



MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick

Member and Candidate for Hammond

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Health services in Hammond ‘not really an issue’?

The Rann Government has made its feelings on the provision of country health services clear with Health Minister John Hill believing admittance for emergency treatment in the regions was ‘not really an issue’.

Member and Candidate for Hammond, Adrian Pederick said John Hill’s comments showed how out of touch the Rann Government was after eight years.

“The Rann Government has tried to downgrade and close country hospitals, refusing to recognise that hospitals are the heart of regional communities,” Mr Pederick said.

“In addition to stripping local communities of control of their local hospital by removing individual boards, the Rann Government now believes country people don’t have a problem accessing emergency medical services.

“This is in stark contrast to the opinions of the people of Hammond who approach me and tell me they are worried about the lack of access to health services in the area.

“The Rann Government has neglected the health needs of regional South Australia and Minister Hill’s comments show he refuses to even acknowledge country people are concerned about the government’s attempts to downgrade their health services.

“Premier Rann’s immediate agreement to Prime Minister Rudd’s federal takeover of hospitals should also worry regional South Australians.

“Under Rudd’s plan – in which hospitals have to meet ‘efficiency’ targets – the future of smaller country hospitals will be threatened.

“The Liberals however have committed \$75 million to improving country health services.

“The only way to secure the future of Hammond’s hospitals is to elect an Isobel Redmond Government.

“A priority of a Redmond Liberal Government will be to reinstate country hospital boards so local communities can make decisions about the health services they need and use.”