

South Australia

Election Platform 2022



strokefoundation.org.au

Photo: Saran Chamberlain (far left) and Family

South Australia Election Platform 2022

South Australians understand the devastating life-changing impact a stroke can have. The state has one of the highest per capita rates of first stroke nationally.

In 2020, more than **2,000 South Australians experienced stroke** for the first time, and there were more than **35,000 survivors** of stroke living in the community. Without action, it is estimated **by 2050 more than 3,300 new strokes** will be experienced by South Australians annually, and there will be more than **55,000 South Australians living** with the impact of this disease.

Stroke is treatable. Many people can recover well if they recognise the signs and call 000 for help.

Stroke Foundation applauds the South Australian Government for the rapid response to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. Decisive action to prevent the virus spreading has protected this community, especially as survivors of stroke are among the most vulnerable to this virus.

State Government investment in stroke care pathways and protocols is also delivering results, and South Australians now have access to some of the best time-critical stroke treatments in the country.

The establishment of Wellbeing SA has the potential to reduce this largely preventable disease's impact. In addition, the establishment of the Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Health, and 'Community of Practice' groups across several specialty areas, including stroke, underscores the State Government's commitment to increasing the uptake of evidence-based practice, data collection and improving the quality of care.

Stroke Foundation is calling on the incoming South Australian Government to invest an additional \$1.4m over four years to deliver a stronger health system for all South Australians impacted by stroke.

Investment in these initiatives will support the goals of the *South Australian Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020 – 2025*, and strengthen reforms, to help deliver a financially sustainable health system.

1

Deliver a Stroke Foundation F.A.S.T. Community Education Program and Multimedia Campaign.

Investment:
\$800,000 over four years.

When someone suffers a stroke, every minute counts. Urgent treatment equates to a greater chance of recovery and decreased costs for our health system. Only 58 per cent of South Australians with stroke are arriving at hospital within the 4.5-hour window for clot-dissolving treatment.

A recent Stroke Foundation study of awareness of the signs of stroke found that when unprompted, only 26 percent of South Australians recalled two or more signs of stroke. More work needs to be done to raise awareness so more South Australians receive life-saving treatment much sooner.

It is imperative South Australians understand if they see signs of stroke, including Facial drooping, Arm weakness, or Speech changes, Time is critical. Knowing to call triple zero (000) immediately is key to the best health outcomes.

Community education campaigns have proven to directly result in increased awareness of the signs of stroke and calls to emergency services nationally and internationally.

A South Australian Government investment in a Stroke Foundation F.A.S.T. Community Education Program and Multimedia Campaign will ensure even more South Australians understand the risk factors for stroke, how to recognise a stroke when it occurs, and how vital it is to call an ambulance.

Stroke Foundation's F.A.S.T. Community Education Program has been developed and is ready to be rolled out in South Australia. This program will be delivered in partnership with the Hospital Research Foundation Group – Stroke, an organisation dedicated to providing world-leading research, care and services to improve the acute treatment, recovery and prevention of stroke.

Stroke Foundation's F.A.S.T. Multimedia Education Campaign will include media advertisements, as well as F.A.S.T. messaging on public transport. Sharing that message widely will have an impact.

FAST access to treatment will mean a greater chance of recovery for South Australian patients, and decreased costs for the South Australian health system.

2

Support the world-leading Living Evidence initiative.

Investment:
\$600,000 over four years.

Stroke Foundation is part of the Australian Living Evidence Consortium, a collaboration bringing together experts to build a revolutionary new system for delivering reliable, accessible, up-to-date evidence in health.

Technology and processes Stroke Foundation developed and piloted in Phase One of this work, as part of the Living Guidelines for Stroke Management, presented the ability to urgently pivot, and a National Taskforce was established to support Australian clinicians with accessible, evidence-based living guidelines to manage patients with COVID-19.

The Consortium has developed a business case to leverage investment in the Living Guidelines and deliver Phase Two of the initiative over the next four years. This phase will establish a national Living Evidence support hub, build Living Evidence digital technology platforms, maintain guidelines, and distribute the latest evidence where needed.

The Consortium seeks \$22.5 million with proposed contributions of: \$8 million from the Commonwealth; \$10 million from state and territory jurisdictions; \$4.5 million from philanthropic organisations.

Investment in Phase Two of the Living Evidence initiative will deliver:

- **80 percent reduction** in time from research publication to incorporation in evidence-based guidelines.
- **50 percent reduction** in time to complete key tasks, 25 percent reduction in time to update guidelines.
- **300 percent increase** in patients and clinicians involved in guideline development.
- **300 percent increase** in guideline users, and 30,000 monthly users of decision aids and tools.

A South Australian Government investment in Phase Two of the Living Evidence initiative will enable the 'living' approach for the Clinical Guidelines for Stroke Management and other chronic conditions including diabetes, arthritis, heart and kidney disease. This can continue to evolve, equipping South Australian stroke clinicians with the knowledge to drive quality improvement in treatment and care across the state.









Saran Chamberlain (left) is a Young Stroke Survivor and passionate advocate from Adelaide. As a member of Stroke Foundation's Consumer Council, Saran has shared her personal insights to ensure Stroke Foundation's work prioritises people impacted by this debilitating disease. Saran is pictured here with her family.

About Stroke Foundation


Stroke Foundation is a national charity that partners with the community to prevent, treat and beat stroke. We stand alongside survivors of stroke and their families, healthcare professionals and researchers. We build community awareness and foster new thinking. We support survivors on their journey to live the best possible life after stroke.



How to get more involved

-  **Give time** – become a volunteer.
-  **Raise funds** – donate or hold a fundraising event.
-  **Speak up** – join our advocacy team.
-  **Leave a lasting legacy** – include a gift in your Will.
-  **Know your numbers** – check your health regularly.
-  **Stay informed** – keep up-to-date and share our message.

Contact us

-  **03 9670 1000**
-  **strokefoundation.org.au**
-  **[/strokefoundation](https://www.facebook.com/strokefoundation)**
-  **[@strokefdn](https://twitter.com/strokefdn)**
-  **[@strokefdn](https://www.instagram.com/strokefdn)**