

ROB MITCHELL MP



Autumn 2017

A note from Rob...

As we prepare to head back to Canberra for the upcoming Budget, I am reminded about the cruel cuts this Liberal National Government has tried to foist on our community in the last four years.

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

Malcolm Turnbull promised throughout the entire election campaign last year a plan for jobs and growth – what we got was a plan to give a tax cut to multinationals and millionaires.

While this government promises fairness through legislation, in reality it wants to treat mum and dad businesses exactly the same way as those with a multi-million dollar turnover.

For most people, a small business could be our local shops or a café but in Malcolm Turnbull's Australia it's a business with \$50 million in turnover a year.

As we head into yet another end of financial year with confusion and lack of leadership, we already have a sense of what Malcolm Turnbull prioritises.

We've seen it in how they have rolled over on protecting Penalty Rates for workers, in their disastrous and potentially illegal handling of the Centrelink debt debacle and in their complete refusal to tackle Australia's housing affordability crisis.

Labor is fighting to protect our community against:

- Cuts to schools
- Cuts to Medicare
- Tax breaks for banks and multinationals
- Attacks on workers' conditions
- No real plan on housing affordability
- No vision for growing sustainable jobs in our regions

The difference between Labor and Liberal could not be clearer.

We'll put people first, while Malcolm Turnbull and the Liberal Party will look after millionaires and multinationals.

Labor will not stop fighting this cruel and heartless Turnbull Government. If this Budget is just more of the same attacks on the most vulnerable in our community, then it will end up in the same place. The scrap heap.

Kind regards,

Rob Mitchell MP



Labor Fights For Penalty Rates

After the unexpected decision in March by the Fair Work Commission (FWC) to strip protections for weekend work, Labor lodged a submission asking the FWC to set aside its decision to cut penalty rates.

We know that in order to protect workers who rely on these rates to get by, Malcolm Turnbull's penalty rate cut cannot be moderated or transitioned – it must be stopped completely.

Labor believes that there are no acceptable “transition” arrangements in place and the decision must be set aside entirely. These are Malcolm Turnbull's cuts: he supports them and he could stop them if he wanted.

Up to 700,000 Australians will lose up to \$77 a week because of Malcolm Turnbull's cuts. Many of these people live and work in the towns and suburbs across McEwen.

We don't need to guess what the next step will be, because we're seeing it already. Millions of workers who rely on weekend penalty rates risk having their pay cut as employers continue to apply to reduce conditions across a range of other sectors.

The fact that the Commission is continuing to review other awards is further proof that the first round of penalty rates is just the thin edge of the wedge of a broader assault on the take-home pay of Australian workers.

If the Prime Minister truly cared about protecting workers, he could support Labor's Bill in the Parliament, which will stop his cuts to penalty rates and protect the take-home pay for people who rely on penalty rates into the future.

Instead, the Government's submission has sold out Australian workers.



This is why Labor has also made submissions to the FWC opposing:

- The proposal that the Restaurant Industry should get a second chance to convince the FWC to cut the penalty rates of 143,975 workers under their award;
- Extending these devastating cuts to the 96,370 workers under the Clubs Award; and
- Any move to review and cut penalty rates for the 84,400 worker in the hairdressing and beauty industry.

A Fair Go on Housing

The great Australian dream has turned into the great Australian nightmare on Malcolm Turnbull's watch. Malcolm Turnbull's only solution to affording to buy a house is 'get rich parents'.

And while the Government continues to fight with each other over what to do, the crisis is going from bad to worse.

The issue of housing affordability is something that is raised with me in each and every town across McEwen. Whether it is parents, worried about their children being driven out of home ownership by investors, young families feeling the increasing stress of mortgages that show no sign of slowing or those who just see no hope for them having secure, affordable housing.

Of course we need to look at issues like supply, but the housing affordability crisis won't be solved without addressing the unsustainable tax breaks for wealthy property speculators. We just can't afford to support millionaires with three, four and five houses through negative gearing. It costs the Budget and it costs our kids' ability to get a foot into the housing market.

We know that as more people look north of Melbourne for relief from the crush of millionaire investors, that this problem will only get worse.

The most recent suggestion from this chaotic government is that young people should raid their super to raise a deposit - well in the words of Malcolm Turnbull, this is a 'thoroughly bad idea'.

Malcolm Turnbull's weakness and his government's divisions are now contributing to the crisis. Our community, especially our kids, deserve more leadership than this.



Local Sporting Champs

Every few months, my office is brimming with talented young people at an afternoon tea held to honour their efforts in sport. These young men and women are recipients of the Local Sporting Champions Grant.

This program is an Australian Government initiative to provide financial assistance for young people aged 12-18, towards the cost of travel, accommodation, uniforms or equipment when competing, coaching or officiating at an official national sporting organisation endorsed state, national or international sporting championships or a School Sport Australia state or national championships.

Each of these local champions has been recognised for their commitment and achievement in their chosen sport at a young age.

The \$500 grant acknowledges that young people often find it difficult to meet the ongoing and significant costs associated with participation at sporting competitions, particularly those from regional areas.

Not only is this recognition of the recipients' dedication, but also the support by their parents and families.

Application information and forms for future rounds of the Local Sporting Champions Grants can be found at www.ausport.gov.au. I encourage young people competing at the elite level of their sports to check out the information and put in an application.



Congratulations to our recent recipients:

Anna Gurnett	Eden Park	Equestrian
Alannah Hydon-Woods	Gisborne	Athletics (discus)
Benjamin Cosgriff	Sunbury	Water Skiing
Brad Oliver	Sunbury	Softball
Brandon Pritchard	Craigieburn	Rugby League
Brandon Vucica	Sunbury	Softball
Charlie Sutherland	Romsey	Baseball
Chloe Molloy	Whittlesea	Basketball
Chryselia Gracias	South Morang	Table Tennis
Clancy Grant	Arthurs Creek	Equestrian
Cody Rodwell	Clarkefield	Softball
Ethan Wellby	Sunbury	Touch
Felix Nuitili-Schmidt	Craigieburn	Rugby League
Gabrielle Newton	Doreen	Australian Football
Heaven-Lee Valenti	Doreen	Basketball
Isabella Simonelli	Goldie	Athletics (throwing)
Isabelle Luxmoore	Gisborne	Equestrian
Jack Bowen	Craigieburn	Boxing
Jacob Haley	Romsey	Ice Hockey
Jade Dunne	Sunbury	Basketball
Jarrold Woods	Doreen	Athletics
Jayden Carr	Doreen	Swimming
Jeremy Luke	Bullengarook	Goalball
Jessica Grant	Arthurs Creek	Equestrian
Joel Woods	Doreen	Athletics
Joseph Serra	South Morang	Softball
Kiralee Collings	Sunbury	Basketball
Korangimaria Julian-Tua	Craigieburn	Touch
Lucy Zotti	Seymour	Athletics
Maahirah Diedericks	South Morang	Karate
Madyson Kaye	Panton Hill	Equestrian
Marnus Prinsloo	Doreen	Hockey
Maxine Paholek	Seymour	Athletics
Paige Andrews	South Morang	Basketball
Riley Dinsdale	Sunbury	Football (soccer)
Sam Ramsey	Gisborne	Australian Football
Sebastien Bell-Bartels	Gisborne	Australian Football
Shante Pisani	South Morang	Volleyball
Simran Gandhi	Craigieburn	Cricket
Taine Venables	Oaklands Junction	Motor Sport
Trent Katene	Craigieburn	Touch Football
Will Rutley	Panton Hill	Hockey

Education Cuts How They Hit Us

Despite the Liberals' promises in 2013 to match Labor's school funding "dollar for dollar", Malcolm Turnbull will continue to cut \$29 billion from our classrooms over the next decade.

The changes by the Liberal Government means that either parents will be forced to pay or our schools will be forced to cut back on teachers, programs and opportunities for our kids.

Labor's plan will put people first by making sure every student in every school has the support they need to achieve their best. The Liberals will do nothing but cut.



These are just some of the local schools that will be impacted by this total backflip on education funding:

School	Cut Each Year from 2018
Mount Ridley P-12 College	\$ 2,200,000
Seymour College	\$ 1,200,000
Hazel Glen College	\$ 1,100,000
Gisborne Secondary College	\$ 1,000,000
Sunbury College	\$ 1,000,000
Sunbury And Macedon Ranges Specialist School	\$ 900,000
Whittlesea Secondary College	\$ 900,000
Sunbury Downs Secondary College	\$ 800,000
Broadford Secondary College	\$ 700,000
Laurimar Primary School	\$ 700,000
Mernda Primary School	\$ 700,000
Aitken Creek Primary School	\$ 700,000
Willmott Park Primary School	\$ 700,000
Wallan Primary School	\$ 600,000
Wallan Secondary College	\$ 600,000

Again, I offer my thanks and my congratulations to all those involved with these great clubs and organisations who put in so much time, effort and heart to make our communities even better places to live.



Broadford R.S.L



With World War 2 Veteran Robert Stokes, Craigieburn War Memorial.



Ross Gregson, Shadow Minister Richard Marles and Col Parry. Vietnam Veterans Walk.



Touring the brand new Mernda Park Primary School

Visiting Hilton Street Preschool in Craigieburn

SunFest Annual Lunch



Congratulating Ethan Daws on his swimming success



On air with Alan Edwards on Seymour FM 103.9



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