

## **MONTANA METH PROJECT**

**Wednesday, 30 May 2007**

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD:** Back in February 2007, on the day after I raised this as a matter of interest in this place, my colleague the Hon. Andrew Evans asked the minister a question concerning the Montana Meth Project. I remind members that the Montana Meth Project is a very successful program which has been adopted in the state of Montana in the USA; it has led to massive reductions of the use of methamphetamine in that particular state. Thus far, this project has comprised, in large part, television and radio advertising as well as other community programs. It has actually seen a 70 per cent decrease in workers testing positive for methamphetamine use, a 41 per cent decrease in the criminal community for people testing positive for methamphetamine use, and a 53 per cent decrease in methamphetamine-related crime in the state of Montana.

In response to my supplementary question the minister said, 'I did commit to looking at the material and considering the individual programs.' Given that the minister committed to examining the program some four months ago, my questions are:

1. Has she yet assessed the program, as promised?
2. If so, how does the minister think that the Paint the State contest could be implemented here in South Australia?
3. Does the minister consider that the survey findings released on 7 May 2007 would receive a similar response in South Australia as they did in Montana?
4. Which of the specific programs has the minister and her department determined would be worthy of implementation in South Australia and why?

**The Hon. G.E. GAGO (Minister for Mental Health and Substance Abuse):** I thank the honourable member for his questions. I have had an opportunity to look at the Montana advertising program; it is quite compelling to watch and

quite powerful. I am not sure of its suitability here in Australia, but I have asked my department to look at it and assess whether it fits or is appropriate to be included as part of South Australia's education program.

We have a number of education programs here. Of course, the federal government has also committed significant funding—particularly in the last budget—in relation to drug education programs, and I wonder whether the honourable member has also approached the federal government in relation to this particular program. However, I have asked the department to assess this program and provide me with any recommendations it might have in relation to it.

**The Hon. D.G.E. HOOD:** I have a supplementary question. I thank the minister for her response, but could she give an indication of a time frame regarding when she may be able to provide her assessment and whether there is a likelihood of anything being adopted here?

**The Hon. G.E. GAGO:** Not as yet.