



## **PARKING FEES AT FLINDERS MEDICAL CENTRE**

**12 November 2002**

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold criticised Health Minister Lea Stevens on the introduction of parking fees at Flinders Medical Centre (FMC).

“This is an additional impost for country people at their most vulnerable time when they also face heavy medical expenses,” she said.

Patients undertaking cancer treatment at FMC can now expect to pay around \$120 in car park fees over six weeks of radiotherapy treatment. It is an additional stress on top of a long drive of 7 to 8 hours from Eyre Peninsula (or more in some instances) and the same in returning home.

“While PATS pays around 14 cents/kilometre this is nowhere near the cost of running a car, estimated by the RAA at around 48 cents/kilometre for a medium sized car.

“Then there is the cost of time off from work for a family member or friend of the patient,” she said.

Mrs Penfold said the Minister needs to explain why patients at the Royal Adelaide Hospital receive a car park pass granting them free car parking while patients undertaking the same treatment at FMC have to find \$120 for car parking.

About 100 FMC-operated car parks adjacent Flinders Private Hospital which formerly could be used without charge by all patients now attract parking fees.

“I call on the Minister to investigate this anomaly as a matter of urgency so that all patients – but particularly country patients – receive equitable treatment,” she said.