

The Greystanes Report

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FROM CHRIS BOWEN ■ YOUR FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MCMAHON ■ CHRISTMAS 2010

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National Paid Parental Leave – a new entitlement for working parents



From 1 January 2011 parents will receive paid parental leave. This is Australia's first national scheme, and a new entitlement for working parents.

The scheme means that new parents will get 18 weeks of government-funded parental leave pay at the National Minimum Wage of \$570 per week.

It will apply for all eligible parents of children born or adopted on or after 1 January 2011. Parents will need to meet a simple work and income test to be eligible.

This scheme has the right balance by providing this

important new entitlement for Australian families, without imposing a burden on employers.

For more information visit:
www.familyassist.gov.au

Paid Parental Leave also builds on the Government's commitment to help families out with the household budget, through:

- **Increasing the Child Care Rebate to 50%;**
- **Creating an Education Tax Refund to help with education costs; and**
- **Cutting income tax for three years in a row.**

Chris Bowen writes



Merry Christmas!

In this edition of *The Greystanes Report*, I would like to tell you about some of the community events I have hosted in the electorate recently.

The Pink Ribbon Breakfast on Friday 22 October and an Older Australians morning tea on Friday 12 November, were both held at Smithfield RSL Club. I would like to sincerely thank Mr Stanley Anderson, President of Smithfield RSL Club and the Board of Directors who generously supported both these events for providing the Club facilities and catering both important events.

With the establishment of the new Federal Government, I was appointed as the new Minister for Immigration and Citizenship on Tuesday 14 September. I look forward to this challenging portfolio as part of the new Gillard Government.

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

Yours faithfully,

Chris Bowen MP
Federal Member for McMahon

PINK RIBBON MORNING TEA

Pink Ribbon

Morning Tea raises \$3000 for breast cancer research

Chris Bowen hosted the Pink Ribbon morning tea at Smithfield RSL on Friday 22 October. This important event brings locals together to support families affected by breast cancer.



Chris welcomes guests at the Pink Ribbon Morning Tea.

Over 250 local residents donned their best and brightest pinks to support breast cancer research.

Great raffle prizes kindly donated from local businesses and local charity fundraiser extraordinaire Daphne Sneddon, along with Pink

Ribbon merchandise all proved very popular with \$3000 raised.

Guests who attended the morning tea were moved by the story of Pink Ribbon Ambassador, Chevoy Sweeney, who has fought breast cancer since she was diagnosed with invasive breast cancer.



LOCAL

Sporting Champions

The Local Sporting Champions program is designed to support young people participating in state and national level sporting competitions as either an athlete, coach, umpire or referee.



Grants of \$500 are available for successful individual applicants, and \$3000 for successful team applications.



Applications close 28 February 2011.

For further information, including application forms and eligibility criteria, please visit:

www.ausport.gov.au

Helping hands to End World Poverty

Pemulwuy resident Ken Morrissey presented Chris Bowen with an 'End World Poverty' canvas mural. It includes the handprints of all those who attended mass at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Greystanes on Sunday 10 October 2010.

The mural was part of the Micah 2010 challenge to encourage world leaders to make the commitment to halve global poverty by 2015.

"It is an important reminder that millions around the world live in poverty and we all need to get involved as part of the solution," Chris Bowen said.

The Micah 2010 challenge is a global campaign to present over 10 million handprints to remind our leaders that there is only five years left to meet this commitment.



McMahon MP Chris Bowen receives the mural from Pemulwuy resident Ken Morrissey.

Chris backs new Greater Western Sydney Aussie Rules Team – the Giants

In November, Chris was at the official launch of the new **Greater Western Sydney Aussie Rules team – the Giants.**



For more information on the team, go to www.gwsgiants.com.au



L-R: Josh Bruce, Chris Bowen, Israel Folau.

Their legendary coach Kevin Sheedy and players Josh Bruce and Israel Folau were at Parliament House to present Chris with a signed jersey.

REMINDERS

Don't forget to claim tax back on your children's education expenses

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



It means 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 can 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.

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.

Do Not Call Register – Time to re-register

If you have previously placed your number on the Do Not Call Register, it may be time for you to re-register.

Registrations are valid for three years and you can re-register at any time.

You can list your Australian fixed line and mobile numbers on the Do Not Call Register, provided the numbers are used primarily for private or domestic purposes.

Under the Act, telemarketers can check their calling lists against the Do Not Call Register. If a telemarketer calls a number on the Do Not Call Register, they may be in breach of the Act, and may face penalties.

If you require further information go to www.donotcall.gov.au or call the Australian Communications and Media Authority information line on **1300 792 958**.

Child Care Rebate

The Child Care Rebate helps working families with the cost of child care. The Child Care Rebate covers 50 per cent of out-of-pocket child care expenses for approved childcare up to the annual cap.

If you would like information about approved child care services and vacancies in your local area, contact the Child Care Access Hotline on **1800 670 305** or visit www.mychild.gov.au.



Holroyd Youth Services

Holroyd Youth Services (HYS) is a generalist youth service based in the Holroyd Local Government Area, facilitating programs for young people aged 12-25 years.



HYS manages both the Hyland Road Youth Centre in Greystanes and Merrylands Youth Centre as well as our recently established Mobile Youth Resource.

Both youth centres provide educational and recreational activities developed in consultation with our young people and in reference to local needs.

Activities and programs include, pool and air hockey tables, computers and internet access, basketball courts, art and craft, music programs including band nights, basic needs program with access to shower and laundry facilities, school holiday programs, camps, homework support.

These are our core activities, however we remain flexible in our approach to service delivery and program development is open for suggestion from our clients and their families.

Staff at HYS are also able to

assist with advocacy and support needs, referral to other agencies, employment support, working with families and youth housing/homelessness support. We also ensure close links to other agencies, working in partnership to strengthen our capacity to present a variety of activities and events, such as festivals, youth week and other one of occasions.

Our Mobile Youth Resource is a new and innovative approach in the way we can extend our service by taking our project out into the community as we have recently shown at Nelsons Ridge during the school holidays. The Mobile unit is equipped with computers and internet access, playstation and a variety of resources suitable to young people.

HYS strongly believes in the importance of Outreach and works in collaboration with local primary and high schools to provide in house workshops and discussion groups to students and parents.

We have also commenced monthly outreach and promotion and Pemulwuy Marketplace giving local young people and their families the opportunity to find out more about the services we provide and how we may be able to assist them.

HYS has been working in the local community for over 20 years and has a solid reputation in youth service delivery in the Holroyd Area. We are very proud of our achievements, the ongoing work we do and most importantly the young people we work with every day.

For more information on our service or programs

**please contact us on
9637 1535 or
email: youthservices@optusnet.com.au**

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.

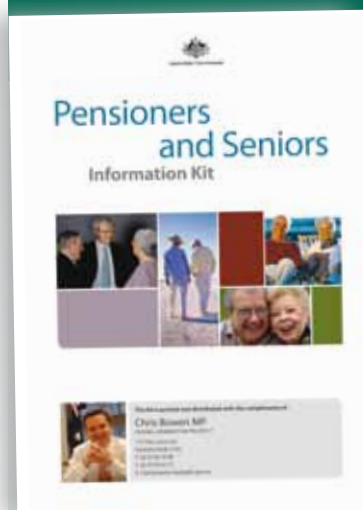


Chris in Canberra

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



New free Pensioner and Seniors Kit



A new Pensioners and Seniors Kit is now available.

The kit contains information for pensioners and seniors. It is current at September 2010 and is a valuable resource to help 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 to fill out a form or contact Chris' office on (02) 9726 4100.



- Superannuation 11 May, 24 May, 3 & 17 June
- Budget 12, 13 & 25 May, 1 June
- Tax Legislation 26 May
- Superannuation Legislation 26 May & 24 June
- Banking Legislation 26 May
- Business Legislation 26 May, 2, 21 & 24 June
- Australian Financial Centre Forum 2 June
- Financial Services 23 June
- Asylum Seekers 29 & 30 September, 19, 26 & 27 October, 15 & 23 November
- Immigration Detention Centres 30 September
- Iraq 16 November

For a full listing of all of Chris' speeches, please visit www.chrisbowen.net

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

For further information on this or any other federal matter please contact Chris Bowen on
• **Phone** 9726 4100 • **Fax** 9724 6115 • **Mail** PO Box 802 Fairfield 1860
• **Email** chris.bowen.mp@aph.gov.au