

JOINT STATEMENT

HON ANN BRESSINGTON MLC
HON ROBERT BROKENSHIRE MLC
HON JOHN DARLEY MLC
HON DENNIS HOOD MLC

CROSSBENCH MEMBERS PUT GOVERNMENT ON NOTICE

Thursday 13 May 2010

FAMILY FIRST MLCs Dennis Hood and Robert Brokenshire and Independent MLCs Ann Bressington and John Darley have today jointly signed a letter to the Premier announcing they can not guarantee their support for Government legislation if essential social services are not protected in forthcoming budget processes.

In an open letter sent to the Premier today, the four have demanded that:

1. **Social Services must be quarantined from cuts in the \$750 million ‘razor gang’** promised in the State Election and expected to be outlined in the delayed September Budget – with the exception of executive, administrative and non-core service staff and resources;
2. **Essential areas of Social Services to be raised to minimum benchmarks of the national averages** in their respective disciplines. This would increase spending on disability services, public housing and other social services which are way behind national funding levels.

“The Government’s talk of a razor gang during the State Election gave no indication of where it would make its cuts. We know from our significant contact with upset constituents across social services that our service levels are sadly lacking.”

“As Members in the crucial crossbench positions with the balance of power in the Upper House, it is essential for us to protect social services from cuts and lift them to national standard levels.”

“The desire to protect our constituents across the state from a worsening of terrible social service levels has brought the four of us together in a coalition to protect our most vulnerable citizens”

“With record tax revenue in recent years the Government has failed to address backlog funding to the most vulnerable in our State. Those people should not be subjected to further cuts from the razor gang. Its time for genuine social inclusion”