Better Emergency Care
South Australia’s Health Care Plan
If you ever find yourself in a hospital’s emergency department, it’s usually because you or someone you care about really needs help. It can be a stressful time and the last thing you want is a long wait for medical attention.

We’re making some important changes in our hospitals so that you can be seen within four hours of your arrival at the emergency department. This means you’ll be seen sooner, treated faster, and if necessary, transferred to a hospital bed quicker.

As well as upgrading and expanding our emergency departments, we’re also setting up Acute Medical Units at some sites. Here, you’ll get emergency care from doctors and nurses in a specialised unit once you are admitted to hospital. See and Treat Clinics have also been established to further support emergency departments. Staffed by expert nurses, they can give you immediate treatment if you’re suffering from a minor injury or illness.

In addition, MedSTAR, the statewide emergency medical retrieval service, has been created to provide the highest level of emergency medical retrieval. This is a round-the-clock service staffed by a core group of highly-trained doctors, nurses and paramedics.

We’re also increasing the number of specialist paramedics who are trained to treat people in their own homes. They can save you from an unnecessary trip to the emergency department or look after you until an ambulance arrives if you are required to go to hospital. This includes fast-response SPRINT paramedics who respond to emergencies and begin life-saving treatments while an ambulance is on its way.

We’re making all of these improvements so that in an emergency we can quickly provide you with whatever medical care you need.

However, it’s important that we keep our emergency departments for emergencies. For colds, flu and other non-urgent medical conditions, it’s better to visit a GP or one of our new GP Plus Health Care Centres or GP Plus Super Clinics.

For more information on how we’re working to strengthen your health care system visit sahealth.sa.gov.au/sahealthcareplan


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