

The St Clair & Erskine Park Report

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

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

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 *St Clair & Erskine 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

Yours faithfully,

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

Chris Bowen MP
Federal Member for Prospect

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.”

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



(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.

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 for more information.

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

Rollout of Keys2Drive

The rollout of **keys2drive** – an innovative driver education program which will provide thousands of free driving lessons to learner drivers and their parents – has begun.

Keys2drive is an important new, national road safety initiative. It provides extra incentive for novice drivers to get more on-the-road experience, become better informed and more confident.

SPECIFICALLY, KEYS2DRIVE:

- Gives learner drivers and a parent or mentor a free professional driving lesson from an accredited instructor;
- Supports parents and mentors with instructional material and practical guidance on how to provide effective supervision and

training to a learner driver;

- Provides an interactive website offering short instructional videos, educational games and the location of their nearest accredited driving instructor; and
- Delivers the country’s first ever national accreditation scheme for driving instructors.

The program is a practical way of equipping young people with the skills for a lifetime of safer driving.

Keys2drive has been developed by the Australian Automobile Association (AAA), the NRMA



and other motoring clubs around Australia, with funding from the Federal Government and support from the driver training industry.

To find out more information about the program as well as to locate the nearest accredited instructor go to: www.keys2drive.com.au

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 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.

The St Clair & Erskine Park Report

LOCAL NEWS

Neighbourhood Centres Week (9-16 May 2010)

St Clair Youth and Neighbourhood Team welcome local residents to free and friendly community breakfasts to celebrate Neighbourhood Centres Week; come along and see what your local Neighbourhood Centre has on offer.



Monday 10 May 2010
8.00am - 9.30am
Erskine Park Neighbourhood Centre (57 Peppertree Drive, Erskine Park)

Thursday 13 May 2010
8.00am - 9.30am
Autumnleaf Neighbourhood Centre (Corner Autumnleaf Pde and Timesweep Dr, St Clair)

St Clair and Erskine Park residents are encouraged to join-in; there will be a BBQ with the usual sausages, bacon and eggs, coffee, tea and juice.

Hope to see you there, for more information please call 9834 2708.

New Youth Drop-in Service for Erskine Park



Commencing on Friday 30 April from 3.00pm – 5.00pm, the St Clair Youth and Neighbourhood Team are providing a space for young people aged between 12-17 to hang out with friends on a Friday afternoon at Erskine Park Neighbourhood Centre, which is just a short walk from Erskine Park High School.

Drop-in at Erskine Park offers a fun, safe and friendly environment, with the opportunity to hang out with friends, have fun challenging others to a game of table tennis or chilling out on the playstation.

Erskine Park Needs Analysis

St Clair Youth and Neighbourhood Team are conducting a needs analysis of Erskine Park, the aim of the needs analysis is to identify the strengths of our community and to improve services and community life where possible.

Erskine Park residents can expect a survey to be placed at their doorsteps in the months of April, May and June; the survey will be placed conveniently at your door and picked up the following week.

The survey will take no more than 5 minutes and completed surveys

will automatically be entered into a worthwhile prize draw. With residents support we can work towards an even more enjoyable and safe neighbourhood. Please contact the team on 9834 2708 with any questions you may have.

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

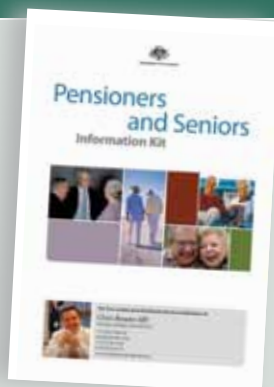
These are some of the speeches Chris has made in Parliament in 2010:



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 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

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.