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Vlahos acting for MHS – a recipe for disaster

Embattled Minister Leesa Vlahos is currently acting in Minister Hamilton-Smith's portfolios despite the fact she is incapable of doing her own job.

In a bizarre move by Premier Jay Weatherill, he has appointed Minister Vlahos as Acting Minister for Investment and Trade, Acting Minister for Small Business, Acting Minister for Defence Industries, and Acting Minister for Veterans' Affairs, whilst she is engulfed by the Oakden scandal.

"How on earth is Minister Vlahos expected to take on these additional portfolio responsibilities when she has hopelessly failed to accept her responsibility to patients of the Oakden facility and their families during her time in the Mental Health portfolio?" said Deputy State Liberal Leader Vickie Chapman.

"It is galling that Minister Vlahos would be given these additional responsibilities whilst Minister Hamilton-Smith is overseas, when she has refused to resign over the failings at Oakden, and the Premier has refused to sack her.

"Perhaps it's not surprising to South Australians when one of Mr Weatherill's first utterances on his return from holidays was to praise Minister Vlahos for 'shining a light' on the abuse of our most vulnerable, instead of asking for her resignation.

"It's a sad state of affairs when the standards for ministerial accountability have sunk so low, that an embattled minister is given additional responsibilities instead of being sacked.

"A Marshall Liberal Government will restore the public's confidence in our Westminster system, and the Weatherill Labor Government's disgraceful conduct will not be allowed to occur under a new Government."