

Making Health Sustainable

In Government, WA Labor developed the Reid vision for WA's hospitals, which set the ground work for building infrastructure like Fiona Stanley Hospital, Midland Hospital and the New Children's Hospital.

The Reid Review also provided a pathway for the sustainable delivery of health services. However, the Liberal Government failed to implement these changes and missed an opportunity to put the WA health system on a sustainable footing.

It is now critical to look beyond the infrastructure and review the systems and use of new technologies and innovation to drive further change and efficiencies in the health sector.

A McGowan Labor Government will conduct a new review of health services. Beginning with the recommendations of the Reid Review, the Sustainable Health Review will investigate what further measures need to be taken to put WA Health on a sustainable footing including the introduction of innovation and new technologies and through procurement and workforce redesign.

- ***A McGowan Labor Government will conduct the Sustainable Health Review.***

Health Patient Dialogues will be convened around the State as part of the review. These will bring together consumer advocates, front-line staff, health leaders and administrators to contribute to a new vision of patient centred care.

We will draw up a strategy for putting the patient at the centre of all health policy to drive change and fresh thinking into hospitals and community health.

WA Labor believes we have an opportunity to harness transformative change already emerging in healthcare systems across Australia, to improve care for the patient and make healthcare more cost effective.

A McGowan Labor Government will once again put patients first and usher in a new era in health care in WA.

Current State of the Health System

There are serious challenges for the future of our health services.

The Liberal Government built the hospitals consistent with WA Labor's Reid vision. However there have been ongoing delays and waste due to privatisation and mismanagement of the new hospitals.

The Liberal Government has also failed to take advantage of the changing environment driven by medical technology and changing practices. The failure to innovate has resulted in WA hospitals being less efficient than those in the Eastern States and has contributed to the health budget spiralling out of control.

When activity based funding was introduced in 2012/13 the cost of delivering health care was 12 per cent more than the national average. Despite the Government repeatedly saying they would make health more efficient, today WA health is 18 per cent more expensive than health care systems in the rest of Australia.

Since 2005-06, public expenditure in health care has increased by an average of 9.9 per cent per annum.¹ This is twice the average annual growth of our economy.

When the Liberals came to power health represented 26 per cent of the total State budget, today it is almost 30 per cent of the total State expenditure and it continues to increase.

We now have a fragmented health system with a complex division of service streams and performance accountabilities.

The growth and mismanagement of the health budget is unsustainable. It's time to take stock.

A McGowan Labor Government will deliver a sustainable health system and once again put patients first.

¹ WA State Budget Papers; 2006/07 – 2016/17