

6.0 ENSURING SAFETY AND JUSTICE



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

EVERYONE NEEDS TO FEEL SAFE IN THEIR COMMUNITY
- SOUTH AUSTRALIANS DESERVE ACCESS TO THE BEST
EMERGENCY SERVICES, POLICE FORCE AND
A CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM WHICH IS EFFICIENT
AND REDUCES OFFENDING.

6.0

We Believe

- Community safety is paramount – emergency services and the justice system must be focussed on effectively protecting South Australians from harm and crime
- The legal system should respond to the needs of all South Australians and uphold the values of fairness and justice at every turn
- The courts system should uphold personal responsibility and work to rehabilitate criminals to stop them reoffending, especially vulnerable young people
- Resources need to be used in an efficient manner to provide services which reduce crime and increase safety
- In ending violence against women and children
- In preventing crime before it occurs and mitigating potential natural disasters

How we will achieve this together

- 6.1 Collaborating with police, emergency services and government agencies to deliver the best possible community safety outcomes
- 6.2 Reducing criminal behaviour through efficient, effective policing and a corrections system that reduces reoffending
- 6.3 Ensuring that justice is efficient and accessible, and that victims of crime are supported
- 6.4 Dealing with emerging trends in crime, as well as entrenched issues such as domestic and family violence and substance abuse
- 6.5 Delivering a safer community through a fair and transparent justice system

6.1 Safe communities for South Australians

We believe that keeping our communities safe is a partnership between government, emergency service agencies, volunteers and the entire community. Safety is a priority for all South Australians – we need to work with emergency services agencies to ensure that their safety priorities are met.

The men and women who work in our emergency services are heroes – they put themselves on the frontline day-in, day-out to protect us, often risking their health and wellbeing in order to keep our families safe. We believe that all emergency services workers deserve the support they need from government to continue protecting our communities.

While we all understand the role played by emergency services employees is vital, we also respect and value the work done by volunteers in the sector. We believe it is the role of government to always consider our emergency services volunteers when developing policies or strategies to ensure they have the support they need to continue caring for and protecting South Australians.

“We need our emergency services agencies to be free from unnecessary bureaucracy and red tape, so they can focus on the job of keeping us safe”

Our emergency services agencies all play a distinct role in South Australia. Each agency has its own identity and structure, and we believe that specialist agencies should be respected and supported so they can focus on their key roles in the community. We do not accept that our emergency services agencies should be combined into one large super department. We need our emergency services agencies to be free from unnecessary bureaucracy and red tape, so they can focus on the job of keeping us safe. We will work with these agencies to ensure they have the resources and support they need to operate at their absolute best.

Everyone in South Australia deserves to know that if something terrible happens to them or their families, help is not too far away. This is especially important for people in regional communities, who are at heightened risk of bushfires or road accidents. Just because someone lives in the country doesn't mean they shouldn't have access to the full range of emergency services. We believe it is vital to ensure a fair spread of resources and support across the State, so you know that help is at hand no matter where you might be.

6.2 Reducing criminal behaviour

South Australians deserve a corrections system that is effective in reducing criminal behaviour and making our neighbourhoods safer. Community safety must be the key focus of our police and corrections system – it is, after all, their primary function. Our police and corrections system need to be appropriately supported by government to deliver the outcomes that our community deserves.

We understand how important it is to work with our legal professionals, corrections system and the police force to deliver safer communities by reducing reoffending and criminal behaviour. We also believe it is up to government to work with these experts to deliver an innovative approach to policing, corrections and justice that has real results on the frontline.

Our police force needs to be appropriately resourced to allow them to continue their great work. When government commits the police to achieving certain things, it needs to deliver them the tools and resources to do so. Police will need new tools and resources in the future to combat crime as it evolves, and we believe in delivering on these needs quickly so police can get on with the job of keeping our families safe.

We believe it is vital for government to have a key focus on reducing reoffending. The community suffers when the only thing that criminals learn in prison is how to be better criminals, because eventually they finish their sentence and are released. When they are released, we don't want them to continue their criminal behaviour and create more victims.

Dangerous offenders need to serve jail time, but while incarcerated, we need to implement programs to reduce the likelihood of them reoffending. People who have previously committed a crime are more likely to commit another crime than those who have never entered the justice system. Providing effective rehabilitation and education programs in prisons and preparing offenders for life on the outside, where they can get a job and contribute to society, must be a central part of any crime reduction strategy.

Overcrowding in our prisons also leads to increased recidivism because rehabilitation programs are stretched and there is less access to support. Overcrowding is an ongoing problem that government must focus on now and towards 2036 to achieve better community safety outcomes and a more efficient prison system.

We believe that helping rehabilitate our young offenders to ensure they do not end up back in a correctional facility should be a high priority for our justice system. Unfortunately, someone who has offended as a minor and spent time in a Youth Training Centre is far more likely than other people to later end up in an adult prison – at a cost to the community and the justice system. The positive impact to the community, both financially and to community safety, of stopping young offenders from reoffending is significant. This is why we believe that better outcomes from our juvenile justice system is key to ensuring safer communities in South Australia.

We believe there are too many young Aboriginal people coming into contact with our criminal justice system. The disproportionate Aboriginal representation in the prison and juvenile justice populations requires an ongoing and collaborative focus by government, the Aboriginal community, NGOs and the wider community. In order for our communities to be fair and equitable, government needs to work to address this issue.

Keeping our communities safe is not just about policing, however, it is also about making sure that the drivers of crime like alcohol and drugs are addressed. We need to stem antisocial behaviours before they become criminal, especially in our vulnerable young people.

To be truly effective in reducing crime, we believe it is vital to take a broad approach in examining the things that drive criminal behaviour. We need to ensure that legislation doesn't unwittingly promote the 'business model' of petty crime by allowing loopholes for criminal organisations to manipulate, and we will work with police to reduce these opportunities.

All South Australians deserve to feel safe in their homes and communities. We will deliver crime prevention programs that will ensure that everyone feels safe in their homes and neighbourhoods.

6.3 Efficient and accessible justice

We believe that South Australia has the ability to greatly improve its national standing when it comes to people accessing justice in a timely and efficient manner. While in recent years a backlog has been allowed to develop in our court system we think that action can be taken by government to improve access to justice.

Justice delayed is justice denied. We will work to cut down court backlogs and reduce costs and waiting times for victims to have their day in court. In order for people to access the justice system in a timely manner, we need court infrastructure that meets our State's growing demands.

“Justice delayed is justice denied”

We will deliver better outcomes for victims by making use of new technologies and work to speed up the civil justice system. We believe South Australia deserves a twenty-first century justice system that utilises integrated information technology systems to improve efficiencies. Courts, police and corrections workers all have separate computer systems that work in different ways – and there are legacy systems still operating in some agencies. We believe it is vital to address the lack of IT interoperability to significantly improve efficiency and provide a better service for victims of crime.

Access to mediation is also important to our justice system, and we believe it should be maintained and strengthened towards 2036 and beyond. The more people that can successfully settle disputes through mediation, the less pressure on our courts system and the better outcomes for litigants.

An efficient system should strive for seamless interaction between police, court processes, the chain of evidence and offender management. It needs to deliver reduced court waiting times. We need to have confidence in the security and the capacity of our prison system, as well as the appropriate management of offenders undertaking community corrections programs.

We will ensure that all arms of our justice system are working together to improve outcomes for victims and our community.

6.4 Dealing with the causes of crime

We believe that South Australians have every right to expect that they will be protected from dangerous offenders and organised crime. This is why we are committed to taking the necessary steps to ensure that our communities always have the protection we deserve.

As criminals use new methods and technologies against us, our police must be given the expertise and equipment to stay one step ahead. Cyber-crime and the real threats of terrorism demand specific expertise in response. We believe that new innovative technologies must be utilised to ensure that our police are equipped with the best possible tools to fight crime as it evolves.

“We believe government must be committed to delivering the concerted effort needed to tackle the problems of substance abuse”

We believe that any new technology with the ability to improve day-to-day policing must be implemented in a timely manner, so that police and the community can reap the benefits immediately.

Domestic and family violence is abhorrent and tackling these issues are key for the State Liberals. We understand the horrific impacts that domestic and family violence, child abuse and substance abuse are having in our communities. We need to support the work of police in this area with a holistic response from government and the community. We believe services need to be integrated across agencies – we need a whole of agency approach to the causes and consequences of domestic and family violence, substance abuse and child abuse.

The initial police response is critical when any violent assault occurs; it must be timely and involve appropriate police intervention, especially in situations of suspected domestic or family violence. We strongly believe that through the integrated engagement of a range of agencies more can be done to reduce the incidence of domestic and family violence. Better communication between different departments, NGOs and service providers will allow victims and perpetrators to be more easily identified, appropriate actions taken and support provided.

Substance abuse is a major factor in contributing to crime, family breakdowns, lost productivity and broken opportunities across our community. The prevalence of the drug Ice in metropolitan and regional communities has seen the emergence of extraordinary new challenges for families, police, and other agencies. We believe government must be committed to delivering the concerted effort needed to tackle the problems of substance abuse. This may include evidence-based public health campaigns to reduce demand, more health and rehabilitation opportunities for addicts seeking to recover, and cracking down on the organised crime syndicates who sell drugs.

6.5 A fair and transparent justice system

Our community needs a justice system that is fair, transparent, and improves community safety.

All of us want to raise our families in a safe environment, free from the threat of violence or crime. We believe the community deserves a fair justice system and a police force that is held in the highest public confidence.

“We must ensure that penalties are effective at punishing criminals and that the harm suffered by victims is repaired or compensated”

The State Liberals have a strong track record in supporting accountability measures. We were the first party in South Australia to introduce legislation to establish an Independent Commission Against Corruption. We believe that the ICAC needs to be more transparent and we will deliver the necessary reforms to ensure that our public integrity measures are the best in the nation so that South Australians can have confidence in their State’s institutions.

By maintaining a consistent and principled approach to justice, we will ensure that our system carries the confidence of the community, and actively contributes to improved community safety. The penalty should fit the crime – and when Parliament has done the work to establish appropriate sentences for offences, the judiciary has the responsibility to deliver justice in line with community expectations.

We need to ensure that penalties are effective at punishing criminals and ensuring that the harm suffered by victims is repaired or compensated as much as possible.

We believe that crime and antisocial behaviour in our communities needs to be addressed. Each community is unique, with different problems that need to be countered. While some neighbourhoods may have problems with graffiti, others may be more concerned by hoon driving or public drunkenness. We will work with our communities to ensure that their individual concerns are met, so that South Australia is a safe and inviting place to live.

**“YOU DESERVE
TO FEEL SAFE IN
YOUR HOME &
COMMUNITY”**

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.

Visit marshall2036.com.au



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