

A final example: in 2005-06, 95 of the 170 (or some 55 per cent) complaints made to the Medical Board of South Australia were upheld in some shape or form, which again is a reasonable outcome and a big improvement on the 2004-05 figure, where 85 of the 121 complaints were rejected or withdrawn. Self-regulation can work where a body that is self-regulating cares to make it work. What this data tells me is plain and simple: members of the Australian public have a sense of what justice and fair treatment is, and on balance they are reasonable when they make complaints.

The Advertising Standards Bureau is way out of step with community standards. The ASB appears complacent about the sexualisation of women and children, allows alcohol manufacturers to promote their product as being the means to innovation, financial success and even finding a sexual partner in some cases. The ASB has rejected claims of violence, including family violence, without condemnation when complaints have been made.

It is incumbent upon the government to call a stop to this. Given the largely national nature of broadcasting and publishing, it is the responsibility of the federal government to intervene quickly. Family First will watch with interest the actions and policies of the Howard government and the Rudd Labor Party concerning this area in the forthcoming federal election campaign.

The Hon. Steve Fielding, federal senator for Victoria for Family First, has written to both Mr Howard and Mr Rudd. The Family First letter calls upon the government, be it coalition or ALP by the end of the year, to take control of regulating advertising to ensure that it reflects community standards and protects our children against offensive material.

OUR LITTLE SECRET

The Hon. NICK XENOPHON: Today I will speak about a very important book written by local author, Allayne Webster, entitled *Our Little Secret*. It is Allayne's first book and, when she first approached me back in December 2005 to see whether I could provide her with feedback and advice about publishing her first book, I did so. Apart from encouraging her and saying that the topic she was going to write about was an important one, Allayne was very successful in having her book published and it has been done so by Omnibus Books, an imprint of Scholastic, one of the biggest publishing houses in the world.

I recently read *Our Little Secret*; it is a good and compelling read, a remarkable book about a young girl, Edwina, growing up in a small country town where little happens without the whole town knowing. Even though the book is a tale of fiction it is important because it could so easily have been taken from any community, not only in Australia but anywhere, and unfortunately we hear about sexual abuse all too often. Almost every day we hear heartbreaking stories of young children being sexually abused and assaulted and we hear about such things as date rape drugs and how people are abused and their innocence taken away from them.

In the context of the government's own legislation to reform South Australia's rape and sexual assault laws, this book is very timely. The feedback I have received from those who have read advance copies of the book is that it ought to be used as a teaching tool for all school-aged children, males and females, particularly young teenagers, and perhaps it can also be used in terms of counselling services, given this book's strong message of hope and empowerment for young people who have been the victims of abuse.

This book, as I said earlier, is a good read. It is in the voice of Edwina, the young teenage narrator, who tells her story in a way that is compelling, powerful and ultimately has a very strong message of hope. One of the things that makes this book so exceptional is the way Allayne has managed to capture the thoughts of a young girl and depict very delicately how a young girl can in a sense go down a path she did not think was possible.

It tells the story of her feelings and emotions in a way that is at the same time nuanced but also very powerful. It covers real issues of fear, guilt, exploitation and disempowerment and, eventually, empowerment from a young girl's perspective. Not only does this make the book more convincing for us adults but I think that young people everywhere will be able to relate to the characters and understand the message that the author is trying to convey. Having said that, I point out that the book is not all doom and gloom: it is full of humour and many poignant moments. It is full of good humour and rich characters, and we can all relate to characters such as Edwina's mother in terms of her being almost the archetypal mum in a country town, and you need to read the book to put that in context. It is a story that every young person, particularly young girls, should read. I will be very pleased to be launching *Our Little Secret* on 3 August at the SA Writers' Centre in Rundle Street, and I wish its author, Allayne Webster, every success, not just with this book but with her future novels that I am sure she will be writing and publishing with great success.

DEATH CERTIFICATES

The Hon. R.D. LAWSON: The current government should be condemned for its failure to effectively address the ongoing delays in the issue of death certificates through the South Australian Coroner's Court. The death of any loved one, especially where the death is sudden or unexpected, is a traumatic event in the life of anybody. It should be an objective and an obligation of everyone—and, in that, I include every government agency and every elected government—to strive to ease that trauma. Regrettably, this government has failed to discharge that important obligation. It is the fact that many South Australians are still waiting more than a year for autopsy reports and the issue of final death certificates. This problem has been around for some years, but the backlog has now reached record levels. We are told that recently the State Coroner's Office, the Attorney-General's Department and the Forensic Science Centre had a meeting to discuss this crisis.

All members of parliament will have received letters from families over the years complaining about the distress being caused by the failure to obtain a final death certificate. It might be easy to dismiss this as merely an issue which results in financial hardship because the financial affairs of a deceased person cannot in many circumstances be advanced or finalised until the issue of a final death certificate, but more than financial inconvenience can be caused by the failure to issue a final death certificate. There is great personal distress in terms of failure to achieve closure in relation to deaths.

Many of these deaths, where an autopsy is required under the existing legislation, involve unexpected circumstances. If someone has a long history of a heart condition or is suffering from some terminal illness, sad as the death is, it is not so unexpected, and death certificates in those cases are issued relatively quickly, but over 1 400 autopsies are