



**Dr Catherine Earl**  
Chief Executive Officer  
SA Council for Social Service

By Email: [catherine@sacoss.org.au](mailto:catherine@sacoss.org.au)

02/03/2026

Dear Dr Earl,

Thank you for sending through the 2025-2026 Policy Priorities of the SA Council of Social Service. As the Shadow Treasurer, I am writing on behalf of my colleagues in the South Australian Liberal Party.

The Liberal Party understands that the cost of living is having a huge impact on South Australians and is most keenly felt by those on low and fixed incomes. That is why addressing the current cost of living crisis, along with building a better health system that is more accessible to all South Australians and supporting stronger and safer communities are our key election policies.

We are addressing the cost of living with the following assistance measures:

- 50 cent fares for public transport.
- Incentives for landlords to provide solar panels and battery systems for tenants, reducing power costs.
- Ensure the ongoing operation of Torrens Island B power station and enabling use of gas for firming electricity supply, reducing price and availability shocks.
- Reducing government spending, including halving the amount of government spend on advertising and reducing the amount spent on consultants.
- Establishing a Tax Reform Commission within the first 60 days in office to review taxes and charges, aiming to make taxes and charges less onerous.
- Capping Council rates to reduce unwarranted fee increases for tenants.
- Reducing payroll tax burden on businesses, including a total cut for apprentices and trainees, reducing the cost of employment.
- Cutting tax for first home buyers and offering a discount for older South Australians wishing to downsize, reducing the financial burden and freeing up more housing to families.





My colleague, the Hon Michelle Lensink MLC, as the former Minister for Social Housing and Homelessness, prioritised investment into social housing, while focusing on solutions for those seeking crisis and emergency accommodation. An incoming Hurn Liberal Government will boost the pipeline of social and affordable housing. We are not committed to policies of rent capping, as in many cases where this has previously been used as a measure it has had unintended consequences that have negative impact on the very people it is intended to help.

We agree that the health system is in urgent need of attention. That's why we are committed to building a better health system, not a bigger one. An incoming Hurn Liberal Government will make it cheaper to see your GP, by removing the GP payroll tax. We have also committed to incentives to recruit and retain doctors, nurses and other medical professionals, and by making it easier for everyone to see a doctor when they need to. We are addressing the serious shortfall of health services in our regions as well as the metropolitan area, and we will offer a free flu vaccination to any South Australian who wants one with a vaccination blitz at the start of the flu season.

If elected in March 2026, we will continue to work with you on the matters that SACOSS has outlined, towards better outcomes for those who desperately need it.

We thank you for your involvement. Should you require any further discussion or additional details, please do not hesitate to contact our office at [BenHood.Office@parliament.sa.gov.au](mailto:BenHood.Office@parliament.sa.gov.au).

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "BH".

**Hon. Ben Hood MLC**  
Shadow Treasurer  
Shadow Minister for Small and Family Business  
Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations and Public Sector

