



MEDIA RELEASE

ROBERT BROKENSHERE

FAMILY FIRST HEALTH SPOKESPERSON



1. Colonoscopy equipment unclean
 2. Cancer patients mishandled at RAH
 3. 86yo WWII Vet's 22 hours on trolley
- ... all in a day's work for SA Health Dept.**

Friday 15 August 2008

FAMILY FIRST MLC Robert Brokenshere has called upon the Health Department and State Government to come clean to inject confidence back into SA Health system.

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

- In recent years we've had dirty colonoscopy equipment swept under the carpet until it was publicly exposed
- a serious saga at the Royal Adelaide Hospital with radiotherapy patients also swept under the carpet until patients complained ... the hospital didn't even know the full number of patients affected until an independent review ... patients informed by a courier delivering a letter on a Saturday evening
- yesterday we heard about an 86 year old WWII veteran lying on a trolley for 22 hours with pneumonia at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital – the hospital couldn't even read his nursing home notes, feeding him sandwiches contrary to his medical condition"

"Where has this Government been on Health? The Government is missing in action, we keep being told we have a great health system, the Government plays politics and says it has done more than the previous Government – but how about putting people first? Families who expect basic health protection aren't convinced that we have that protection when they attend a hospital", Mr Brokenshere said

"We're spending \$1.7bn for the Marjorie Jackson Nelson Hospital which just last week we heard won't open until 2016 – in the meantime patients are expected to lie on trolleys in corridors for days as if they were in a warzone? Senior Health Officials say 'don't be alarmed, you'll be fed and watered' – but will they look at your charts?"

FAMILY FIRST calls upon the State Government to start delivering safe basic health services for South Australian families now, not in 8 years' time.