



**BACKFLIP ON HACC FUNDING**  
**13 August 2003**

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold welcomed the state government's backflip on budget cuts to the Home and Community Care (HACC) program.

The backflip was announced this week by the Minister for Social Justice Steph Key as a review of the Budget.

Mrs Penfold said the backflip was good news for aged and disabled people who depended on domiciliary care, and for HACC services such as Royal District Nursing Service and transport for health treatment.

"This significant change by the government once more proves the value of lobbying and applying pressure on behalf of my constituents," she said.

HACC funding comes from the state and federal governments however the federal contribution depends on the amount contributed by the state.

The federal government allocated increased funds in its 2003 Budget whereas the state Budget which followed reduced its allocation so that all the federal money on offer was not taken up.

Mrs Penfold said that in failing to commit sufficient funds to take up the full federal government offer, the Labor state government effectively wiped \$5 million from the HACC program.

She said the decision would have affected HACC every year from now on since each year depends on the amount allocated in the previous year.

The Minister said the state would put in the additional \$1.9 million necessary to gain the extra \$3.1 million federal contribution.

**FRAIL AGED TO SUFFER**  
**12 June 2003**

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold said State budget cuts to the Home and Community Care program (HACC) are a cruel blow to the frail aged living in their own homes, their families and their carers.

"It will make life so much more difficult that some will inevitably seek nursing home beds that already are insufficient to meet demand," she said.

Mrs Penfold said the HACC program has been particularly effective on Eyre Peninsula and any reduction will have an impact across the region in housing and health care for the elderly.

Cutting HACC services will mean that simple jobs like changing a light bulb or putting a new washer in a leaky

tap may not be done.

“Poor lighting is a danger that may contribute to falls necessitating expensive hospital treatment thus costing the government more in the long run,” she said.

Services such as domiciliary care, Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS), and transport services for health treatment are some of the programs HACC delivers.

She asked those affected, whether it was by services being refused or by current services being reduced, to contact her office.

Mrs Penfold said the budget cuts are not just a once-only decision but will affect HACC every year from now on.

HACC funding comes from state and federal governments however the federal contribution depends on the amount contributed by the state.

In failing to commit sufficient funds to take up the full Federal Government offer, the Labor State Government has effectively wiped \$5 million from the program this year.

Mrs Penfold said the lower base becomes the new base for all successive years, therefore South Australia will lose \$3.1 million of Federal funds a year, every year from now on.

Liberal spokesperson for human services Dean Brown said he was astonished that the Rann Government said that providing nursing care and other support services for frail aged was not a priority.

“Crucial assistance such as helping older people to shower or to provide physiotherapy for them has been cut in recent months.

“Now funding has not even been increased to cover inflation therefore further cuts are inevitable,” he said.

Mr Brown said this stupid decision by the Labor Cabinet will mean that thousands of older people will suffer for many years to come.

“It will go down as the cruellest decision by the Rann Government since it came to office.

“The Ministers have the wrong priorities. It seems they can spend millions on new trams for the Glenelg line and film festivals but won't fund home care for sick and elderly people,” he said.