



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## State Government re-commits to health reform

Ahead of the State Budget to be released on 7 July 2016, the SA Government has, during discussions with the Australian Nursing & Midwifery Federation (SA Branch), recommitted itself to a reform agenda based on improving efficiency and effectiveness.

"Nurses and Midwives were concerned about the prospect of budget measures that could reduce the available beds and health workforce" said Adjunct Associate Professor Elizabeth Dabars AM.

"The ANMF (SA Branch) has been a strong advocate for the health reform agenda given that it is based on improving effectiveness, efficiency and access to health services."

"We were concerned by rumours of a shift in the position towards a cut in beds and staff ahead of any improvement in performance and effectiveness. That would have been at odds with the position endorsed by our members" she said.

The Hon Jack Snelling MP Minister for Health said "The SA Government approach is to improve the performance of our hospital system and, through those processes, save resources that will help address the pressures in health funding.

"The SA Government has rejected a policy of making cuts to hospital services as has occurred in some other states, notably in Queensland under the Newman Coalition Government, which resulted in massive bed closures and cut thousands of nursing and midwifery posts."

"This slash and burn approach is one that the incoming state government along with the Nurses Union in

Queensland is having to work to repair."

The Transforming Health program whilst challenging provides an opportunity for maintaining access to health services whilst cutting costs over time by improving the performance of services.

The Minister re-affirmed that beds will only be closed when efficiencies can be demonstrated and that reductions in beds and other resources are possible.

"This can only be achieved by the continuing partnership between health services and key clinical and managerial staff of hospitals, notably nurses and midwives" said Adj Associate Professor Dabars.

"Nurses can play a central role in the management and coordination of the patient stay where they are enabled to do so. This refreshed Government commitment to positive reform along with the announcement of the Nursing Deputy Ambassadors for Transforming Health in the 3 metropolitan Local Health Networks is a good next step."