

# Labor's plan for a new southern suburbs tertiary hospital

## Executive Summary

Fixing the health system has been a priority of the Gallop Government.

Annual spending on health has increased by \$886 million since we came to Government, a 38.5 per cent increase.

The Gallop Government has committed \$527 million in capital spending on health facilities during our term of Government and committed over \$2.7 billion over the next 13 years on health capital spending alone.

We have increased the number of hospital beds since February 2001. \$22 million has been spent upgrading hospital emergency departments. More than 1,200 full time nurses have been recruited since 2001 and we have reduced the public hospital waiting list from approximately 21,500 in 1999 to less than 16,000.

To plan for the health needs of Western Australians in the future, the Gallop Government established the Health Reform Committee chaired by Professor Mick Reid.

In March 2004, the Health Reform Committee released *A Healthy Future for Western Australians*, which recommended wide ranging improvements to the public health system.

The report recommended that a new major tertiary hospital be constructed south of the river and incorporate tertiary clinical services. The report also recommended that the preferred location be Murdoch and that planning commence immediately.

The Gallop Government has adopted these recommendations and a new state-of-the-art southern tertiary hospital will be constructed at Murdoch, adjacent to the Murdoch St John of God Hospital.

The Gallop Government has allocated \$420 million for stage 1 of the construction of the new southern tertiary hospital, which will see 600 beds opening in 2010, increasing to 1,000 beds by 2020.

The new tertiary hospital will be named after 2003 Australian of the Year and renowned child health researcher, Professor Fiona Stanley.

## **In the next four years we will:**

1. Complete, in 2010, stage 1 (600 beds) of a new major tertiary hospital at Murdoch, adjacent to the St John of God Hospital. There is every probability that the health precinct could contain 1,000 beds as the current expansion by St John of God Hospital is designed to accommodate a further 70 beds. With further public health expansion, this will rise to a 1,300 bed health precinct by 2015.
2. Enable, at the completion of stage 1 of the southern tertiary hospital, an extensive range of specialist services to be provided to patients south of the river. These services will include public and private emergency departments capable of dealing with all levels of trauma including major trauma:
  - Cardiothoracic services
  - Radiotherapy services
  - Renal transplantation services
  - Obstetric and gynaecology services
  - Paediatric services
  - Dialysis services
  - A clinical research centre
  - A full range of radiology services including computerised tomography (CT) scans and magnetic resonance imaging scanning.
3. Provide \$67 million funding to re-develop the Rockingham-Kwinana District Hospital, increasing beds from 67 to 300 and improving general medicine, general surgery, obstetrics, gynaecology, orthopaedics and paediatric services.
4. Continue to upgrade services at Fremantle Hospital, focusing on sub-acute care, aged care, rehabilitation, mental health, day surgery and community-based services.
5. Continue to support the after hours GP clinics at Fremantle and Rockingham-Kwinana hospitals to ensure patients continue to receive the appropriate level of care while reducing the burden on our hospitals.

## What we have done

### In the past four years we have:

- Jointly with the Commonwealth Government, opened two after hours bulk billing clinics in the southern suburbs, adjacent to Fremantle and Rockingham-Kwinana Hospitals emergency departments
- Built a new emergency department at Rockingham-Kwinana District Hospital at a cost of over \$10 million
- Opened over 332 additional hospital beds across metropolitan hospitals during last year's winter at a cost of over \$20 million
- Launched the State's biggest nurse recruitment campaign to reverse the decline under the previous Coalition Government and recruited more than 1,200 full time salaried nurses in public hospitals since 2001 (as at September 2004)
- Provided an additional \$34.7 million for St John Ambulance to purchase 30 more ambulances, recruit 100 more staff and establish a new computer system linking the ambulance control room to emergency departments to reduce diversions and ramping
- Introduced Nursewest to better manage our nurse resources, resulting in \$24.7 million savings on agency nurses in 2003-04 compared with 2002-03
- Reduced the public hospital waiting list from approximately 21,500 in 1999 to less than 16,000 and cut the average waiting time for elective surgery by 20 per cent
- Run a winter illness prevention campaign, which offered free flu vaccines for people aged 65 and over. More than 216,000 people took up the offer, which represented 95 per cent of over 65s.
- Increased the mental health budget from \$208 million in 2000-01 to over \$249 million in 2004-05, a \$40 million increase in our first term of Government
- Provided an extra \$173 million over the next three years for mental health programs as part of the Gallop Government's comprehensive Mental Health Strategy
- Committed \$10 million in December 2003 to provide treatment to over 3,250 patients who had been waiting longer than 500 days for elective surgery. This initiative was so successful that an

additional 912 patients also received treatment. In addition, the Gallop Government provided an extra \$8 million towards reducing elective surgery waiting lists targeting 2,050 patients who had been waiting for operations in the areas of greatest demand.

- Provided an additional \$16.5 million in late 2004 to fund 130 beds in public hospitals, which can be used for additional elective surgery
- Allocated \$4 million in 2004 to people waiting for cataract surgery and cystoscopy and gastro-scope procedures
- Purchased Kaleeya and Galliers Hospitals for \$31 million, to provide a further 156 beds to the public hospital system.

## What we will do

1. The Gallop Government will complete, in 2010, stage 1 (600 beds) of a new major tertiary hospital at Murdoch, adjacent to the St John of God Hospital. The hospital will expand to 1,000 beds in 2020.

Health services for people living south of the river will be transformed as we progress with the implementation of our reform program focused on building a healthy Western Australia. Planning has already started for the new southern tertiary hospital, with \$420 million allocated for its construction.

The Gallop Government is committed to providing tertiary level care to residents of the southern suburbs, ensuring the highest level of care closer to home. The population growth in the area is expected to be 9 per cent over the next five years and currently over one third of the admissions to Royal Perth Hospital are from people living in the southern suburbs.

Located close to the St John of God Hospital at Murdoch, the new hospital will ensure close links and complementary services between the public and private health systems. The co-location of public and private hospitals will create a 900-bed health precinct in 2010 in the southern suburbs upon completion of the \$31 million upgrade of the St John of God Hospital. This will rise to 1,300 beds in total by 2015.

The timetable for the new southern tertiary hospital is as follows:

1. Planning for construction of stage 1 (600 beds) for the new southern tertiary hospital has already commenced
2. Construction of the new hospital will commence in 2007
3. Stage 1 (600 beds) of the new southern tertiary hospital will open in 2010
4. The new southern tertiary hospital will increase to 900 beds in 2015
5. The new southern tertiary hospital will expand further to 1,000 beds by 2020.

The new southern tertiary hospital, stage 1, will cost \$420 million, with \$191 million to be spent over the next four years.

In 2020 the 1,000-bed public sector hospital will incorporate the tertiary clinical services of Fremantle Hospital together with new clinical activities not currently available south of the river. Only the Gallop Government is prepared to deliver a tertiary hospital for people south of the river, giving them access to the highest quality health services closer to home.

Access to the hospital will be via the Kwinana Freeway and the new southern rail line. The new hospital will be the hub for the metropolitan general hospitals at Fremantle, Rockingham-Kwinana and Armadale-Kelmscott.

The new 1,000-bed southern tertiary hospital is part of a long-term plan for the provision of health care across Western Australia that only the Gallop Government has committed to deliver.

The Liberals have pledged only 350 beds as part of their plan for a non-tertiary hospital at Murdoch. That is a shortage of 650 beds. The Liberal Party policy will mean that there will be no major government tertiary hospital south of the river.

**2. The Gallop Government will enable, at the completion of state 1 of the southern tertiary hospital, an extensive range of specialist services to be provided to patients south of the river. These services will include:**

- **Public and private emergency departments capable of dealing with all levels of trauma including major trauma**
- **Cardiothoracic services**
- **Radiotherapy services**
- **Renal transplantation services**
- **Obstetric and gynaecology services**
- **Paediatric services**
- **Dialysis services**
- **A clinical research centre**
- **A full range of radiology services including computerised tomography (CT) scans and magnetic resonance imaging scanning.**

The Gallop Government established the Health Reform Committee and has committed to implement the blueprint outlined in the final report. This comprehensive plan will ensure health services reflect the population growth and changing demographics of the Western Australian community. It is important to provide the most appropriate clinical care, which includes acute services closer to where a growing number of people are living, and giving more Western Australians better access to services, particularly in a tertiary hospital setting.

The advantages of the Murdoch site include sharing of core health facilities with St John of God Hospital, medical practitioner preference, accessibility, potential for a major ambulance depot south of the river on the Murdoch campus, education and training and potential infrastructure opportunities with the large health precinct.

- 3. Provide \$67 million funding to re-develop the Rockingham-Kwinana District Hospital, increasing beds from 67 to 300 and improving general medicine, general surgery, obstetrics, gynaecology, orthopaedics and paediatric services.**

Residents in Perth's southern suburbs can be assured of the Gallop Government's commitment to other health services in the region including Fremantle Hospital and the upgraded Rockingham-Kwinana Hospital. We are bringing more and better health care services closer to where people live.

Planning has already started on a \$67 million re-development of Rockingham-Kwinana District Hospital. The re-development will increase the hospital's bed capacity from its current 67 beds to 300. The Gallop Government's investment will improve general medicine, general surgery, obstetrics, gynaecology, orthopaedics and paediatric services at the hospital.

This redevelopment follows on from the recent completion of the hospital's new \$10.3 million emergency department.

- 4. The Gallop Government will continue to upgrade services at Fremantle Hospital to focus on sub-acute care, aged care, rehabilitation, mental health, day surgery and community-based services.**

The Gallop Government will also upgrade facilities and equipment at Fremantle Hospital during the planning and construction of the new Fiona Stanley Hospital to ensure people living south of the river continue to receive the best possible health care. \$35 million has been allocated to upgrade Fremantle Hospital's medical equipment and refurbish parts of the building.

The \$35 million is being invested in the following areas:

- Upgrade to intensive care unit \$6.7 million
- New MRI machine and recovery unit \$5.2 million
- Second cardiac theatre \$1.36 million
- New CT scanner \$2.0 million
- Purchase Kaleeya Hospital \$15.3 million
- New medical equipment \$4.7 million

As part of the Gallop Government's on-going commitment to Fremantle Hospital, \$65 million has been allocated in the forward budgets to ensure services can be maintained and upgraded.

- 5. The Gallop Government will continue to support the after hours GP clinics at Fremantle and Rockingham-Kwinana hospitals to ensure patients continue to receive the appropriate level of care while reducing the burden on our hospitals**

GP clinics co-located with emergency departments opened on 31 May 2004 at Fremantle Hospital and on 24 November 2004 at Rockingham-Kwinana Hospital. The clinics operate seven days a week.

Thousands of people every year are treated at emergency departments across the metropolitan area when they could easily have been treated by a GP. The GP clinics ensure patients receive the appropriate level of care while reducing the burden on our hospitals. The current GP clinics provide alternatives to treatment at emergency departments and ensure prompt medical advice and care to the community. The aim of these services is not to replace emergency departments but to deliver health care to patients who do not have life threatening illnesses or injuries.

The most common ailments treated by GPs included lacerations, ear, nose and throat problems, respiratory difficulties and minor injuries. It is more appropriate that these patients were seen by a GP instead of doctors in hospital emergency departments, where many had traditionally been treated. By allowing GPs to treat patients with minor ailments, some of the pressure is taken off emergency department staff so they can concentrate on patients with more serious conditions.

The Fremantle clinic gives residents in the area greater access to health care.

The new GP after hours clinic at Rockingham-Kwinana Hospital provides a significant boost to services for families in the Rockingham area because there are currently only limited after hours GP services in the area. The population of Rockingham and surrounding areas is growing rapidly, so the Government's 'Delivering a Healthy WA' reform program is putting these extra resources in place to cater for that growth.

Since opening, the clinics have treated an average of 700 patients per month - people who would have otherwise been treated as non-emergency patients in our emergency departments. The Gallop Government will continue to support the GP clinics to ensure effective use of our emergency departments, and timely treatment for all patients.

## Labor's plan for a new southern suburbs tertiary hospital

### What will it cost

<i>INITIATIVE</i>	<b>Funding</b>	2004-05 \$'000	2005-06 \$'000	2006-07 \$'000	2007-08 \$'000	2008-09 \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>Recurrent</b>							
6. Continue to support the after hours GP clinics at Fremantle and Rockingham/Kwinana hospitals	Fwd est						
<b>Total additional recurrent expenditure</b>		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Capital</b>							
1 and 2. New Southern Tertiary Hospital	Additional / Fwd Est	500	1,700	11,500	42,300	135,000	<b>191,000</b>
3. Redevelop Rockingham/Kwinana District hospital	Fwd Est	200	3,000	14,000	31,000	19,000	<b>67,200</b>
4. Continue to upgrade services at Fremantle Hospital	Fwd Est		2,000	4,000	5,000	4,000	<b>15,000</b>
<b>Total additional capital expenditure*</b>		<b>500</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>22,300</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>93,500</b>

*\* Note: This is the impact on the forward estimates of the bring forward of the Southern Tertiary Teaching Hospital.*