

The Kingsford Smith Report

B U D G E T E D I T I O N

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

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The Kingsford Smith Budget 2010 Edition

The Federal Labor Government gets the Budget back in the black three years ahead of schedule and ahead of every major advanced economy and again delivers for our local community with important tax breaks for small business, simplified tax returns for working families and a boost to superannuation.

The 2010-11 Budget reinforces the Government's record of strong economic management while delivering on important areas like health and hospitals. Highlights include:

- Investing an additional \$2.2 billion in the health system, taking the Government's new investment in

the National Health and Hospitals Network to \$7.3 billion over five years.

- Tax break to each of the 21,189 small businesses in Kingsford Smith.
- Tax cuts for a third year in a row.
- Simpler tax returns.

- A boost to superannuation to bring the compulsory employer contribution from 9% up to 12%.
- \$652 million fund to support renewable energy and energy efficiency that will help households save on power bills.

More on Budget 2010 inside.

Peter Garrett writes...

Welcome to the Budget edition of my newsletter. It is always a special moment when the Treasurer gets to his feet on Budget night to announce the Government's plans for the year ahead and this year was no different.

This Budget gets us back in the black three years ahead of time whilst managing one of the most challenging financial periods since the Great Depression. Importantly, it delivers on our commitment to health and hospital reform, plus some really practical changes for families and small business. You'll find more details in this newsletter.

I was delighted too that in this Budget the Government announced an extra \$12 million over two years to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to help strengthen the resilience of one of our most important natural heritage places – the Great Barrier Reef.

The funding includes \$4 million in the National Education Centre for the Great Barrier Reef, Reef HQ Aquarium, in Townsville. Reef HQ is a great tourist attraction and if you ever get the chance to go to Townsville, I encourage a visit.

Closer to home, the Government is also supporting the plans of the Australian National Maritime Museum at Darling Harbour to build a new education and public

programs facility as well as an extension to the National Museum of Australia in Canberra.

We also pay tribute to two living legends in our community. John Cann, "the snake man of La Perouse" recently held his last show, ending a family tradition going back nearly a century. I was really pleased to have the chance to say goodbye last month, along with over 600 others!

I also caught up with Little Bay resident Tony Rafty, an eminent caricaturist, who has been drawing well-known people for decades, following his proud service record as a war artist and journalist in the Second World War.

Please contact my office if you need further information.



Peter Garrett AM

Federal Member for Kingsford Smith
Minister for Environment Protection,
Heritage and the Arts



Health and hospital reform

An additional \$2.2 billion investment in the health system

One of the things people talk to me about most when I am out and about is the importance of being able to see a doctor when they're sick. The National Health and Hospitals Network will deliver better hospitals and better health care for all Australians.

On a recent visit to the Prince of Wales Hospital where our frontline doctors and nurses perform miracles everyday, I met with staff and patients to update them on new health measures announced in the Budget including:

- Upgrading more than 400 GP clinics and primary care services to provide more health and services to the community, like out of hours care
- Building 23 more GP Super Clinics to strengthen our primary care system
- \$523 million for additional support and training for our nurses, including aged care nurses
- \$639 million to train a record number of doctors to tackle doctor shortages, expand capacity and deliver better health and better hospitals to all Australians
- \$467 million investment to modernise our health and hospital system through a new e-Health initiative



Chatting with Jorge Zalazar of South Coogee during his stay at the Prince of Wales Hospital Randwick.



The new health reform is the most significant improvement to our health system since the introduction of Medicare.

It is designed to deliver better health results for more Australians. Find out more at www.yourhealth.gov.au or contact my office.

Budget delivers for our sporting future



With past recipients of the Local Sporting Champion's Fund and Olympians of the future!

We have heaps of budding sporting legends in our local community and thanks to this latest Budget our future champions will have double the chance to tap into the Federal Government's Local Sporting Champion's Fund.

Young people aged between 12-18 years needing to travel more than 250km to compete in eligible sporting events can apply for one of 24 individual grants of \$500 and two team grants of \$3000.

These grants can be used to meet travel costs, accommodation, uniforms and equipment.

Grants are also open to young coaches, umpires and referees so I encourage you to apply. Details at www.ausport.gov.au or contact my office.

Tax cuts to help families with the rising cost of living

We understand that with the **cost of living** going up, it's important that we do what we can to take some of the pressure off.

The 2010 Budget delivered the third round of tax cuts in three years to families, low income workers and seniors in Kingsford Smith.

Furthermore, workers in Kingsford Smith will also be able to earn up to \$16,000 and not have to pay income tax – that's up from \$11,000 in 2007-08!

GET RID OF THE SHOE BOX

Filling out a tax return will be easier thanks to new tax reforms. From 1 July 2012 taxpayers will have the option of choosing a standard deduction of \$500 instead of claiming work-related expenses. The standard deduction will be increased to \$1,000 from 1 July 2013

More detail at www.futuretax.gov.au



Talking about the things that matter with locals at the Mayor's Senior Garden Party in Botany.

Tax breaks for small business

Sole traders, partnerships and incorporated small businesses will be able to instantly deduct the cost of assets valued at up to \$5000 and from 1 July 2010 company tax rate will be reduced from 30 per cent to 28 per cent.

More detail at www.futuretax.gov.au

More for our seniors

TAX REFORM

This year's Budget will also increase the amount of income a senior Australian, eligible for the Senior Australian Tax Offset (SATO), can earn before they pay income tax or the Medicare Levy.

The income threshold eligible senior Australians can earn tax free will increase from \$29,867 to \$30,685 for singles and from \$25,680 to \$26,680 for each member of a couple.

Visit www.seniors.gov.au to get more info for Seniors.

PENSION REFORM

Remember, pensions are now indexed twice a year (March and September) to the highest increase of three measures: the consumer price index (CPI), the pensioner living cost index, and growth in male total average weekly earnings (MTAWE).

The Government's Pension Reforms increased the effective benchmark for singles from 25 per cent to 27.7 per cent of MTAWE.

Call my office for a *Pensioners and Seniors Kit* or download it at www.petergarrett.com.au

Renewable energy & energy efficiency

The Budget contained a new \$652 million fund to support renewable energy and energy efficiency that will help households save on power bills.

We are committed to reducing our carbon pollution and tackling climate change, and this investment will help the people in our community do their bit in reducing their carbon emissions and their energy bills.



Hearing about the concerns of our Senior Australians.



Tony working on his drawing of me in his Little Bay "museum".

Catching up with a living legend

Little Bay resident and caricaturist, Tony Rafty, has been drawing well-known people for decades.

I enjoyed sitting for him recently and hearing about his encounters over many years with politicians, golfers, entertainers and visiting celebrities including Sir Robert Menzies, Alfred Hitchcock and Nat King Cole.

Access to Justice is a new website which gives Australians access to information about legal assistance and related services in their area.

www.accesstojustice.gov.au

School students in grades 5-10 can learn about Australia's 17 World Heritage sites by participating in a competition sponsored by **Australia's World Heritage Places Education Program**.

For teachers, the website has lesson plans, fact sheets and links that enable teachers to use the program within their state curriculum.

www.heritage.gov.au/education

Affordable housing

It was a great occasion to meet a group of happy neighbours when I attended the opening – including smoking ceremony – of a new affordable housing development in Matraville with Minister for Housing, Tanya Plibersek.

Degree Constructions has built a total of 13 new one and two

bedroom homes as part of the Federal Government's Nation Building Economic Stimulus Plan and everyone we met was really pleased with the results.

Importantly, the new Matraville homes are located near shops, parks and medical practices.



The smoking ceremony at the opening of new accommodation in Matraville.

Thank you to the snake man

John Cann, "the snake man of La Perouse", has been a proud and effective community showman and educator for nearly half a century.

Before that, John's father, George Snr, had worked the snake pit at La Perouse, as part of a family tradition going back 91 years in total.

So it was with a mixture of sadness and anticipation that I attended John's last show on 18 April, to say thank you and farewell – along with a terrific crowd of more than 600 people, including several generations of many local families.

Michael Daley, the State MP for Maroubra, and I climbed into the snake pit during the show (although the snakes were not out of the bags yet!) to thank John and lead the crowd in three cheers for a job well done.

John, 72, is handing over the show, featuring, red-bellied black snakes, brown snakes, goannas, lizards, and other reptiles to the Hawkesbury Herpetological Society. He



John Cann "the snake man of La Perouse", Michael Daley MP and me.

deserves our heartfelt thanks for terrific community service and a lifetime committed to practical, hands-on nature education and conservation.