

# PUTTING YOUR FAMILY FIRST

## A FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

Many people ask me why I decided to run for Parliament. In essence, I believe that many politicians have failed to put families before the economic balance sheet. We have now arrived at a point where Australia has a powerful economy, and we have more gadgets in our homes than ever before – and yet our families are falling apart.

A recent survey found that 77% of Australians believed that the government's prime objective should be to achieve the greatest happiness of people, not the greatest wealth.

Now more than ever, we need politicians who will put the focus back on our families.



**HON ANDREW EVANS OAM MLC**

## 8000 SIGNATURES AGAINST SUICIDE AND EUTHANASIA!

Thank you for your overwhelming response to the call for petitions against the Voluntary Euthanasia bill.

<b>FOR</b> Euthanasia	<b>AGAINST</b> Euthanasia
<b>694</b> petitions tabled in the LC on 26/7 and 21/6.	<b>~8000</b> petitions due to be tabled.

Your many signatures have silenced the claim that a majority of South Australians want euthanasia to be practiced in this state. They don't!



**Hon Andrew Evans MLC with colleague the  
Hon Dennis Hood MLC**

## ALARMING STATISTICS

- ❖ Since the 1960's, Australia's marriage rate has reduced by a third;
- ❖ divorce has doubled to 51,375 in 2006;
- ❖ the birth rate has halved;
- ❖ 41.6 per cent of employed males now work over 40 hours a week – an alarming increase;
- ❖ abortion rates, drug dependence, gambling addiction and suicide have all skyrocketed.
- ❖ In 2001-02, some 137 938 children were reported abused or neglected in Australia, an increase of 19.5 per cent over the previous year.
- ❖ In the past 10 years, the number of people imprisoned has increased by some 45 per cent.
- ❖ More than 100 000 Australian women are the victim of domestic violence every single year.
- ❖ Each year, about 2 500 Australians will take their own life, which is an increase of 24 per cent since 1988.
- ❖ According to a recent survey, some 68.9 per cent of Australians believe that the fundamental values of our society are under serious threat.

## Since being elected...



- ✓ My bill removed the Statute of Limitation period for charging sex offenders. **Many more sex offenders are now behind bars** as a result.



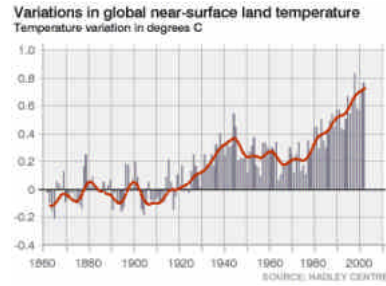
- ✓ I rallied support to defeat the Equal Opportunity bill. I collected around **12,000 signatures** to defeat this bill which would have restricted freedom of speech and association.



- ✓ Saw important changes made to the Shine SA sex education program - removing anti-Christian references, and age-inappropriate activities.



- ✓ I was able to substantially water down the Relationships Bill – with the final bill giving special recognition to marriage between a man and woman.



- ✓ I was instrumental in forcing the government's hand to include an **interim 2020 greenhouse gas emissions target** in recent Climate Change legislation.



- ✓ I established a Select Committee to enquire on the status of fathers in South Australia – which reported on the difficulties facing fathers in today's world including work pressure, family breakdown, and contact with children.

## Concerns regarding the practice of euthanasia

- Since euthanasia has become legal in the Netherlands, approximately 1000 per year have been euthanased without consent!
- 72% of those patients had never given any indication that they wanted their lives terminated.
- 8% of those were euthanased despite other treatment options still being available.
- Children with a disability are being euthanased.
- Thank you for providing me with around 8000 signatures against euthanasia - more than ten times the number of signatures for euthanasia tabled in the Legislative Council. Our strong stand will make all the difference!



**The Honourable Dennis Hood  
Member of the Legislative Council**

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## **Our children are now safer online!**

I am pleased to advise that my bill to protect children online is set to pass through Parliament shortly with full government support.

The bill provides that if a convicted sex offender is using the internet to prey on children, their computer can be confiscated and they can be banned from accessing the internet.

Given that almost 89% of first contacts between children and sex offenders now occurs online, this bill gives parents some peace of mind and is **a great win for South Australian families!**

## **Did you know ...**

That your family can receive congratulatory messages on significant birthdays or wedding anniversaries? For a Golden (50th) Wedding Anniversary onwards the Premier, Prime Minister and Governor-General can send congratulatory letters to the happy couple on application. I am also happy to send similar letters for special occasions on request.

## **Protecting our kids from unsafe body piercing**



I recently introduced a bill to ensure that children must have parental consent before having a body piercing done. I also ran a forum on the issue for MPs. The proposal has met with positive support, and also seems set to succeed and become law. **Another win for families!**

## **Other family friendly bills introduced ...**

- A bill to ensure that parents are notified when their children aren't at school. The Minister has agreed to publicly investigate our concerns and anti-truancy technology.
- A bill to ban smoking in outdoor eating areas such as restaurants and cafes.
- A bill to increase restrictions on poker machine opening hours.

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON ELECTION DAY



The Federal Election is approaching very quickly! We are supporting the FAMILY FIRST Federal Candidate, Tony Bates – who has a good chance of a South Australian Senate Seat. Tony is a Senior Executive at GM Holden who holds strong and sensible conservative values.

You can help local FAMILY FIRST candidates and Tony Bates by handing out How to Vote Cards on Election Day (24<sup>th</sup> of November).

To offer to help and obtain details of the after-election party, please email [sa@familyfirst.org.au](mailto:sa@familyfirst.org.au) or call the FAMILY FIRST office on 0405 795 682.

## Tackling sleazy television...

Standards of decency on television are continually at threat. I have taken a stand against sleazy videos and television as seen on shows like 'Big Brother', 'Californication'. If you are concerned about something you have seen some useful contacts are:



- ❖ SA Government Classification Council ph. 8207 1972 or [agd@agd.sa.gov.au](mailto:agd@agd.sa.gov.au) (for concerns regarding most media including computer games)
- ❖ [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au) (internet complaints)
- ❖ [www.adstandards.com.au](http://www.adstandards.com.au) (all advertisements)
- ❖ [www.classification.gov.au](http://www.classification.gov.au) (film classifications)
- ❖ [www.presscouncil.org.au](http://www.presscouncil.org.au) (poor journalism / reporting).

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

Warm regards,

HON DENNIS HOOD MLC