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**Title:**

Statement by Dunstan - Tea Tree Gully

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When the present Government took office hospitals provision in South Australia was the worst in the Commonwealth. The Government has moved rapidly to remedy this situation.

Firstly, it radically increased payments to country Government-subsidized hospitals and non-Government hospitals, for instance, in the first full year of the Labor Government's office payments for capital expenditure and building activities of the 50 country Government-subsidized hospitals and other non-Government hospitals was about \$800,000 more than in the last full year of the Playford Government and subsidies towards maintenance of non-Government hospitals was again \$800,000 more than in the last full year of the Playford Government.

The Labor Government has proceeded with the building program for the Royal Adelaide Hospital and The Queen Elizabeth Hospital; it has passed through the Public Works Committee plans for a new \$2,500,000, 108-bed, hospital at Port Augusta, and it has prepared for submission to the Public Works Standing Committee plans for a new 400/500-bed general hospital at Modbury and a new 800-bed teaching hospital at Flinders University. The necessary land has been acquired for these works and sketch plans and working drawings are at an advanced stage.

In addition, existing activities have been expanded by the introduction of the dental health nurses' scheme, by the setting up of the mental health visitors' program, and by proceeding with the work of the Alcohol and Drug Treatment Board. Mental Health services have been markedly expanded and it is anticipated that in the next 3 years \$8,802,000 will be spent on capital projects for Mental Health services.

In 1967/68 the State Government will spend almost \$30,000,000 from revenue and \$10,000,000 from loan on health and hospitals in this State - a record spending to begin to bring us into line with the provisions elsewhere in Australia in contrast with the provisions under the Playford Government which since the war has spent less per head of population on health and hospitals consistently than any other State in Australia.