

Murraylands Medicare Local closes its doors

THE Murraylands' Country South SA Medicare Local (CSSAML) based in Murray Bridge will officially close on June 30.

It will be replaced by one regional South Australian Primary Health Network based in Nuriootpa. As was announced this week, Country North SA Medical Local has been awarded the tender to become the provider of the South Australian Rural Health Network from July 1 which will focus on population needs assessment and plan-

ning and commissioning services rather than being a service provider.

CSSAML - which covered the Murray Mallee, Riverland and Limestone Coast regions - was introduced in 2011 to support primary healthcare services and providers, particularly general practitioners and private allied health providers, to improve their services, fill gaps, coordinate care and make it easier for patients to understand the various services.

Chair Kathy Mott said the CSSAML had worked with

Network to hit the ground running.

CSSAML have handed the new Primary Health Network a detailed handover document designed to ensure the health needs and priorities of the region were respected and protected in the future primary health care organisation.

Details of the programs to be funded remain unclear, but Country North SA Medicare Local chair Alison Edwards believed that current direct services to communities across the State would continue.

Firey admission from Opposition

By Claire Campbell

SOUTH Australia's fire trucks should be built in Murray Bridge, according to the State Opposition Spokesman for Emergency Services, Duncan McFetridge.

Duncan McFetridge and Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick toured the Murray Bridge State Emergency Service and Country Fire Service units last week, as well as Moore Engineering, in Murray Bridge, which used to build the State's fire trucks and appliances before losing the contract to interstate and overseas companies.

"I'm furious that we can build submarines and ships in South Australia but not fire trucks," Mr McFetridge said. "We've got a prime opportunity here to build our own fire trucks, appliances and create more jobs and get more apprentices."

"It's not just about Holden's, it's about the whole of South Australia,



Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick, Moore Engineering owner and director Quentin Moore and Opposition Spokesman for Emergency Services Duncan McFetridge tour the firetruck workshop in Murray Bridge.

every time we lose jobs in regional areas it's another family and community that's suffering."

When Moore Engineering had the contract it created up to 65 fire trucks and appliances a year with 50 people employed, including 12 apprentices.

But that number has fallen to about 15 staff and two apprentices as the trucks are now mostly built in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and New Zealand.

Mr Pederick said the State was losing thousands of jobs, and more needed to be created.

"I can remember coming here and seeing this place chock-a-block," he said.

"The issue is why isn't the Government utilising local South Australian trucks that are built well?"

He said two near-new trucks from Ceduna and Menzies required a refit

and maintenance in Murray Bridge, after being built interstate.

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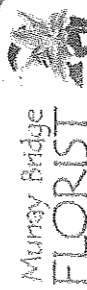
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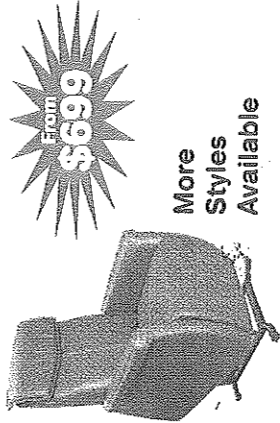
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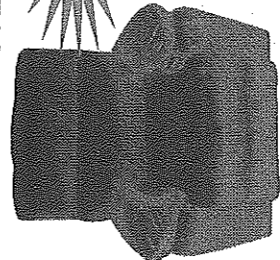
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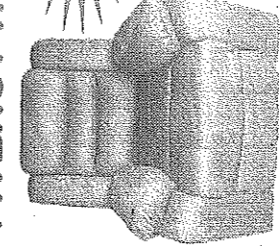
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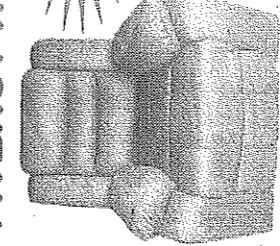
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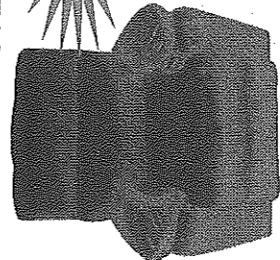
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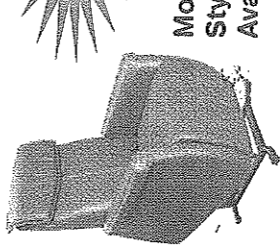
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