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MEDIA RELEASE

Hon John Dawkins MLC

Opposition Whip

Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Northern Suburbs
and State Infrastructure Plans

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Rann Government continues to ignore worthy CORES

While the Rann Government continues to fail to provide funding to the Community Response to Eliminating Suicide (CORES) program, Eyre Peninsula community groups are taking matters into their own hands, committing \$25 000 to the program.

The Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association (EPLGA) has contributed an additional \$10,000 for 2010, following the \$11,000 provided to the training program last financial year.

The Eyre Peninsula Division of General Practice (EPDGP) and the Commonwealth Government Department of Health & Ageing have also promised to provide a further \$15,000.

Long time CORES advocate, Liberal MLC John Dawkins has commended the EPLGA's continued financial support of the programme.

Mr Dawkins said it's time the Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Jane Lomax-Smith showed leadership in suicide prevention.

"The Government advised me earlier this month that it is waiting for a national suicide prevention framework to be developed," Mr Dawkins said.

"We should immediately assist communities to take action in their own localities – rather than waiting around for national frameworks to be developed."

The CORES training programme provides community leaders and individuals with the skills to identify the warning signs of a person in crisis and the confidence to respond.

"The Rann Government has continually ignored the regional areas of South Australia, and now is also ignoring the fight against suicide," Mr Dawkins said.

The State Liberals have committed to funding ten CORES schemes across regional South Australia if elected in March 2010.