

MEDIA RELEASE

**FAMILY FIRST
HON DENNIS HOOD MLC
MEMBER OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**



FAMILY FIRST BODY PIERCING BILL PASSES THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday 24 February 2009

A FAMILY FIRST body piercing bill, which will require minors to have parental consent for body piercing, passed the Legislative Council tonight.

Parliamentary Leader, Dennis Hood, who introduced the bill, noted that, “surprisingly, the current law allows children to be pierced without consent, so long as the child is old enough to be aware of the nature of the procedure being performed on them”

“Despite a left-wing faction within the ALP wanting this measure to go away, FAMILY FIRST successfully passed the bill through the Legislative Council tonight because **parents want to know and should have to give permission if their child wants a body piercing**”.

Timeline:

- 2002 – ALP’s John Rau (Labor Right) introduces a private member’s bills to ban piercing of minors without parental consent. The bill passes the Lower House but then lapses in the LC.
- 2004 – John Rau introduces a second bill, which again receives strong support but the bill is deflected to a Select Committee.
- 29th October 2005 – the Select Committee reports on the piercing of minors, calling for swift action and listing 15 recommendations including parental consent for children’s piercings.
- 2007 – Following inaction by the Government, Dennis Hood MLC introduces a bill calling for parental consent for body piercing – along the lines suggested by the Committee.
- Early 2008 – FAMILY FIRST is told on a number of occasions that the bill cannot proceed because it is “still being considered” by the Government.
- September 2008 – the bill lapses **again** without Government support.
- 13 November 2008 – bill finally passes the Legislative Council.

“A recent survey, made public on AdelaideNow, indicated that more than 1,000 people have been treated in the past year for body piercing-related infections. The decision to get a body piercing is a serious decision and parents must have a say in it.”



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