



MEDIA RELEASE

HON ROBERT BROKENSHERE MLC

FAMILY FIRST
The Independent Party



KIDS' CHEMO COVER-UP BY GOVERNMENT AND HEALTH DEPT

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FAMILY FIRST MLC Robert Brokenshere has resumed his attack on the State Government and Health Department's lack of transparency and accountability to its patients after news of the latest health bungle that saw 11 children at the Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide receive excess doses for chemotherapy from 2005 to 2008.

"We have seen a history of cover up after cover up", Mr Brokenshere said, recounting:

- In November 2005, 197 people were given a scare when— 11 days after discovering the error – the Department told patients they needed follow up treatment after the dirty colonoscopy equipment scandal at Berri Hospital;
- 3 more patients were similarly affected by dirty colonoscopy equipment in December 2005 at Noarlunga Hospital;
- Earlier this year we saw a serious saga at the Royal Adelaide Hospital where 869 patients received inadequate doses of radiation between 2004 and 2006, which was swept under the carpet until the patients complained ... the RAH didn't even know the full number of patients affected until an independent review;
- On 14 August this year the story broke of an 86 year old WWII veteran lying on a trolley for 22 hours with pneumonia at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital – the hospital didn't even read his nursing home notes and fed him sandwiches contrary to his medical condition.

"The Health Department and the Government must not cover up matters relevant to South Australians' health and wellbeing", Mr Brokenshere said.

"I was in Parliament on Tuesday and the Government, after their secret internal investigation, was sitting on that information until Parliament rose to minimise scrutiny and accountability", Mr Brokenshere said.

"This Government seems to be happy to let Health go to waste in the city and the country, hanging all its hopes on 'the Marj' which isn't proposed for opening until 2016 – South Australians need better health service delivery now, not in 8 years' time"