Labor’s new approach to health
A message from

LUKE FOLEY, NSW LABOR LEADER

Labor is committed to supporting and investing in our world class health and hospital system – without selling the electricity network.

We pride ourselves on our record of delivering policies that support the families and patients of NSW when they need it the most – and where it will be needed in the future due to demographic changes.

Importantly, we value the extraordinary work of our State’s hardworking health professionals. Labor has very different priorities to the Liberals-Nationals.

We have a commitment to the public provision of health services. We believe in investing in our health workforce, not cutting it.

That is why a Foley Labor Government will:
• Expand and improve hospital facilities;
• Increase the number of beds;
• Expand and revamp emergency departments;
• Increase the number of specialist medical professionals, such as five paediatric surgeons with Sydney Children’s Hospital network, which covers the Children’s Hospital at Westmead and the Sydney Children’s Hospital at Randwick;
• Hire 840 nurses in emergency departments and paediatric wards; and
• Hire 500 paramedics – and support them with associated equipment and ambulances.

We will also introduce new approaches to health to help respond to urgent health needs across NSW such as:
• 24 hour pharmacies;
• Nurse-to-patient ratios in emergency departments and paediatric wards;
• Nurse walk-in-centres; and
• Respond to new trends in public health, including e-cigarettes, adult cystic fibrosis and medicinal cannabis.

By upgrading and rebuilding our State’s hospitals, and expanding facilities, we will increase the number of beds and surgical procedures performed. This will free up hospital beds and reduce emergency waiting times.

We will do this without selling the electricity network.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Luke Foley
NSW Labor Leader
Labor’s VISION FOR HEALTH

Labor is the party of Medicare and we believe all NSW families deserve the world’s best health care.

We believe in a strong public health system which delivers high quality health services to all NSW residents regardless of where they live and their income.

We believe that it is possible to do so without selling the electricity network.

We all rely on our public health system at the most important times in our lives - from the birth of a child to someone we love being very sick.

The dedicated doctors, nurses and allied health staff who work in our hospitals perform great work under enormous pressure. It’s the job of government to support those who support us by providing them with the resources they need to do their jobs and care for our community.

Labor rejects the Liberal and Nationals’ privatisation of our health system. Hospitals should be run by the government for the community and not for shareholders. Labor will put patients before profits and shareholders, and keep our public hospitals in public hands.

While in Government, Labor nearly tripled health spending. We increased the medical workforce and we made our nurses amongst the highest paid in the country.

We delivered more than $9 billion in capital projects - rebuilding or upgrading almost every hospital in the State.

We are committed to properly investing to support and foster our world class health and hospital system.
The Challenges FACING HEALTH IN NSW

NSW has the largest health system in Australia with more than 220 public hospitals and about 105,000 staff.

Health accounts for $19.9 billion in the 2014-15 State Budget. On a typical day, more than 6,500 people visit a NSW hospital emergency department; 5,600 people are admitted to a public hospital and 200 babies are born.

However, the health and hospital system is under pressure with a growing and an ageing population, and massive cuts by State and Federal Liberal-National governments. These pressures are stretching our hospitals to breaking point.

Over the past four years the State Liberal-National Government has savagely cut the health budget by $3 billion. In addition, the Federal Liberal-National Government has slashed $15 billion from health and hospitals.

Premier Mike Baird and Prime Minister Tony Abbott’s $18 billion in cuts to NSW health and hospitals has placed our already stressed hospitals and health system under even more pressure - leaving NSW with the longest elective surgery waiting lists in the country.

We need to create more beds in wards, to allow nurses and doctors to move patients from emergency departments, which are experiencing “trolley block” or “bed block”. (Trolley block is where ambulances are stuck at hospitals, unable to dispatch patients in over-stretched emergency departments due to a lack of beds.)

Waiting times in emergency departments have become unacceptable with nearly half of patients in western Sydney waiting more than four hours for treatment. The Baird Government is trying to overcome the figures by expanding the number of so-called short stay units to give the impression they have cut waits in emergency departments.

And this will get worse with the Liberal-Nationals’ plan to privatise, outsource health and close hospitals. In his first week as Premier, Mike Baird said he believed that privatised hospitals were a “fantastic opportunity” - whereas a Labor Government will put patients before profits and shareholders.

The Government has already awarded a $1 billion contract to set up a privatised hospital on Sydney’s northern beaches and they will not rule out privatising the Rouse Hill hospital in Western Sydney and the Lower Hunter-Maitland Hospital.

Furthermore, it has called for tenders for day surgery like gynaecology, colonoscopy and orthopaedic services at the new Byron Central Hospital. They have also privatised the Forensic and Analytical Service Food Testing Laboratory at Lidcombe and moved the sampling to Melbourne.

The Baird Government does not support public health. It believes that health should be provided by the private sector.

Labor supports patients and puts them before shareholders.
Our Policies

Keeping Public Hospitals in Public Hands
Hospitals should be run by the government for the community and not for shareholders. Labor believes in putting patients before profits.

Health Infrastructure
Health is a core Labor priority and we will invest in our hospitals. Labor has unlocked $1.7 billion for health infrastructure as part of our A Better Way infrastructure funding plan. This is guaranteed additional funding without privatising the electricity network.

Emergency Department of the Future
Labor will trial a re-designed emergency department which will incorporate a separate paediatric room for children and a separate geriatric room for older Australians with dementia and Alzheimer’s disease.

Nurse-to-Patient Ratios
To Give More Attention to Patients
A Foley Labor Government will employ 840 additional nurses in NSW hospitals – comprising 735 new nurses in emergency departments and 105 new nurses in paediatric wards – to improve patient care, save lives and reduce waiting times across NSW.

Nurse Walk-in Centres
As part of our new approaches to health care, we will set up four free, nurse-led Walk-in Centres. It is an innovative approach to healthcare and will relieve the pressure on our State’s already stressed emergency departments. It also complements the work of general practitioners.

Abolishing the Chemotherapy Co-payment
A Labor Government will ensure that chemotherapy is free of charge for all cancer patients in NSW public hospitals – easing the financial burden experienced by cancer patients and their families.

More Paramedics
Labor believes in investing in our health workforce, not cutting it. A Foley Government will recruit an additional 500 paramedics over the next four years. This investment in our ambulance service will support our dedicated paramedics and speed up response times.

More Paediatric Surgeons
A Foley Labor Government will provide five additional paediatric surgeons as part of its investment in children’s health.

24-Hour Pharmacies
A Foley Labor Government will trial a program to help three Sydney pharmacies expand their operating hours to 24 hours, seven days a week.
**Flu Vaccines ADMINISTERED BY PHARMACISTS**
A Labor Government will allow properly-trained pharmacists to administer flu vaccinations to healthy adults.

**RURAL & REGIONAL Health**
A Foley Labor Government will deliver high-quality health and hospital services and health facilities to rural, regional and coastal communities in NSW.

Labor will increase funding to the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodations Assistance Scheme to help patients travelling for medical treatment.

**Medicinal CANNABIS**
A NSW Labor Government will help those experiencing terrible pain and suffering by amending the *Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act* to legalise the use of medicinal cannabis by the terminally ill and people with certain chronic conditions.

**Moving THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH TO WESTERN SYDNEY**
A Labor Government will shift the NSW Ministry of Health from North Sydney to Liverpool in Sydney’s southwest - reflecting the demographic changes in NSW.

**FREE Whooping Cough Vaccine DURING PREGNANCY**
A Foley Labor Government will deliver free whooping cough vaccines to pregnant women in their third trimester (28 weeks) so their newborns will have immunity at birth from whooping cough.

**Supporting WOMEN’S HEALTH CENTRES**
A Foley Labor Government will guarantee $50 million for women’s health centres across NSW over the next five years, ending the funding uncertainty these organisations have endured under the NSW Liberals and Nationals.

**E-CIGARETTE Regulation**
NSW Labor will bring e-cigarettes and vaporisers into line with existing restrictions on smoking in public places and current tobacco laws, including banning their sale to minors.

**ADULT Cystic Fibrosis**
A Labor Government will increase funding to the three adult cystic fibrosis clinics.

**Fund THE FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER CLINIC**
Labor will fund the Fetal Alcohol Specturm Disorder (FASD) clinic at Westmead.

**Registered Nurses IN AGED CARE**
A Foley Labor Government will legislate to retain the requirement of registered nurses at all times in aged care facilities beyond December 2015. This will support nurses and protect aged care residents - who are among the most vulnerable in our society.
Keeping Public Hospitals IN PUBLIC HANDS

Hospitals should be run by the government for the community and not for shareholders. Labor believes in putting patients before profits.

The Baird Government wants to privatisen and close hospitals. Within a week of becoming Premier, Mike Baird said he wanted the private sector to run hospitals.

Regrettably, the Liberals have not learnt the lesson of the Port Macquarie Base Hospital privatisation of the early 1990s. The Labor Government had to buy back the hospital for more than $80 million.

Late last year, the Liberals and Nationals awarded a $1 billion contract to Healthscope to set up a private hospital on Sydney’s northern beaches.

Earlier this year the Liberals and Nationals refused to rule out a privately run hospital in the Lower Hunter-Maitland.

This month, they refused to spell out funding models for the Rouse Hill hospital saying it could be a private hospital.

It has called for tenders for day surgery like gynaecology, colonoscopy and orthopaedic services at the new Byron Central Hospital.

They have also privatised the distribution of medical supplies and equipment within the NSW health and hospital system – removing 130 Healthshare staff at five sites across NSW.

The Baird Government has also privatised the Forensic and Analytical Science Service Food Testing Laboratory at Lidcombe and relocated the sampling analysis to Melbourne.

**A Labor Government will keep the Lower Hunter-Maitland hospital in public hands. It will not be a private hospital.**

We will also ensure that day surgery at the new Byron Central Hospital is in public hands.
A Labor Government will put patients before profits. Health is a core Labor priority and we will invest in our hospitals. Labor has unlocked $1.7 billion for health infrastructure as part of our A Better Way infrastructure funding plan. This is guaranteed additional funding without privatising the electricity network.

By upgrading and rebuilding our State’s hospitals, and expanding facilities, we will increase the number of beds and surgical procedures performed. This will free up hospital beds, reduce emergency waiting times and allow paramedics to do their job.

Labor believes that health decisions must be based on our city’s future growth. We will respond to the growing population and put health where it is needed. We are investing in health infrastructure in areas where the population is both growing and ageing – and therefore placing increased demand on health services.

That is why a Labor Government will set aside funds to redevelop or upgrade:

- Westmead Hospital: $430 million
- Gosford Hospital: $368 million
- Nepean Hospital: $351 million
- Concord Hospital: $323 million
- St George Hospital: $307 million
- Goulburn Hospital: $270 million
- Tweed Hospital: $211 million
- Wyong Hospital: $200 million
- Campbelltown Paediatric Surgical Centre: $100 million
- Byron Central Hospital: $80 million
- Sutherland Hospital: $62 million
- Fairfield Hospital: $50 million
- Muswellbrook Hospital: $50 million
- Shellharbour Hospital: $30 million
- Singleton Hospital: $10 million
- Ballina Hospital: $7.3 million
- Grafton Base Hospital: $7 million
- Tomaree Community Hospital: $5 million
- Bungendore Ambulance Station: $5 million
- Cooma Emergency Department: $5 million
A Foley Labor Government will set aside $50 million to upgrade Fairfield Hospital – which will include a re-designed emergency department to respond to the region’s changing population demographics.

It will suit both elderly patients and young children – two groups which are becoming major users of emergency departments in NSW.

A Foley Labor Government will trial a new emergency department design at Fairfield Hospital’s emergency department to respond to the needs of these two groups.

The re-designed emergency department will incorporate:

- a separate geriatric room for older Australians with dementia and Alzheimer’s disease; and
- a separate paediatric room for children.

The geriatric room will be based on the highly successful American-style emergency departments with elderly populations such as Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City.

Hospital emergency departments are noisy and busy places. For frail, older Australians who are anxious and suffering confusion or dementia, emergency rooms are unfriendly environments and can exacerbate anxiety and disorientation.

The geriatric emergency room will be specifically designed to reduce confusion, chaos, distress and poor outcomes for patients and their families.
A Foley Labor Government will introduce nurse-to-patient ratios into emergency departments and paediatric wards - in the first term of government.

This means NSW Labor will employ 840 new nurses - comprising 735 additional nurses in emergency departments and 105 additional nurses in paediatric wards.

This will benefit 75 emergency department and paediatric wards in NSW hospitals.

Under the model, there will be one nurse for every three patients in every A, B and C peer group hospital emergency department and paediatric ward in the State.

In addition, there will be one nurse for every resuscitation bed in emergency departments.

The policy will cost an estimated $96 million over the forward estimates.

A Foley Labor Government will legislate - for the first time in NSW - enshrining in law nurse-to-patient ratios. This will require future governments and health officials to ensure that nurse numbers are protected by law and cannot be traded away.
Nurse WALK-IN CENTRES

A Labor Government will introduce four new nurse-led Walk-in Centres (WiCs) in New South Wales to relieve the pressure on emergency departments and provide a free health care option to families. This is part of Labor’s new approach to health.

Based on the successful model in the ACT brought to Australia from the United Kingdom by the former ACT chief minister Katy Gallagher, it provides for experienced nurses to treat people aged two and older with minor injuries and illnesses between 7.30am and 10pm, seven days a week.

It is an innovative approach to healthcare and will relieve the pressure on our State’s already stressed emergency departments. It also complements the work of general practitioners.

A Labor Government will set up four nurse-led Walk-in Centres in NSW – located in Western Sydney, South Western Sydney, Illawarra-Shoalhaven and the Central Coast.

It is not always easy to find health services late at night or on the weekend. We need more flexible, convenient options. The centres provide quicker and easier access to health care for mum, dad and the kids.

The WiCs will be publicly funded and its services will be free of charge.

Nurse Walk-in Centres represent a new face in NSW health. It is the kind of new approach and fresh thinking that is needed to fix the health system.

This will cost $40 million over three years.
Abolishing THE CHEMOTHERAPY CO-PAYMENT

A Labor Government will ensure that chemotherapy is free of charge to all cancer patients in NSW public hospitals – easing the financial burden experienced by cancer patients and their families.

At times of great stress and anxiety, some cancer patients in NSW public hospitals are being asked to pay a co-payment for their chemotherapy treatment. It is insensitive that this Government imposes a co-payment for each new chemotherapy drug prescribed in the patient’s treatment regime.

Patients having outpatient chemotherapy in most NSW public hospitals pay a co-payment the first time a new chemotherapy medicine is administered. If the doctor changes any of the medicines or increases the dosage, the patient must pay a co-payment again. This also applies to take-home medication for side effects, such as nausea.

The emotional and financial impact of a cancer diagnosis is substantial. Cancer patients should not have to worry about how they are going to pay for their chemotherapy treatment. It is an unnecessary hardship, charged at a time when people can least afford it. Removing the co-payment will ease the financial burden experienced by NSW cancer patients and their families.

This will cost $6.2 million over the next three years.
More PARAMEDICS

A Labor Government will invest in our ambulance service and employ an additional 500 paramedics in our first term. This will support NSW families by speeding up response times and support our hardworking paramedics.

Across the state, resources are being stretched and paramedics are working on their days off to fill gaps in rosters and working long hours of overtime.

A Foley Government will recruit an additional 500 paramedics over the next four years. This investment in our ambulance service will support our dedicated paramedics and speed up response times.

Labor’s policy includes additional salary and other recurrent costs associated with employing new paramedics, such as meal allowances and workers’ compensation. We will also fund the associated capital costs including additional vehicles, defibrillators and stretchers.

A Foley Labor Government will invest $46.6 million over the forward estimates to deliver 500 additional paramedics. Labor’s commitment will speed up response times and reduce the pressure on our paramedics.
More **PAEDIATRIC SURGEONS**

A Foley Labor Government will provide five additional paediatric surgeons as part of its investment in children’s health – and in response to the State’s growing population.

Paediatric surgeons are the only surgeons who exclusively diagnose, treat and care for children. Paediatric surgeons perform the majority of children’s surgery, including newborns, which is often extremely complex.

The new surgeons will be complemented by an extra 105 paediatric nurses in paediatric wards across NSW as part of Labor’s nurse-to-patient policy of one nurse to every three patients – and a $100 million pledge to set up a new paediatric surgical centre at Campbelltown Hospital.

We are investing in children’s health so they can have the best start in life.
A Foley Labor Government will spend $3 million - over three years - to trial a program to help three Sydney pharmacies expand their operating hours to 24 hours, seven days a week.

This is about helping people fill prescriptions outside regular business hours. It will be a one-off three year subsidy - which will cover the cost of a pharmacist, pharmacy assistant and a security guard between the hours of 11pm and 6am. The three-year period would allow the pharmacy to establish a reputation and eventually become self-sustaining.

The potential locations based on population and proximity to hospitals would be the inner-west, northern suburbs and southwest Sydney.

If it is successful, a Foley Labor Government will look at extending the trial to other parts of the State where there would be the need for 24 hour pharmacies such as the Hunter, the South Coast, major regional centres and the North Coast.
A Foley Labor Government will allow properly-trained pharmacists to administer flu vaccinations in NSW to healthy adults aged 18 – 65.

NSW Labor wants to work with pharmacies and qualified pharmacists to increase the number of people who are vaccinated against influenza every year. This will reduce hospital admissions and other health-related costs in NSW.

Influenza costs the Australian health system $115 million a year and NSW accounts for a third of the Australian health system. The NSW Business Chamber estimates that the flu season can cost the NSW economy more than $482 million.

All pharmacists administering vaccinations will be required to complete a training course accredited by NSW Health. Pharmacists will be required to hold appropriate professional indemnity insurance sufficient for administering vaccinations. Furthermore, pharmacies will be required to have a private consultation area. They will also be required to undergo an audit every two years.

This will give busy professionals a convenient option for receiving vaccinations, lower waiting times and increase influenza vaccination rates in NSW. It will also reduce the pressure on GPs by reducing their workload, and consequently reducing waiting times for patients.

After an appropriate evaluation of the pharmacy-administered influenza vaccination, a Labor Government will examine extending the pharmacist-delivered vaccinations to include other vaccines such as adult measles and whooping cough.
**Rural and Regional Health**

**A Foley Labor Government will deliver high-quality health and hospital services and health facilities to rural, regional and coastal communities in NSW.**

NSW Labor is committed to improving health for rural and regional communities.

We will deliver infrastructure where it is needed and where it will be needed as well as developing plans to bolster the rural and regional health workforce.

**Labor is reserving $400 million for innovative regional health – without privatising electricity.**

Labor will reserve $300 million to set up a Regional Multipurpose Health Facilities Program and $100 million to establish a Care Co-location Program.

The Multipurpose Services Strategy will improve access to health care and aged care services by integrating a range of health services.

Under this $300 million policy, Labor will reconfigure existing facilities to increase efficiency and deliver best practice clinical redesign as recommended by Infrastructure NSW.

At least 11 small rural health services across the state will be redeveloped to provide innovative, flexible health and aged care services outside hospitals. Locations include: Tenterfield, Cobar, Murrurundi, Dungog, Narromine, Canowindra, Blayney, Crookwell, Yass, Braidwood and Hay.

The Care Co-location program focuses on creating accessible ‘one stop shops’ for more vulnerable community members to improve their health. Labor’s $100 million investment will accelerate the delivery of the NSW Primary and Integrated Care Strategy.

A typical co-location site could include core services such as oral health, physiotherapy, podiatry, early childhood and youth health services, nursing services, mental health services and Aboriginal health services.

At least 19 sites, in areas with an ageing population, will be developed, redeveloped, realigned or refurbished. Some of the locations include: Tibooburra, Wentworth, Dareton, Buronga, Gol Gol, Ocean Shores, Evans Head, Urunga, Nambucca Heads, Bonny Hills, Salamander Bay, Ulladulla and Lithgow.
IPTAAS: Rural Patients Coming to Sydney for Treatment

Labor will increase funding to the Isolated Patients Travel and Accommodation Assistance Scheme (IPTAAS) to help ease the financial burden associated with travelling for medical treatment from rural and regional NSW.

A Foley Labor Government will change payments available under IPTAAS – increasing the fuel subsidy by 58 per cent and commercial accommodation allowance by 39 per cent.

Labor will bring the fuel subsidy up to 30 cents/km (an additional 11 cents) and the accommodation subsidy for commercial accommodation to $60/night for a single room and $83/night for a double room.

Payment will also be available in advance for concession card holders and others experiencing financial hardship. Payment will be able to be made directly to travel companies, or in the form of petrol cards based on estimated travel distances.

It will cost an estimated $17 million over the forward estimates.
A NSW Labor Government will help those experiencing terrible pain and suffering by amending the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act 1985 to legalise the use of medicinal cannabis by the terminally ill and people with certain chronic conditions.

People experiencing terrible pain and suffering – and those who love and care for them – must be free to access medicinal cannabis without fear of stigma or persecution.

This is the considered position of NSW Labor – and we are prepared to work swiftly with all parties in the NSW Parliament to make it a reality.

A Foley Labor Government will change the Drug Misuse and Trafficking Act in the first sitting week of a new parliament.

This is an important reform to give people experiencing terrible pain and suffering some hope.
THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH TO LIVERPOOL

A Foley Labor Government will shift the NSW Ministry of Health from North Sydney to Liverpool in Sydney’s southwest – reflecting demographic changes in NSW.

As well as being a cost saving, it will move the Ministry of Health closer to the majority of greater Sydney families and patients within the health and hospital system.

It will be closer to the larger and expanded hospitals of western Sydney including Westmead, The Children’s Hospital at Westmead, Campbelltown, Nepean, Blacktown, Mount Druitt, Fairfield and Liverpool.

Furthermore, the re-location of the Ministry to Liverpool will result in a cost saving, due to lower rent. The policy will involve an immediate cost of $12.5 million and then will deliver annual savings of around $1.5 million ongoing. This net impact over three years is a cost of $9 million.

Labor will move the Ministry of Health in 2016.

The Liberals and Nationals plan is to move the Ministry of Health from Miller Street in North Sydney to St Leonards.
Free WHOOPING COUGH VACCINE DURING PREGNANCY

A Foley Labor Government will provide $7.4 million to deliver free whooping cough vaccines to pregnant women in their third trimester (28 weeks) so their newborns will have immunity at birth from whooping cough.

One in 200 babies who contract whooping cough will die as a result of the disease – an avoidable tragedy given that whooping cough is a vaccine preventable disease.

Pregnant women should be vaccinated against whooping cough before their baby is born in order to protect their baby from the potentially deadly illness in their first weeks of life.

The free whooping cough vaccine will be available to pregnant mothers from GPs – similar to Queensland.

In January 2015, Communicable Diseases experts at Westmead Hospital warned that a whooping cough outbreak may be imminent as the number of cases has risen in the ACT, Victoria and NSW.

The vaccine is also given to pregnant women in the United Kingdom, the United States and New Zealand.

A study conducted by the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance found that between 2010 and 2012, only 23 per cent of women in public maternity wards, and 48 per cent in private hospitals, had up-to-date whooping cough vaccinations. This could be partially due to the cost of the vaccine – it can cost between $40 and $200 depending on the doctor.
A Foley Labor Government will guarantee $50 million for women’s health centres across NSW over the next five years, ending the funding uncertainty these organisations have endured under the NSW Liberals and Nationals.

Women’s health centres are non-government organisations that provide a variety of health services for women.

Labor’s five-year funding for the state’s 21 women’s health centres will:

- Guarantee the NSW Government’s current annual funding of $8.7 million for the next five years; and
- Provide an additional funding boost of $1 million per year for the next five years to expand counselling and support services for women who have been victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Women’s health centres collectively receive $8.7 million per year, however the future of their funding has been under a cloud for the past four years due to the Liberals and Nationals review of funding for non-government health programs.
E-CIGARETTE Regulation

NSW Labor will bring e-cigarettes and vaporisers into line with existing restrictions on smoking in public places and current tobacco laws, including banning their sale to minors.

Labor’s plan includes a ban on sale to minors; restrictions on the use of e-cigarettes and “vaping” in enclosed spaces similar to current laws applying to tobacco in restaurants, hotels, public transport and other non-smoking areas; and restrictions on their advertising, promoting and display at retail outlets, similar to what exists for tobacco products.

In addition, a Labor Government will hold a public inquiry into e-cigarettes and “vaping” examining matters such as product safety and public health.

Expanding and Supporting Adult Cystic Fibrosis Clinics

A Foley Labor Government will increase funding to expand the three adult clinics for cystic fibrosis to reflect a major demographic change and the longer life expectancy in NSW for people with cystic fibrosis.

Due to world-wide medical advances including transplantation, NSW has more patients, for the first time, over the age of 18 with cystic fibrosis than the number of children with the disease.

To respond to this change in health, a Foley Labor Government will provide an additional $8 million over four years to employ up to 20 extra staff at the clinics. This will increase staff levels to a safe and acceptable standard in the three adult clinics. The three clinics operate at Westmead Hospital, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and John Hunter Hospital.

Fund The Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Clinic

A Foley Labor Government wants to ensure that children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) are diagnosed properly, and receive the appropriate treatment and support.

A Labor Government will fund the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder clinic at the Children’s Hospital at Westmead at a cost of $1.2 million over four years. This will employ a part-time paediatrician to co ordinate access to allied health services needed by the child. The funding will also provide opportunities for the clinic to increase the capacity for health professionals to diagnose FASD.

Registered Nurses in Aged Care

A Foley Labor Government will legislate to retain the requirement of registered nurses at all times in aged care facilities beyond December 2015. This will support nurses and protect aged care residents - who are among the most vulnerable in our society.