



MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP

Member for Hammond

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Pederick urges Education Minister to think again on Aquatics programs

Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick has written to the Minister for Education Jane Lomax-Smith urging a rethink on the possibility of terminating the three decade old aquatics programs run at specialised centres around South Australia, such as the Murraylands Aquatic Centre at Murray Bridge.

In his letter Mr Pederick expresses his strong opposition to the possible closing of the program, which has come out of the recent budget.

'There has been a loud and widespread response to the news, evidenced by the flood of letters to newspapers and talkback radio calls on the matter. Invariably, these correspondents and callers made the same point that the value of the long-standing programs had been misunderstood and badly underestimated,' Mr Pederick said.

'While water safety and aquatic sports and training activities were the core part of lessons, the programs had long term benefits in other less obvious areas such as obesity, general health and introduction to lifelong pursuits. They also served other groups of the broader school community such as less privileged students and students with disabilities.'

Mr Pederick said he understood petitions were being prepared and these would be sent not only to local schools and organisations but also to metropolitan schools and parent groups who had been major users of the rural based facilities since their inception.

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