



Leaders back push

By Adam Todd & Emily Charrison

COMMUNITY leaders and politicians have backed Messenger Community News' fresh push for stronger neighbourhood networks, saying it will help save lives.

The *Know Your Neighbour* campaign, launched last month for the second year, aims to bring communities closer and reduce social isolation, particularly among the elderly and new migrants.

Council on the Ageing Seniors Voice chief executive officer **Ian Yates** said the campaign played a crucial role in enabling elderly residents to remain active and involved in their communities.

"At times of crisis such as heatwaves or falls or other health challenges, this initiat-



ive could save lives and will certainly make a difference," he said. Premier **Mike Rann** encouraged people to keep an eye on their elderly neighbours, particularly during heatwaves, or just "pop by for a cup of tea". "Getting to know who you live near helps develop a stronger community that benefits us all," he said.

Opposition Leader **Isobel Redmond** said if people took the time to know their neighbours, they would feel more connected to their local com-

munity. "For the elderly and people who live alone, the reassurance that someone is next door in case of an emergency is important."

Norwood, Payneham & St Peters Mayor **Robert Bria** said knowing your neighbour was a vital part of living in a community. "Any initiative that aims to bring people together ... should always be actively encouraged," he said.

"In particular for the elderly, marginalised and new arrivals, getting to know neighbours and establishing support networks is really important to their health and well-being," police Commissioner **Mal Hyde** said people who were worried about the welfare of their neighbours should contact police. "Neighbours caring for each other is something police encourage."