

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Dr Duncan McFetridge MP**

Shadow Minister for Health, Mental Health

Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation

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## **Hill Back Flips on Eye Surgery**

Last weeks highly embarrassing back flip by Minister for Health, John Hill, over sending cataract surgery from the Royal Adelaide Hospital to Modbury is yet another example of poor planning and zero consultation.

“Minister John Hill has written a very contrite letter to the Royal College of Ophthalmologists stating that services at the Royal Adelaide Hospital will be retained and that he now is seeking the College’s assistance in planning for a new service at Modbury Hospital and possibly at the Rail Yards Hospital (RYH).

Dr Duncan McFetridge, Shadow Minister for Health, said today that Minister Hill was consulting Ophthalmogists only after the community became outraged over his decision to cut eye surgery at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

“Minister Hill is only now seeking input into the future of Ophthalmology services”, Dr McFetridge said.

“Once again a complete lack of consultation preceded this debacle, just like its plans for the RYH.

“The Rann Labor Government’s lack of consultation with the medical profession in any of its plans for the SA health system is reflected in the lack of detail available on their plans for the hospital in the rail yards.

“The RYH plans haven’t included any increase in outpatient services and Minister Hill is yet to answer the Opposition’s questions on what services will be transferred, including Ophthalmology and Dermatology.

“Last year we saw another back flip from Minister Hill following community outrage as he abandoned Labor’s plans to slash funding to country health.

“Now we would like to see a trifecta of back flips – Minister Hill should abandon the ill conceived plan of building a monument to Premier Mike Rann in the shape of an almost \$2 billion hospital in the rail yards.

Minister Hill should convince his colleagues to again follow the “Leader” in policy announcements and concede that re-building the world class Royal Adelaide Hospital on-site and re-directing millions of dollars into to suburban and country hospitals are the most effective use of SA taxpayer’s health dollars”.

**Contact: Dr Duncan McFetridge 0419 861 303**