BOWEL CANCER PREVENTION
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 implement a Bowel Cancer Prevention Initiative that will save lives by delivering vital procedures earlier and prevent bowel cancer progressing.

If caught early, 90% of bowel cancer cases can be successfully treated.

A Marshall Liberal Government will:

1. Wipe out, within 12 months of the election, the overdue waiting list for a colonoscopy after a positive FOBT;
2. Regularly publish the numbers and waiting times of people waiting for a colonoscopy after a positive bowel cancer test result; and
3. Pursue the national time target for a colonoscopy within four months of a positive bowel cancer test result.

The psychological stress while they wait for a colonoscopy is tough on people. Delays in investigation may allow progression in the cancer.

Earlier procedures also make sense in terms of resource use. The typical cost of treating cancers that develop from polyps is $36,000 per case - 25 times higher than the cost of removing a precancerous polyp detected through screening.

A Marshall Liberal Government will work with health professionals to look at the data and develop quality, timely care pathways.

Urgent action is needed now. Increased testing under the National Bowel Screening Program and the ageing of the population will both increase demand for colonoscopies over the next few years.
Each year, around 4,000 South Australians receive a positive Faecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT) and most of them are then referred for a colonoscopy to determine whether bowel cancer is present.

Under Labor, waiting times for a colonoscopy have blown out well beyond the clinically recommended four months. For example, waits in the northern metropolitan hospitals are commonly more than 6 months, with some more than 12 months. This is unacceptable.

The latest national data shows over 1000 South Australians received their colonoscopy more than 90 days after a positive test and that South Australia has the longest waits of any jurisdiction.