



**Budget delays punish family
27 June 2006**

A lack of government funding due to budget delays is hampering the services state departments are able to provide.

Member for Flinders, Liz Penfold said she is disgusted families are unable to receive the support they need due to the Rann Government's failure to hand down a budget on time.

"A 12 year old Eyre Peninsula boy diagnosed with Aspergers Syndrome is unable to access the services of Autism SA because there is no government funding available", Ms Penfold said.

"The boy has been recently diagnosed, but in order for his family to receive support from Autism SA he needs to be assessed by a second specialist, a service which is usually provided by the department.

"Autism SA has no funding to provide this service until October, after the budget is handed down in September.

"Why should this family, or any family have to suffer due to the Rann Government's incompetence?."

Ms Penfold also said while the boy could be assessed by a second specialist privately it would cost his family \$750.

"For many families affording \$750 for a specialist is out of the question. What's more is families shouldn't have to pay for a service which should be funded by the government.

"Once again, families are suffering at the hands of the government's inaction."