



**Frances
Bedford**

Independent State MP for Florey

MEDIA RELEASE

29 December, 2017

AMA MUST BE SUPPORTED ON MODBURY HOSPITAL

Frances Bedford (IND, Florey) has backed the views of AMA President, A/Prof William Tan, expressed in *The Advertiser* (29/12/17, p13).

“Calls for the return and expansion of services at Modbury Hospital by the community, as well as the AMA, have been partially answered with the recent announcement of a \$90 million package, supported by the now usual spend on glossy marketing, bus shelter signs and direct mail,” Ms Bedford said.

“But the package doesn’t address what the community asked for and needs, and that’s for the high dependency care (HDC) area to be re-instated, so that people can be treated at the Modbury Hospital rather than transferred to hospitals further away.”

Ms Bedford said the Extended Emergency Care Unit has now been announced 3 times without any work starting.

“There’s also a need to upgrade the Triage area in A & E, and I’ve made representations to the Health Minister about that work being done at the same time as the new work.” The announcement about Acute Medical and Surgical Units also needs clarification.

“Multi day surgery should cut the elective surgery lists but people have told me that it isn’t safe to go ahead with this surgical expansion without high dependency care to support it.”

“Everyone agrees the boost to Palliative Care needed to happen ages ago, and it’s one of the most positive outcomes. However, there is nothing for mental health, and Woodleigh House is in major need of a major upgrade. Community mental health is more important now than ever with the closure of six ‘unsafe’ short stay mental health beds at Lyell McEwin.”

\$22.5 million has been announced for the long overdue infrastructure upgrade of the hospital, but as yet there’s no information about how much will be exterior work, the engineer’s report on the crumbling front façade - and the implications for the rest of the building.

“All in all, the offers from the Liberal Party, who support the return of HDC, and the Labor Party need to be evaluated. I’ll also be speaking with SA Best’s Nick Xenophon.”

“My priority as the Member for Florey continues to be getting the best possible outcome for the hospital, and whoever can guarantee services at Modbury Hospital will have my support on health.”