

## **Health Practitioners - Social Development Committee**

... that the Social Development Committee investigate and report upon the issue of bogus, unregistered and deregistered health practitioners in SA

Wed Jun 20

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond):** I commend the member for Taylor. As a member of the Social Development Committee, I am quite pleased that she has moved this motion. I was certainly alarmed by a television program that I saw the other night. It seems that quite a few people are travelling overseas to access alleged stem cell therapy treatments. It bothers me that some of those people, who may be spending \$40 000 or \$50 000 at a time, are confined to wheelchairs and they need hope, and the only hope they have is to undergo that procedure.

We need to ensure that health professionals have the right credentials and provide the appropriate treatment for people, instead of peddling false hope. These people might think that they are getting better but, at the end of the day, it might be just a 'feel good' thing, and it is cleaning out their bank account or they are mortgaging their house or using their savings.

With respect to what some would call alternative or run-of-the-mill treatments, such as massage and chiropractic treatments, I am a regular user of both of those services. My body has not been helped by many years in the shearing sheds in my former life, and they have certainly kept me going. I can recall that one day, at an inappropriate time, I woke up and my back had seized up. I went straight to the chiropractor and she fixed me up. So, I believe that there are certainly plenty of legitimate operators in the field of chiropractic. However, I think we certainly need to stitch up bogus doctors and other health professionals.

**Mrs Redmond:** That is what chiropractors are.

**Mr PEDERICK:** I get the interjection from the member for Heysen that chiropractors are bogus. As I just said, you need to pick and choose a bit. Some are not much more than massage manipulators, but I can assure members, as someone who has felt as if he had broken his back at times, they do help to bring you back to health. So, people need to be aware of who they are seeing and check their credentials, but I commend the motion of the member for Taylor.

Motion carried.