We’re ready.

Over the last four years, we’ve been working hard developing our vision for the future of South Australia. Not just policies, but a series of achievable milestones that have been crafted for the long-term benefit of our state.

Our focus will be

MORE JOBS.
LOWER COSTS.
BETTER SERVICES.

We’ve got a strong plan for real change.
WHAT WE’LL DO

If elected in March 2018 a Marshall Liberal Government will provide $20 million over four years to develop and implement a Rural Health Workforce Plan.

Our Rural Health Workforce Plan will include:

• a broad services plan for country health services; and
• a plan to recruit, train and develop the health professionals and skilled volunteers needed to deliver country health services.

Our Rural Health Workforce Plan will:

• Recognise the responsibility of SA Health to support health services beyond hospitals and health services, including general medical practices and Aboriginal-controlled community health services;

• Allocate teaching hospital funding to country LHNs in recognition of the fact that almost one-third of South Australians live in the regions. This will empower country LHNs to negotiate cooperative shared training arrangements with metropolitan LHNs. The transition will occur in a timeframe agreed as part of the rural health workforce planning process; and

• Ensure that the Plan is supported by robust governance which engages country Local Health Networks (LHNs).

We will also work with the Commonwealth to maximise training opportunities in the country.
MEDICAL

A Marshall Liberal Government will:

• Double the number of medical interns in the country;

• Develop pathways for both rural generalists and GPs with procedural capabilities, with medical student and graduate training opportunities at country general hospitals being supplemented by placements in metropolitan hospitals; and

• Support the recruitment and retention of resident specialists in country South Australia through the engagement of interns, registrars and career medical officers with specialist skills;

The Rural Health Workforce Plan will build on the work of the Rural Doctors Workforce Agency and use the ‘R2R: Road to Rural General Practice’ as a starting point for the general practice element.
NURSING/MIDWIFERY

The Rural Health Workforce Plan will specifically look for opportunities to develop and strengthen the nursing and midwifery workforce, including through:

- Registered Nurse/Midwife collaborative graduate programs in regional, rural and remote South Australia;
- Incentivising rural and remote Registered Midwives to undertake training for dual registration; and
- Improving access to midwifery continuity of care models within country LHNs.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

We will review the sustainability of country ambulance services and look in particular at ensuring the Ambulance Service strives to accommodate the changing employment and volunteering patterns in rural and regional areas.

OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

A Marshall Liberal Government will strengthen Aboriginal Health Worker and Allied Health Professional training opportunities across rural and remote South Australia.
Under Labor, an increasing shortage of health practitioners and, in particular, practitioners with advanced skills has left country health services vulnerable to closures and cutbacks.

For example, the number of volunteer ambulance officers has fallen significantly making it difficult to fill rosters at some stations.

There are ongoing challenges in sustaining midwifery services.

While the number of rural GP’s has increased significantly over the last 15 years, fewer General Practitioners have the specialist procedural skills (e.g. anaesthetics, gynaecology) needed to maintain services in the regions.

A rural health workforce plan is key to ensuring country health services are sustainable.