

Keep South Australia Moving Ahead

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In 2002 we inherited a disability service system which the Liberals had allowed to run down, it was chaotic and financially depleted. In stark contrast the Labor Government has invested significantly over the past 8 years.

Since coming to office in 2002, we have increased spending on disability services by 87 per cent, from \$124 million a year when we were first elected to \$233 million in 2008-09.

And last December, we invested an additional \$31 million in disability services over four years to give families more respite and greater in-home support.

The recent Productivity Commission Report on Government Services showed that South Australia provides help to more people with a disability than any other State.

We believe in the fundamental right of people with a disability to have access to services they need and to have greater control and choice when making decisions that impact on their lives. Supporting South Australians with a disability is a major priority of the State Labor Government, and we acknowledge that there is still more to do.

That's why we are now committing an **additional \$48.794 million** to support people with a disability, their families and carers.

Our commitment includes an extra \$3.5 million per year in funding to help disability patients in hospitals to access accommodation and support to enable them to live in the community.

We are making sure that children with a disability have greater access to specialised support in local schools and have committed \$9 million to build six new special education units to cater for an extra 120 students with a disability. Two of these units will have a specialist focus on Autism Spectrum Disorders, becoming centres of best practice. We will also ensure children with Autism can be diagnosed and get access to critical early intervention services sooner by investing an additional \$4,247,000. Independent and Catholic schools will receive an extra \$4 million in addition to the \$16 million in ongoing funds over the next four years to support students with special needs.

We will also clear waiting lists and increase funding for equipment and home modifications for people with a disability by injecting an additional \$17.547 million over the next four years.

The next step, is the development of an across government blueprint of long-term disability reform to be undertaken by Monsignor David Cappo and the Social Inclusion Unit.

Our vision is to develop a more socially inclusive approach to supporting people with a disability—so that they can get the best start in life and throughout their lives have access to the services and supports they need to ensure they have a quality life.

Please find the ALP Disability Support Policy and other information relating to Labor's commitments at the following links:

<http://www.sa.alp.org.au/images/stories/Policies/disabilitysupportweb1.pdf>

http://www.sa.alp.org.au/images/stories/Policies/disability_equipment.pdf

<http://www.sa.alp.org.au/images/stories/LatestNews/disability%20schools.pdf>

<http://www.sa.alp.org.au/images/stories/LatestNews/four%20hour%20guarantee.pdf>