



**Mike Rann** Premier of South Australia

## Premier announces new Centre for Social Innovation

20 June 2008

The State Government will establish the nation's first Centre for Social Innovation to developing effective remedies to key social issues.

Receiving the final report from Thinker in Residence, Dr Geoff Mulgan, titled *Innovation in 360 Degrees: Promoting Social Innovation in South Australia*, the Premier committed \$6 million over the next three years towards the project.

"Dr Mulgan's report is an outstanding contribution providing a comprehensive strategy for our State to build capacity as a hub for public and social innovation, and to further our national and global standing as an incubator for social change.

"This new centre will be a partnership between the state government, business, community organizations, tertiary universities and commonwealth and local governments.

"It will be a truly national centre with an independent governing board drawn from across Australia and linking the best and brightest minds across the world.

"It will act as an incubator in which to grow and develop unique, effective remedies to our nation's pressing social problems.

"Australia faces huge social challenges and many of these will be felt sooner and more acutely here in South Australia.

"The health and welfare needs of our ageing "baby boomer" population, and the demand for skilled labour created by a fast growing economy, in particular the mining boom, are but two examples.

"Ensuring that people are not left behind will compel us to try new approaches, simply because we know the old models will not work.

"And South Australia is the ideal test bed for ideas to be applied widely because, as Geoff Mulgan has noted, it is "the place where the future happens first".

"The government has already begun to tackle some of these issues through the work of the Social Inclusion Unit headed by Monsignor David Cappo, and I'm delighted that the Federal government has adopted this model.

"We can already demonstrate how innovative thinking about social issues can deliver real and practical solutions. For example, The *Every Chance for Every Child Program* and *GP Plus* health care centres and *ICAN* programs improve school retention rates.

"This is an idea whose time has come. We must act now for the future," said the Premier.

