

SHARED SERVICES – 12 Nov 08

Mr GRIFFITHS (Goyder) (11:02): I move:

That this house calls upon the Economic and Finance Committee to undertake an investigation into the government's shared services reforms, including the economic and social effects upon regional and suburban communities, implementation costs, savings projections, comparative data from other Australian states that have pursued these reforms, and any other issue.

Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:54): I wish to make a few brief comments in support of the member for Goyder and his excellent motion on shared services. It shows the government's total disregard for regional areas. The member for Giles commented on the country health plan and how good it was. It was so good that it did not turn 180°, it turned 360° after communities rose up in outrage. They are also outraged about what is going on here, where people are being told, 'If you want a job, you will have to move to the city.' Well, that is pretty bad luck if your husband or wife and family or your partner live in Penola and you are expected to transfer out of an accounts payable position and head to Adelaide. It just does not work. People in this place must realise that the state does extend beyond Glen Osmond and Gepps Cross.

Mr Pengilly: And Darlington.

Mr PEDERICK: And Darlington. The Regional Impact Statement, dated September 2007, states that under the reform 500 regional jobs will be lost, which translates to approximately 246 full-time positions. As to the effect on regional communities, the government claimed that it had been unable to quantify the impact of the cuts in its Regional Impact Assessment Statement. However, a study by the Murray and Mallee Local Government Association and the Murraylands Regional Development Board has found that the total cost of axing 111 jobs in that region alone will be \$32.6 million. So, across South Australia, that is over 500 jobs, which equates to \$150 million in drought stricken communities. I rest my case and support the motion.