

Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

Minister Susan Close

Minister for Education and Child Development



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Ice Arena's future secure thanks to State Government support

The State Government has committed up to \$880,000 toward a much-needed upgrade of the Ice Arena, securing the future of an innovative program for at-risk young people.

The failure of the Ice Arena's current refrigeration plant in March led to the indefinite closure of the larger ice rink, forcing the cancellation of all ice sports, restricting recreational use and placing Adelaide Adrenalines' ice hockey season in doubt.

Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis said the funding would replace, upgrade and install a new refrigeration system at the Ice Arena.

"The Ice Arena is a favourite recreational and sporting facility for thousands of South Australians. We are pleased to provide crucial funding which will allow it to continue to operate," Mr Koutsantonis said.

Rod Nancarrow, acting president of the SA Ice Sports Federation (SAISF), said the Ice Arena would be back to full operations before the end of April.

"The arena is a centre for recreation for tens of thousands of South Australian's each year, and this funding will allow us to install modern, world-standard refrigeration equipment that will last for decades.

"We are so pleased to be able to skate up again for our ice sports, including the upcoming Adelaide Adrenaline ice hockey season that had been in jeopardy, and we encourage fans and newcomers alike to get involved in the exciting game.

"It is also good news for the 100,000-plus South Australians who use the Ice Arena as a venue for fun, recreation and physical activity each year," Mr Nancarrow said.

Education Minister Susan Close said the closure of the main rink had also jeopardised the future of Ice Factor – a program that engages with young people at risk of being left behind in their education, teaching them a sport along with life values and skills.

"By challenging young people to learn the skilled and fast-paced sport of ice hockey and work together as a team, Ice Factor helps them to build confidence, persistence and discipline, as well as fresh motivation to stick at their schooling.

"I am really pleased to see Ice Factor - and all the other popular sporting and recreational activities hosted by the Ice Arena - continue because of the upgrade," Dr Close said.

Media contact: Tanalee Smith – 0408 377 584