



MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP

Member for Hammond

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Pederick amazed by uncertainty over aquatic centre

With childhood obesity reaching epidemic proportions and the incumbent health problems obesity and inactivity precipitates in later life, local MP Adrian Pederick is amazed that the long-standing Murraylands Aquatics Centre is at risk of closing. Students from schools right around the region have been regular visitors to the centre for decades.

'If this is an example of the Labor Government's big commitment to Health and Education in the recent budget, they are chasing their tail,' said Mr Pederick.

'The loss of a proven and popular facility, which each year hosts about 4,000 students from all backgrounds – metropolitan and rural, private and public - will undoubtedly rebound in the longer term.

'School-based learn to swim programs are one thing and it's pleasing to see they will be continued but these aquatic programs have a much broader appeal and value.

'Students are taught vital survival skills and learn many aquatic sports and recreational skills that encourage them to remain active through their teens and into adult life.

'By remaining active they are less likely to develop the sorts of health problems that place them in need of medical care with all the expense that involves.

'The centre's instructor-in-charge Gary Hodge has said the facility's expertise and equipment have been built up over the past 20 years and to replace it now or in the future would be prohibitively expensive. A government that is really serious about our children's health and education would not jeopardise such an important facility.'

Mr Pederick urged members of the public – both city and country - to send their concerns about the centre's possible closure to their local MP or to his office at 7A Seventh Street Murray Bridge SA 5253 to be forwarded on to the Minister.

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