

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

28 June 2010

### **The “LINKIN” Health Study**

Planning of our health system starts with you. Everyone in Port Lincoln is encouraged to be part of a large Commonwealth funded Health Study of our City that is starting this year.

Port Lincoln is the only city in Australia to have been selected as a site to capture a complete picture of a population’s health, including how people access and use health services in all their forms; from hospitals, mental health to support from family and friends.

The ‘Linkin’ Health Study, funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council, is an initiative of a multi-disciplinary research team from Adelaide University, in conjunction with locally based Spencer Gulf Rural Health School. The ‘Linkin’ Health Study will start with a health census questionnaire that everyone aged 15 years and over will be encouraged to fill in on 10/10/10. The census questionnaire will be hand delivered and collected by locally employed census collectors to every household in Port Lincoln.

Local GP and Head of the Spencer Gulf Rural Health School, Jonathan Newbury said that by completing the health census and participating in the ‘Linkin’ Health Study, Port Lincoln residents will be making an important contribution to improving the understanding of health services in the local community and the State.

“The ‘Linkin’ Health Study will provide uniquely important data that will assist the government and local agencies with their future health strategies as they grapple with the challenges of an ageing population, an increase in chronic disease and rapidly accelerating costs of technology and health services.”

“It is vital to the success of the ‘Linkin’ Health Study that local health providers and the general community support and participate in the study”.

A local Community Engagement Officer, Julie Low, has recently been employed to contact local community groups and organisations to explain the importance of the study and health census. Julie can be contacted on 8683 0143.

ENDS

Contact Professor Jonathan Newbury on 86478107 or Julie Low on 8683 0143