



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**  
(SOUTH AUSTRALIA) INC

Postal: PO Box 134 North Adelaide SA 5006  
First Floor Newland House 80 Brougham Place North Adelaide SA 5006  
Phone: (08) 8267 4355 Fax: (08) 8267 5349  
Email: [admin@amasa.org.au](mailto:admin@amasa.org.au) Web site: [www.amasa.org.au](http://www.amasa.org.au)

**AMA(SA) Youth Friendly Doctor Program**  
Launch of the *In Schools* visit

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 11:30AM TUESDAY, 12 MAY 2009**

The second component of the AMA(SA) Youth Friendly Doctor program was jointly launched in Adelaide today by AMA(SA) President Dr Andrew Lavender and SA Health Minister John Hill.

The Youth Friendly Doctor program has up-skilled general practitioners in a range of contemporary adolescent health topics, and is now offering a core team of Youth Friendly Doctors to conduct *In schools* visits to teenagers in high schools across South Australian metropolitan and rural areas.

AMA(SA) commenced the GP adolescent health training component of this program last November, and it has been a great success. To date eight doctors have been certified as Youth Friendly Doctors, with a further seven doctors to be certified over the coming weeks.

“This program aims to provide young people with the practical knowledge and confidence required when visiting a doctor. An *In schools* visit will cover key areas such as the importance of doctor patient confidentiality, a brief overview of the Medicare system and important questions for young people to ask during a consultation.”

‘An *In schools* visit will help open up communication channels between young patients and doctors, and expose adolescents to the concept of seeking help from GPs in an independent and non-threatening way’ said AMA(SA) President Dr Andrew Lavender.

Minister Hill said that “the Youth Friendly Doctor program will encourage young people to feel more comfortable about getting medical help and advice.”

Go to [www.youthfriendlydoctor.org.au](http://www.youthfriendlydoctor.org.au) to view all the details regarding the AMA(SA) Youth Friendly Doctor program.

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For further information regarding the Youth Friendly Doctor Program, please contact Maria French, Program Coordinator at the AMA(SA) on (08) 8267 4355 or view [www.youthfriendlydoctor.org.au](http://www.youthfriendlydoctor.org.au)

*SA Health has contributed funds towards this Program.*