



**Hon Ann Bressington MLC**

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## **GOVERNMENT BOYCOTTS INQUIRY INTO FAMILIES SA**

The Rann Government today unsuccessfully tabled amendments which, if successful, would have scuttled a Select Committee Inquiry into Families SA. Desperate lobbying by the Minister for Families SA, The Hon Jay Weatherill, failed to kill off the inquiry or to dilute its powers to a level of irrelevancy.

Importantly, the Opposition, No Pokies Independent the Hon Nick Xenophon and minor parties supported the Inquiry.

The Hon Ann Bressington was congratulated by the Leader of the Opposition in the Upper House, The Hon Rob Lucas, for her courage and tenacity to see this to fruition.

“Unlike previous Inquiries, this one has sufficiently broad Terms of Reference to address all matters of concern to the public of South Australia relating to the policies, practices and procedures of the Department,” Ms Bressington said.

“This was not the case in previous inquiries.”

A packed Stranger’s Gallery waited hopefully for the long, sought-after opportunity to have these issues addressed. Some were so overcome by emotion that they had to leave the Gallery, others quietly sobbed as they realised that an inquiry will indeed be held.

“It is a credit to Mr Lucas and the Opposition that they are ready to address issues, some of which may have occurred while they occupied the Government benches,” Ms Bressington said.

“Moreover, it is a strong statement from the public of South Australia to the Government about what ordinary people can achieve through their Parliamentary representatives.

“I have the utmost respect for Family First for standing by their values and not bowing to pressure from the Minister’s office. It is vital that this Inquiry was able to be open to the public for the majority of its sittings, whilst still enabling witnesses to give evidence in-camera where that is requested and/or appropriate. It strikes a fair and just balance between transparency and sensitivity to the needs of individual families.”

Those wishing to give evidence before the inquiry should contact Matilda Bawden, Research Officer, on 8237 9541 for further details.