



MEDIA RELEASE

Amanda Rishworth MP
Federal Member for Kingston

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A Better Deal for Local Patients in Southern Adelaide

The Gillard Government's new deal on health reform will start delivering for local patients in Southern Adelaide from 1 July, with more beds, more money, more local control and more transparency across the health system.

Federal Member for Kingston, Amanda Rishworth MP said this new national health reform deal will invest \$16.4 billion, providing greater health care to all Australians.

Ms Rishworth said "The Gillard Government is delivering a national deal on health that will last, providing the extra funding that hospitals need, with tough national standards and unprecedented transparency with genuine local control.

"While this is a national deal, every person in Australia will benefit no matter where they might live.

"From 1 July, we'll start to see the training of 6000 more doctors over the next decade and the delivery of 1300 more sub-acute beds.

"We'll also see strict deadlines for emergency departments and elective surgery waiting times, with patients getting more information and tough national standards, like a four-hour emergency waiting time."

The Gillard Labor Government's reforms will also provide a greater focus on primary care services, ensuring that Medicare Locals are locally responsive, and can demonstrate how they will connect to local communities.

Ms Rishworth said "Reforms in after-hours GP care will be fast-tracked, supporting greater local face-to-face GP after-hours services.

"Local communities will have robust information about their local primary health care services, including information like opening hours and availability of health care services.

"Over time, the Commonwealth will empower Medicare Locals with more flexible funding to target services to their local community's specific needs."

The new deal on health delivers national reform that will last, built on a genuine partnership between the Commonwealth, States and Territories.

The Gillard Government will invest \$16.4 billion in public hospitals – matched by tough national standards to make sure that money goes straight to hospitals and straight to patients.