



MEDIA RELEASE

Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP

Member for Stuart



Tuesday, 6 April 2011

Liberals achieve Parliament's support for an Inquiry into Country Health

The Legislative Council voted tonight to support the Liberal Opposition's motion that the Parliament's Social Development Committee inquiry into the current and future delivery of health services in country South Australia as proposed by Member for Stuart Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP.

The agreed terms of reference for the inquiry to be recommended to the Social Development Committee will allow investigation into:

- The Government's removal of local Hospital Boards
- The lack of a local doctor with admitting rights to the Burra Hospital impacting upon accident and emergency care
- The removal of funding to the Keith, Moonta and Ardrossan Hospitals
- The fact that country hospitals had still not received final operating budgets for the 2010/11 financial year in February 2011
- The lumping together of all of country South Australia's regions as one "local network" within the Federal Government health system
- The impact upon regional communities of the centralisation to Adelaide of purchasing by country hospitals
- Changes to the administration and community involvement of SA Ambulance Service
- Many other country health issues

"There has been a huge public backlash against Labor's plans for country health and they deserve the full scrutiny of the Parliament," Mr van Holst Pellekaan said.

"People living in regional South Australia believe that the Government's consultation process is not genuine and that Country Health SA is in disarray.

"The Labor Government has illustrated its complete disregard for country people and their health by attempting to downgrade local hospitals and removing community involvement by getting rid of local hospital boards.

"The Inquiry was moved in the Legislative Council by the Hon Michelle Lensink in her capacity as the Upper House Spokesperson for Health and will give all South Australians living in regional SA the openness and transparency they deserve."

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