



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## FAMILY FIRST RAISES RANN: WE'LL LEGISLATE COUNTRY HEALTH GUARANTEE

Friday 1 August 2008

FAMILY FIRST MLC Robert Brokenshere has dismissed Premier Rann's 'guarantee' in this morning's Advertiser, saying: "We've heard it all before from his Health Minister. Somehow the Premier thinks that by him saying what the Minister's been saying, country families can breathe a sigh of relief – it's just not so! "

Mr Brokenshere has undertaken to take the Premier's guarantee beyond spin and introduce into law the same guarantees that the Premier is making in today's media, namely ensuring that:

**NO** country hospital would close.

**EMERGENCY** services would be maintained at every hospital and strengthened where possible.

**MORE** services like elective surgery would be provided closer to where people lived

"There's nothing controversial in that", Mr Brokenshere said, "It's precisely the wording the Premier has guaranteed this morning. This is a minimum standard for the country, and they're entitled to it – Rural Doctors Association SA President Steve Holmes said recently that for every \$1 spent on country health, \$2 is spent on city health. We should be expanding, not reducing, country health services"

Mr Brokenshere has called upon the Liberal Party to show genuine support for FAMILY FIRST's legislated Rann Guarantee: "The Liberals have to back their rhetoric and protect country people at law. If they don't, they're just playing politics and don't want this form of protection for country health if they form Government"

Mr Brokenshere will introduce his Country Health (Minimum Standards Guarantee) Bill in the Spring Session of Parliament in September.

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