



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**  
First Rural *In Schools* Visit

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 9:00AM TUESDAY, 30 JUNE 2009**

The first rural *In Schools* visit of the AMA(SA) Youth Friendly Doctor program was jointly launched at Port Lincoln High School today by AMA(SA) western regional representative and local GP Dr Sue Baillie and Minister for Youth Tom Koutsantonis.

The AMA(SA) is now offering a core group of Youth Friendly Doctors, up-skilled in a range of contemporary adolescent health topics, to participate in *In schools* visits to teenagers in high schools across South Australian metropolitan and rural areas.

To date, 16 doctors have been certified as AMA(SA) Youth Friendly Doctors, with the third GP adolescent health training course due to commence in August.

“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,” said AMA(SA) President Dr Andrew Lavender.

“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,” he stated.

Minister Koutsantonis said that “seeing a doctor by themselves can be a daunting idea for many young people – but it shouldn’t be.”

Go to [www.youthfriendlydoctor.org.au](http://www.youthfriendlydoctor.org.au) to view all the details regarding 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.*