

Mr Ross Womersley
CEO
South Australian Council of Social Service
Email: ross@sacoss.org.au

Dear Mr Womersley

I refer to your letter to the Hon Jay Weatherill MP, Premier of South Australia, regarding the South Australian Council of Social Service's Election Policies and Report Card, dated 20 December 2017. We thank SACOSS for outlining its key priorities ahead of the State election.

Labor respects SACOSS as the peak body for the not-for-profit health and community services sector and the critical role you play in advocating for the benefit of disadvantaged and vulnerable South Australians.

Labor has a bold and confident plan for the future, one that puts our state, our people, first. Building on our proud record of innovation and progressive reform, we will create new jobs and industries, and make this an even better place to live, work, visit, do business and raise a family. You can read our policies at [Standing Up For South Australia](#) and download our full [2018 Policy Document here](#).

We hope that you will continue to work with us to build upon everything we have achieved, making South Australia more prosperous and harmonious for all.

Please see **attached** the South Australian Labor Government's response to SACOSS' key policy issues.

Kind regards
Stakeholder Response Team

08/03/18

DIGITAL INCLUSION POLICIES

SACOSS POLICY PROPOSAL: A comprehensive approach to digital inclusion with:

- All parties having a set of election policies aimed at addressing digital disadvantage; and
- A commitment to develop and implement a state-wide digital inclusion plan.
- Specific initiatives to increase the provision of free public wi-fi in areas of digital disadvantage.
- Making all sa.gov.au websites free (unmetered data) to users.
- Funding for increased SA regional data in the Australian Digital Inclusion Index.
- Funding for an audit of digital technology usage and literacy and to build digital capacity in the community services sector in SA.
- Providing an “offline service guarantee” that all Government policies and services will remain easily accessible with no disadvantage to those who are not digitally connected.

As more resources shift online and access to the internet becomes the norm for most Australians, SA Labor understands that there is an increased disadvantage faced by those not online or with limited access. Internet access has become an essential service, and a re-elected State Labor Government will step in to get a better deal for South Australians, bridging the digital divide in South Australia.

SA Labor will invest \$35 million to undertake a major expansion of the State Government’s existing fibre network, to be known as ‘the Fishbone’, across metropolitan Adelaide. This will enable thousands of businesses and households across metropolitan Adelaide to connect to ultra-fast internet that is significantly faster and cheaper than the National Broadband Network.

A re-elected Labor Government will make the infrastructure available to internet providers to offer the faster and cheaper services. We will also establish a new Department of Digital Innovation, which will oversee the expansion of the Fishbone network and develop a digital inclusion plan to narrow the digital divide in South Australia, ensuring all members of our community can fully participate economically and socially. This will include establishing a roundtable of the community sector, government and business to secure a better internet deal for South Australians. The Department will also be tasked with increasing access to free public wifi in community areas and on public transport.

A re-elected Labor Government will invest around \$70 million over five years to provide every year 10 public school student across South Australia with a government funded laptop. Students will keep the devices after graduating – setting them up to commence further studies and join the workforce.

COST OF LIVING

SA Labor has stood up for South Australians against Federal Liberal cuts to penalty rates, housing, concessions and pensions, which affects those most in need.

In the past decade, SA Labor has almost doubled the amount provided in concessions to help reduce the cost of living for pensioners and people on low and fixed incomes. A total of \$265 million of concessions is now provided each year, compared with \$135 million in 2007-08 – a 96 per cent increase.

A further \$100 million a year provides for other concessions and remissions such as on the Emergency Services Levy, vehicle registration and free or concessional rate public transport for seniors, children, students and others.

When the Abbott Liberal Government cruelly scrapped \$30 million in annual funding towards pensioner concessions in the 2014-15 Federal Budget, it was this State Labor Government that stood up for pensioners and low-income earners. We introduced a new Cost of Living Concession to provide up to \$200 for 186,000 South Australians to assist with household costs. The concessions for cost of living, energy, water and sewerage save eligible South Australians up to \$831 annually.

To address the inflationary impacts on utility bills, in July 2017 we introduced annual indexation of utility-related concessions by Consumer Price Index (CPI), a move welcomed by the South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS). By 2019-20, eligible households are expected to receive up to an extra \$54 in concessions. This equates to about \$14.5 million extra a year for some of the state's most vulnerable households.

SA Labor has also:

- Released our Energy Plan to deliver South Australian power for South Australians, which includes building the world's biggest battery and solar thermal plant to put downward pressure on prices.
- Introduced an up to \$200 Cost of Living Concession in 2015-16 for pensioners, low-income earners and self-funded retirees with a Commonwealth Seniors Health Card who either rent or own and live in their home, to assist with household costs.
- Provided up to \$831 per person in concessions (cost of living, water, sewerage etc) each year to help reduce living costs for people on low and fixed incomes.
- Maintained our commitment to statewide pricing to ensure most SA Water customers pay the same price per kilolitre of water, no matter where they live.
- Drove down the price of an average household water and sewerage bill by \$171 since the introduction of independent regulation by ESCOSA in 2013 and the abolition of the Save the River Murray Levy in 2015.
- Negotiated and established an energy offer for eligible low and fixed income households, saving more than 25,000 households up to \$531 off their annual electricity bill.
- Provided more than \$200 million a year in income-based rent reductions for public housing.
- we renewed our public housing to offer more choice, better homes and better-connected communities in South Australia – including building 1000 homes in 1000 days. In addition, this initiative supports more than 1600 jobs through upgrade works to homes and the building of new dwellings.

- Increased the Medical Heating and Cooling Concession by \$50 in 2014-15, bringing the concession available to up to \$215 a year.
- Provided free public transport to Seniors Card holders during off-peak times.
- Reduced the cost of registering a car by \$148 over two years (2013-14 and 2014-15) as part of Compulsory Third Party reforms, which led to the establishment of the Lifetime Support Authority.
- Lifted the income eligibility for School Card helping an extra 16,000 families save, on average \$274 a year for primary students and \$421 a year for secondary students.
- Committed to introducing a Department for Digital Innovation which will develop a digital inclusion plan in partnership with the community sector and internet providers.
- Committed to a crack down on payday lenders including an extra \$200,000 for more financial counselling hours and the introduction of an additional Good Money store to service the South (we have one in Salisbury)

ENERGY

Modernising the energy concession so it is paid as a percentage of the bill:

The South Australian Government provides an energy concession to eligible South Australians for both electricity and gas usage. For administrative simplicity, the concession is applied through the electricity account. On 1 July 2014, the concession increased from \$165 to \$215 per year.

In addition, as part of the December 2016 Mid-Year Budget Review, we announced that utility related concessions will be indexed by CPI annually for the first time from 1 July 2017. This is expected to result in a total increase to annual concession payments of up to about \$54 for eligible households by 2019-20.

The South Australian Government also provides a Medical Heating and Cooling Concession of \$215 per year to assist South Australians on a fixed or low income who have a qualifying medical condition which requires the frequent use of heating or cooling in the home. The Medical Heating and Cooling Concession is available to eligible applicants in addition to the current energy concession.

The South Australian Labor Government also introduced a Cost of Living Concession from 1 July 2015 as an annual payment for eligible South Australians on low or fixed incomes. Eligible homeowners are able to receive up to \$200 and eligible tenants up to \$100.

More than 169,000 South Australian households have also been invited and encouraged to take up the State Government's Concessions Energy Discount Offer, with more than 26,000 already signing up.

Following the privatisation of ETSA by the Liberal party in the late 1990s, a significant number of these households remain on a standing energy contract, meaning they are not receiving a competitive rate for electricity.

Through the Origin Energy discount offer, which is available to households receiving the existing State Government energy concession, consumers can save between \$253 and \$531 per annum.

The offer includes:

- A guaranteed 18 per cent discount on usage and supply charges
- Flexible payment options
- No late payment fees
- No processing fees
- No paper bill fees
- No credit card fees
- No exit fees.

We have also partnered with Tesla to roll out a network of 50,000 home and solar battery systems across the State, to form the world's largest Virtual Power Plant.

Beginning with a trial of 1,100 Housing SA properties, a 5kW solar panel system and 13.5kWh Tesla Powerwall 2 battery will be installed at no charge to the household.

Systems are then set to be installed at a further 24,000 Housing Trust properties with a similar deal offered to all South Australian households, with a plan for at least 50,000 households to participate over the next 4.5 years. The 250MW plant is expected to lower energy bills for participating households by 30 per cent. Customers signed up to the Origin deal can also participate in the VPP.

The extremely short, steep peaks in demand grid on hot days increases the cost of electricity in South Australia. The Virtual Power Plant's maximum capacity will largely coincide with those demand peaks. This means all South Australians will benefit from the increased generation in the South Australian energy mix, with lower energy prices and increased energy stability.

Over the coming months, Tesla and the South Australian Government will be seeking an official Program Retailer for the VPP. We encourage non-government groups to consider creating a 'community retailer' to participate in the market process. We are already working with community groups in relation to this option, and we are excited at the opportunity.

We have also announced that a re-elected Labor government will introduce a \$100 million scheme to provide loans of up to \$10,000 to householders, for the purchase and install solar and battery systems. All South Australians can apply. No interest is charged for the first seven years, allowing people to pay off the systems once they start to see savings on their electricity bills

These initiatives build on the leadership of our energy plan – South Australian Power for South Australians, which aims to deliver reliable, affordable and clean power for South Australians.

The South Australian Labor Government's energy plan has already:

- Delivered the world's largest lithium ion battery at Jamestown, in partnership with Neoen and Tesla
- Delivered a state-owned power plant, to have 276MW of stand-by power available in South Australia for emergencies
- Used the government's bulk purchasing power to entice a new generator into the market to increase competition. Solar Reserve will construct the world's biggest solar thermal plant near Port Augusta creating around 700 jobs
- Delivered a new \$150 million Renewable Technology Fund – to encourage investment in new renewable technologies.

The South Australian Labor Government is committed to driving down the price of electricity, and we firmly believe that more renewable energy leads to lower prices.

This position is supported by the independent Australian Energy Market Commission, which is predicting South Australian household prices will decline by about \$300 in the next two years, largely due to new investments in renewable energy.

Providing a land tax concession for residential landlords investing in Government approved energy efficient activities.

Land tax is not a burden to most people who invest in property, i.e. property other than their principal place of residence or a primary production property.

The South Australian Labor Government has cut land tax seven times by lifting the tax-free threshold. In 2002, the tax-free threshold was \$50,000. It is now \$353,000.

Land tax applies to the site value, not capital value, of real estate property. It is applied under a progressive scale of thresholds and marginal rates as follows:

Threshold	Marginal rate
Below \$353,000	Tax-free
\$353,000 to \$647,000	0.5 %
\$647,000 to \$941,000	1.65 %
\$941,000 to \$1.176m	2.4 %
Above \$1.176m	3.7 %

Nearly 80 per cent of property investors fall below the threshold of \$353,000 and pay no land tax. A further 15 per cent only pay land tax at a rate of 0.5 per cent because their land holdings are valued below \$647,000.

Offering land tax concessions would therefore have minimal benefits for the “mum-and-dad” owners of a small portfolio of rental properties. It would largely benefit investors with significant land holdings. Labor is focussed on providing other cost saving and energy efficiency measures, as outlined throughout this response.

Enabling a greater proportion of low income energy consumers to have access to free energy audits to help reduce energy consumption.

The Retailer Energy Efficiency Scheme (REES) is a South Australian government initiative that requires energy retailers to help households and businesses save on energy use and costs, and lower their greenhouse gas emissions.

South Australian households and businesses may be able to receive free or discounted energy efficiency activities from energy retailers participating in the REES. Typical activities include installing energy efficient lighting, or installing water efficient shower heads, helping save water heating costs.

Since 2009 the REES scheme has been making energy audits available to South Australian customers to help them map exactly how power is being used in the home and what can be done to reduce household demand.

More than one in three households have taken advantage of the scheme since it began in 2009, and the REES scheme currently saves enough energy to power almost 100,000 homes each year. It also

delivers energy saving measures, which can be as simple as switching to low-energy lighting or installing an energy-efficient shower head.

We encourage eligible South Australians looking for ways to reduce their power bills to contact their energy retailer and ask about participating in the REES scheme.

We have also funded Planet Ark and DoSomething founder Jon Dee to spearhead EnergySmart South Australia, a program to help South Australian households and businesses improve their energy efficiency and reduce the cost of their power bills.

15 workshops were held across the State, covering topics such as negotiating a better energy deal, cutting the cost of lighting, heating, cooling and hot water and saving money with insulation and solar. An EnergySmart South Australia booklet with tips on reducing energy costs is available at <https://energysmartsaver.com.au/>.

Ensuring targeted energy audits are only delivered by community sector organisations with expertise in managing vulnerability.

The Government has not yet seen any compelling evidence which demonstrates community sector organisations are more effective in liaising with or achieving energy cost savings for vulnerable customers through auditing, compared with private companies under the REES.

During a review of REES, the Department of Energy and Technical Regulation conducted a telephone survey of REES audit recipients, which found about 50 per cent had embraced all the recommendations, with another 25 per cent embracing at least some.

In light of this anecdotal evidence and apparent customer satisfaction of the current REES model, involving private companies, there doesn't appear to be an overwhelming consensus to shift REES audit delivery for vulnerable customers through not-for-profits exclusively, at this time.

However, SA Labor would give serious consideration to any report or evidence that SACOSS has that is contradictory to these findings, and is happy to liaise with SACOSS further.

It's also important to note that the REES legislation places the obligation on the energy retailers. Any change to how the retailers administer their obligations would need to fit in with legislative requirements associated with the scheme.

Introducing a residential energy efficiency disclosure scheme.

This is not something the South Australian Labor Government is specifically considering at this time.

However, we know that more than one in three households have benefited from the REES since it began in 2009, and energy retailers have installed the following energy saving items in South Australian homes and businesses:

- Over 2.5 million energy saving light globes
- Over 340,000 standby power controllers
- Over 170,000 water efficient shower heads.

In addition, more than 45,000 home energy audits have been delivered to low income households. On 11 July 2017 the Government set targets for the next three-year period. Retailers are already predicted to deliver 6.9 million gigajoules of energy savings and 22,101 audits over the period 2018-2020.

Labor would be happy to engage with SACOSS to consider the merits of an energy efficiency disclosure scheme.

WATER

Requiring landlords to pay water supply charge (unless otherwise agreed by tenant).

Since the *Residential Tenancies Act* first came into effect in 1995, landlords have had the ability to charge tenants for water use and supply as part of a rental agreement. That has not changed. The 2014 changes to the Act meant that where the supply of water to a premises is separately metered, unless a tenancy agreement exists between the landlord and the tenant, tenants would be charged by default.

We are open to exploring this proposal and if re-elected in March, will commit to undertaking a review of existing arrangements.

A re-elected Labor government will continue to stand up for South Australians by addressing cost of living pressures.

The South Australian Labor Government has almost doubled the total annual amount spent on concessions, from \$135 million in 2007-08 to \$265 million in 2017-18 – representing a 96 per cent increase. Concessions totalling \$170 million are paid to more than 180,000 households for expenses including energy, water, sewerage, and the Cost of Living Concession.

A further \$100 million a year provides for other concessions and remissions such as on the Emergency Services Levy, vehicle registration and free or concessional rate public transport for seniors, children, students and others.

Revising processes in place to identify, engage and assist water customers in hardship prior to restriction of water supply.

SA Water bills property owners rather than tenants because, in keeping with the requirements of the *Water Industry Act 2012*, SA Water's customer relationship is with the property owner.

Charges are levied against the property because in the event there are unpaid water charges, this can be recovered at the time of sale.

Any changes to existing practices would need to be carefully scoped and evaluated for their impact on operating costs and therefore customers' water prices.

Changes would need to be tested with the wider customer base for their willingness to pay any additional costs. It is also much more administratively complicated to manage a tenant given tenants can change addresses frequently without formal notifications.

Labor is happy to look into any additional measures that may assist customers in hardship, and if re-elected, will be prepared to consider a review of existing hardship benchmarks.

SA Water already operates a nuanced customer hardship program. Customers in the program are provided with:

- Flexible payment arrangements
- Assistance with concessions

- Reduction of water and sewer connection charges
- Centrepay direct bill paying service
- Referral to government and non-government financial counselling services
- Assistance with the repair of internal plumbing and fixtures.

During 2016-17, SA Water focused on identifying and engaging with customers experiencing financial difficulties by:

- Utilising early identification strategies to ensure hardship customers are identified and receive necessary support early in the debt cycle
- Providing training for SA Water's customer service staff to easily identify early indicators of hardship
- Attending community events to promote the Customer Assist Program and affordability issues for customers.

Based on feedback from customers and the Social Services Sector, SA Water introduced a payment support program to further assist customers participating in its Customer Assist Program.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Legislative Reform-Prevention and Early Intervention for Children and Young People - The Best Interests of Children and Young People

Protecting the state's most vulnerable children is an absolute priority. It is for this reason that the State Labor Government:

- Created a standalone Department for Child Protection
- Invested more than \$500 million to reform the state's child protection and child development systems.
- Appointed a Commissioner for Children and Young People
- Committed to establishing a Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People
- Created the Early Intervention Research Directorate (EIRD)
- Introduced the Prevention and Early Intervention for the Development and Wellbeing of Children and Young People Bill 2017 (and will reintroduce)

Labor will also:

- invest in trialling intensive, in-home crisis intervention, counselling and life skills, and education for families who have children at risk of being removed
- for children who enter the care system, strengthen the supports available after they turn 18.
- increase support for our invaluable foster and kinship carers through our new family based care strategy
- continue to provide carer payments to foster and kinship carers when young people are over 18 and engaged in tertiary education, or other post-high school training
- ensure young people have access to increased post-care services to assist with a successful transition into adult life
- expand the existing Rapid Response model to include better access to housing, healthcare, skills training and other services from key government agencies.

Labor understands that by ensuring children have the best start in life, that have the best chance of reaching their full potential as adults.

A re-elected State Labor Government will continue to work to find new ways to strengthen the voice of children and young people and partner with them on decisions that affect their lives.

The South Australian Labor Government has also created the Multi-Agency Protection Service, bringing together SAPOL and other agencies to ensure a coordinated response to high-risk cases involving domestic violence and child protection.

Funding for Prevention and Early Intervention

SA Labor has publicly committed to the reintroduction of the Prevention and Early Intervention for the Development and Wellbeing of Children and Young People Bill 2017 which is the complementary

legislation to the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017. We will do this before the Parliamentary winter break 2018.

Labor believes that a whole of government and community approach to prevention and early intervention for children and families is the only way to improve the wellbeing and development of children and young people in this state.

We will also continue our commitment to early intervention and prevention strategies to stem the rise of children being removed from families. A re-elected State Labor Government will invest in trialling evidence-based intensive, in-home crisis intervention, counselling and life-skills, and education programs for families who have children at risk of being removed.

The early years are crucial and non-negotiable. Labor has funded early childhood initiatives to unprecedented levels over our time in government because the earlier you intervene, the more impact on a child's life. Some of our extensive investment includes

- 43 Children's Centres for Early Childhood Development and Parenting (four more operational in 2018.)
 - four are Children and Family Centres established under the Indigenous Early Childhood Development National Partnership (IECDNP) focused on supporting Aboriginal families with young children
 - 103 Occasional Care Programs
 - 13 Learning Together @ Home programs.

- Funding of \$13.7 million over 4 years from 2014-18 was allocated for the expansion of services in Children's Centres.
- an increase in family services coordinators from 19.5 to 28.5 FTE
- an increase in speech pathology and occupational therapy from 8 to 19.2 FTE.
- Child wellbeing practitioners work across metropolitan and country public schools to identify children and families at risk and connect them to appropriate support as an early intervention measure before situations escalate to a potential child protection response
- Currently there is 50.5 FTEs and the department is recruiting another 9.5 FTEs. The program is designed to support over 300 education sites across country and metropolitan areas.
- Child Wellbeing Practitioners commenced at the beginning of term 4, 2016 and have to date responded to over 2,000 referrals from Education Sites.

A re-elected State Labor Government will fund more children's centres, appoint further allied health professionals within our centres, and extend our work with not for profit centres to assist disadvantaged families access child care amongst the ongoing support for existing work. We will also fund a trial of "Home-Builders" which is an intensive, in-home crisis intervention, counselling, and life-skills education for families who have children at imminent risk of placement in state-funded care.

Commit to establishing a Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People

A re-elected Labor Government will appoint an Aboriginal Affairs Commissioner for Children and Young People. The Aboriginal Affairs Commissioner for Children and Young People will be a voice and advocate for Aboriginal Children in government policy and legislation and will work side by side with Helen Connolly, South Australia's Commissioner for Children and Young People.

We will work with Aboriginal communities to develop the role, determine its focus and make sure that it is Aboriginal led to empower Aboriginal communities. The terms of reference will reflect that the Commissioner will have an active advocacy role on key policy issues that impact on the wellbeing of Aboriginal people, their families and children, with a strong focus on early intervention and prevention strategies.

A re-elected Labor Government will continue to consider the recommendations outlined in the 2017 Family Matter Campaign and the discussions around establishing a peak body for the development and wellbeing of Aboriginal Children.

Services to young people in out of home care until at least the age of 21.

For children exiting the care system, supports will be strengthened and available to care leavers post 18 years. This will include continuing to provide payments to foster and kinship carers when young people are over 18 and engaged in tertiary education or other post-high school training until age 25.; increasing post care services to assist with the transition to adult life; and expanding the existing Rapid Response model to include better access to housing, healthcare, skills training and other services from key government agencies.

HEALTH

Establish and resource a “Connected Health for All” strategy.

The State Labor Government places the health and wellbeing of all South Australians at the fore of our considerations.

We have an existing Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Health and Aging and the Department of Premier and Cabinet which seeks to ensure that a “Health in All Policies” approach to Government decision making.

Furthermore, as a Government we have established ten Public Health Partner Authorities (PHPA) under section 51 of the *South Australian Public Health Act, 2011* (the Act), are in place occurring in partnership with Non-Government Organisations, government departments and the universities.

Create a discrete full-time role of Chief Public Health Officer, separate from that of the Chief Medical Officer.

The State Labor Government’s ongoing commitment to prevention and health promotion has been demonstrated by the internal restructure in the Department of Health and Aging which resulted in the establishment of the Prevention and Population Health Branch, under the leadership of the Chief Public Health Officer.

Currently, the roles of CPHO and Chief Medical Officer for SA Health are coupled together, however in previous years the roles have been separate. Under the current arrangement the CPHO role will have a strengthened focus on prevention and health promotion.

The role of the CPHO is prescribed under section 20 of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*.

We firmly believe that Professor Paddy Phillips provides exemplary independent advice, allowing for the provision of consistent and holistic advice to about proposed legislative or administrative changes as it relates to public health in the interest of the health of South Australians.

Prioritise mental health by resourcing and fully implementing the SA Mental Health Strategic Plan with a continuing role for the SA Mental Health Commission in leading the plan and reporting on progress.

The South Australian Government is committed to the important strategies outlined in the South Australian Mental Health Strategic Plan 2017-2020.

The Mental Health Commission has been committed funding and resources to continue implementation of the plan and to develop further action plans.

A re-elected Labor Government will provide more than \$70 million over the next five years in additional funding towards mental health services across South Australia, with a focus on supporting people in their homes.

Establish (and construct a long term evaluation of) two non-Government Comprehensive Primary Health Care Centres in SA.

The State Labor Government believes in, and is committed to, the provision of world leading public health care for all South Australians. We recognise the importance of prevention and early intervention for population health and wellbeing.

That is why a re-elected Labor Government will establish a new \$30 million health hub, signalling the next phase in Adelaide's biomedical precinct. The hub will reduce presentations to the Royal Adelaide Hospital emergency department and improve the management of chronic and complex illnesses.

Further, a Labor Government will provide almost \$15 million towards chronic disease prevention and preventative health, to keep South Australians healthy and out of hospital. The package will target the areas of:

- Obesity, diabetes and asthma in children and young people
- Epilepsy
- Heart health
- Stroke

We have invested in primary and preventative health, through our GP Plus and GP Super Clinics, and other primary health services like BreastScreen SA, SA Dental, Aboriginal Health Services, and Migrant Health, which provide a focus on prevention, and improving the management of people with chronic and complex illnesses, as well as reducing hospital presentations.

We are supportive of the establishment of non-government Comprehensive Primary Health Care Centres, and believe the Federal Funded Primary Health Networks would be best placed to lead this work, as the key bodies responsible for ensuring coordinated primary health services, particularly for those at risk of poor health outcomes.

The State Labor Government will continue to foster our relationships with the Primary Health Networks to ensure South Australians continue to receive quality primary health services, and we will continue to advocate for a better primary and preventative health system.

We stood up to the Federal Government when they slashed millions of dollars from South Australia for preventative health initiatives, through the cessation of the National Partnership Agreement in Preventive Health in 2014-15 - four years prior to its expected expiry in 2017-18. We will continue to hold the Federal Government to account for prevention and primary health, as this is rightly their responsibility.

We know preventable conditions are of rising concern and when the Federal Liberal Government drops the ball, our public hospitals are flooded with avoidable presentations. A State Labor Government will invest in preventive and community health measures to keep South Australian adults and children healthy, happy and out of hospital.

Public Housing

Stop the current decline of public housing and develop a long-term strategy to rebuild the public housing estate.

Housing Policy To be announced shortly, we will get it to you over the weekend

The South Australian Labor Government has put in place a comprehensive package of measures to support the sustainability of public housing in South Australia for the most vulnerable in society as well as improving the ability of low to middle income households to buy their own home.

The Renewing our Streets and Suburbs strategy (ROSAS), coordinated through Renewal SA, encompasses several renewal initiatives designed to improve the quality of public housing for our society's most vulnerable people, support investment in the South Australian economy and create South Australian jobs.

On 10 February 2015, the Governor outlined the Premier's agenda for South Australia, including the aim to renew 4,500 aged pre-1968 Housing Trust homes within 10 kilometres of the city by 2020.

The renewal of these out-dated Housing Trust homes is expected to support an estimated 1,600 jobs each year and \$1.2 billion in direct investment by the private sector and Government in new housing and related construction works.

ROSAS activity is on track to meet the target of 4,500 homes by 2020.

As part of the 2015-16 Mid-Year Budget Review handed down in December 2015, we announced our \$208 million '1000 Homes in 1000 Days' initiative, to help further stimulate the housing and construction industry.

This new public housing is being built on existing Government-owned land and funded through the sale of surplus land and old Housing Trust stock. As of December, 527 homes had been completed or were under construction. The program is on track to be completed in late 2018.

The homes are being built across metro and country areas with houses completed in Angle Park, Clearview, Cumberland Park, Elizabeth Vale, Enfield, Kilburn, Findon, Greenacres, Klemzig, McCracken, Morphett Vale, Mount Gambier, Northfield, Para Hills, Parafield Gardens, Peterhead, Plympton Park, Port Augusta, Seaton, Smithfield Plains, Stirling North, Whyalla and Woodville West.

In a separate initiative, we have transferred the management of 5,000 Housing Trust to the community housing sector. This will deliver important benefits to South Australia, and to local communities. Community housing providers have track records of excellent service to tenants, especially those most in need of support. Providers have access to financial benefits not available to public housing providers, including Commonwealth Rent Assistance, GST credits, and Fringe Benefits Tax concessions. They also have a legislated entitlement to a 75 per cent rebate on council rates, which can significantly add to their revenues and therefore their capacity to attract finance.

These funds will be used to improve the condition of properties and deliver community initiatives.

As community housing providers are able to attract private investment, these transfers have the potential to raise significant levels of private finance to further improve the supply and renewal of affordable and social housing in South Australia. This redevelopment activity will improve the quality and diversity of housing opportunities available and open pathways to home ownership. Renewed and modernised housing stock can better support our efforts to assist ageing South Australians to remain in their homes, and tenants with disabilities to retain their independence.

Past experience indicates there is a positive impact on the value of local properties through urban renewal projects. New housing development stimulates local economies, creates jobs in the building industry for local residents and renews local communities, creating great places to live.

Affordable housing is a key policy of the South Australian Labor Government, with affordable housing policy included in the planning system, as well as a priority for State Government land development projects and sale of Government land.

The 15 per cent Affordable Housing Policy is now included in over 85 per cent of Development Plans in Greater Adelaide. Since 2005 this has delivered more than 2,269 homes for low and moderate income households to the South Australian market, valued at over \$522 million.

JUSTICE

Support the replacement of current flat-rate traffic and summary fines with ones based on a proportion of the offenders' income.

Under Labor's watch, crimes against person and property have halved. We launched a strategy to reduce recidivism to create a safer community with fewer victims and less crime. Funded the Reboot program, which allows young offenders who come into contact with the criminal justice system to be diverted to specific rehabilitative programs.

A range of factors are taken into account when road traffic offence penalties are set, including the relative risk of a crash occurring and risk of injury in a crash, and the relativity of the penalties for different offences under each broad offence type. Similar considerations are made with respect to Summary Fines.

The consistency of the penalties with those imposed for a range of other traffic offences under the Australian Road Rules, and the consistency of South Australian penalties compared with those in other Australian jurisdictions, are also considered.

The traffic offence expiation notice system is designed to simplify the penalty system for a wide range of offences and to reduce costs to the public by removing these cases from the Court system.

Any attempt to link expiation fees to a person's ability to pay raises complex issues about an individual's financial circumstances, wealth and net income arrangements, which would necessarily involve the sharing of information on individuals by the Commonwealth Government. Currently no state or territory in Australia has such a penalty regime.

The State Government appreciates SACOSS concerns relating to the costs associated to fines by both traffic and summary fines penalize behaviours that represent an enormous amount of grief, suffering and personal loss to families.

The South Australian Labor Government is committed to ensuring fines do not cause undue financial hardship to people on lower incomes. A person who is unable to pay a fine in full, without causing hardship to them or their dependents, may negotiate with the Registrar of Magistrates Court to pay the fine in instalments.

All revenue from speeding fines is invested back into road safety through the Community Road Safety Fund, which aims to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on our roads.

Providing online tertiary education programs for prisoners to facilitate rehabilitation, digital inclusion and post-release life chances.

The South Australian Labor Government is committed to reducing the rate of reoffending by 10 per cent by 2020, which would give us the lowest return to prison rate in the country.

We have invested \$40 million on rehabilitation programs to help prisoners obtain the education, practical and other skills they need to break the cycle of offending, and turn their lives around.

More than \$9.2 million of this is being invested in “Work Ready, Release Ready” to help prisoners upskill and find work upon release. As part of that program, the South Australian Labor Government is exploring an entire update of the state-wide computer system to provide a secure and restricted education network.

That network could then be paired with remote devices, restricted to the secure network, to enable education to occur within the cell environment when traditional classroom learning is not available. The program familiarises prisoners with modern-day technology, helping them to interact with digital platforms upon their release.

As part of the Work Ready, Release Ready program, the South Australian Government and Department of Correctional Services have reviewed the delivery of this model of education both interstate and internationally.

We continue to explore the possibility of partnering with Tertiary Education providers to ensure that prisoners are afforded the best pathways possible into employment post release.

As part of the \$40 million investment, \$18.9 million will be spent on “New Foundations”, which provides accommodation and support services for prisoners who do not have suitable housing upon their release. The aim of this is to reduce the risk of homelessness and reoffending.

New Foundations also assists prisoners who are eligible for release, but remain imprisoned because they have no suitable accommodation in the community.

An Aboriginal Reference Group has been set up to advise DCS on factors contributing to Indigenous incarceration and reoffending.

GAMBLING HARM PREVENTION POLICIES

The introduction of \$1 per spin bet limits on poker machines.

In January 2017, the Labor Government introduced reforms to reduce maximum betting limits from \$10 to \$5. This is consistent with all other jurisdiction except for ACT and NSW, which have retained the \$10 maximum betting limit.

The \$5 maximum bet limit was introduced with a comprehensive package of responsible gambling measures including continued prohibition of 'note acceptors', improving responsible gambling messaging, strengthening staff training requirements, improved barring register, and introduction of social effects tests for new venues or substantial changes in licence conditions.

Furthermore, from 31 December 2018, gaming machines will be required to be capable of displaying on-screen messages, and licensees must provide an automated risk monitoring system which has been recognised by the Independent Gambling Authority.

The South Australian Labor Government has led an extensive consultation process during 2013 and 2015 with all interested and affected parties, which has led to a comprehensive set of reforms to minimise the harm of problem gambling.

We are committed to continuing to address the harm of problem gambling, whilst recognising that responsible gambling is a form of legitimate entertainment for some and has an important supporting role for many South Australian community clubs.

A re-elected State Labor Government is open to considering any detailed proposal to improve the quality of advice and views received in relation to gambling reforms.

Reducing the number of poker machines to the previous announced target of 12,000.

Progressively since 2004, under a South Australian Labor Government, more than 2,300 gaming machines have been successfully removed. The South Australian Labor Government is committed to continuing with this initiative.

We also introduced a comprehensive package of reforms and initiatives to combat problem gambling as set out above. The reduction in the number of gaming machines is one of many measures to address the harmful effects of problem gambling.

With the increasing prevalence of online gambling, tackling problem gambling will, going forward, require a focus beyond gaming machines. In this regard, the South Australian Labor Government has, and will continue to, advocate nationally for greater regulation and reforms of online gambling.

Removal of EFTPOS machines from gaming areas.

The operation of EFTPOS facilities within gaming machine areas should be considered carefully within the context gaming machines areas which are required to be operated by trained staff in accordance with the *Gaming Machines Act 1992*.

The required training of staff includes low level intervention and referral to gambling help services. An EFTPOS facility outside the gaming area is not necessarily operated by a person with recognised training, nor are they in a position to observe behaviour in the gaming area.

This could result in a situation where some problem gambling risk factors cannot be observed by those trained to identify and respond to them.

Against this backdrop, the effectiveness of this proposal needs to be carefully considered in the context within which gaming machines are required to be operated.

The South Australian Labor Government is committed to continue to consider a combination of measures to combat problem gambling.

Funding for advocacy for consumer protection and gambling harm prevention measures.

The Independent Gambling Authority is responsible for regulating casino gambling, gaming machines in hotels and clubs, betting on races and sports and for commercial lotteries.

Through the Independent Gambling Authority, a broad range of views and interests relating to gambling can be considered and presented to the Government together with relevant expert advice. The South Australian Labor Government is committed to continuing to work with all interested parties to further reduce the harmful effects and causes of problem gambling.

A re-elected State Labor Government is open to considering any detailed proposal to improve the quality of advice and views received in relation to gambling reforms.

SOCIAL SERVICE SECTOR SUPPORT

Funding and Contracting

- Commit to continuation of the agreed principles for funding of the NFP sector (as enshrined in DPC 0 44).
- Commit to continue the Standard Indexation Policy as adopted by Cabinet in 2017.
- Finalise negotiations, adopt and implement the Standard Funded Services Agreement and Grants Agreement Templates.
- Extend the provisions of the *Late Payment of Government Debt (Interest) 2013 Act* to all not-for-profit organisations.

The South Australian Labor Government recognises and values the important role that a strong and independent not-for-profit (NFP) sector plays in building community and culture, and in delivering services to improve the lives of South Australians.

We know that the best outcomes for people and communities are achieved when we work in partnership with the NFP sector to plan and deliver activities and services. That is why Labor will extend the provisions of the *Late Payment of Government Debt (interest) 2013 Act* to not for profit community organisation.

The South Australian Funding Policy (Policy) aims to support and strengthen collaborative partnerships between government and the NFP sector by:

- providing a consistent approach to all aspects of funding
- setting clear requirements for public authorities
- reducing the administrative burden on NFPs and maintains their independence
- ensuring that we capture learning and evidence that can be used to continually improve outcomes for South Australian communities.

NFPs have advised that being subject to different funding arrangements and indexation rates on different contracts with government add complexity to their financial management and workforce planning, and diverts limited resources from service delivery. This impedes their ability to provide services to South Australians, and is inconsistent with the government's *Stronger Together* policy agenda.

In response, Labor has introduced policy that requires;

- all agencies to use standard templates; manage funding processes in line with standard rules and guidelines; and apply a standard contract duration of **3+3+3 years** for low-risk funding longer than two years and not linked to Commonwealth funding
- agencies to follow an outcome based accountability model and streamline contracts when multiple agencies contract with the same not-for-profit organisation
- that the default indexation rate, reflecting both goods and services and wages growth, will initially be set at 2 per cent for 2017-18 and 2018-19, and at 2.5 per cent for 2019-20 and 2020-21. This is based on the mid-point between the projected Consumer Price Index and government wages growth assumptions

- the State Procurement Board (SPB) to revise its procurement policy framework to incorporate the SANFRAG principles and provide guidance and training on procuring with the NFP sector
- a simplified standard NFP contract to be mandatory across government. DTF is also reviewing Treasurer's Instructions to simplify and standardise grant-funding arrangements
- services affected by transitioning aged care arrangements and services provided under the NDIS be excluded from the policy in the short term, for review in 2019-20. This recognises that that the sector is in transition.

A re-elected State Labor Government will ensure that a 12 Month Post Implementation Review occurs in July 2018. This will be a comprehensive review involving key stakeholders and will determine whether to seek further reform including overarching interface for grants management across government.

Other Sector Support Policies

Assisting community service sector digital readiness: Funding for an audit of digital technology usage and literacy and to build digital capacity in the community services sector in SA.

See digital inclusion section for broader details. Labor is willing to work with SACOSS to understand the scope of this proposal.

STATE TAXES AND EXPENDITURE

All parties commit to not supporting or implementing any cut to health and community services (in real terms) in the first two years of Government unless that cut has been announced as part of the election campaign.

The South Australian Labor Government recognises and values the important role that a strong and independent not-for-profit sector plays in building communities and delivering services to improve the lives of South Australians.

Over the past four years, the Labor Government has undertaken significant work in partnership with the community services sector to implement major reforms in the funding of the not-for-profit sector. We commit to no unannounced cuts.