



MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

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

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Health Minister insincere on Country Health says Pederick

Health Minister Hill's latest announcement about the Country Health Care Plan (CHCP) has further demonstrated his lack of sincerity says local MP, Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick.

Mr Pederick said the CHCP, which was originally released on Budget Day in June but later requested hospitals destroy, was riddled with threats and uncertainties that had sparked widespread outrage and protest in country communities.

'They offered a brief period of further consultation and then extended that as a result of the flood of submissions,' Mr Pederick said.

'Expensive full page advertisements pushing the plan appeared in country newspapers around the state and continued to appear after the plan was withdrawn.

'Weeks later, a Labor-based questionnaire turned up in several country regions causing further confusion and panic to country residents. It was obviously out of date and referred constituents to Labor politicians most of them had never heard of.

'When challenged about it, the government's response was that it should not have gone out and they blamed Australia Post.

'Here we have a government and a minister that are spending thousands – perhaps millions – of taxpayers' money on ad hoc policy and ad lib promotions.

'And Minister Hill has the temerity to claim "the Opposition makes it up as it goes along".'

Mr Pederick said many in the country health community would also be outraged by Minister Hill's statement that "everyone but the Liberals supported (country hospital board) reforms".

He said most country hospital boards had been managing well and were reluctant to hand over control of their finances and facilities to metropolitan-based bureaucrats and administrators but they were given virtually no choice, being dependent on government funding.

'I urge all country South Australians to be cautious about future announcements by Minister Hill and be vigilant on the government's revised CHCP to ensure it addresses the real concerns they have been expressing all along,' Mr Pederick said.

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