

## TREASURER TOM KOUTSANTONIS

Announced: Tuesday, 6 June 2017

### Funding for 24/7 Mount Barker doctor

Adelaide Hills residents will have access to an on-site emergency doctor 24 hours a day at the Mount Barker District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital, with the State Government announcing funding of \$800,000 in 2017-18, increasing to \$1.9 million indexed from 2018-19.

The announcement follows a successful three month trial of an overnight on-site medical service at the hospital, which was widely supported by the community. Under this announcement, this service will continue.

#### Background

During the trial, around 450 people presented for emergency care to the hospital between the hours of 10pm and 7am, highlighting the importance of a 24/7 doctor model for the district.

Before the trial commenced, a doctor was onsite at Mount Barker District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital between 6pm and 10pm.

#### Quotes attributable to Health Minister Jack Snelling

Mount Barker is one of the fastest growing regional centres in South Australia and with a catchment of over 70,000 people it is important we meet the increasing needs of this community.

This funding will continue the important 24-hour doctor service, securing round-the-clock, on-site emergency medical services at Mount Barker and reducing the need for people to travel to Adelaide.

There was a lot of positive feedback and support from the community during the trial, so the continuation of this valuable service will no doubt be welcomed.

#### Quotes attributable to Country Health SA Chief Executive Officer Maree Geraghty

Increased access to emergency services at the Mount Barker District Soldiers' Memorial Hospital will not just benefit residents and visitors in the immediate area, but also the wider district.

This is in addition to the suite of other high-quality health services offered at Mount Barker including community health, chemotherapy, surgical, maternity and obstetrics.

**Media Contact:** David Russell 0434 307 012