THE HON AMANDA RISHWORTH MP
SHADOW PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR HEALTH
MEMBER FOR KINGSTON

MEDIA RELEASE

SOUTH AUSTRALIANS HURT BY PRIME MINISTER’S BROKEN PROMISE ON HEALTH CUTS

The Prime Minister has again broken his promise not to make cuts to health, with MYEFO documents revealing the Government will rip away $15 million from the Neonatal Unit at Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide.

This funding was committed in the Budget by Labor so Flinders Medical Centre could expand their overstretched facilities. It is a clear broken promise by Tony Abbott that no money would be cut from health.

Currently the unit is operating over capacity and relying on a temporary overflow ward.

“Cutting money designated to expand facilities that provide critical medical care to some of the sickest babies is a cruel and heartless decision by the Abbott Government,” Ms Rishworth said.

“It is unbelievable that the Prime Minister would make sick infants and their families a target of his savage cuts.

“As a result of this decision, state of the art facilities will not be able to be built and medical staff and families will continue to have to use a temporary overflow ward for the foreseeable future.

“These cuts show the Abbott Government is not serious about health and addressing capacity problems within our public hospitals,” Ms Rishworth said.

The expansion was earmarked by the South Australian Government as a priority.
The Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook revealed that the Coalition will be cutting $500 million from health which includes the expansion of the Neonatal Unit at the Flinders Medical Centre.

Despite reassurances before the election that there won’t be cuts to health, the Abbott Government seems intent on axing spending from vital health initiatives.

The Coalition’s election policy costings document clearly says:

“There are no cuts to education, health, defence or medical research.”

[Coalition Final Update on Federal Coalition Election Policy Commitments - 5 September 2013]

This is a clear broken promise from the Prime Minister. This is not the Government they told the Australian people they would be.

WEDNESDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2013