



MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond
Parliamentary Secretary to the Liberal Leader for
- The River Murray
- Sustainability and Climate Change

Monday October 22nd, 2007

Communities for Children launched at Murray Bridge

The Howard Government committed in 2005 up to \$2.6 million over four years to support around 1500 children aged 0-5 across Murray Bridge, Tailem Bend, Mannum and Callington.

On behalf of the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Mal Brough, State government colleague Adrian Pederick, Member for Hammond, last weekend launched the Murray Bridge Communities for Children (C4C) site. Local Federal MP, Member for Barker Patrick Secker was unable to attend.

“The Howard Government’s Communities for Children (C4C) initiative is a new and innovative approach to policy development and service delivery as it allows for local solutions to local problems,” Mr Pederick said.

“C4C uses the local knowledge to solve local issues, improving outcomes for around 1000 families with children aged 0-5 in Murray Bridge and surrounding towns.”

Anglican Community Care is the ‘Facilitating Partner’ in the initiative, delivering many activities including:

- development of a local community hub in Murray Bridge, Tailem Bend, Callington and Mannum;
- building a child friendly community with local government, business sector and service providers;
- developing an integrated and collaborative service network for families;
- providing accessible information and early childhood support to parents;
- bridging the gap between disadvantaged families and early childhood learning centres; and
- supporting the contribution of fathers in the community.

As the Local Evaluator, Flinders University Rural Clinical School are the other half of the partnership, focusing primarily on collecting and analysing local data that provides an understanding of which activities will be most effective.

“C4C works towards ensuring children have the best possible start in life, focusing on well-targeted early intervention approaches to bring about positive outcomes for families.

“The focus of the project is early intervention, community capacity building and creating a sense of place and space for families,” Mr Pederick said.

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