



## Media release

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# NEW AD CAMPAIGN CALLS OUT XENOPHON FOR CONTINUED LACK OF POLICY

The body representing South Australia's nurses, midwives and personal care workers has today launched an advertising campaign, calling out Nick Xenophon's SA-Best party for its continued lack of a health policy.

Narrated in the style of a David Attenborough nature documentary, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) radio advertisement says:

*We're anxiously lying in wait...lenses poised at the ready...hoping to catch a first look at one of South Australia's rarest species...the Nick Xenophon SA Best health policy.*

*So little is known about this rare phenomenon that many consider it to be little more than folklore.*

*With no clear plans and health funding making up around 30% of our State's budget, a vote for Nick Xenophon's SA-Best party could spell the end for the health of South Australia.*

The advertisement follows more than six months of requests to Mr Xenophon by ANMF (SA Branch) to provide details around his health policy. Today, just five weeks out from the 17 March state election, voters are still none the wiser.

ANMF (SA Branch) CEO/Secretary Adj Associate Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM says Mr Xenophon's continued inaction is "a slap in the face" for South Australia's nursing and midwifery workforce.

"When are we going to get a policy on the table that people can assess thoroughly? Will it be before or after the election?" Ms Dabars says.

"The people working in our health sector and the community receiving these critical services, deserve enough time to consider and engage with any proposed policy in a way that allows proper debate ahead of the election."

"To hear nothing so close to an election is a slap in the face for our State's 32,000 nurses, midwives and personal care workers."

The radio advertisement airs from today.

### Background

The [ANMF \(SA Branch\) Health Policy Position statement](#) was issued to all major parties last July as a means of guiding health policy platforms for political parties ahead of the state election.

To date, timely policy responses have been received by Labor, Liberal and The Greens, with SA-BEST failing to respond despite repeated follow-ups.

Based on these responses, ANMF (SA Branch) has scored each party on their respective health policy as a guide for the nursing and midwifery workforce—and indeed all South Australians in their care—on how to make their vote count for health on 17 March.

The election health scorecard can be viewed at <https://www.anmfsa.org.au/events-campaigns/state-election-2018/>

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