

# The Horsley Park 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 *Horsley Park 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

# 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.

## Better services for the hearing impaired

As the Human Services Minister, Chris recently launched a service that enables more Australians to **check their hearing over the telephone.**

**The service was launched with Australian Hearing ambassador Dr John D'Arcy and client and former Marconi CEO Antonio Boniciolli.**

A new version of a telephone hearing test, Telscreen, allows callers to check their hearing in any one of 11 languages: Arabic, Cantonese, English, Greek, Italian, Macedonian, Mandarin, Serbian, Spanish, Turkish and Vietnamese.

"The Prospect electorate is made up of diverse ethnic groups. Telscreen will enable these people to check their hearing from home in their first language. They can determine quickly and easily whether they need further help for their hearing. Hearing loss can affect any Australian, regardless of their culture or language."



(L-R) Dr John D'Arcy, Ambassador for Australian Hearing; Mr Antonio Boniciolli, Australian Hearing client and former CEO of Club Marconi; Chris Bowen MP, Minister for Human Services and Member for Prospect.

Hearing loss causes a breakdown in communication. It can lead to frustration, social isolation and depression," Chris said.

Access the service by calling **1800 826 500** toll-free and following the voice prompts.

The test takes about five minutes. Visit [www.hearing.com.au](http://www.hearing.com.au) for more information.

Australian Hearing has 110 centres, including one in Liverpool. Clinicians also provide regular visiting services at Fairfield.

## 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.

# **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**

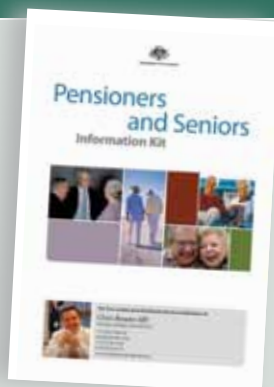
These are some of the speeches Chris has made in Parliament in 2010:



## **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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