

# \$190m funding pledge praise

ANGLICAN Community Care (ACC) has welcomed the State Government's pre-budget funding announcement of \$190m to protect children.

ACC chief executive officer Rob Foggo said he hoped significant funding would be provided to children in regional and rural areas.

"We trust this investment will not be solely metropolitan based," Mr Foggo said.

He said regional and rural areas needed funding for alternative models of care, such as residential care, to meet the needs of

children who have challenging needs where traditional foster care was not appropriate.

"(We need) increased funding so the ratio of foster carers to staff members can be decreased ... and funding for intensive family support and early intervention programs aimed at children being able to remain at home safely," Mr Foggo said.

He expressed hope that the budget would address the needs of young children who become homeless when they slip through the child protection safety net.

ACC had been pushing for funding from Housing SA for their Safe as Houses project for the past four years.

About \$500,000 is needed annually to run a fully staffed safe house on a 24 hour basis in Mount Gambier, but until the funding is approved, many children in crisis are forced to stay at friends' homes.

The lack of a safe house for children between the ages of 14 and 17, had forced ACC to turn away more than 20 Mount Gambier children seeking refuge between January and March.

# Police allege drink driver four times limit

A MOTORIST in Naracoorte has allegedly been found driving with a blood alcohol level almost three times the legal limit after he was initially stopped for failing to dim his lights.

The 27 year old Naracoorte man was stopped on Foster Street shortly before 10pm on Friday.

The driver was subsequently breath tested and it is alleged he recorded a reading of 0.147.

He was charged with exceeding the prescribed concentration of alcohol and also for being a disqualified driver.

He was arrested, issued with an immediate loss of licence for six months and had his car impounded for a week.

A first instance warrant was also added to the list of charges after it was discovered the man had not attended court in relation to a previous matter.

A 39 year old man also had his vehicle impounded for a week after he failed to comply with a breath test.

Police stopped the Kybybolite man on Ormerod Street for mobile driver testing around 3am on Sunday, when he allegedly recorded a positive result.

He was conveyed to the Naracoorte Police Station for a breath analysis test, where he was subsequently reported for failing to comply with a police request in relation to the test.

Along with his car being impounded, he was also dealt a 12 month instant loss of licence.

Another vehicle was impounded for a week after its driver returned a positive breath test result.

The driver, a 56 year old Naracoorte woman, was stopped for mobile driver testing on Gore Street shortly before midnight on Thursday.

It is alleged the driver returned a breath analysis reading of 0.085, resulting in a six month immediate loss of licence and the impounding of her vehicle.

A further three drivers were reported for driving unregistered vehicles after being pulled over.

A 31 year old Naracoorte man was stopped on Memorial Drive for mobile driver testing at around 9.10pm on Saturday and inquiries revealed the car he had been driving was unregistered, having expired last Tuesday.

A 62 year old Naracoorte woman also suffered the same fate on Smith Street after it was found her vehicle registration had been expired for more than a month.

Another driver was also found on Smith Street, with the 38 year old woman found driving a vehicle with a registration that expired less than a week a prior.

# Community apathy costs garbage service



By SARAH DUFFIELD  
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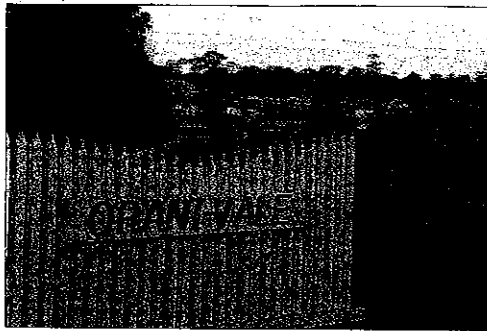
RESIDENTS of Attamurra Ridge and Orani Vale will now be included in the Grant District Council's Mobile Garbage Bin Kerbside collection service from next month.

A unanimous decision to introduce the service in the area was made at council's meeting on Monday night.

A survey of all property owners in the area was undertaken to determine the overall community view on the issue, after council was approached by a group of residents requesting the service.

A 90.1pc positive response rate was received from the 61 ballots posted, above the 80pc support level required to approve the service.

A public meeting will now be held to advise residents of the policy and requirements sur-



Residents of Orani Vale and Attamurra Ridge will be included in the Grant District Council's kerbside collection service from next month.

Picture: SARAH DUFFIELD.

round the service operation.

However, a similar request for a mobile collection service in the Mount Percy area was declined by council, after it failed to gain support from residents.

Voting ballots were provided to 112 residents within the area bounded by Benara Road,

Mulwala Road, Caspiro Road and Tollner Road.

However, only 68 yes ballots were returned, netting a 60.7pc approval, below the 80pc approval required by council policy to establish the service.

Councillor Alex Deak expressed his condolences for

residents within this area, who he said would miss out on the service because of the apathy of other residents.

"Those who actually sent the ballot papers back will be penalised because of some people who are too lazy to answer," he said.

"I know that's a fact of life, but I feel for those people who did the right thing."

Environmental health manager Bob Dunstone said Cr Deak had raised a pertinent point, but the current postal ballot was still the most appropriate method for undertaking the survey.

He said he was unaware of "any other way" in which the survey could be undertaken, apart from a door to door survey, which was likely to be time consuming and inefficient.

He said the postal information supplied to residents was thorough and clearly set out their options, as well as clearly requesting a response.

# SE teacher shortage reaches crisis point

From front page

"When you consider all the time site leaders are spending filling vacancies, it really is alarming," Mr Phillips said.

"In my view it is reaching a crisis point and it's alarming to think how student learning programs will be disadvantaged if we can not find more teachers."

The Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS) in Adelaide has claimed an increase in graduates will be "adequate" to cover the demand for teachers, but Mr Phillips slammed the claim.

"Absolutely not," he said. "I know there are a range of schools that simply cannot fill positions now."

Although there are many excuses as to why the shortage has happened in the first place, Mr Phillips said he believes the problem goes a lot deeper.

"The root cause is the way in which education is not given the priority it deserves within the community," he said.

"Teachers are shaping the lives of the students they work with, yet there is a lack of status for the profession."

Kongorong Primary School principal Susan Chadwick said for the most part she has been able to fill any vacancies that come up in her school, but admitted that lately the process has begun to take up much more time.

"I can only speak for my school, and while we have always managed to find someone to fill vacancies, it is getting harder



Grant High School principal Steve Phillips believes teacher shortages affecting the South East are reaching crisis levels.

Picture: NIKKI MOTT.

and harder," Ms Chadwick said.

"We generally manage to find the teachers, but it is a stressful task."

Ms Chadwick said she thought primary schools were having more luck with teachers because there was not as much need for the teacher to specialise in one area.

"In the case of general primary teachers we seem to be able to find them, although often by the skin of our teeth," she said.

"I know secondary schools are having problems finding specialist teachers and to an extent primary schools are as well.

"There are many schools who have had to forgo offering a language subject because they cannot find a teacher to take the class."

With Education Department figures placing the average teacher age at 49, Ms Chadwick said this was probably the most worrying factor.

"Many teachers will soon be retiring or cutting back and the impact that will have, I'm not really sure," she said.

Limestone Coast district director of education Judith Allen said while she had heard of certain areas being difficult to fill, she did not think the shortage was

at "crisis levels" yet.

"The only thing coming to my attention lately is a lack of available relief teachers," she said.

"We have a number of schools who have had to divide classes up when teachers are sick because they cannot find anyone to cover for them."

"There have also been problems finding coordinators in senior schools and specialist subject teachers, but that is more about choice of opportunity and subject specific problems rather than a teacher shortage."

"We certainly have teachers in every school and all positions are filled."

Local children need local foster carers

Could you help a child thrive?

Every day foster carers play a vital role in our communities. The South East needs more foster carers for children and young people waiting for home-based care. Carers are needed for short term, long term, respite care and to provide foster care in an agency-provided residence.

Meet local foster carers and staff and have your questions answered at an information session:

Mount Gambier:  
Wednesday, 11 June - 12.15 to 1.45pm - Leadlight Room, Institute Building (entry from Cave Garden)

Tuesday, 17 June - 5.15 to 6.45pm - City Hall, Watson Terrace

Millicent:  
Tuesday, 17 June - 12.15 to 1.45pm - Community Club, Devonport Street

For more information:

DECS anglican community care inc.

Government of South Australia  
Department for Families and Communities

Please call 8724 9211 if you would like to help.

The Border Watch, Thursday, June 5, 2008 - 3