



**Victims Victimised
14 November 2008**

Victims of crime on Eyre Peninsula are being further victimised by the refusal of the Minister for Police, Michael Wright, to support the appointment of a specialised Victim Contact Officer at the Port Lincoln police station to support the people in the region.

Member for Flinders Liz Penfold said an officer whose first duty is to victims has been a pressing need for some years.

“A positive difference in the welfare of victims was noted when an officer carried out these duties in Port Lincoln for a time.

“It emphasised the need for someone to be dedicated to this role and to be available to give ongoing support to victims as an incident progresses through the legal system.

“This is particularly important in cases of rape and other serious crime,” she said.

Mrs Penfold praised local officers who were faced with an impossible job.

“Mr Wright boasts that police numbers are at record levels, yet cannot find just one officer to fill this important role to serve this isolated area of the state.

“He claims that statistics show a decline in crime. It is no wonder when victims are further victimised by the system.

“Word soon gets around leading to victims hesitating to report offences, even simple thefts,” she said.

Mrs Penfold said the Minister’s lack of concern for victims should not stop them reporting incidents to police.

“Only when we report all crimes will the true statistics be recognised and I believe will show a great need for a dedicated victims support officer in this region,” she said. ENDS