

CHRIS AS A SHADOW MINISTER

Chris provides Labor's response to trade practices and competition policy matters, as well as tax administration issues, and assists the Shadow Treasurer, Wayne Swan, on the design of Labor's tax policy.

Chris has helped develop Labor's plan for a Petrol Commissioner to monitor petrol prices and ensure motorists get a fair go at the pump.

He was also influential in the formulation of Labor's policy for an ACCC enquiry into grocery prices – to make sure consumers aren't being ripped off by the major industry players.

Chris also regularly meets with lobby groups and works with Kevin Rudd's Shadow Cabinet to formulate policy and monitor spending commitments as well as take positions on key legislation passing through Parliament.



These are the speeches that Chris has made in Parliament in 2007:

- Climate Change - 31 May
- Workplace Relations Bill 2007 - 30 May
- Volunteer Small Equipment Grants Program - 29 May
- Tax Laws (Small Business) Bill 2007 - 24 May
- Second Sydney Airport - 24 May
- Tax laws (Personal Income Tax Reduction) Bill 2007 - 23 May
- Tax Laws (2007 Budget) - 23 May
- Tax Laws (2007 Measures No.3) - 23 May
- Vietnam: Human Rights - 21 May
- Tax Laws (2007 Measures No.2) - 9 May 2007
- Budget 2007-08 - 9 May
- Superannuation Laws (Budget Co-contribution measures) - 9 May
- Tax Laws (2006 Measures No.7) - 29 March
- Corporations and Financial Services Committee: Report - 29 March
- Trade Practices Regulations - 28 March
- Broadband - 28 March
- Liberal Democratic Party - 26 March
- Australian Crime Commission Committee: Report - 26 March
- Human Rights: Vietnam - 26 February
- Iraq - 26 February
- Tax Laws Bill (2006 No.7) - 29 March
- Corporations Committee - Report - 29 March
- Governance Review Implementation - 28 March
- Trade Practices regulations - 28 March
- Labor's Broadband Network - 28 March
- Liberal Democratic Party - 26 March
- Australian Crime Commission - Drugs - 26 March
- Australian Energy Market - 1 March
- Corporations Takeover Bill - 28 February
- Personal Explanation - Managed Investment Schemes - 28 February
- Customs legislation - 28 February
- Human Rights - 26 February
- Housing - 26 February
- Grievance Debate – Iraq - 26 February
- Tax Laws Bill (No.7) 2006 – 7 February

We're in business: Federal Labor initiatives

The business community plays an important part not only in Australia's economic future, but in the lives of everyday Australians. Federal Labor has announced policies aimed specifically at small business to encourage development and cut red tape.

Cutting red tape

The current government's financial disclosure regime has resulted in long and complex documents of up to 100 pages, creating an administrative nightmare for businesses, and unreadable documents for consumers.

Labor will take the axe to these documents.

Labor's standard disclosure forms will be no more than 3 or 4 pages, will be simpler, easier to read and less costly – which will improve consumer protection.

Paying small business on time

Labor will give small business the right to charge Commonwealth Government departments and agencies interest on bills not paid within 30 days.

This recognises that late payments cause significant cash-flow problems for small business.



Currently, there is no penalty if government departments don't pay their bills on time.

In August last year Chris moved a Private Members Bill in Parliament that would have made it mandatory for all departments and agencies to publish late payment data in their annual reports, as is done in New South Wales and other states.

Labor will make sure that all government departments are meeting their commitments to small business.

Chris Bowen has a Small Business E-network to enable small business operators to not only receive information about Labor's business policy, but provide comment and feedback – helping to shape Labor's small business policy.

To subscribe to the e-network just send an email to Chris at chris.bowen.mp@aph.gov.au

If you would like copies of any of Chris' speeches in Parliament please phone 9726 4100 or go to www.chrisbowen.net

The new seat of Prospect

THE BOUNDARIES FOR ALL FEDERAL ELECTORATES IN NSW HAVE BEEN CHANGED AND WERE FINALISED IN NOVEMBER 2006.

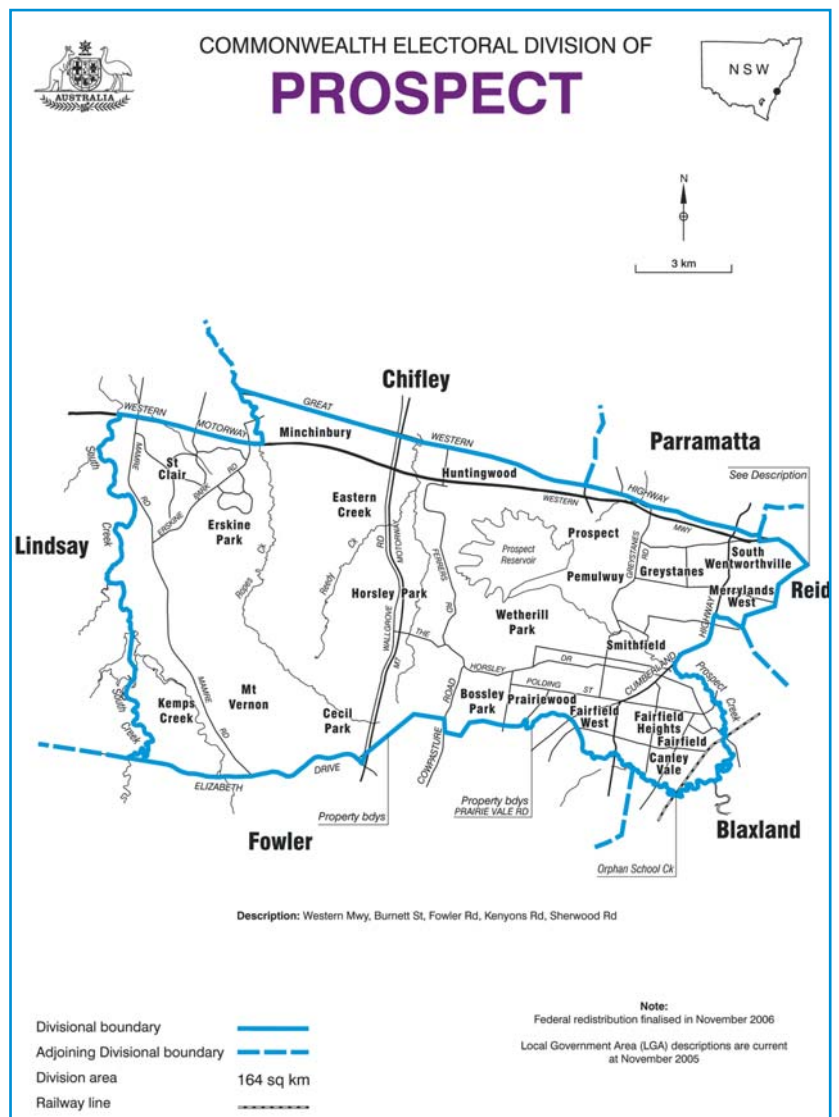
The boundaries for all Federal electorates in NSW have been changed and were finalised in November 2006.

Redistributions occur to ensure that each electorate has a similar number of voters.

The map shows the current boundaries of the new electorate of Prospect.

Prospect takes in parts of Fairfield, Blacktown, Holroyd and Penrith council areas.

For more information about the redistribution process visit the AEC Internet site at www.aec.gov.au



Have your say – Feedback form

As your local Federal Member, I believe it is important to keep in contact with the constituents in my electorate to ensure that I provide them with the highest level of representation possible.

Could you please take the time to fill in this survey to help me better represent the community

Name

Address

Phone

1. (a) Have you attended one of Chris' mobile offices?

Yes No

(b) If so, could you please comment on the running of these events? (e.g. Are they a good idea?)

.....

2. Is there anything else you would like to see Chris do to better represent the community?

.....

3. What are the most important issues confronting you and your family that you believe Chris should be raising in Parliament?

(Please rank in order and/or add your own issue)

Education and Training Job Security

Health and Medicare Interest Rates

National Security

.....

Please cut out and return to: Chris Bowen MP, PO Box 802 Fairfield NSW 1860

Prospect Annual Report

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Welcome to the second Prospect Annual Report



As your representative in Federal Parliament, it's important that I communicate regularly with you about local matters.

This *Annual Report* is an important form of communication; a chance for us to look back on the year that has gone by and the issues we have faced as a community and as a nation.

It's also an opportunity for me to report to you my activities over the last year as your federal MP, and

also for you to provide feedback. There is a feedback form on page 6.

As always, if you would like help on any Federal Government matter (or if you just need advice), please call my office on 9726 4100 or send me an email at chris.bowen.mp@aph.gov.au



Chris Bowen
Federal Member for Prospect

Welcoming babies into our community

It was wonderful to see so many babies, mums and dads at our second annual 'Welcoming the Babies into our Community' family fun and information day at Stockland Wetherill Park.

Families in our area deserve a big thank you for bringing up great children. Our family fun day was a perfect way to publicly recognise and welcome babies, as well as saying 'thanks' to Mum and Dad.

It was also a great opportunity for community groups to let families know about services that are available, and for lots of fun and entertainment.

Every baby that registered received a certificate to welcome them to the community, a tree and a book voucher, as well as a show bag filled with information about services for families.

Look out for **Welcoming the Babies 2008**... it'll be even bigger and better!



BABIES, PARENTS AND CARERS enjoying our second annual Welcoming the Babies celebrations.

Breast cancer awareness forum: Informing the community

Hundreds of local residents packed Smithfield RSL in October last year to hear an informative evening talk and Q&A session given by Associate Professor John Boyages from the NSW Breast Cancer Institute.

The forum was organised by Chris Bowen and followed an overwhelming response to our community campaign to have the breast cancer drug Herceptin listed on the PBS.

'It's all about the triple assessment: scanning, clinical assessment and the biopsy,' Professor Boyages said.

'It is easy to forget sometimes what age groups are most affected by breast cancer: 25% of breast cancer occurs in women between 40 and 49, and another 25% occurs in women aged 70 and over.'

'There is life after breast cancer. You have to go around the mountain and be positive,' Professor Boyages said.

The forum was an outstanding success: so much so, Professor Boyages has agreed to come back early next year to speak at a second one.

'Professor Boyages put the audience and I on notice that having women screened using the MRI machine is the next frontier in breast cancer diagnosis,' Chris Bowen said.

The drug 'ice': What you and your family can do about it

Over one hundred parents and teenagers turned out to a public forum on the illicit drug 'ice' held by Chris Bowen at Smithfield RSL on Wednesday 18 April.

'On the street it's known as crystal meth or 'ice'. But whatever you call it, methamphetamine is a dangerous drug, being stronger, more addictive, and more dangerous than heroin,' Chris said.

'Ice is a potent form of methamphetamine, almost 80% pure in some cases. It's a very different drug to what's been out there before.

'That's all the more frightening because it's considered fun, a party drug, aimed squarely at young people.'

The forum included special guest speakers Dr Gilbert Whitton, Drug and Alcohol Specialist at Sydney South West Area Health Service, Beaver Hudson, a Clinical Nurse at St Vincent's Hospital and 'BJ', a former ice addict.

The number of arrests for methamphetamine use and trafficking has shot up from 3900 in 1996-97 to



AT THE 'ICE' FORUM: (left to right) Chris with Dr Gilbert Whitton and Beaver Hudson.

more than 10,000 in 2004-05.

'Enough is enough – we must act before ice gets totally out of control,' Chris said.

Kevin Rudd and Federal Labor are committed to tackling the ice epidemic, facing the problem with a plan that includes:

- Working to ban the importation of ice pipes and other drug paraphernalia under the Customs Act (at present there is no such ban);
- Working with State and Territory governments to make it a criminal act to sell

pseudoephedrine to minors (pseudoephedrine is a major ingredient in speed and ice); and

- Tailoring existing national education programs on illicit drug use, specifically targeting young people and ice.

Locally, it is important that young people and parents are informed about what this drug is and what it can do.

For a copy of the 'ice' information kit please contact my office on 9726 4100.

Western Sydney doing it tough

THROUGHOUT MY ELECTORATE I HEAR A COMMON THEME
– PEOPLE ARE DOING IT TOUGH.

In particular, household budgets are being hit by rising petrol prices, high childcare costs and spiralling mortgage repayments.

Mortgage rates are now at a six-year high after eight increases since 2002, including four since the last federal election.

Official data that shows households are carrying three times the level of debt they did almost 20 years ago – making any interest rate increase an added burden.

Add to this that rents are also rising, making it harder to make ends meet, and almost impossible to save a deposit for a house.

Clearly people in Prospect are doing it tough and this government has lost touch.

Badgerys Creek still on the agenda

An ongoing issue in our area is the future of the proposed Badgerys Creek Airport.

A decision on the airport should have been made in 2005, but the Federal Government refused to make that decision.

Now Minister for Transport, Mark Vaile, has said that another review of Sydney's airport needs will be held in 2009.

Keeping up the fight against Badgerys Creek airport has been one of my key priorities over the last 12 months. On 24 May I made a speech in parliament on the issue: please contact my office if you would like a copy of the speech.

Badgerys airport is back on the agenda

Fairfield Champion- 7.3.07



FACTS:

- Over 5000 households with a mortgage were struggling with their monthly repayments in 2006, up 109% from 2001 in our electorate of Prospect.
- This represents a whopping 39.4% of households in Prospect with a mortgage.
- \$135 million of people's superannuation savings were released early in 2006 to help them cope with day-to-day financial hardship.
- Insolvencies in the Fairfield-Liverpool region are up 23.7%.

Older Australians honoured over a cuppa

Chris recently hosted the Older Australians Morning Tea at Smithfield RSL to recognise the valuable contribution older Australians make to our community.

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.

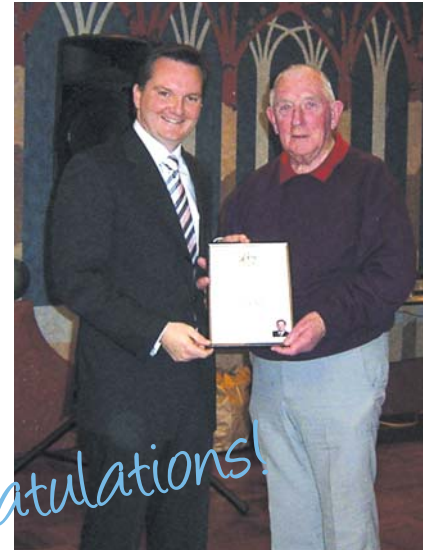
An important part of the morning was the awards presentation. Chris presented Certificates of Recognition for those older Australians living in the electorate of Prospect nominated by their peers and the local community.

Larry Stellar provided the very enjoyable entertainment.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR AWARD WINNERS!

LOCAL AWARD WINNERS WERE:

Roy Holt
Dawn Cox
Mary Calleja
AJ Noble
Heather Peatman
M.Xim Vichitvongsa
Tony Sardelich
Arthur Boyd
Gillian Webster
Joe Viglioive
Joyce Hammond
Kevin Massard
Arthur Roberts
Denis Romano
Marion Wilson
Lloyd Guymer
Bernadette Sammit
Maria Mansueto
Helen Kerfoot
Panna O'Shanna
Harry Rofe
Charles Schembri
Helen Grainger
Jessie Hastie
Bakthan Tychicus



VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION:
Chris presenting a Certificate to Ken Thompson, one of the award winners.

REMEMBERING REAL AUSTRALIAN HEROES

Over 400 people packed into Smithfield RSL for the recent Tobruk event hosted by Chris Bowen.

They paid homage to some true Australian heroes – veterans of the battle for Tobruk.

'In times when cricket players and football stars are all called heroes it is only appropriate that we honour some real Australian heroes,' said Chris.

The audience was captivated by special guest speaker Peter Fitzsimons, author of Tobruk and narrator of the documentary screened at the event.

'It is right, proper and fitting to honour what they did and that so many people are here tonight is a tribute to their sacrifice,' said Peter Fitzsimons.

'95% of what we know of military history is Gallipoli, we have great respect for it and rightly so, but there is so much more to Australian history.'

Chris Bowen said his inspiration for the night was spreading the story of what happened.

'Tobruk is equal to Gallipoli and Kokoda in Australian history: this was the first

time the German war machine had been stopped dead in its tracks, all through Europe. All before them had been defeated. And it was the Aussie Diggers who stopped the Germans.'

'I played 7 tests for the wallabies 15 years ago and I haven't shut up about it since, yet these people did what they did and got on with life without seeking glory or recognition,' said Peter Fitzsimons.

Mr Widdows, a Tobruk veteran, said it was events like these that helped share the story. 'We go to classrooms with maps and other sorts of stuff but it is an event like this that really gets the story out,' he said.

'It's important we honour the heroes of Tobruk while they are still with us. The legend of Tobruk is one that needs to be taught to current generations,' said Chris Bowen.



REMEMBERING HEROES Peter Fitzsimons and Chris Bowen with veterans Gordon Steele OAM and Ray Widdows OAM.