

Hon Michelle Lensink MLC

MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL



Amy Barrett
Senior Campaign Manager
Fair Agenda
amy@fairagenda.org

Dear Ms Barrett,

Thank you for taking the time to submit the Fair Agenda's survey for the 2026 Election, and for the opportunity to respond to your questions. As Shadow Minister for Women, Human Services and the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, I will be responding to you on behalf of the South Australian Liberal Party Candidates and Members.

We recognise the devastating impacts of domestic, family and sexual violence on individuals, their families and communities. Furthermore, we acknowledge that these challenges can be particularly severe in rural and regional areas within Aboriginal communities, where access to support services may be more limited.

Violence of any kind is unacceptable, and our party recognises the importance of a comprehensive response to the recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence. We were pleased to see significant funding allocated through the Mid-Year Budget Review in December 2025, which builds on the record funding and innovative new programs that commenced under the Marshall Liberal government. New funding will provide an injection into crisis services, which are experiencing record levels of demand.

We will also continue with our dedicated, funded program to expand the Marshall Liberal government's successful program to divert families away from the hotel system into dedicated beds (31 to 100 beds), and to continue to shift families experiencing homelessness out of the hotel system into homes.

The State Liberal Party is committed to many practical measures that improve prevention, strengthen community safety, and ensure victims can access appropriate support and protection. This is why we will ensure real investment in frontline services to build a better healthcare system and safer and stronger communities in South Australia.

A new Hurn Liberal Government will create safer communities through:

- **Break Bail, Face Jail** – Introduce a one strike rule legislation to ensure serious offenders who break their bail won't simply be released on bail again.
- **Establish a \$40 million Breaking the Cycle Fund** to focus on early intervention and rehabilitation programs for high-risk youths and recidivist offenders.
- **Investing in a Series of Recruitment Initiatives, Retention Bonuses and Support Frameworks** for South Australia Police. More cops on the beat will help ensure faster responses to domestic and sexual violence incidents, while also improving safety and crime prevention across the community.



Hon Michelle Lensink MLC

MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL



Given the limited detail provided in the survey regarding the current funding and service arrangements, an elected Liberal government will undertake a thorough review of existing programs to ensure all future measures are effective, responsible, and deliver practical results and real value for those who need it.

Furthermore, the State Liberal Party recognises the unprecedented strain experienced by the health system, particularly in our hospitals and emergency departments. As a result, swift, compassionate and effective responses to sexual assaults continue to face unacceptable delays.

Despite promises to fix ramping, South Australians are now worse off under a Labor government. Now facing record months of ramping, with overcrowded emergency departments and thousands still waiting for elective surgeries and care, our frontline workers continue to wait for relief from the ongoing workforce shortage.

A new Hurn Liberal Government will create a better health system through growing our future health workforce and provide relief to our hospitals and emergency rooms. Growing the health workforce and providing relief for our hospitals will improve overall service capacity, allowing healthcare professionals to better support people experiencing sexual assault. The following commitments have been made:

- **New \$350 million Barossa Valley Hospital** for the regions
- **Scrapping the GP Payroll ‘Tax Grab’**: Making it more affordable for South Australians to see a GP.
- **GP After-Hours Access Trial**: Supporting GPs to open for extended hours during the week and on Sundays, improving access to care and reducing pressure on emergency departments.
- **Guaranteeing the Future of the Women’s and Children’s Hospital** as a health precinct to ease hospital pressure and plan for a better healthcare future.
- **Free Flu Vaccination Blitz** for the entire month of April to ease the pressure on our health system and help keep South Australians healthier.
- **Fixing the Patient Assistance Transport Scheme (PATS)** to make it easier for people in regional and rural South Australia to access the health care they deserve by expanding cumulative travel, covering all specialist treatments and increasing overnight accommodation rates to keep up with inflation. We will also inject an additional \$500,000 to hire more administration officers to clear the backlog of claims and improve processing times.
- **Supporting Royal McDonald House** for regional and rural families through providing \$8 million to help secure land to build a bigger accommodation service.



Hon Michelle Lensink MLC

MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL



- **Establishing Five Transition Care Centres** (250 beds) in both metropolitan and regional areas, to provide support to patients who no longer require a hospital bed but are awaiting appropriate long-term care and support.
- **Better Health Workforce package:** A suite of policies aimed at growing South Australia's healthcare workforce, including initiatives to support and expand the nursing, midwifery, general practice, and broader health workforce.

Increasing the number of midwives will also help strengthen the workforce and create opportunities to expand training and scope of practice, such as forensic medical examinations, which could be explored further as workforce capacity grows.

For a more comprehensive review of our policies and party positions, please visit our website at <https://brightersa.com.au/policies>.

Access to Medicare and the support available to patients who are not eligible for it are matters determined by the federal government. The state alone cannot implement solutions that fully address this issue. Meaningful reform would require coordination with the Commonwealth to ensure any support provided is sustainable and delivers genuine value.

Finally, we recognise the frustration surrounding access to abortion care in South Australia. A Liberal Health Minister will proactively work for regional services to be more closely aligned with metropolitan services. Changes to legislation on these matters are treated by the party as a conscience matter. In its current form, we are not anticipating further amendments to the current statutes to deliver the highest standards of care.

However, moving forward, Fair Agenda can be assured that through our broader commitments, we will continue to strengthen our health system and ensure care is guided by consent and medically necessary practice for all South Australians.

Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to respond to your survey and should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact lensink.office@parliament.sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michelle Lensink'.

Hon. Michelle Lensink MLC

Shadow Minister for Human Services
Shadow Minister for Women
Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

10 March 2026

