

Opening address

The Hon. Jack Snelling¹

¹South Australian Minister for Health and Ageing

South Australia is leading the way in innovative technologies to improve access to health professionals and support patients and staff. In particular, the Digital Tele-health Network is transforming the way we provide health care services for patients/clients living in rural and remote locations, particularly in the area of mental health. South Australia is also rolling out an Enterprise Patient Administration System, or EPAS—bedside computers in specific country hospitals that will enable patients and clinicians to use touch-screen computers for a variety of tasks.

The South Australian Government is committed to providing more health care services closer to home for its country residents. The South Australian Government has been systematically improving its country health infrastructure and enabling a greater range of services to be provided at the local level, particularly in the areas of renal dialysis, cancer care and mental health. These reforms are building the capacity and capability of rural health services.