



# Finn's Law fight continues

By **Claire Campbell**

A MURRAY Bridge foster carer is annoyed and upset with the lack of political support she has received for Finn's Law.

Since Monica Perrett's foster son Finn tragically passed away in her care earlier this year, she has fought for changes to foster laws and Families SA.

The Bill, known as Finn's Law, would give foster parents the option to be recognised on a death certificate if a child dies in their care and also give them the chance to be involved in funeral arrangements.

But a letter sent to Mrs Perrett recently from Minister for Education and Child Development Jennifer Rankine seemed to suggest the changes Mrs Perrett was asking for would not be met.

"He's been gone four months now and there's been no changes," Mrs Perrett said.

"I think it's disgusting; how can you send a grieving family a letter that says she (the Minister) has no desire to change the law?"

"To them Finn was just a number, to us he was a little boy that deserved to be loved and cared for; I don't believe that any foster parent should have to be belittled like that.

"I will keep fighting for Finn's Law until my last dying breath - I don't know how to do it though because no one seems to be listening."

The letter stated the Department currently supported a partnership approach with birth parents and foster carers to achieve appropriate funeral and burial arrangements for a child and that current legislation was likely to provide the best outcome for all.

It also said that any proposal diminishing the rights of birth parents was likely to receive strong resistance from the community.

Discussion on Finn's Law was expected to be continued in Parliament on Thursday, September 18, but with lots of private members bills on the agenda, they ran out of time.

Mrs Perrett said she was annoyed Finn's

Law was not brought up in Parliament after it had been promised.

But, Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick said he had a private meeting with Minister Rankine last week where he was told the Department was still looking into the proposed changes.

"The amendments I've put forward wouldn't have a harmful effect in my mind," he said.

"I've certainly still got my hopes up; I didn't get a no for an answer.

"But she (Ms Rankine) did say that she may not have an answer this week and then we have a two-week break from sitting."

Mr Pederick said he stressed to the Minister that both legislative amendments had flexibility for both biological and foster parents and the registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Mrs Perrett presented a 38,000-signature petition to the Minister in June demanding changes to procedures when a child in foster care dies.



**Frustrated:** Murray Bridge foster carer Monica Perrett says the letter she received from the Minister for Education and Child Development was "disgusting".

After three months of hearing nothing, Mr Pederick introduced the Bill to State Parliament on August 7.