

## Pederick reintroduces Finn's Law

MEMBER for Hammond Adrian Pederick reintroduced the Finn's Law Bill in State Parliament on Thursday, which would give foster parents the option to be recognised on a death certificate if a child dies in their care and also gives them the chance to be involved in funeral arrangements.

"If successful, there are approximately 1,800 foster parents who will gain new rights as a result of a cam-

paign fought by Mrs Monica Perrett," he said.

"This Bill is challenging because it breaks new ground, but I believe we as a Parliament should do the right thing by foster parents and foster children."

The current legislation states that only the biological parents are provided with the rights of the child including details such as reason for passing and funeral arrangements.

## IN BRIEF

### Copper piping stolen

Police are investigating the theft of about 100 kilograms of copper piping from a business in Murray Bridge. Between 4pm on February 19 and 8am, February 20, someone cut a fence and entered a business yard on Maurice Road where they stole the piping. Police are reminding the community to be suspicious of people loitering around vacant premises, construction sites and business premises particularly when it's dark. They want people to alert to vehicles with their registration numbers obscured or missing and make a note of vehicle registration numbers and company names if the occupants are behaving suspiciously. Anyone

who has any information about the theft should phone Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or report online at <https://sa.crimestoppers.com.au>

### Motorbike, goods stolen

Police are seeking witnesses to a break-in at Tintinara. Between 5.30pm, February 20, and 6.30am, February 21, entry was gained to a business on Carcuma Road where a motorcycle, an ammunition loading machine and cash were stolen. The motorbike was an off-road 2006 Honda with SA registration XRF150. Police urge anyone with information to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or online at <https://sa.crimestoppers.com.au>

## Red Cross calling on generosity

THIS month, Red Cross is calling on people to help others through its largest national collection.

Red Cross Calling runs through March and raises funds which goes towards people in need.

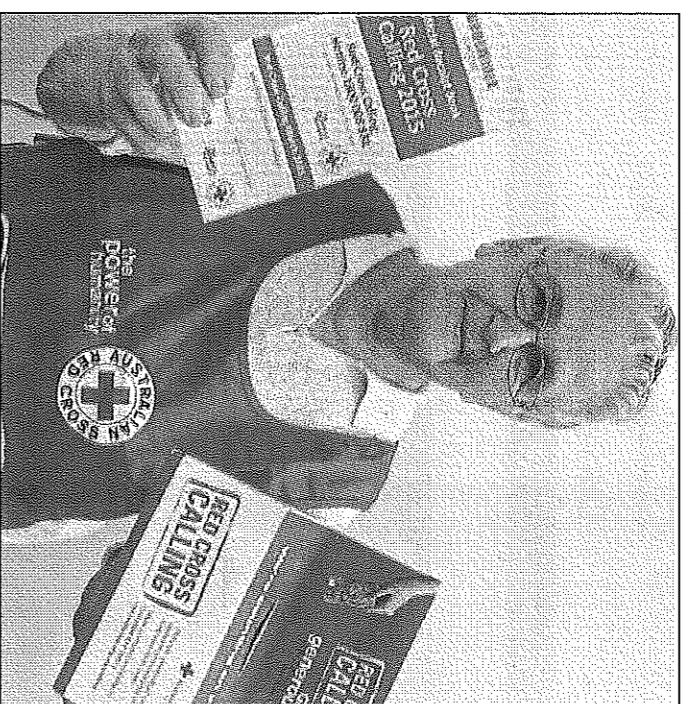
Murray Bridge Red Cross secretary-treasurer Dora Eisen said, in particular, Red Cross helped people living alone or on the streets, people with mental health issues and the elderly. "It doesn't matter what the circumstance or situation they're in, Red Cross is there to help," Mrs Eisen said.

She said Red Cross also helped people through disasters and diseases with supplies and work conducted in areas that needed it most.

"It's not just within Australia that help is given, it's given to other countries as well," she said.

This month, Murray Bridge Red Cross will be collecting at various locations.

The group will be at the Murray Bridge Marketplace until Thursday, March 5, then at Coles and Murray Bridge Green



**Make a donation:** Murray Bridge Red Cross secretary-treasurer Dora Eisen is hoping people will donate to Red Cross Calling this month.

on March 19 and 20, and at IGA Westside, Southside Village Post Office and Tallern Bend Foodland at various times. Mrs Eisen said it was important to note there would be no doorknockers in Murray Bridge, and all collectors would be wearing identification cards with their names.

## Emergency sector reform stopped in parliament

By Claire Campbell

THE emergency services sector reform, which was due to begin in April, has now been halted as a select committee investigates the State Government's reform process.

Family First MLC Robert Brokenshire fought to establish a select committee into the reform to determine exact details of the plan and how the modelling of structural change

would affect services.

"Reform should never be rushed through, especially when it could have a devastating impact on the community or when it has the possibility of undermining something that works well like the CFS and SES," he said.

"The very spirit of this State is built on volunteering and as such our volunteers deserve support, respect and an opportunity to know how something like emergency sector reform would affect them."

"They need to be listened to because their views about the services they have built are relevant."

The select committee will look into the business plan, cost-benefit analysis and probability regarding the proposed reform; a commissioner replacing chief executive officers; consideration and consultation

with volunteer organisations affected by the government proposal and the establishment of legal requirements for the chief officer and chief executive officer of emergency services and SAFECOM and its board.

Murray Bridge State Emergency Services deputy unit manager Kylie Davis said the unit was not necessarily against reform but volunteers needed more information about the changes, which the select committee should provide.

"It's an amazingly positive step in the right direction," she said. "The biggest problem we had was that the reform was rushed; it will slow the process down, it may not answer everything, but it will bring in some clarity to the situation and make the Government answer some of the big questions we have."

Emergency Services Minister Tony Piccolo said the select committee was unnecessary as his Government was already working to address concerns.

"This is just political grandstanding" at its finest by Mr Brokenshire and he should be embarrassed," he said.

"The terms of reference for the committee are now irrelevant."

"The first aspect of the select committee will look at the establishment of the commissioner of the chief officers when on Monday (February 23) I announced that the revised sector model would retain the chief officer position as operational heads of the three services."

The select committee has started its investigations and is expected to make a report to State Parliament by July 29.

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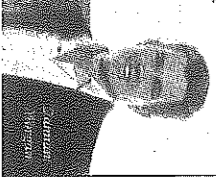
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