



## Media release

**Wednesday, 5 March 2014**

### Commitment to nurse practitioners welcomed

The Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) has welcomed the South Australian Labor Government's pledge to invest \$2.4 million over four years in training 100 new nurse practitioners if elected on March 15.

Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars, CEO ANMF (SA Branch), said the announcement was a strong acknowledgment of the importance of nurse practitioners in providing South Australians the best quality of care.

"Nurse practitioners are able to manage acute and chronic medical conditions by providing advanced assessments, initiating diagnostic investigations, prescribing medication and referring patients to other health care providers," Ms Dabars said.

"By increasing the number of nurse practitioners, more people will be able to access quality care closer to their homes and provide much needed relief to our health care system."

The announcement is consistent with the commitment sought by the ANMF (SA Branch) from both major parties in its Health Policy Position Statement, which was released in October last year ahead of this month's election.

"Our election policy document specifically called for this investment in nurse practitioners from both major parties," Ms Dabars said.

"Such a plan is not only a step forward for the nursing professions we represent, but a strong commitment to promoting the best quality of care for the South Australian community."

"Despite having one of the best health systems in the country, South Australia is lagging behind other jurisdictions including Canada, the UK and the ACT in its investment in nurse practitioners."

"The onus is now on the South Australian Liberal party to commit to this plan."

As part of the commitment, 16 of the nurse practitioner positions would focus on specific areas of Parkinson's disease, epilepsy, diabetes and allergy.

"This is a strong acknowledgement of the role nurse practitioner-led programs can have on effective early intervention and disease prevention," Ms Dabars said.

"Not only will this provide the community with a high quality of care, but it will provide much-needed relief to our often overcrowded hospitals and the staff that keep them running."