

Labor's ten year plan to keep Canberra healthy

A re-elected Labor Government will continue its commitment to a healthy Canberra by investing in Calvary Public Hospital, with new funding to improve the emergency department and to modernise surgeries and diagnostic equipment.

This commitment is part of Labor's ten year plan to continue to build a world-class health system that not only focuses on prevention and meets growing demand, but also creates highly-skilled jobs, harnesses our world-leading research abilities, and delivers new services where and when people need them.

As part of our long term plan we will invest in a scoping study for longer-term new and expanded Northside hospital facilities. This will be in consultation with healthcare professionals, who each and every day care for patients at Calvary. This will help meet the needs of Canberra's growing population, particularly in the northern suburbs.

Calvary Public Hospital is a real hospital, with a real emergency department that manages more than 50,000 presentations each year.

Over the next three years, Labor will invest \$15 million in upgrades for Calvary Public Hospital.

This will include upgrade and expansion of Calvary's emergency department, comprising:

- New paediatric short stay beds, which allow for overnight observation.
- More adult short stay beds allowing patients to be monitored for 24 hours.
- New waiting and triage areas.

Further upgrades will also be made in surgical areas, and new imaging and diagnostic equipment installed. These upgrades will be developed in close consultation with Calvary and the clinicians who use these spaces every day.

This is part of Labor's plan to continue to focus on giving patients the best care, and deliver services when and where they need them.

In consultation with healthcare professionals, Labor will also undertake a scoping study in the next term of government to build new and expanded northside general hospital facilities to meet the needs of Canberra's growing population.

Healthcare has always been a priority for ACT Labor. That's why we have made a number of commitments to the future of health care in Canberra in recent days, highlighting that only Labor has a comprehensive ten year plan to keep Canberrans healthy and build the infrastructure we need for the future.

Labor has already announced a range of health policies over the last week including:

- \$500 million to expand Canberra Hospital, build a new Surgical Procedures, Interventional Radiology and Emergency (SPIRE) Centre.
- \$150 million to enhance health services for women and children at the Centenary Hospital and develop a new child and adolescent mental health unit.
- \$36 million for 68 new nurses across Canberra and to fund a nurse practitioner course at UC.
- More funding to increase organ donation rates in the ACT and make it easier for people to opt in to be organ donors.
- New stroke support services to improve the quality of life for stroke patients.

- Provide the Meningococcal B vaccination for free to all babies born in the ACT, and continue to fund the free antenatal whooping cough vaccination.
- Increase the capacity of the Hospital in the Home program and provide new grants to construct three new bulk billing medical practices – two in Tuggeranong and one in the Molonglo Valley.
- Fund two new mobile dental vans to visit vulnerable communities across Canberra.
- Build two new free nurse-led Walk in Centres in Weston Creek and Gungahlin.
- Invest \$12 million for Winnunga Nimmityjah to build a new modern health clinic that is fit for purpose for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
- A one-off grant for Spinal Cord Injuries Australia to establish a NeuroMoves program in Canberra, offering people with spinal injuries a purpose-built gym to help them recover.
- Fund the Health Care Consumers Association to help patients better understand the health system and develop a model for patient care navigators to work with Canberrans with chronic health conditions.
- A new Nursing and Allied Health Clinical School at the University of Canberra
- An additional \$3 million to support health research in key areas.
- Establish a new Preventative Health Coordinator to focus on keeping Canberrans healthy.

This is all part of Labor's ongoing commitment to improving the health of the Canberra community now and into the future.

When it comes to delivering quality health services in Canberra, only Labor will continue to support and employ more doctors and nurses, who already deliver more than a million health services a year to Canberrans.

It's all part of ACT Labor's long-term plan for the future of health in Canberra – giving Canberrans the care they need, where and when they need it.

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