

# New laws threaten 'fun and games'

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MANY young South Australians will be prevented from taking part in fun, outdoor activities if an insurance Bill is passed by Parliament.

Leading recreational groups believe the Bill, which does not allow parents to sign waivers on behalf of their children, is ill-conceived and will force young people interstate to participate in activities.

The Bill, expected in the Upper House on Thursday, seeks to repeal the Recreational Services Liability Act 2002, which has failed to meet the needs of sporting groups.

Scouts Australia SA chief executive Dan Ryan believed the new legislation might result in sport and recreational providers not being able to obtain or afford insurance coverage.

"I don't believe the Government is seeing the unintended consequences of this legislation," he said. "It will affect any organisation that provides services to young people including scouts, guides, football,

soccer and netball." Mr Ryan said there was a real risk children wanting to do such activities as caving, rock climbing, abseiling and gliding would be forced interstate.

"It would be a real shame if any young South Australian had to fly to NSW to participate in activities we provide," he said. "If we can't get insurance in SA because it's not possible for parents to provide waivers for their children, then we won't be able to provide the activities."

Businessman Matt Slater was concerned a reckless conduct provision in the Bill would allow insurance companies to walk away from claims.

Independent MLC Ann Bresington will move an amendment seeking to allow parents to sign waivers for children.

Consumer Affairs Minister Gail Gago said: "No one should be able sign away their rights. Unlike an adult, a child is not in a position to question the actions of the service provider when things seem out of place. Nor can the child properly assess the risk of continuing to participate in the activity."

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