

ROB MITCHELL MP



Autumn Newsletter 2018

A note from Rob...

In another busy start to the year, it has been a pleasure to meet and speak with so many of you at community events, Australia Day celebrations, markets, fairs and ANZAC Day celebrations.

As I prepare to head back up to Canberra to take those stories and experiences and advocate for our towns, I am reminded about the cruel cuts this Liberal National Government has tried time and time again to foist on our communities.

Malcolm Turnbull's long-promised but never delivered plan for "jobs and growth" has yet again materialised as the exact same plan he and his team always had – a plan to give a tax cut to multinationals.

While I hope for a different outcome, we know that this upcoming Budget will continue to put the needs of big business over battlers – and high income earners over working families.

At the end of the day, this is all about choices and priorities. We're for the fair go; they're for the top end of town.

We in the Labor Party are fighting for a fair go for all Australians, because everyone deserves an economy that works for all of us – we all are entitled to a shot at success, no matter your postcode.

Labor will deliver a fair go for all Australians by focusing on the things that really make the difference:

- Protecting Medicare
- Reversing school cuts
- Restoring penalty rates and
- Investing in local jobs.

We'll pay for this by reversing Turnbull's \$65 billion tax handout for big business.

Turnbull and his Liberals have shown us time and time again by their priorities that they are for the top end of town.

He's choosing to give big business a \$65 billion tax handout while cutting schools, cutting hospitals, cutting penalty rates and increasing taxes for seven million working Australians. That is not a fair go. That is just out of touch.

Turnbull is out of touch. His cuts means middle and working class families will pay more.

We will not stop fighting these battles on priorities. Because that's what we stand for, and it's what a Labor Government will do.

Kind regards,

Rob Mitchell MP



Malcolm Turnbull, **Fix Our Hospitals**

Our communities rely on local hospitals to keep us healthy and well. Our hardworking nurses and doctors do an amazing job under incredible pressure, but they are being asked to do too much with too little, and that is only getting harder.

With Malcolm Turnbull cutting funding to every public hospital across Australia, there's no better example of this Government's unfair priorities than this choice to give big business a \$65 billion tax cut instead of properly funding our hospitals.

Patients presenting to emergency departments requiring urgent medical attention are being left in emergency departments for longer, with only 66 per cent of urgent emergency department patients in 2016-17 seen within the recommended 30 minutes.

More than 50 percent of public hospital doctors are working unsafe hours that put them at significant risk of fatigue – including 75% of intensive care specialists. The Australian Medical Association said “the strain and the pressure on our public hospitals is having a detrimental impact on the health of our doctors.”

That's why these cuts don't make sense – at a time when our doctors and nurses are crying out for more funding, Turnbull is cutting their budgets.

These cuts are yet another addition to Turnbull's list of Medicare attacks. Every single part of the Government's continuing freeze on GPs and specialists is still in place, and Turnbull still won't fully lift his freeze until 2020. As a result, out-of-pocket costs for GPs and specialists have soared.

Labor is the party that built Medicare and we won't stop fighting to protect Medicare. In Government, Labor established historic agreements with record funding levels for public hospitals, including additional funding to address elective surgery and emergency department waiting times. Unfortunately, the Liberals have attacked and undermined these agreements at every step as part of their attacks on our health care system.

Labor will fight against these cuts because we know that our hospitals deserve better and our health needs better. That's why we are sending Turnbull a clear message: fix our hospitals.

Cuts Impacting McEwen

Health Network Impacted	Cuts 2017 - 2020
Kilmore And District Hospital	\$220,000
Seymour District Memorial Hospital	\$230,000
Northern Health – including Northern Hospital, NH Craigieburn	\$7,250,000
Western Health – including Sunbury Day Hospital	\$11,130,000



**MALCOLM
TURNBULL**
**THINKS
NORTHERN
HOSPITAL CAN
DO WITHOUT
\$7.25 MILLION.**

JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN:
WWW.ALP.ORG.AU/FIX_OUR_HOSPITALS

Authorised Rob Mitchell MP, Australian Labor Party,
and Commonwealth Bank, Campaign.



Education Cuts – Fair Funding Now



Recently we were joined in Canberra by the Australian Education Union, whose teachers are on the frontline in the public schools campaign, Fair Funding Now.

Labor is fully committed to fair funding for public schools. If elected, a Labor government will restore every dollar of the \$17 billion the Liberals have cut from schools. The Turnbull Government's cuts hit public schools hardest, with 86 per cent of cuts falling on public schools.

Labor's plan means the neediest schools will get the biggest funding increases in the fastest time. Most of the neediest schools are public schools, which will be many billions of dollars better off as we restore the whole of the \$17 billion funding cut over ten years

Every child, regardless of where they live, should have the option to attend a great public school where they can make strong progress each and every year. Our public schools are among our nation's most important institutions. One of the most fundamental responsibilities of any government should be to ensure public schools are fairly funded to deliver quality education.

Labor will properly fund all our schools based on need, so every Australian child, in every school, gets a great education.

Labor stands with parents, teachers, public school communities and unions who are fighting the Turnbull Government's cuts to school funding.

Of course it's not all about money; it's about what we do with that money in our schools that counts.

An incoming Labor government will establish a new education research institute to help improve classroom standards and better inform the use of government funding across Australian schools.

Labor will work with parents, teachers and principals to help arm them with the best and latest evidence around student growth and achievement, so teachers will be supported to exercise their professional judgement about how to best help their students.

The Turnbull Government's schools policy is not needs-based, it is not sector-blind and it is certainly not fair. The government is providing

Additional investment under Labor's plan for 2018/19:

- \$568 million for Melbourne and the urban growth areas
- \$29 million for McEwen

just 20 per cent of the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS) to public schools. Non-government schools will receive 80 per cent of their SRS from the government.

Under this approach, 87 per cent of public schools will never reach their fair level of funding, yet two thirds of private schools will be funded over the SRS.

Labor has a proud history of providing capital funding for public schools. When we were last in government, Labor invested \$14.7 billion in schools through Building the Education Revolution. The BER program built school facilities including school halls, classrooms, libraries and science centres, and addressed the maintenance backlog in public schools.

Labor doesn't just talk about education; we believe it is the great equaliser. That's why we;

- Completed 24,000 projects in 9,500 schools
- Funded over 500 Trades Training Centres
- Installed 967,000 computers in Australian schools

Labor will work closely with parents, carers, teachers, principals and the states and territories to ensure funding for a truly inclusive education system for students of all abilities.



AROUND THE GROUNDS



Bendigo Bank brings community banking services to Broadford



Roundtable with Shadow Health Minister Catherine King and Community Health leaders



Talking youth mental health at headspace, Craigieburn



Esso Longford workers fighting to protect their jobs and conditions



Mitchell Shire Suicide Prevention Network walk in Kilmore



Sikh Festival Hola Mahalla in Wallan



Discussing nuclear disarmament with 2017 Nobel Peace Laureate Tilman Ruff



Catching up with staff and students of Wallan Primary School



Talking to Whittlesea Community Connections about community legal services