



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday 5 June 2008

Social Infrastructure insufficient

“People are the social infrastructure of the state, so investing in those who are disadvantaged or vulnerable should be front and centre of the planning for the future,” said South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS) Executive Director Karen Grogan.

“The significant investment in protecting the safety and wellbeing of our most vulnerable children is a great move, however it is disappointing that there was not a better balance in this Budget between the physical and social infrastructure needs of the State.”

“With child protection notifications projected to increase by 8% annually, long term investment in supporting at-risk families is essential. SACOSS is particularly pleased with substantial additional funding being allocated to intensive family support services”.

“For low income households the predicted spike in energy prices over the coming years needs to be mitigated by a much more comprehensive investment in energy efficiency measures than has been allocated in this Budget,” said Grogan.

“The first home buyer bonus is poorly targeted; the South Australian government already has a long term housing plan with measures to increase affordable and secure housing, and the additional \$140 million would have been better aimed at some of the well thought out measures it contains.”

“Increases in fees and charges have been kept lower than the CPI but there has been no increase in concessions. With rising overall costs of housing, food, petrol and transport, a more equitable and targeted concessions system is needed to relieve the relentless pressures on the budgets of low income households.”

“Additional hospital funding will barely keep pace with increased demand and this Budget’s lack of investment in primary health care and prevention services is a wasted opportunity, given the size of the surplus. “ Ms Grogan said.

###END###