

Tower of pleas for 'free speech'

(The Advertiser, 5/3/07)

THANK YOU!

Thank you, South Australia. Your 12,000+ petitions have made the difference!

Thank you for allowing me to lead the charge against the Equal Opportunity Amendment Bill – a bill that would have threatened freedom of speech and association in South Australia.

I have campaigned heavily against the bill, in many meetings with the government, on television, radio and in the press.

The Attorney-General has said that in light of the unexpected and fierce opposition to this bill, he will seek to “salvage” only the parts of the bill that have **not** been objected to.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for helping me defeat the Equal Opportunities bill. Parliament has not seen so many petitions against a bill in recent memory.

Since my last update, I have become the party's leader and have been involved on a number of important parliamentary committees. Things have been busy!

Thank you for supporting me as I continue to work for South Australian Families.



HON DENNIS HOOD, FAMILY FIRST MLC



PROTEST: Dennis Hood with the pile of petitions opposing the Bill.

Other victories for FAMILY FIRST...

- ✓ The Legislative Council recently passed my bill which made forgetting to pay car registration on time an 'on the spot' fine rather than something you have to attend Court for. The purpose of the bill is to **free up Court resources to deal with real criminal offences, such as drug related matters.**
- ✓ Legislative Council Members also indicated sufficient support for two of my further measures to succeed (although the formal vote is yet to take place).
- ✓ One of them is **my bill to increase penalties for pharmacy break-ins.** Pharmacy break-ins are dramatically on the rise as illicit drug manufacturers seek out pseudoephedrine – a precursor drug required in the manufacture of amphetamines and 'ice'.
- ✓ The other is my bill which **restricts the right of convicted paedophiles from accessing chat rooms and other internet services.** Currently in South Australia we have a deplorable situation where a judge can order a paedophile to stop loitering physically around children, but can't stop them from stalking children online. My bill corrects that, and has so far been met with a positive reaction from all Members of Parliament.
- ✓ Further, the government indicated **support for my amendment to the Affordable Housing Bill** which gives community housing organisations greater security when arranging housing deals with the government. It is an important amendment, because it will mean more community housing for people without a home of their own.
- ✓ I also believe strongly that we have a duty to act as responsible stewards of the world and its resources. For those reasons, my office was instrumental in forcing the government's hand to include an **interim 2020 greenhouse gas emissions target** in recent Climate Change legislation.
- ✓ My office also brought a loophole in a government Development bill to the Minister's attention, which would have left an opening for any person or group (including aggressive anti-development groups) to unreasonably oppose a development application. The government corrected the bill accordingly.
- ✓ I was also **given the deciding vote** (between two Labor and two Liberal members) on an important new Parliamentary Committee. The Budget and Finance Committee will have the powers to scrutinise government spending and budget arrangements (see article on this page from *The Advertiser*, 31/3/07 – with party references removed in compliance with parliamentary rules).

FAMILY FIRST Campaign for Stamp Duty relief

Data from the third annual International Housing Affordability Survey, released earlier this year, indicated that Australia has "the most pervasive housing affordability crisis" of all the Western nations it surveyed. This is simply unacceptable. During March, my colleague, the Hon Andrew Evans MLC and I ran a campaign against the stamp duty 'squeeze' for home owners. The campaign met with considerable support from other Members, including a former treasurer, the Hon Rob Lucas MLC.

Family First's growing power

FAMILY First MLC Dennis Hood is rapidly emerging as a key powerbroker in South Australian politics.

Mr Hood, who was elected only last year, will have the deciding vote on what is shaping as Parliament's most powerful committee.

Against Government wishes, the Upper House has established a Budget and Finance Committee which will have the power to examine all aspects of government spending and call on public servants to give evidence.

AdelaideNOW...

Online poll

NEWS.com.au/adalaidenow

The Upper House broadened the committee's scope to allow MPs not on the committee to attend hearings to ask questions, but they will not be allowed to vote.

Mr Hood, who joined Family First's initial Upper House MP Andrew Evans last year, said: "This will ensure that moderate and sensible decisions are made to ensure the economic well-being of the state."

Raising concerns with the Prime Minister



My colleague, the Hon Andrew Evans MLC, and I recently had the opportunity to discuss several family-based issues with the Prime Minister.

Among the initiatives I proposed was a reduction of taxes on petrol sales with a view to reducing the pump price by 10 cents per litre. We also discussed the Federal Government's reluctance to implement Family Impact Statements on all proposed legislation.

Your choice to smack your child may be at risk!

In a concerning move, the Federal Liberal Government recently funded a \$2.5 million dollar advertising campaign – warning parents not to smack their children.

Only weeks ago, smacking was banned in New Zealand. The Australian Democrats have now issued a press release calling for a similar ban here.

I appeared on television, radio, and in the press to defend a parent's choice to use moderate and reasonable force in disciplining a child – a practice that has been long accepted.



Dennis Hood on ABC radio – Mornings with Matthew Abraham and David Bevan.

- In October 2006 *the Advertiser* reported: “a Morgan study commissioned by the insurance program *MumsCover* has found that 80 per cent of Australian mums believe smacking their children is acceptable”;
- Polls conducted in Australia and overseas consistently deliver between 70-85% support for the freedom to smack;
- Further, a 60 Minutes poll in November 2006 found 75% of parents wanted to retain the freedom to smack;
- 100,000 people in NZ have signed a petition in favour of the parents right to smack.

These parents are not criminals!

- **What you can do:** write to your local MP, explaining that you support a parent's right to use moderate force to discipline their child in appropriate circumstances.

Protecting the barley single desk

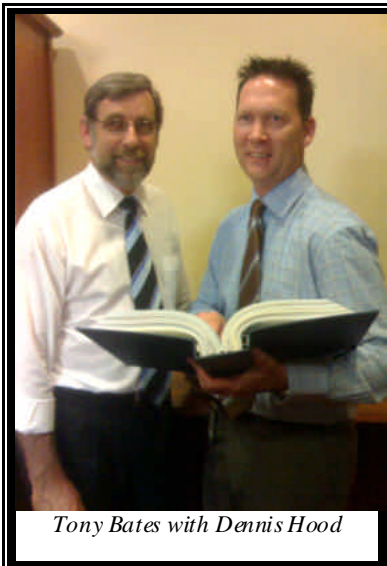
Whether or not to reform the current Barley Single Desk system has been a worrying question for farmers.

A bill recently came before the Legislative Council seeking to disband the single desk scheme and de-regulate the industry. Unfortunately, the bill was pushed quickly through Parliament with both Labor and Liberal Party support. I stood against this bill, as I did not believe that the wishes of farmers had been properly canvassed. I encourage those engaged in the grains sector to read the speech I made on the bill, which can be found at:

www.familyfirst.org.au



Barley Farmers at risk



Tony Bates with Dennis Hood

Senate Candidate Tony Bates on free registration for S.A. made cars

FAMILY FIRST's primary Senate Candidate, Tony Bates, and I remain concerned for Mitsubishi and Holden employees in Adelaide – as workers continue to deal with fears of plant closures and downsizing. In response, we have argued for twelve months free car registration for South Australian made vehicles in a move to increase production and employment for South Australians.

Tony Bates is a senior executive with Adelaide's G.M. Holden operations. Tony's main competition in the fight to gain a South Australian Senate seat for FAMILY FIRST will be the Australian Democrats' "human shield" Ruth Russell, and SA Greens' 25-year-old law student Sarah Hanson-Young.

Keeping up to date

Again, I thank you for your support. The achievements outlined in this newsletter would not have been possible without it.

P.S. If you would prefer not to receive updates, please advise my office and I will remove you from our database.

Warm Regards,



Dennis Hood

- dennis.hood@parliament.sa.gov.au
- Ph: (08) 8237 9362
- Fax: (08) 8231 0695

