



Media release

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GOVERNMENT PROMISES TO DELIVER ON ANMF (SA BRANCH) CALL FOR NURSE-LED PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

The professional and industrial organisation representing more than 20,000 South Australian nurses, midwives and personal care workers welcomes the State Government's pre-election commitment to establish a nurse-led primary health care clinic in Adelaide.

Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) CEO/Secretary Adj Assoc Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM says today's announcement by Health Minister Peter Malinauskas follows a long-time push by the federation for the introduction of such a service.

"We have been advocating nurse-led clinics for many years, given the positive results we've seen come out of similar services operating interstate and overseas," Ms Dabars says.

"Nurse-led clinics in primary health care are safe, effective and improve access to quality health care for the community. They create better access, drive improved health outcomes, shorter waiting times for patients and decrease rates of hospital admission," she says.

She says the news is certainly a welcome start to providing South Australians with better access to health care services and helping to ease the burden on our emergency departments.

"Primary health care clinics can provide patients with better access to health services and treatment for chronic conditions like asthma and diabetes, which may require hospitalisation if left untreated."

"Nurse-led services can also provide immediate care for patients with minor injuries, such as broken bones, and cuts and grazes that may require stitches.

"These clinics would be managed and staffed by appropriately skilled nurses, including advanced practice nurses and nurse practitioners, providing timely and quality care for the community.

Regardless of the governing party after the state election, she says ANMF (SA Branch) won't stop pushing for this service to become a reality.

"We firmly believe nurse-led care is the way forward to providing South Australians with better access to safe, effective health care and will help take the pressure of our hospitals, benefiting the broader community."

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