



FAMILY FIRST PARTY

Email News — First Edition



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FAMILY FIRST is excited to announce the appointment of Robert Brokenshire to the Legislative Council. Rob will take his seat in July when Andrew Evans MLC will step down from politics. Family First are pleased to endorse Mr Brokenshire who firmly holds to the integrity and values of the Party and who has great experience, having been a Government Minister for many years. We look forward to Rob working with Dennis Hood MLC, the profile they will bring to the party in the public arena and the influence they will have in the Parliament.

In our next edition we will bring you a closer look into the life, skills and experience that Mr Brokenshire will bring to Family First.

FAMILY FIRST—Seat for Brokenshire

FORMER Liberal police minister Robert Brokenshire will become a Family First MP in the Upper House - probably in July. Mr Brokenshire was chosen by the Family First executive last week to replace party leader Andrew Evans, who will stand down in July. More than a dozen prospective candidates were approached to replace Mr Evans. Mr Brokenshire switched to Family First last year after 32 years with the Liberals to run in the federal seat of Kingston. A joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament will be needed to approve Mr Brokenshire's appointment.

The Advertiser Tuesday, March 18, 2008



Family First Demands Strong Action on Cannabis Growers

Family First will lobby South Australian MPs to support tougher penalties for growing cannabis.

(ABC News , 6th March 2008)

A bill to increase penalties for growing up to five cannabis plants passed the South Australian Parliament's upper house last night. The legislation was introduced by Family First, and allows for \$10,000 fines and two years in jail. It passed with the support of the Opposition but is unlikely to get through the House of Assembly, where the Government has a majority.

Dennis Hood from Family First says current penalties for growing up to five cannabis plants are not a disincentive. "The other impact of this proposed legislation is that it also allows judges to impose things like community service orders and to send people to drug rehabilitation for example, which they don't have the option of at the moment," he said. "If somebody's caught growing up to five plants, regardless of how many times, at the moment they get a \$500 fine maximum, end of story."

Mr Hood says although it is less likely that the legislation will get through the House of Assembly, he will lobby Labor MPs. "I'll be talking with the ministers over the next few days to encourage them to support the legislation, this is common sense," he said. "Cannabis is a gateway drug to harder substances, we know that, it's an established fact."



Dennis Hood MLC Objects to Weak Drug-Driver Sentence

Challenge urged on speeding drug driver's sentence

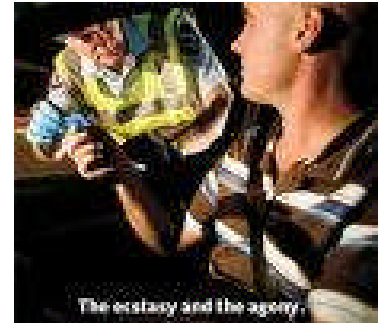
ABC Online, Australia - Feb 25, 2008

There is anger over the jail sentence given to speeding drug driver Denis Dundovic (court sketch). (ABC News: Tim Ide)

A jail sentence given to a man for killing a motorist during a high-speed police chase has been branded far too lenient.

A court heard he was on a drug binge and speeding in a stolen car while unlicensed, when the car slammed into another - killing 30-year-old Peter Godfrey, who was driving to work.

Family First MP Dennis Hood says the sentence fails to reflect recent changes to dangerous driving laws, which increased the maximum jail sentence to life. "It really is hard to imagine why this individual doesn't deserve that sentence," he said.



5AA — Feb 26, 2008

Comment on Byner after 9am (5AA 9.28-9.29)

Dennis Hood, Family First MLC *The sentence handed down to Denis Dundovic*

(Byner: Dennis Hood ... what contribution would you like to make to this?) ... largely my views are in agreement with the Attorney-General that an appeal needs to be made in this case. But one thing I did disagree with him on and I think it's time that we put it to the test is the issue of introducing mandatory minimum sentences. I believe that there is a good chance of getting it through the parliament ... certainly Family First would support legislation to that effect and even if the Greens and Democrats did oppose it and even if the Liberals opposed it, in the Upper House there's a good chance, and I can't speak of course, but there's a good chance that Ann Bressington and John Darley would support it, which would give 11, which is the magic number and that would get the legislation through the parliament. I think it's time we gave it a try ... because the sentences that we're seeing are ridiculous and cannot continue. (Byner: So you agree with what Nick Xenophon has proposed?) Absolutely but I just think it's time to give it a try. I challenge the Attorney-General, I know he's of the belief that it won't get through the parliament, why don't we put it to the test and we can know once and for all? Because I believe we can get it through the parliament.

Dennis Hood MLC Speaks Out on Parents Rights to Smack Their Children

Smacking children is not assault, say police February 28, 2008 07:37am Article from: *The Advertiser*

SOUTH Australian police accept parents using "minor force" to discipline their child, Police Minister Paul Holloway has told State Parliament.

The Minister said SA Police did not have a "specific official policy" regarding smacking of children by parents, but accepted the community standard.

Mr Holloway, in a written response to a question in State Parliament, said officers would only act if they believed the "application of force was more serious than an act of minor discipline, he said, and could then charge them with aggravated assault.

"Police would take action against a parent in those circumstances where they believe that the force applied was or is excessive," he said.

"SAPOL accept the community standard that on occasion some parents apply minor force to their child as an act of discipline," he said.

But **Family First MP Dennis Hood** yesterday said SA Police needed to develop an official policy to establish a consistent approach to the issue.

Mr Hood said he was trying to protect the rights of parents to discipline their children by smacking in a bill introduced into Parliament late last year, which was not supported by the Government.

Under his bill, parents would be protected under law from being charged if they smacked their children with an open hand on the bottom, hand or back of legs. "I haven't pushed the legislation to a vote because the Government has said it won't support it and so it would be unsuccessful," Mr Hood said.

"If somebody gives their child a whack on the bottom or the hands or legs they shouldn't be facing potential court action over that - as happened in other states and there are reports of it having happened here in South Australia as well."

"Clearly there are inconsistencies with the way this issue is handled. I am not endorsing the beating of children or any form of child abuse whatsoever."

Mr Holloway said police don't keep records of parents charged with smacking their children because if action was taken, the parent would be charged with aggravated assault.

Mr Hood said smacking children is illegal in New Zealand. Last week a retired Victorian family court judge called on state governments to follow New Zealand's move to abolish the legal defence of "reasonable chastisement" for parents who hit their children.

Officers have the power to remove children from dangerous situations if they believe the child was in serious danger and they had to protect the child from harm, Mr Holloway said.



FAMILY FIRST'S TOP POLICY PRIORITIES FOR FAMILIES

- ◆ Defending Traditional Family Values
- ◆ Supporting Marriage and family
- ◆ Pursuing justice for the poor and marginalised
- ◆ Supporting victims and preventing crime
- ◆ Looking after our environment and future
- ◆ Promoting the value of every human life
- ◆ Attacking reckless drug behaviour
- ◆ Protecting children
- ◆ Supporting healthy education for children
- ◆ Assailing Australia's addiction to gambling

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<http://sa.familyfirst.org.au/mlist>

www.sa.familyfirst.org.au



Andrew Evans' MLC Address to Parliament regarding the plight of the homeless

(Feb 2008) After Sam presented herself to Parliament with no where to live, Hon Andrew Evans addressed the Parliament:

"Sam has been living in her car with her 5 year old little girl, and the question was centred around what could be done for her....My office has received many calls from homeless constituents needing a place to live ... Mr President, in 1991-92 the SA Housing Trust housing stock peaked at 63,022 houses. Between 1992 and 2007 the Housing Trust reduced its low cost rental stock by around 18,802 houses (or 30%) to 44,220 houses through house sales to private home buyers. The proceeds of these sales totaled around \$1.7 billion in 2007 dollars.

Over the same period the Housing Trust also received grants from the state under the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement. It received \$1.1 billion (2007 dollars) from the Commonwealth Government and \$751 million (2007 dollars) from the state. Between 1991-92 and 2006-07 the SAHT received a total of \$3.5 billion in capital injections.

Since 1992 the SAHT has consumed the \$3.5 billion in capital injections, but nevertheless has 18,802 less houses to manage and yet still shows an operating loss of \$55 million in June 2007. The interest cost is a staggering \$33.8 million per year on the current \$747 million debt.

The Government response has been to sell off a further 8,000 houses (18% of its remaining low cost rental stock) and shift the responsibility for expanding low cost rental housing to the Affordable Housing Trust. This financial year the Affordable Housing Trust will provide \$20 million for joint ventures with NGOs which may result in 200 to 300 new low cost rental houses. However, at this rate it will take 30 to 40 years just to recover the loss of the 8,000 houses and reinstate the current level."

"My Questions to the Minister representing the Minister for Families and Communities are:

1. What use is the Housing Trust now if it can't even give someone in such a dire situation as Sam a place to stay with her child?
2. Is Sam in this predicament because the government has sold off so many Trust properties that there will now be in South Australia an emergency housing crisis that may take 30-40 years to recover from?
3. Is the Housing Trust also in this predicament because of inefficiencies in its administration – and would Sam now have accommodation if her case could have been handled by a government supported and far more efficient community housing organisation?"

DETAILS UPDATE

We would like to keep you informed with Parliamentary updates and legislation challenges. If any of your contact details have changed, please notify us by phone on 8237 9122, or by email to office@sa.familyfirst.org.au or by filling in this form and returning it to: Family First Party, PO Box 420, Campbelltown, SA, 5074. **Thank you!**

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/_____ First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____ Suburb: _____ P/Code: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____