

# The Greystanes Report

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FROM CHRIS BOWEN ■ YOUR FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PROSPECT ■ AUTUMN 2010

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## Better Hospitals Better Health

The Rudd Government is taking decisive action to build a better hospital system.



Chris talks with staff at Fairfield Hospital.

**The new National Health and Hospitals Network will be funded nationally but run locally. This is one of the biggest reforms ever to our health system.**

This reform ends the funding blame game between the Federal and State Governments, creating greater transparency and reducing unnecessary costs.

The Federal Government will undertake responsibility for all GP and related health care services.

Doctors, nurses and local communities will be empowered to tailor health services to local needs and local populations through the newly created Local Hospital Networks.

The introduction of one national health system with one set of

national standards will be critical reform to our health system with Australia's rapidly ageing population.

With a growing ageing population, reform is critical to improve services to local communities at the same time as empowering them with greater flexibility to tailor health services.

An extra \$339 million funding will be provided for additional GP training places, doubling the places available for medical graduates to train to become GPs to 1200 per year by 2014.

This additional funding will assist to take pressure of the hospital system by reducing waiting times, improving access and the availability of GP services.

**Chris Bowen writes**



**This edition of the Greystanes Report includes more news from your local community groups in your area.**

As your local Member of Parliament, I believe that it's important that you are informed about local events, including the upcoming annual *Welcoming the Babies* ceremony, which will be held on Sunday 25 July at Stockland Wetherill Park.

Parents with children under the age of two years in July 2010 can call my office to register your child to receive a free certificate on the day.

If you had listed your phone on the *Do Not Call Register*, it might be time to renew your number. Also with the financial year ending on 30 June, remember that if you have children in primary or high school, you can claim back some of their education expenses with your next tax return.

As always, if there is any Federal Government matter you would like to discuss with me, please contact my office on 9726 4100 or email me at [chris.bowen.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:chris.bowen.mp@aph.gov.au)

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Bowen".

**Chris Bowen MP**  
Federal Member for Prospect

# LOCAL EVENTS

## Welcoming the Babies 2010

Chris will be holding the annual Welcoming the Babies ceremony on **Sunday 25 July at Stockland Wetherill Park.**



Fairfield Mayor Nick Lalich and Chris welcome Patrick Michael Arthur into the community at the 2009 event.

**In 2010, the event celebrates its fifth year and will build on the success of previous years in which hundreds of families have taken part.**

Again, this year numerous government agencies, community organisations, and Fairfield City Council will be involved.

With the addition of children's entertainment, the event will be fun and informative.

Call Chris' office on **9726 4100** to register your interest for the 2010 Welcoming the Babies ceremony.

## Recognition of Older Australians Morning Tea

Chris held a **morning tea in honour of Older Australians** at the Greystanes Community Centre on Tuesday 13th April 2010.

**"This morning tea is the community's chance to recognise the contributions that older Australians make to their families, neighbourhoods, and lives of others in the Greystanes area" Mr Bowen said.**

During the morning tea, Chris Bowen along with Smithfield State MP Ninos Khoshaba, awarded the achievements of older Australians living in Greystanes with Certificates of Recognition.

"The Certificates of Recognition are designed to commemorate the achievements of older Australians who have made a special contribution to community life" Mr Bowen said.

The community were invited to nominate older Australians living in Greystanes who have demonstrated a dedication to a community organisation, charity or sporting club.



Back row [L-R], Smithfield State MP Ninos Khoshaba, Joseph Caruana, Prospect Federal MP Chris Bowen, Ken Brindley, Mario Curmi. Front row [L-R], Ann Buhagiar, Wilson Hanna, Doris Caruana.

# BOOST FOR SUPERANNUATION

## More to benefit from recent superannuation changes



Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Chris Bowen launch the new *Stronger, Fairer, Simpler: Tax Plan for our Future*.

**Chris Bowen, as the Minister for Superannuation, recently announced changes that will deliver an historic boost to Australians' retirement savings.**

The *Stronger, Fairer, Simpler: Tax Plan for our Future* includes:

- A 12% Superannuation Guarantee (SG) – commencing with a 0.25% increase in 2013-14 and 2014-15, followed by 0.5% increments until the SG reaches 12% by 2019-20.
- A low income earners Government contribution – from 1 July 2012. The Government will provide a contribution of up to \$500 annually into the superannuation account of workers on adjusted taxable incomes of up to \$37,000.
- Concessional superannuation contribution caps for those nearing retirement – from 1 July 2012. Workers aged 50 and over with superannuation balances below \$500,000 will be able to make up to \$50,000 in annual, concessional superannuation contributions.
- Raising the Superannuation Guarantee age limit from 70 to 75 – from 1 July 2013. The SG age limit will be raised to 75, which for the first time means workers aged 70 to 74 to

be eligible to have SG contributions made on their behalf.

- These measures will cost \$2.4 billion over the next 4 years.

**As a result of these reforms 8.4 million Australians will receive an increase in their retirement incomes.**

- An employee aged 30 today on average weekly earnings, will retire with an additional \$108,000 in superannuation.
- A female aged 30 today on average weekly earnings, with an interrupted work pattern, will retire with an additional \$78,000 in superannuation.
- The superannuation savings of 3.5 million Australians on lower incomes will be boosted by \$830 million.

Over the next 10 years, \$85 billion will be added to Australia's pool of superannuation savings. A proportion of these savings will be channelled back into the Australian economy to fund jobs and nation-building infrastructure, ensuring our reliance on foreign funds is lower than it otherwise would be.

More information is available at [www.futuretax.gov.au](http://www.futuretax.gov.au) or **1800 614 133**.

## Claiming your Education Tax Refund



**The Education Tax Refund (ETR) is a new government initiative to help with the cost of educating primary and secondary school children.**

Eligible parents, carers, legal guardians and independent students can get 50% back on some education expenses. This includes items like computers, educational software, textbooks and stationery.

You can claim the ETR each financial year for children in primary and/or secondary school, or if you are an independent student.

You will be able to claim the refund from 1 July 2010 for the 2009-10 financial year.

This means you can claim for items purchased from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

Remember to keep your receipts as they will help you calculate your entitlement and you may be required to produce them as proof of purchase.

## Decisive action to build a better hospital system

To deliver better hospitals the Rudd Government will establish a new **National Health and Hospitals Network** which will be nationally funded but locally run.

- ✓ Establish local hospital networks which will be funded nationally but run locally
- ✓ Train 6,000 more doctors
- ✓ Cut hospital emergency department waiting times
- ✓ Give local doctors and nurses the authority to make decisions
- ✓ Deliver 1,300 new hospital beds
- ✓ Guarantee elective surgery waiting times
- ✓ Deliver an extra 2,500 aged care beds
- ✓ Provide 20,000 extra young people with access to mental health services
- ✓ Introduce tough new uniform national hospital standards



“ Nurses and other health staff have argued for the buck passing and blame shifting in health to stop and we believe this proposal will help to do that. ”

*Ged Kearney, Federal Secretary of the Australian Nursing Federation, 3 March 2010*



## Getting you better financial advice

**As the Minister for Financial Services, Chris recently announced reforms to financial advice that will improve the trust and confidence of Australian investors in the financial planning sector.**

### THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSES TO:

- Ban commissions being paid from financial product providers to advisers in order to get them to recommend those products as poor advice is six times more likely where commissions are paid.
- Introduce a statutory fiduciary responsibility for financial planners so that it is compulsory for financial planners to act in the best interests of their client and put the client's needs above their own.
- Introduce an adviser charging regime so the client and the adviser can negotiate whether the client pays for advice via hourly fees or fees as a percentage of funds under management, the latter of which gives both the adviser and the client an incentive to grow the wealth of the client.
- Expand the availability of low cost simple advice to provide access to and improve affordability of financial advice to individuals and families who may not currently have such access.
- Strengthen ASIC's powers to act against unscrupulous operators.

### UPDATE **Holroyd Youth Services Inc**

#### **HYLAND RD YOUTH CENTRE, GREYSTANES WRITES ...**

**Holroyd Youth Services Inc** manages both Merrylands Youth Centre and Hyland Rd Youth Centre in Greystanes.

**Throughout the year we maintain both recreational and educational programs for the young people in the Holroyd Local Government Area, including school holiday programs and monthly band nights, of which we recently celebrated our 10 year anniversary of showcasing the talented young musicians we work with.**

Hyland Rd Youth Centre will host "Chill Fest" on Sunday 20 June from 11am to 3pm, an open day and celebration of youth and community in Greystanes. There will be entertainment, food and activities for all to enjoy. We hope that many residents attend and share in the event at Lot 2, Hyland Road, Greystanes.

Holroyd Youth Services is always looking for volunteers for a variety of

projects so if you are interested in participating please contact our office.

We would like to thank Chris Bowen and his team for their ongoing support.

For further information on our services or to speak to a youth worker please contact us on **9637 1535** or email [youthservices@optusnet.com.au](mailto:youthservices@optusnet.com.au)



Holroyd Youth Services held our first one-on-one Basketball Competition (School Holiday Activity) at Merrylands Youth Centre during Youth Week 2010. Young people aged 14-18 were competing to win The HYS Basketball Competition WINNER trophy and we had a volunteer young person to referee

the game. Overall, the competition was a success and we are continuing the competition throughout the year. The HYS Basketball competition will be held on 9 July 2010, from 1:00pm at Merrylands Youth Centre. If you would like to participate please contact Youth Work Assistant on 9637 1535.

### UPDATE

## Pemulwuy Broadband

**After receiving your surveys and meeting with Telstra executives, Telstra will be embarking on two projects to help deal with the concerns of Pemulwuy residents.**

In order to increase access to ADSL services, there will be work to bring 40 new ADSL ports into the worst affected areas of Pemulwuy. This work is expected to be completed by the end of May, and the ports will be allocated on a 'first come, first serve' basis.

Telstra has promised to personally help connect any resident who would like to take up a Telstra Bigpond plan.

Also, they have promised to waive any early termination fees for current Telstra Wireless customers who wish to upgrade to a Bigpond ADSL service. Chris will write to residents in these affected areas once the new ports are available.

To deal with the problems of slow transmission speeds and network congestion, Telstra has also begun planning a project to increase the transmission capacity of ADSL services into Pemulwuy. This work is expected to be completed by the end of June.

Once this project is completed, ADSL



customers can expect an increase in their download and upload speeds.

While this will go some of the way to fixing the broadband problems in Pemulwuy, Chris will continue to work with Telstra to try and fix problems as they arise, until the National Broadband Network is completed and operational in Pemulwuy.

# **Visit Chris' website** **www.chrisbowen.net**

Visit Chris' website to read about community news and events.

You'll also find copies of speeches he's delivered in Parliament, transcripts of his interviews and an archive of all his newsletters.



## **Chris in Canberra**

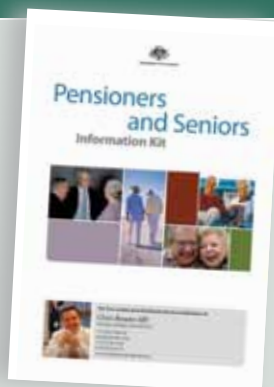
These are some of the speeches Chris has made in Parliament in 2010:



## **New Free Pensioner & Seniors Kit**

**A new Pensioners and Seniors Kit is now available.**

The kit contains information for pensioners and seniors. It is current at March 2010 and is a valuable resource in helping people understand the current pension reforms.



**For a free copy contact Chris' office on 9726 4100.**

## **Congratulatory messages**

**Do you know someone about to celebrate a significant birthday or anniversary?**

You can make arrangements for Congratulatory Messages to be sent to loved ones for 50th and 60th anniversaries, or 90th and 100th birthdays.

**Visit [www.chrisbowen.net](http://www.chrisbowen.net) to fill out a form or contact Chris' office on (02) 9726 4100.**



- Economy 9 and 22 February
- Corporations Legislation 10 and 23 February
- Health Insurance 24 February
- Tax Legislation 10 March
- Small Business Superannuation 11 March
- Medicare 15 March
- Dental Services 16 March
- Insurance Legislation 17 March

**For a full listing of all of Chris' speeches, please visit [www.chrisbowen.net](http://www.chrisbowen.net)**

**If you'd like a copy of any of Chris' speeches, please contact the office on 9726 4100.**

This material has been produced by Chris Bowen MP using his printing and communications entitlement.

For further information on this or any other federal matter please contact Chris Bowen on

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- Email [chris.bowen.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:chris.bowen.mp@aph.gov.au)