



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SACOSS SUPPORTS CAMPAIGN TO SHUT DOWN MAGILL CENTRE

Wednesday 12 August 2009

The South Australian Council of Social Service has joined the campaign to close down the outdated and decrepit Magill Youth Training Centre.

An open letter to the Premier has been published in today's *Advertiser*, signed by over 40 organisations and individuals from community service, legal and child protection backgrounds. The letter calls on the Premier to close down the Magill Youth Training Centre and construct a replacement facility, to open in 2011.

Executive Director of SACOSS, Karen Grogan, said, "We fully support the campaign to shut down the Magill centre. In doing so, we are responding to genuine community concern about the inhumane conditions in which children are being held."

"Young people incarcerated at Magill need support and assistance to overcome the problems they face, and re-integrate into society. This can only be achieved through effective rehabilitation programs."

"Unfortunately, any positive impact these rehabilitation programs may be having are negated by the dismal conditions within the Centre. It is not enough for the government to deliver good programs; they must also deliver an environment conducive to the success of those programs."

"The conditions at Magill are stripping rehabilitation programs of their value – therefore, they are stripping the young people housed in Magill of their chance to break the cycle of disadvantage and crime."