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MEDIA RELEASE

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BUSINESS AS USUAL FOR BRESSINGTON

Nick Xenophon's decision to quit South Australian politics to run for the Senate will not distract Independent MLC Ann Bressington from her vigorous fight for vital reforms in the state, Ms Bressington said today.

"I would like to take this opportunity to reassure the South Australian public that this will have no impact on myself or my policies," Ms Bressington said.

"I will continue to be a strong advocate for change on issues such as child protection, law and order, family law, water and infrastructure, and the provision of desperately needed services for the marginalised, such as the disabled and their families."

In the coming six months, Ms Bressington's focus will be on the Families SA Inquiry, the establishment of an Independent Commission Against Corruption, anti-gang legislation, reforms to pre-Family Law proceedings and legislation to amend the *Waterworks Act* and the inquiry into SA Water.

Ms Bressington said she would also continue to push for drug reform based on the successful Swedish model of mandatory rehabilitation for drug users and increased funding for recovery-based drug rehabilitation programs.

"The fact is the Aussie battlers, the children, parents and families seem to be the victims of systematic failure across all the areas of human service, and I intend to expose the shortfalls and put forward solutions based on eleven years experience in successfully managing and directing a non-government organisation," Ann said.

Ann founded and administered a successful drug treatment and rehabilitation program in the northern suburbs and has held positions on the Australian National Council on Drugs, the peak advisory body to the Prime Minister's Office on drug policy, and was instrumental in establishing SANDAS, the peak body of NGOs in South Australia for drug and alcohol policy.

She was also one of the founding members of Drug Free Australia, which is funded by the Federal Government to raise public awareness of the negative impact of drugs.

"There is still a lot of work to be done with so many unresolved issues here in South Australia and I am committed to finishing this term and with the support of South Australians I am seriously considering a second term in 2014.

"I wish Nick luck in his campaign to join federal politics and also take this opportunity to indicate my support for John Darley, with whom I hope to establish a strong working relationship as the new Independent in the Legislative Council."