

## **Peter Treloar MP**

Member for Flinders

## **Hon Stephen Wade MLC**

Shadow Minister for Health and Wellbeing

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### **Liberals to fill country health skill shortage**

Health professionals and skilled volunteers will be recruited, trained and developed to address gaps in the health workforce in regional South Australia under a \$20 million plan from the State Liberals.

Member for Flinders said the Eyre Peninsula has faced continual challenges to recruit and retain resident specialists.

“A Marshall Liberal Government will invest \$20 million in country health to assist communities fill skill gaps and attract specialists to country South Australia,” Member for Flinders Peter Treloar said.

“We will also deliver funding to assist teaching and training in country hospitals, as well as doubling the number of medical interns in regional South Australia.

“Metropolitan areas of the state have had major investment in health care, however, country health has been largely ignored despite an ageing population base.

“People on the Eyre Peninsula deserve to have access to adequate health services and this plan targets areas of great need in our region.”

The \$20 million State Liberal plan will:

- Double the number of medical interns in the country;
- Allocate teaching hospital funding to country LHNs to enable those LHNs to negotiate cooperative shared training arrangements with metropolitan LHNs;
- Support the recruitment and retention of resident specialists in country South Australia through the engagement of interns, registrars and medical officers with specialist skills;
- Develop Registered Nurse/Midwife collaborative graduate programs in regional, rural and remote South Australia;
- Encourage rural and remote Registered Midwives to undertake training for dual registration;
- Ensure the Ambulance Service accommodates the changing employment and volunteering patterns in rural and regional areas, and

- Strengthen Aboriginal Health Worker and Allied Health Professional training opportunities across rural and remote South Australia.

Shadow Minister for Health and Wellbeing Stephen Wade said the State Liberals recognise the importance of investing in country health which had suffered under 16 years of a city-centric Labor Government.

“Under our policy, regional areas will benefit from not only recruitment and retention of specialists but also training opportunities for current staff and interns,” said Shadow Minister for Health Stephen Wade.

“Only a Marshall Liberal Government has a comprehensive plan to ensure country South Australia has the health services it deserves.”