



**Frances
Bedford**

Independent State MP for Florey

MEDIA RELEASE

13 March, 2018

MODBURY HOSPITAL – WHO CAN WE TRUST?

Frances Bedford, Independent for Florey, still needs answers on exactly what is planned for Modbury Hospital after the election - especially from the Weatherill Labor Party.

“First the Liberal Party and then SA Best Leaders gave undertakings recognising, among other things, the importance of re-instating high dependency care. Only Labor has not given that commitment. The ALP continues to say it is not safe to have HDU without ICU, quoting a report from 2011 which does not use the words ‘unsafe’ or ‘dangerous’. And clinicians tell me it didn’t say a co-located ICU was necessary either.”

“In fact, in a general hospital setting, less than 20% of HDU patients ever need transferring to an ICU. What the Bersten Report did say was that a stand-alone HDU would be quite safe at Modbury with appropriate staffing and support. Other hospitals do have stand-alone HDUs – Fremantle being one. And here in Adelaide, Burnside Hospital has one, too.”

There-in lies the nub of the problem – how can voters compare policies and promises when there is selective quoting of reports, such as this, and policy re-announcements and spin?

“Local Labor candidates are now claiming the ALP is spending \$120 million at Modbury Hospital. This seems to be an old announcement of \$30 million already spent and the current \$90 million recently announced by the Health Minister – and that does not include restoring HDU.”

“And the \$90 million includes the third time the Extended Emergency Care Unit in A&E was announced – and as at today, there is no sign of that work commencing. The devil is always in the detail – not only do you have to analyse the policy promise, you have to look at the date it commences, and that is usually some time off.”

“Transforming Health has been a disaster for Modbury Hospital. Talk about leopards changing spots, it’s a bit like the pot calling the kettle black. The changes have to be reversed – services have to be re-instated, as well as being improved. Staff at Modbury do an amazing job – we just want them to be able to do more - and better.”

“We have to keep fighting, right up to the last minute, to get services back for our local hospital. This is a far too important local issue for voters to elect anyone to government without knowing exactly what is planned – and the plans have to be put in place immediately.”

Frances will join the Modbury Hospital Local Action Group and local people who have first-hand Modbury Hospital case studies outside the hospital tomorrow, Wednesday 14/3/18 at 10.00am.