



**LIBERALS SPENDING \$2.1 MILLION ON
HEALTH FACILITIES IN THE ELECTORATE OF FLINDERS**
21st January 2002

"The Kerin-Liberal Government remains committed to ensuring that health services are maintained and expanded in regional and rural South Australia," Liz Penfold, the Member for Flinders, said today.

"Already, this financial year, more than \$2.1 million capital investment has been allocated to hospital infrastructure in the Flinders electorate.

"\$1.2 Million in Tumby Bay and \$0.9 Million in Cummins is being spent on improving aged care facilities in hospitals.

Ms Penfold endorsed Friday's announcement by Premier Rob Kerin to continue to rebuild South Australia's public hospitals.

"Today, due to good economic management a re-elected Liberal Government can afford to spend more than \$410 million in the next two and a half years on hospital buildings and equipment to improve medical treatment of patients," Ms Penfold said.

"We are expanding accident and emergency departments, establishing extended emergency care units, opening new psychiatric wards and increasing and improving aged-care facilities."

Ms Penfold pointed out that Labor spent only \$59 million on hospital capital works in its last year in Government – this year the Government has spent or is spending more than \$140 million.

"The reality is that is as much as they could afford because Labor couldn't manage the finances.

"Contrary to Labor's record of closing country hospitals, the Liberal Government has spent \$700 million on rebuilding and re-equipping hospitals in metropolitan and rural areas including the 10 in Flinders.

"The Liberal Government is spending \$2 million a day more on health than Labor during its last year of Government.

"We have increased health services and have treated more people.

"For example, compared with the last year under Labor, we are now admitting an extra 61,000 people to our public hospitals, we are treating an extra 101,000 people in our emergency departments and an extra 171,000 as outpatients.

"A re-elected Liberal Government will take care to keep the SA economy in good shape and this clearly means health services and living standards for all South Australians will continue to improve," Ms Penfold said.