



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
(SOUTH AUSTRALIA) INC**

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## **AMA(SA) calls for increased investment in health**

AMA(SA) President Dr Andrew Lavender today released the AMA(SA)'s 'Election Priorities for Health' document, which highlights the association's top health priorities in the lead-up to the 2010 state election.

The list of 12 priorities covers a range of areas, and summarises many of the key issues the AMA(SA) has been advocating for over the past 12 months – and longer.

'South Australians should not be afraid of investing in health,' said Dr Lavender.

'Investment in our health care system is a direct investment in the productivity of our people and our society.

'Failure to invest in health over the past two decades has left us where we are now – with long waits for medical appointments in outpatients, long waits to get on the waiting list for elective surgery, long waits to be seen in emergency departments, and increasing pressures on general practice.

'How do we value the productivity of a mother who decides not to work because her child needs specialised care that her community can't provide?

'What is the economic effect of a truck driver taking early retirement because he must wait two years for a knee replacement?

'It's not just about freeways, flyovers, desal. plants, ports and sports!'

The AMA(SA) calls on the next government of South Australia to invest in:

**Infrastructure –**

- More acute hospital beds
- Operating theatres, intensive care units and emergency departments
- New mental health beds

**People –**

- Training and medical education
- More doctors and nurses
- Clinicians in management
- Supporting aged care and general practice
- A Commissioner for Children and Young People

**Information and Communication Technology –**

- E-health
- Data about waiting times

**Country health –**

- Rural GPs
- Rural GP and specialist training

**Public health –**

- Double cigarette prices
- More P-plate restrictions

‘We must invest in health now!’

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