

CHILD PROTECTION WORKERS

RECRUITMENT REFORM

2036



Marshall
LIBERAL TEAM



2036

WILL MARK OUR STATE'S BICENTENARY

By the time our State turns 200 years old, I want South Australia to be a place of prosperity.

Planning and delivering on my vision for a better future starts now.

This policy is just part of our plan to deliver a clear and responsible pathway to recovery and success.

See where it fits in below

1.0 GROWING OUR ECONOMY

2.0 THE BEST EDUCATION SYSTEM

3.0 BEING A HEALTHY STATE

4.0 STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

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

4.3 Building resilience and creating more opportunities for vulnerable South Australia

4.4 Ensuring services are provided in a timely and sensitive manner

5.0 BUILDING OUR STATE

6.0 ENSURING SAFETY AND JUSTICE

7.0 PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

8.0 EMBRACING OUR UNIQUE CULTURE

9.0 RUNNING AN EFFICIENT AND STABLE GOVERNMENT

“We aren’t doing enough to recruit the people we need to help overcome the workforce crisis in child protection.”





THE PROBLEM

The Nyland Royal Commission exposed many failures of the Weatherill Government in child protection.

One of these is how the Government seeks workers to provide child protection services.

As the Royal Commission found, South Australia has not aligned itself with recruitment practices in all other Australian jurisdictions which have targeted workforce planning strategies.

South Australia has lacked a workforce plan, including 'robust attraction and retention strategies.' It has unnecessarily restricted the qualifications for child protection work.

As a result, vacancy levels have been constantly higher, placing pressure on staff to work beyond their capacity, compromising service delivery and potentially risking the safety of vulnerable children.

At the end of 2016, South Australia had more than 120 vacancies for child protection workers.

South Australia has lacked a workforce plan, including 'robust attraction and retention strategies.'



THE STATE LIBERAL'S PLAN

A Liberal Government will recognise a broader range of qualifications in the human services field.

If elected in March 2018, a Marshall Liberal Government will reform recruitment practices to reduce current workforce shortages.

In particular, a Liberal Government will not restrict its child protection workforce to those holding an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in social work. This can be done without compromising the welfare or safety of children who need protection.

Like all other Australian jurisdictions, a Liberal Government will recognise a broader range of qualifications in the human services field. As the Nyland Royal Commission recommended, while social work will continue to be regarded as the preferred qualification, other relevant qualifications will also be recognised which can be augmented by further in-house training.

In particular, a Liberal Government will expand the recruitment of statutory child protection workers to include applicants who hold a Bachelor Degree (Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), Level 7 – the same level as the social work degree) in a related discipline.

Applicants with qualifying education at AQF Diploma Levels 5 and 6 with child protection as a core component in combination with associated skills and experience will also be considered.



“We can expand the pool of people qualified to work in child protection without compromising the welfare or safety of our children”

Steven Marshall, State Liberal Leader



If you would like to provide feedback on our policy or learn more about our plan, please get in touch via:

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