



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Adrian Pederick MP

Member for Hammond

Wednesday November 8, 2006

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### **Pederick to present Aquatics petition to Parliament**

Over 4,300 people have added their support to a petition calling on the State Government to recognise the value of the School aquatics program and continue its funding.

Gary Hodge, Instructor in Charge of Murraylands Aquatic Centre, one of nine around South Australia, presented local MP Adrian Pederick with the petition last Tuesday.

The petition was placed in many shops and businesses around Murray Bridge and Tailm Bend and has been enthusiastically supported in the two weeks since its circulation.

It was prepared in response to a recent announcement by Education Minister the Hon Jane Lomax-Smith that the decades-old aquatics program would be cut.

Mr Hodge said the facility at Murray Bridge had been extensively developed over many years and many thousands of school children, from metropolitan and country schools – both public and private – had learnt valuable water safety lessons, recreational and sporting skills and life-skills through the program.

Mr Pederick said the Minister's ill-advised decision to end it appeared to be based on a very simplistic view of the program which had grossly underestimated its broad-ranging benefits to South Australian children.

The petition is still available for signing at Mr Pederick's office in Seventh Street Murray Bridge until next week, following which it will be presented to the next sitting of Parliament.

*Photo attachment.*

*Caption:* Gary Hodge (right) presents local MP Adrian Pederick with the Aquatics petition signed by over 4,300 people.

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