

The Kingsford Smith Report

A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FROM PETER GARRETT – FEDERAL MEMBER FOR KINGSFORD SMITH ■ WINTER 2010

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Environment

Welcome to my latest newsletter featuring a number of our commitments and great news on Malabar Headland.



With Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, at Maroubra Beach announcing that Malabar Headland was being handed back to the people of NSW.

Saving Malabar Headland was an absolute priority for me since my election in 2004.

The headland is one of the most important environmental assets in our area, home to hundreds of species of plants and native animals – it's a rare treasure.

On Sunday 1 August, Prime Minister Julia Gillard and I announced that 70 hectares of highly significant, heritage-listed native bushland would be given back to the people of NSW for national park and public open space to be enjoyed by the community forever.

This includes the eastern coastal escarpment with its WW II sites and indigenous heritage, and the precious western bush corridor, previously under threat from potential development.

I want to acknowledge everyone who has participated in the campaign all of whom contributed to save this special jewel.

The protection of Malabar Headland is fantastic news for the people of Kingsford Smith, and I am very proud to have played my part.

Health

With 12 public and private hospitals in our local community, we have access to an **extensive network of health services.**

The Gillard Labor Government is committed to better health and hospital services – which will be funded nationally and run locally.

UNDER OUR HEALTH AND HOSPITAL PLAN WE:

- Have already increased hospital funding by 50 per cent;
- Will fund more nurses with over 1,000 new training places for nurses every year; and
- Will fund more doctors by doubling the number of GP training places to 1300 over three years.

Locally, we've already funded an additional 12 beds at the Prince of Wales Hospital and nationally we have increased aged care places by more than 10,000, including 838 new transition care places to help more than 6,200 older Australians leave hospital sooner each year.

MENTAL HEALTH

I am proud of the Gillard Labor Government's commitment of \$276 million to tackle suicide and promote better mental health in our community. We will provide:

- \$113.9 million for more frontline services to help people with severe mental illness;
- \$74.3 million towards direct suicide prevention activities including \$18.1 million for Lifeline Australia so calls to Lifeline from mobiles will be toll-free and the organisation can increase their call capacity by around 60 per cent.

The funding also includes \$65.9 million to provide more services to promote resilience and good mental health in our young Australians. These measures are important and I want to see them implemented to make sure that we help people in need.

Lifeline Australia's telephone number is 13 11 14 or visit www.lifeline.org.au

ELECTION Saturday 21 August – Remember voting is compulsory

Education

A good education and access to the best facilities and opportunities to learn is really important to give our kids a great start in life.



During a visit to Mascot Public School, it was terrific to hear the excitement of students, staff and parents about their nearly-completed school hall – a facility the school did not have until the Gillard Labor Government's *Building the Education Revolution*.

Here in Kingsford Smith, our local schools have received a record \$85 million as part of the largest school modernisation program in the nation's history, building the halls, libraries and other facilities that can make a good school great.

Overwhelmingly, schools and parents are telling me that this support has made a huge difference.

Delivering more than 300,000 computers in over 2000 schools through the Digital Education Revolution will ensure our kids have the IT skills necessary to find and hold a job in almost every industry in the future.

Our commitment to building Trades Training Centres in schools will also mean that kids get a

chance to learn a trade and important skills for life.

The Gillard Labor Government plans to increase the maximum payment rate of Family Tax Benefit Part A by more than \$150 per fortnight for teenagers aged 16 to 18 years who are in school or an equivalent vocational qualification. This could see parents receiving up to an extra \$4,000 a year per teenager.

And for mums, dads and carers having access to information is one of the best ways we ensure that our kids are getting the best start possible.

That's why we created the **MySchool** website providing unprecedented information for parents about their kids' schools.

www.myschool.edu.au

Small Business

The Gillard Labor Government understands how important small businesses are to our economy and in supporting jobs.

In Kingsford Smith we have around 15,000 small businesses providing everything from construction services to tourism, through to restaurants and accommodation.

Running a small business can be tough. We understand the importance of cutting red tape and freeing up time and energy, so small business operators can concentrate on their bread and butter.

THAT'S WHY WE:

- Have provided tax breaks to small business during the global recession;
- Will provide an additional tax break from 1 July 2012, when small businesses in Kingsford Smith will be able to instantly write off the full value of assets costing up to \$5,000 in the year of purchase;
- Will give small businesses a head start with a cut to the company tax rate, reducing the rate to 29 per cent from 1 July 2012 – one year ahead of the cuts for larger companies.

Cutting business taxes also has flow on benefits for the family budget because it helps to keep the costs of basic goods and services down. So it's a win for business operators and consumers.

Tax cuts for families

Tax cuts have been delivered in the last three years for working families and low income earners, so someone earning \$50,000 a year is now paying \$1,750 less in tax than they were in 2007.