

The Bowen Report

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

115 THE CRESCENT FAIRFIELD ■ PO BOX 802 FAIRFIELD 1860 ■ PH: 9726 4100 ■ FAX: 9724 6115 ■ WWW.CHRISBOWEN.NET

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 Bowen 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.



Honouring local older Australians

Chris held a morning tea in honour of older Australians at the Smithfield RSL Club on Friday 12 November 2010.

The morning tea is the community's chance to recognise everything our older citizens do for their families, their neighbourhoods, and for the community at large.

Chris presented Certificates of Recognition for those older Australians nominated by their peers and local community to:

- Peter McNeill
- Beverley McNeill
- Dulcie Long
- Lily Magri
- Ivy McCartney
- Anne Bourke
- Kathleen Roberts
- Bill Cruwys
- Edwin Zammit
- Daphne Sneddon
- Patricia Tweed
- Joan Jackson
- Darius Zakaria
- William Lazar
- Jenny Henderson
- Jeanette Gorton
- Georg Meinert
- Eunice Lusk
- Lorraine Dixon



Chris presenting Ms Dixon's award for 16 years volunteering for the Cancer Council.

New Language Centre for St Johns Park High School

Chris was delighted to return to his old high school, St Johns Park, to open the new language centre as part of the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution.

'The new centre is state of the art and will focus on students learning Italian and Mandarin,' Chris said.

St Johns Park High School received \$1,021,000. 'I am also delighted to announce that this particular project has supported the employment of many workers. This is what we strived to achieve – this was the essence of the Government's Economic Stimulus Plan,' Chris said.



Chris and Smithfield MP Ninos Khoshaba with St Johns Park High School Captain Leni Le at the recent opening of the new language centre.

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.



Join the Fairfield RSL Youth Club

The City of Fairfield RSL Youth Club aims to encourage the youth of today to participate in various activities, promoting friendship, health and fitness.



We have six sections that are part of the Youth Club – Swimming, Physical Culture, Junior Golf, Karate, Junior Cricket and Jazz, Tap, Ballet. Thanks to the support from the Youth Club, Fairfield RSL Sub Branch and the Fairfield RSL Memorial club all these activities are affordable to all.

Members of our Youth Club can also take part in our Anzac Day services and awards, Commemoration Sunday, Reciprocal tour to New Zealand and the Kokoda Trek.

As a Youth Club, our ages run from 14 to 25 but some of our sections teach adults of all ages.

If you would like more information please phone
Peter Joiner (President) on 0413 635 628
or Yvonne Yates (Treasurer) on 0407 611 414.

Top performances from Physical Culture team

The Physical Culture team are proud members of the Fairfield RSL Youth Club and have performed exceptionally well in recent competitions. After some outstanding performances our club took many places at our three interclub competitions for the year at Putney, Lithgow and Hunters Hill.

Since that time we have had four girls reach the NSW State Finals (top 25). They were: Madison Wright (8 years), Jaide Gayle (9 years), Claire Duffy (10 years) and Renee Elliot Watson (10 years). Two of our ladies reached the State Grand Finals (top 12) in their section: Megan Stringer and Laura Delli Pizzi who placed 5th.

Our 2nd Year Ladies Team placed 2nd overall in their competition which was very exciting for only one practice! We are looking forward to the 5-6 years, 11-16

years and Seniors and Advanced Ladies competitions that are happening later this year.

Other events this year have included six of our girls make their debutante ball with Fairfield RSL at Marconi club in September and raising money for Kids Cancer by doing a Crazy Hair Week in June.

We practice Wednesdays at the Fred Galton Hall (near Fairfield RSL) and will be taking new members from 2yrs-ladies of any age, experienced or not. We will finish the year with our annual club competition being held at Merrylands Public School.



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.

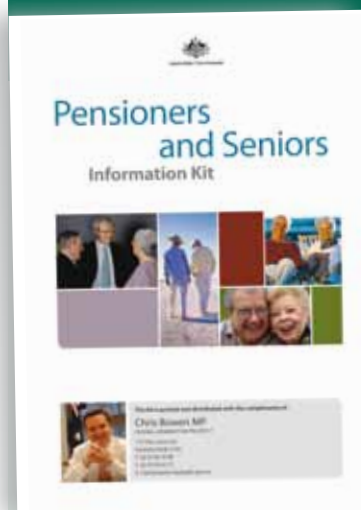


Chris in Canberra

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.

- 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.

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.



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