

NEWS

No democracy for users

THE right to leave a petition at the Murray Bridge Indoor Heated Pool has been denied to pool users.

Murray Bridge resident Graham Wilmshurst said the petition had been organised to protest the change to shorter hours at the pool from July 1, but it was removed from the premises after he and others spoke to The Standard last week.

"We went in to the pool the next day and it

(the petition) was gone," he said.

"They removed it but we got it back after we met with people from Mallee Community Health.

"I think not allowing us to put a petition at the pool is restrictive as the pool is there for public use and I'm not sure how legal it is to stop us."

Mr Wilmshurst said removing the petition would not stop people protesting the changes.

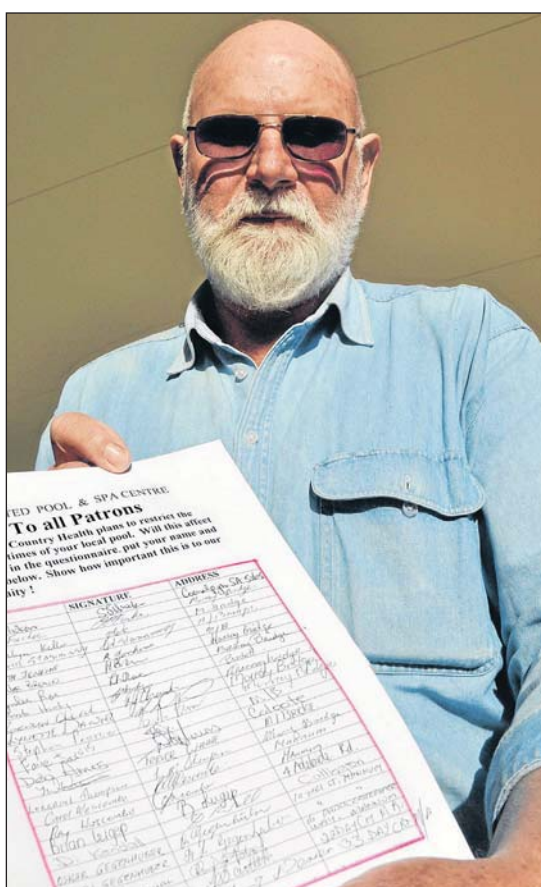
"We are encouraging

pool users to fill in complaint forms to say how the change to opening times is affecting them and to say if there is crowding happening in the pool."

Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick said stopping people from having a petition at the indoor pool was undemocratic.

"That is just stand-over tactics," he said.

"How do you get a feel from the community if you take away their voice."



Denial: Murray Bridge resident Graham Wilmshurst says he can not believe a petition left at the indoor heated pool had been taken by health staff at the Murray Bridge hospital.