

## Budget Newsletter 2018



*Rob Mitchell with Mr. John Wyke, Gunner with RAF 626 Bomber Squad, WWII.*

### A note from Rob...

In recent weeks, the Turnbull Government has handed down its latest Budget. Once again, the choice between this Government and Labor couldn't be more clear.

Unfortunately, it's easier for me to talk about what the government hasn't funded here in McEwen, than what it has. Why is that? Because it's hard to talk about funding that isn't there, and not one single dollar in committed funding has been given to our community.

Not one road, not one school, not one TAFE, not one hospital and not one mobile phone blackspot tower. Nothing.

The Budget was an opportunity for the Government to show the nation what it believes in, and it has done just that. We see those priorities front and centre. It believes in big banks and big business. We believe in people and a fair go.

We live in one of the fastest-growing regions in our nation with Whittlesea, Mitchell Shire and Hume all being among the fastest-growing local government areas in the country.

This growth brings with it pressure – pressure that can only be relieved by funding infrastructure, schools and healthcare.

But, yet again, this government is turning its back on our communities.

Families across our towns and suburbs are totally disregarded in this Budget, which supports big business and high income earners at the expense of families.

It is as bad a budget we have seen for the Outer North. Where is the funding for roads that we desperately need? The health services, the community facilities, broadband, mobile blackspots, new schools - they are all missing for us in this budget.

We need investment in our roads and infrastructure now and Malcolm Turnbull cannot, or will not, deliver it for us.

This Budget, like those that came before it, fails the fairness test – Australians have been proven right in their disappointment with Malcolm Turnbull, who has shown himself unable to deliver a fair budget.

This Budget is a stark reminder that if we want Canberra to know we exist - we have to change the government.

Kind regards,



**Rob Mitchell MP**

## Infrastructure – All Talk, No Detail

As with previous years, this budget did not deliver a single dollar for specific projects in McEwen.

It also showed that the Government failed to deliver any of the infrastructure funding it promised in the last budget.

In Victoria, we've been working hard to get our fair share of funding - but there's a much longer list of what hasn't been done than what has.

Here in McEwen, we've been asking for the E6 and for safer and better access to the outer-suburbs.

But instead, we're left to deal with a mess of single-lane roads and dangerous intersections.

Even Turnbull finally seems to understand the need to get on with the North-East Link, so that we can give our local roads back to local residents. But it would be nice if just once this Government did what was right by McEwen residents.



In the latest Infrastructure Priority List compiled by Infrastructure Australia, only 13 projects out of the 96 in total were in Victoria.

And of those 13, two impacted McEwen. Two projects out of 96 is just not good enough for one of the fastest-growing regions in our country.

Unlike this Government, which came to the last election with no funding for vital roads in our communities, I worked hard with our Labor caucus and committed \$120 million to the Bridge Inn Rd duplication and funding for the O'Herns Rd interchange.

Why? Because we understand what is needed and how to deliver it.

## Medicare Freeze Stays, Hospital Cuts Hit Hard

Under this Government, national average wait times for elective surgery are the longest on record. The number of hospital beds available for elderly Australians is the lowest on record. And the number of people arriving at emergency departments is the highest on record.

But instead of fixing this and making healthcare more accessible to all Australians, this government has locked in further cuts to hospitals from 2020, on top of their \$715 million in cruel cuts.

They are keeping the Medicare rebate freeze in place, meaning families in Mernda, Wallan, Sunbury and Kilmore will be forced into spending savings just to see a specialist.

Seeing a GP is costing families in Romsey and Whittlesea 20% more than just a few years ago, all thanks to this government's dodgy trickle-down economics. This is a government that cares more about delivering for their rich corporate mates than the over-worked state of our healthcare system.

**BILL SHORTEN'S BUDGET REPLY**  
**A FAIR GO FOR AUSTRALIA**

**AN EXTRA \$2.8 BILLION FOR PUBLIC HOSPITALS:**

- MORE BEDS.
- SHORTER SURGERY WAIT TIMES.

**Labor**  **A FAIR GO FOR AUSTRALIA**



*Celebrating State Government funding for Nexus Community Health Broadford.*

We in Labor are committed to sticking up for our doctors, nurses and hospital staff who are under more and more pressure. We want to see shorter waiting times for surgeries and ease the burden on our emergency departments.

Under Labor's Better Hospitals Fund, we will invest an extra \$764 million over the forward estimates to fix our public hospitals. That means that over the next 6 years, we're committing an extra \$2.8 billion in funding for more beds and shorter waiting times and we will invest in every single public hospital in the country.



# Childcare to TAFE – Cuts Hit Education

The hits just keep coming in education – it's clear the Turnbull government doesn't care for young Aussies, from childcare all the way through to universities and TAFES.

They just don't seem to care if kids start off on the wrong foot from their very first day of childcare.

Over the next three years the Government will cut;

- \$6 million from the Child Care Early Learning Projects
- \$17 billion from our schools
- An additional \$270 million from our TAFE system
- \$2.2 billion from our universities, on top of the existing freeze

McEwen is among the top 10 electorates nation-wide with students attending government schools, so we know first-hand just how many kids and parents are impacted by these brutal cuts.

We know just how devastating these cuts will be to schools squeezing every dollar to deliver excellent learning outcomes for our kids.

Labor understands the need for quality education, no matter your income. That's why we will restore fair, needs-based funding to all schools and put back the \$17 billion this Government has robbed from our schools.

We have all seen the lack of priority given to education by this Government, but even we were gobsmacked by the Minister for Education's comments about the efficacy and importance of our TAFE programs.

In an utterly bizarre attack, Minister Birmingham actually said that the TAFE system is like funding 'basket-weaving'. With comments like that, it's no wonder their latest budget cut still more funding, on top of the \$3 billion they have already cut from our TAFEs and apprenticeships.



Australian trades are facing a massive skills shortage – from carpenters and bricklayers to bakers and pastry cooks. But despite high unemployment, the Government's cuts means that workers can't learn the skills that industries are crying out for.

Labor recognises the vital contribution our TAFE system makes to our economic prosperity. We understand that without a properly funded TAFE, countless vital industries are left without the skilled workers they need.

That's why we're committed to investing \$100 million to modernise TAFE facilities around the country.

And when it comes to our universities, this latest budget means that in 2019, there will be 10,000 fewer university places for Aussie students.

A Labor government is committed to delivering more for young people throughout Australia. We understand that education is the key to our future and that's why we will reverse the cuts and uncap student places. This will open the door for around 1,500 more McEwen residents to head off to university.

We won't stand for \$80 billion being handed over to the top end of town when universities and TAFE budgets are brutally slashed, because we understand that education is the key to securing our economy and creating opportunities.

# Handling Issues

## Liberal vs Labor



### ECONOMY AND JOBS

This Government has doubled the debt and presided over record low wage growth. On top of this, Malcolm Turnbull wants to give a \$80billion tax handout to big business and the banks.

Labor thinks working Australians are more important than multinationals, big banks and big business. We will deliver bigger and fairer tax cuts for 10 million working Australians.



### ABC

The Budget cuts \$84 million from the ABC; this is on top of \$254 million they have already cut.

In Government Labor will reverse these cuts. We'll also guarantee funding certainty over the next ABC budget cycle so they can get on with providing the content and services that Australians trust and rely on.



### AID

This budget cuts \$140 million on top of the \$11 billion already cut from the aid program. Over the next decade this will get even worse, falling to just 0.16 per cent of GNI.

Labor will, to the fullest extent that financial circumstances allow, rebuild and grow the Australian aid program in a timely manner.



### SCHOOLS

Malcolm Turnbull's \$17 billion cut to schools is still in the budget.

Labor will restore fair, needs-based funding and replace the full \$17 billion that the Liberals have cut from our schools.



### TAFE

Since the Coalition came to office there are over 140,000 fewer apprentices and trainees in Australia. The Liberals are cutting \$270 million from TAFE, on top of more than \$3 billion already cut.

Labor will scrap upfront fees for 100,000 TAFE students in high priority sectors. We will invest in a Building TAFE for the Future Fund—renovating campuses and programs to help older workers re-train in later life.



### UNIVERSITIES

This Liberal budget still cuts \$2.2 billion from universities. This is on top of a freeze to university funding means 10,000 fewer places are available next year.

Labor believes in quality universities that's why we will reverse cuts and uncap students places – providing our nation with over 200,000 more university graduates.



### HOSPITALS

Malcolm Turnbull has cut \$2.8billion from hospitals - now elective surgery wait times are the longest on record.

Labor will reverse public hospital cuts and create a \$2.8billion Better Hospitals Fund - more beds, shorter surgery wait times and upgraded emergency departments.



## MEDICARE

This Government is continuing the freeze to Medicare rebates - increasing out-of-pocket costs to see a doctor and making specialist visits more expensive.

Labor will invest \$80 million for 20 MRI machines – meaning 500,000 more scans funded by Medicare.  
Labor will cap private health insurance premium rises at 2% for two years.



## PENSIONERS

The Liberals have now tried three times to cut the Energy Supplement – that's \$14 less a fortnight to help pensioners pay power bills. Malcolm Turnbull is still telling Australians to work until they're 70.

Labor has opposed these cruel measures, and will continue to fight them strongly.



## HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Under Tony Abbott and Malcolm Turnbull funding and services to address homelessness have been cut and the homelessness reduction target scrapped.

A Shorten Labor Government will develop a national plan to reduce homelessness, including \$88 million Safe Housing Fund - more transitional housing options for women and children escaping domestic and family violence.  
Labor will reform negative gearing and capital gains tax concessions.



## CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon emissions are higher than when Malcolm Turnbull took office and are projected to keep rising. Yet this Government scrapped the Clean Energy Target and under their watch we have lost 1 in 3 renewable energy jobs.

Labor is serious about tackling climate change.  
Labor has set a:

- 50% renewable energy target by 2030;
- 45% emissions reduction target by 2030;
- Zero net pollution by 2050.



## INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Malcolm Turnbull rejected the Uluru Statement from the Heart and his budget slashes \$1.5 billion in support for remote Indigenous housing and employment.

Labor supports the idea of a formal Indigenous voice to Parliament and a Makarrata Commission as requested by First Nations people in the Uluru Statement of the Heart.



## WOMEN

The 2018 Budget doesn't contain a single measure that directly addresses women's long-term and structural economic disadvantage.

Labor will add 10 days paid domestic violence leave to the National Employment Standards, take action to close the gender pay gap and remove the "tampon tax".



# AROUND THE GROUNDS



Live Fire Exercise Chong Ju at Puckapunyal



Visiting the team at Karingal Nursing Home in Seymour



Chatting to Luscombe Motors owner Heath about Labor's plan to help Aussie mechanics



Celebrating National Volunteer Week at Parliament House with 'Our Turn To Care'



Hearing from Tayte Fowler about his experiences with juvenile diabetes and his role as a JDRF Ambassador



Catching up with the team from Sunbury Community Health at the Sunbury Carers Victoria Mingle event



Talking penalty rates with locals in Sunbury at one of my regular street stalls



Congratulating the hardworking team from Wandong History Group, on their wonderful 'Walk Through The Wars' installation



Whittlesea Community House happy to receive a Stronger Communities Program grant for their bus



Kicking off women's footy at Mernda FC

Shop E00-48, 340 Craigieburn Rd, Craigieburn VIC 3064

**Toll free:** 1300 701 966

**Phone:** 03 9333 0440 **Fax:** 03 9333 8377

[www.robmitchell.com.au](http://www.robmitchell.com.au)

**Email:** Rob.Mitchell.MP@aph.gov.au



Authorised by R. Mitchell ALP

Shop E00-48 340 Craigieburn Rd, Craigieburn VIC 3064

Designed and Printed by Currency Print  
& Corporate Communications.