



**HOME VISITING PROGRAM
28 JUNE 2004**

Enrolment and participation of 100% of Aboriginal families will be covered in the State Government's Sustained Home Visiting Program for newborn children— but not if you live on Eyre Peninsula.

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold said the statements by Health Minister Lea Stevens in parliament this week were misleading and gave rise to unfounded optimism that help for families would be delivered across the State.

The Sustained Home Visiting Program is a voluntary service that will be offered to families as part of the Every Chance for Every Child strategy being implemented for all newborn children in South Australia.

It is being rolled out and resourced in the northern and southern metropolitan areas and three country areas – Port Augusta, Whyalla and the Riverland but not on Eyre Peninsula, the far north, Mallee or South East.

Mrs Penfold pointed out that her electorate has one of the highest proportions of Indigenous children and families being serviced by the Eyre Region Health Service and they will miss out.

She also told the Minister for Health she had already suggested to the Minister for Education and Children's Services Jane Lomax-Smith that a health clinic should be included in the new junior school when it is built in Ceduna to ensure families particularly, the disadvantaged, are at least contacted when children are brought into the school system and their health needs assessed. However no commitment was given.

The program which is one of the responses to a review conducted by the previous Liberal State Government, aims to lift the standard of care and parenting for children.