

The

St Clair & Erskine Park 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 St Clair & Erskine Park 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

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

5 Water Saving Tips for the Home



YOU can do your bit for the environment these holidays.

Here are some of The Department of Environment's top water saving tips to get you started over summer...

- 1.** Take shorter showers and install a water efficient shower head - a shower uses 10-20 litres of water every minute
- 2.** Install a dual flush toilet that can save you 50 per cent of water on each flush
- 3.** Consider using grey water from the laundry on the garden
- 4.** Use mulch in the garden to prevent water loss
- 5.** Choose water efficient appliances with a high star rating, using the Australian Government's Water Efficiency Labelling Scheme.

For information about rebates for households to install rainwater tanks or greywater systems visit: <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/programs/nrgi/index.html>

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.



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.

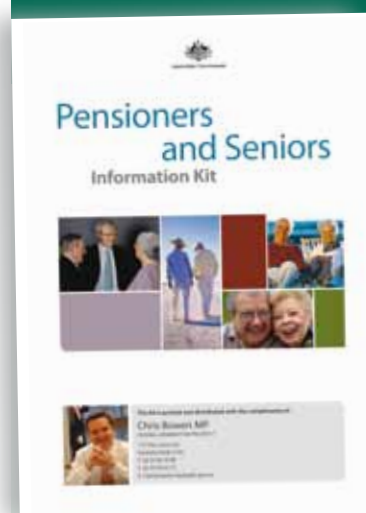


Chris in Canberra

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
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