representatives across a range of clinical networks. The Government established the Statewide Surgical and Perioperative Care Clinical Network.

The Government has also demonstrated its commitment to clinician engagement in the design of the new Women's and Children's Hospital, investing \$600,000 to support clinicians in the engagement, and adopting every recommendation of the clinical working groups convened in May 2021. The Minister for Health and Wellbeing has met regularly with RACS and will continue to do so.

Infrastructure and Technology

The Government is committed to delivering a New Women's and Children's Hospital for South Australia. We have now committed \$1.949 billion to the design and construction of the Hospital which is on track to be completed in 2027. The planning for the hospital has been informed by the Women's, Child and Youth Health Plan 2021-2031. The Plan envisages a higher level of self-sufficiency for maternal and paediatric services in Adelaide's northern suburbs.

Ongoing Covid-19 Response

On 16 November 2021, the Government released the COVID-Ready Plan (the plan). An important element of this plan is the activation of almost 400 extra beds and deployment of hundreds of extra health professionals across all Local Health Networks to ease the burden on the health system after borders opened.

The Government has further expanded capacity by suspending elective surgery and accessing private hospital capacity and workforce. In January, plans were released to transfer patients from the public hospital system to private hospitals providing for 500 dedicated ward beds and 60 Intensive Care patients. Some regional hospitals currently treat and will continue to treat COVID-positive patients where it is safe to do so.

As the COVID-19 pandemic is continually evolving, plans are continually reviewed and revised on the basis of health advice.

The ability to manage the increased number of hospitalisations due to COVID-19 is built on the capacity created in the public system through the COVID-Ready investments and partnering with private hospitals to provide beds for non-COVID patients to provide space in the public hospitals.

The Government has doubled its intake of graduate nurses from 600 to 1200 to strengthen the front line response to COVID-19 across the state settings such as testing, vaccination and community care, as well as support ongoing health services.

The Government committed early on in the pandemic to source locally made PPE and supported local business Detmold, to produce surgical masks locally, supplying SA Health, local GPs, pharmacies, and other government agencies.

The Marshall Government have ensured ongoing supplies of PPE and medical equipment through a central distribution centre to LHNs and businesses.

The Government continues to expand availability and the utilisation of telehealth, in conjunction with the Commonwealth Government. We have established or extended a range of virtual services, such as the WCH Child and Adolescent Virtual Urgent Care Service.

South Australian Audit of Surgical Mortality

The Government has funded and will continue to fund the mortality audit program.

Use of the title 'Surgeon'

The Government will continue to work with other jurisdictions, including the Commonwealth, to protect patient safety through limiting the use of the title "surgeon".

Conclusion

Thank you for providing the Government with a copy of the RACS SA Election Statement. The Government is committed to ensuring South Australians receive the care they need and if re-elected will continue to work with our employees and their representative bodies to that end.