

# 4.0 STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES



# 2036

**WILL MARK  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S  
BICENTENARY.**

Obviously, we have much to be proud of and grateful for, but I think most South Australians feel things could be a lot better. Where we once led the nation, we now follow. We need to reclaim our greatness.

2036 is more than just a date, it's a destination. A destination of hope and prosperity for South Australians, where we can have the life we want in the State we love. A destination where we can provide a better future for our children. A destination where our economy encourages opportunity and rewards effort and risk. A destination where possibility is available to all, not just a few.

That vision of 2036 inspires and excites me. However I'm not waiting until the election in 2018. Planning and delivering on the vision of 2036 must start now. And from our end it has.

In the lead up to the State election we will deliver a clear, consultative and responsible pathway to recovery and success.

This is the first step in our plan for a better South Australia. Please read it, talk about it with your friends and family.

Or, talk to me.

**I am Steven Marshall -  
Leader of the State Liberals.**

**2036 STARTS NOW.**



[marshall2036.com.au](http://marshall2036.com.au)

GOOD GOVERNMENTS CARE FOR AND SUPPORT THOSE WHO NEED HELP TO GET BACK ON THEIR FEET AND LIVE THEIR BEST POSSIBLE LIFE.

# 4.0

## We Believe

- It's your life – you should be empowered to make decisions and take responsibility for your own life and future
- Empathy and acceptance are key to helping people overcome hardship
- Many South Australians will require government support and care at some point in their lives, and they deserve the best quality services during this time
- It is vital to identify opportunities to help vulnerable South Australians make positive changes in their lives
- Government should work to remove barriers to equal opportunities wherever they present themselves
- South Australia needs sustainable, innovative solutions to provide better outcomes for vulnerable members of our community

## How we will achieve this together

- 4.1 Protecting the most vulnerable people in our community, especially children
- 4.2 Improving services and engaging the non-government sector
- 4.3 Building resilience and creating more opportunities for vulnerable South Australians
- 4.4 Ensuring services are provided in a timely and sensitive manner
- 4.5 Striving for equality and alleviating entrenched disadvantage
- 4.6 Ensuring individual choice is at the centre of our policies

## 4.1 Protecting the most vulnerable people in our community, especially children

While every attempt must be made to provide all South Australians with the opportunities they need to better their own lives, there is also a role for government in providing protection and support to those who are unable to care for themselves. This is especially important when dealing with the youngest in our communities – children are the future of our State, and we want the next generation to be raised away from the threat of violence or harm.

Children need to be at the heart of child protection. Our child protection system must be capable of protecting our children and providing them with safe homes. To achieve this ambition we need to start work on this today.

**“Our children are our future and their protection is our priority”**

Our children are our future and their protection is our priority. We believe that Families SA should be transformed to focus on the needs of children, and lead a network of Non Government Organisations (NGOs), foster carers and community organisations to protect and nurture children at risk. They will have a substantially elevated status within government and it will be removed from the large and bureaucratic Education Department.

Unfortunately it is a sad fact of life that not everyone is able to provide a safe and stable home for their children, no matter how much support they are offered. In these situations it is up to the government and service providers to step in and put the interests of the child first. Solutions must be found to ensure that our State’s most vulnerable children are safe and protected. We will always work to put the rights of the child at the centre of our policy development – we must protect those who cannot protect themselves.

Some South Australians with a disability are also at increased risk of harm in our community. Government needs to work with service providers, carers and families to ensure all South Australians are protected from potential harm as they go about their daily lives. There is no place in our society for people who seek to take advantage of our most vulnerable South Australians. Everyone deserves to feel safe in their homes, at work and out in their neighbourhoods.

## 4.2 Improving services and engaging the non-government sector

At some point in our lives, we may all require some extra help to get us back on our feet. Providing support services to vulnerable people in our community is one of the key roles of government. We believe that South Australians deserve the best possible support from their government and non-government service providers when they find themselves in need.

There is a wealth of experience and knowledge in the not-for-profit and non-government sector when it comes to providing support and services for South Australians. Often, it is the work carried out by the non-government sector that provides the most relevant, tailored support. We believe there is an opportunity for government to provide better support to NGOs who are undertaking the important role of community care.

**“We believe South Australians deserve the best possible support from their government and non-government service providers when they find themselves in need”**

We believe that NGOs are best able to serve the community when they are empowered by government to work free from excessive red tape and bureaucracy. Efficiency is key in a sector that has traditionally struggled with high demand and stretched resources. The streamlining of government paper-work requirements would reduce excess stress on NGO administrators and staff. We believe that steps should be taken to ensure that applications for government funding are processed in a timely manner, and that longer-term funding provides greater certainty for service providers, so that NGOs can continue to make long-range plans and focus on the community, rather than their resources.

As the sector continues to develop and grow, there are increasing opportunities for NGOs and not-for-profits to harness innovative new technologies and opportunities to deliver better outcomes for South Australians. We believe there is a role for government to assist NGOs to take advantage of new technologies to reduce backlogs and provide better quality services. NGOs and not-for-profits do government a huge service by taking on responsibility for community care across a range of sectors, and government should respect and assist these organisations to up-skill and embrace innovation for the benefit of their clients.

Volunteers are a vital part of the non-government and not-for-profit sector, providing much needed care and support in our communities. We believe that volunteers are crucial, and should be treated with the utmost respect and support. We need to foster an environment that encourages the next generation of volunteers to get involved, particularly the young and new retirees. Being a volunteer in the community should be a source of pride. We want to ensure that all South Australians value the work done by our dedicated and passionate volunteers.

## 4.3 Building resilience and creating opportunities

As Liberals, we believe that the best way to lift people out of poverty is to create jobs and opportunities. We need an economy that is robust and strong and presents people with a range of employment opportunities. Having a job is not only a fundamental part of our personal identity – it also provides us with the financial and social tools we need to live the life we choose. When people are unemployed they are more likely to struggle with mental health issues, housing uncertainty and potential stress on their relationships. A key duty of any government is to work to provide people with job opportunities.

**“A key duty of any government is to work to provide people with job opportunities”**

Our vision for 2036 is a government focused on creating new, transformative opportunities for vulnerable South Australians, rather than reinforcing entrenched dependency. Ultimately, government’s role is to support people while they build their personal resilience and get back on their feet. Innovative ideas need to be embraced, to ensure that vulnerable people in our communities are given every opportunity to pull themselves out of difficult situations. Whether it is through work, volunteering, education or training, we believe in the potential of all people to improve their own lives.

Ultimately, government action needs to focus on helping people get to a point in their lives where they no longer need extra support or services. While this will not be possible for everyone, we believe that there are many people currently accessing services who, with extra support, would be able to live independently down the track.

For the over 30,000 South Australians living with a disability we will ensure that they, their families and their carers will have the best opportunity possible to achieve their goals, including managing their own life through the NDIS.

Unfortunately, when adults fall on tough times it is often their children who suffer the most. At times like these it is up to government, and society as a whole, to ensure that children and families are given the help and support they need to make it through. It is vital for government to work with service providers to ensure that children and young people are supported while their parents are overcoming personal difficulties. We believe that government action needs to put the protection of children at their core, because harm done in a child’s life can cripple them as an adult.

We believe that by working with vulnerable children in a consistent and sympathetic way, we can help build their resilience and ensure they have the skills they need to create their own successful lives as adults.

## 4.4 Timely and sensitive service provision

When people require government support services, they often need them urgently. Being left to languish on waiting lists adds stress and reduces the prospect of long term self-reliance in an already fraught situation. We believe that services need to be delivered in a timely, efficient manner that both respects the individual and fulfils their needs.

**“Services need to be prioritised to ensure they are reaching the most vulnerable people in our community”**

Just because a problem is out of public sight, does not mean that it should be out of the government’s mind. Services need to be prioritised to ensure they are reaching the most vulnerable people in our community. Sometimes our community members most at risk can be the hardest to identify or locate, but we believe government has a responsibility to ensure they do not fall through the cracks.

All South Australians deserve access to quality services. We understand that your ability to get government support should not diminish the further away from Adelaide you live.

We believe that government needs to focus on the needs of vulnerable young people – their needs are unique and programs must be sensitively tailored to take this into account. When vulnerable children are at risk, actions must be taken quickly to ensure their safety. The safety of our young people is paramount and should be a key priority.

South Australia has a strong veteran’s community that continues to serve our country with pride and honour. Veterans will continue to be an important part of our community in 2036. We understand that putting yourself in danger for the sake of your country can lead to personal challenges down the track. We understand that the problems faced by our veterans are unique, and we will ensure that our service men and women and their families are provided with the support they need.

We believe that the best services are delivered by people who genuinely understand the issues being faced by their clients. We believe that it is the people on the ground and at the forefront of service delivery who have the best understanding of the complexities facing South Australian communities. Rather than a top-down approach to service delivery, we believe that program direction should be influenced by the experiences of those accessing and implementing community services. Government has a responsibility to truly listen to the needs of those using government support services and should not dictate from on high, but rather consult and engage with those accessing support.

## 4.5 Striving for equality and alleviating entrenched disadvantage

We believe that in order for the South Australia of 2036 to be the more equitable, fair and inclusive society we want, then government needs to focus on the multiple causes and outcomes of disadvantage that are present today.

It is an unfortunate truth that many of us live with particular challenges – we are not all afforded the same opportunities as a matter of course. Some of us will face barriers due to ethnicity, Aboriginality or disability; others will face potential disadvantage due to language, gender or sexuality. It is vital that government recognises the myriad of different ways that people are disadvantaged – it is only through acceptance of the problem that solutions can begin to be formulated. We believe that we can focus our resources to help people overcome entrenched disadvantage through government recognition that inequality still exists in South Australia.

**“Good governments work to reduce the disparities of opportunities available in order to provide a more even playing field”**

Strategies to reduce disadvantage need to be across the whole of government, not just the service delivery sector, as they have the potential to reinforce inequality if they are not carefully designed. We believe that all policies should be formulated to ensure that minority groups, like Aboriginal South Australians, do not face inequality or disadvantage through government actions.

A fundamental part of offering people the best opportunities to improve their lives, is to ensure that they have equal access to these transformative opportunities. We believe that good governments work to reduce the disparities of opportunity available to its citizens, in order to provide a more even playing field.

It is especially important that government recognises that Aboriginal South Australians face challenges that many other people in our society do not. Policies need to be culturally appropriate and sensitively implemented, to ensure that they provide real outcomes and do not further marginalise our nation’s first people.

Government also needs to take a long-range strategic focus on tackling the discrimination faced by women across South Australia, in terms of domestic and family violence, sexual abuse, access to health and child care, the growing wage gap and representation on Boards and at all levels of government. By 2036 we need a state where women and girls are empowered to live their lives free from discrimination or abuse.

We believe in embracing diversity, acknowledging disadvantage, and using the resources of government to ensure that the very things that make us unique do not impact upon our ability to lead our best lives.

## 4.6 Ensuring individual choice

The State Liberals fundamentally believe that individuals should be able to make their own decisions about things that affect their lives. This includes which services to access, which opportunities to take up, where to reside and how to live their lives. We believe that government has a role to play in removing red tape and barriers that prevent people from having the autonomy to make their own decisions. Less red tape and a simpler, streamlined sector will empower people to have more input and feedback into the services they choose.

**“We believe when people are empowered to make their own decisions, they are also empowered to take greater responsibility for their own lives”**

With personal choice, comes personal responsibility. We believe that when people are empowered to make their own decisions, they are also empowered to take greater responsibility for their own lives. We believe that people accessing support services should be encouraged to be active participants in the programs available to them, to ensure they do not become disenfranchised and fail to make the most of the options available to them. Government should keep the philosophy of personal empowerment at the core of policy.

Everyone is different, and in the course of our lives we will all face different battles and situations. Some of us will face challenges from the moment we take our first breath, while others may not need government support until much later in life. Regardless of who you are, where you come from or what difficulties you may be facing, you deserve a government that recognises your unique needs. There is no ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach to service delivery – governments should allocate the resources to develop a range of services that are tailored to the different needs of the community. We believe that entire communities will benefit through the development of programs that put the needs of the individual first.

# THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ OUR PLAN TO RECLAIM SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S GREATNESS.

Let me know your thoughts, stay connected,  
and let's take the first step toward 2036 together.

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