



Media release

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SA NURSES AND MIDWIVES SNUBBED BY XENOPHON'S SA BEST PARTY

The body representing South Australia's nurses, midwives and aged care workers has been left in the dark, after nearly six months of repeated requests for Nick Xenophon's health policy ahead of the forthcoming State election.

The revelation comes as Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (SA Branch) today released its State political scorecard to help South Australia's 32,000-strong nursing and midwifery workforce—and indeed the patients they care for—make an informed decision at the polling booth on 17 March.

The scorecard analyses each party's response to the ANMF (SA Branch)'s Health Policy Position Statement issued last July... and is devoid of any policies from the SA Best Party.

In August last year, Mr Xenophon declined the opportunity to present on his health policy at the ANMF (SA Branch's) Annual Professional Conference alongside then Health Minister Jack Snelling, Shadow Health Minister Stephen Wade and The Greens leader Tammy Franks.

ANMF (SA Branch) CEO/Secretary Adj Associate Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM says she's extremely disappointed at the continued lack of response from a man who fancies himself as a political front-runner.

"We're not asking about the weather; we're asking for genuine details on Mr Xenophon's plans for the future of health in our State," Ms Dabars says.

"How can you possibly consider yourself a serious contender as Premier if you can't release details on how you plan to allocate resources that represent 30% of the entire State budget?" she says.

She says SA Best's repeated snubs of ANMF (SA Branch)'s request for health policy information is disrespectful to the nursing and midwifery workforce and the patients in their care.

"Don't our hard-working nurses, midwives and personal care assistants deserve to know SA Best's priorities for health? Don't *all* South Australians deserve more than a slap-dash health policy?"

The ANMF (SA Branch) State election scorecard is accessible at <https://www.anmfsa.org.au/events-campaigns/state-election-2018> to all members of the public who want to know how to make their vote count for health on Saturday 17 March.

"We'll be updating our analysis as new health announcements are made by any of the major players in the leadup to the election."

"But if it takes SA Best more than six months to come up with a health policy, it will be interesting to see how they pull an entire State budget together for June," she said.

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