



KELLY O'DWYER

Federal Member for **Higgins**

Community Newsletter Winter 2018

The Turnbull Government is providing \$5 billion to build a rail link to the airport.



\$5b to build Melbourne Airport Rail Link

Traffic congestion and crowded public transport reduce our standard of living and are a drain on our economy.

That is why I am thrilled that the Turnbull Government's 2018 Budget includes a \$7.8 billion package for new roads and rail across Victoria, including \$5 billion to build the Melbourne Airport Rail Link.

The Airport Rail Link will bust congestion, slash travel times,

boost productivity and create thousands of jobs.

Melbourne will finally be in the same league as other major international cities like New York, London and Sydney.

I was proud to advocate strongly for this project and I am delighted that it will now become a reality.

Other highlights of the package include funding to connect Monash University's Caulfield and Clayton campuses, and a

Victorian Congestion Package.

This record investment in transport infrastructure will enhance both the liveability of our city and the productivity of our state for the benefit of all Victorians.

This announcement brings the total amount of Australian Government funding available for Victorian infrastructure to 23.8 per cent.

Read more at tinyurl.com/y8wl7p24

Planting native gardens

Students have planted a native garden at Glen Iris Primary School.



Glen Iris Primary School has created a native bird garden, enabling the students to learn about the importance of caring for our environment.

The garden was partly funded by the Turnbull Government's Higgins Schools Sustainable Native Gardens Project.

The project has been a fantastic effort by the parents, students and teachers who worked together to create this space.

The project is giving students across Higgins an opportunity to research local plants and to create their own native garden at their school.

Another great Clean Up Australia Day

Clean Up Australia Day is always a great opportunity to clean up our local environment.

A big thank you to everyone who was involved in this year's effort.

The 13th Malvern Scouts and members of the local community joined in and ensured Gardiners Creek in Ashburton was left spotless! Well done particularly to Cathy and Marcel van der Zee,



Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help clean up Higgins on Clean Up Australia Day.

who have organised a clean-up team in Ashburton for 13 years.

Support for local community groups

There are so many fantastic organisations across Higgins that make a vast contribution to our community.

I am pleased to have been able to secure federal support for a number of organisations under the Stronger Communities Program to help improve community participation.

Samarinda Ashburton Aged Services has been responding to the needs of our local community for over 20 years.

I am delighted to have been able to secure matching Federal Government funding to help Samarinda buy a car.

The car will enable Samarinda to offer transport to and from community activities, providing more opportunities for older people to socialise and stay active.

I am also pleased to have recently secured federal support to upgrade lighting at Carnegie's Lord Reserve; provide portable goals for Glen Eira Junior Soccer Club; and upgrade the kitchen at Melbourne Bowling Club in Windsor, among other projects.



Pictured with Samarinda CEO Mark Zentgraf and staff member Dustin Pham.

Budget 2018



Budget 2018 outlines our plan to deliver a stronger economy.

Lower, fairer, simpler taxes

The Turnbull Government has announced a plan to make income tax lower, fairer and simpler, so Australians keep more of their money.

Stage one will deliver tax relief to low and middle income earners, with 10 million taxpayers standing to benefit next financial year. By completion, our plan will provide lower taxes for all taxpayers, ensuring 94 per cent of taxpayers pay no more than 32.5 cents in the dollar.

We are also ensuring the Government lives within its means. The Budget is forecast to return to a modest balance of \$2.2 billion in 2019-20 and increase to a projected surplus of \$11 billion the following year.

The Parliament can lock in our tax plan with one vote in the House of Representatives and one vote in the Senate, which will deliver certainty for the next seven years. **Visit the Tax Relief Calculator at www.budget.gov.au to find out how you will benefit.**



The Turnbull Government is supporting older Australians.

Supporting older Australians

The Turnbull Government is supporting older Australians to live longer, happier, healthier lives.

The Pension Loans Scheme will be opened to all older Australians to boost their retirement income by up to \$17,800 for a couple. We are also expanding the Pension Work Bonus.

An additional 14,000 high level home care packages will help more people stay in their own homes for longer. And we are providing an additional 13,500 residential places for those who are not able to stay at home.

For more information visit: www.budget.gov.au

Protecting the Great Barrier Reef

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest living structure and a national treasure.

The Turnbull Government's 2018 Budget includes further support to secure the reef's future.

The health of the Great Barrier Reef will benefit from \$535.8 million over five years from 2017-18.

This investment accelerates the delivery of the \$2 billion joint Australian and Queensland Government Reef 2050 Plan.



The Turnbull Government is working to protect the Great Barrier Reef for future generations.

Our plan for a stronger economy



The Turnbull Government is cracking down on the black economy, including new measures to strike at the illicit tobacco market.

Tackling the black economy

Honest businesses and taxpayers are being ripped off by those who think they are above paying tax.

That is why the Turnbull Government is taking decisive action in the fight against the black economy, which is often used by organised crime syndicates.

We are banning cash payments to businesses above \$10,000, which will stop cash purchases of housing and we are cracking down on illicit tobacco. Our black economy measures are expected to bring in around \$5.3 billion over the next four years.

Protecting your super

The Turnbull Government is introducing new measures to protect Australians' superannuation savings.

For the first time, we will automatically reunite Australians with their lost super through the ATO, ensuring it isn't eaten up in ongoing fees.

This new system is expected to reunite Australians with \$6 billion of lost savings in 2019-20 alone.

We are also banning exit fees on superannuation accounts for when you want to change funds.

Additionally, we will stop superannuation funds from forcing young people under 25 or with low balances to pay for life insurance policies they do not want or need.



The Turnbull Government will reunite Australians with their lost super savings.

Delivering record and growing public hospital funding

The Turnbull Government is guaranteeing the essential services Australians rely on such as Medicare, hospitals and mental health.

A new five-year fully funded hospital agreement will deliver record public hospital funding, including an additional \$30 billion over five years.

\$338 million in new mental health funding will focus on suicide prevention, research and older Australians. Lifeline will receive extra funding to help them answer more calls and provide vital support for more people.



Budget 2018 includes an extra \$34 million for Lifeline.

Fighting for our community

A new mobile CCTV camera will help keep our community safe.



Mobile CCTV camera delivered

High-profile armed robberies, home invasions and carjackings have caused concern in our community in recent years.

That is why I am pleased to have secured Australian Government funding for a new mobile CCTV camera.

A first for Victoria, the trailer-mounted camera can

be deployed where it is most needed to help protect our community.

I thank Stonnington Council and Malvern Police for their work on this innovative crime-fighting tool.

This initiative follows funding I have previously secured for CCTV cameras in Prahran, South Yarra, Carnegie and Ashburton. While

law and order is predominantly a State Government issue, the Turnbull Government is committed to doing everything within the Federal Government's powers to fight crime.

We are also working to protect Australians from the threat of terrorism, with \$294 million to expand security at our airports.

Support for the Victorian Pride Centre

As the Minister responsible, I was delighted to announce that the Federal Budget has enabled donations to the Victorian Pride Centre to be tax deductible.

I was pleased to advocate strongly for this within the Government. The Centre will bring together LGBTI organisations and support services under one roof.

An exhibition space will ensure the Centre is visited by the wider community, helping to break down barriers.

I will be making a personal donation and I encourage anyone who is supportive of the Centre to also consider donating. **To learn more, visit www.pridecentre.org.au**



I was delighted to catch up with Victorian Pride Centre board members Stuart and Margaret at the site of the Centre to discuss the new facility.

Poems honour our Anzac heroes

I received over 380 incredibly moving entries for my Anzac Poetry Competition which was judged by author Krista Bell, East Malvern RSL's Cam Johnstone and Toorak RSL's Mike Fogarty. I was honoured to host the finalists, as well as their families and teachers, at a special morning tea at Malvern's Eleven40 Gallery.

Anzac Day is an important opportunity to commemorate and express gratitude to those Australians who have served our nation. Congratulations to the winners, Sophie of Camberwell South Primary School and Mark of St Roch's Primary School.



Year 5-6 winner, Sophie of Camberwell South Primary School, reads her poem.



Mark of St Roch's Primary School was winner of the Year 3-4 category.



Thomas and Samantha both attended the 2017 Australian Hockey Championships in WA.

Local sporting champions

It is wonderful to be able to support our aspiring young athletes and recognise their outstanding achievements through the Local Sporting Champions program.

Federal grants are available for

12-18 year olds participating in state, national or international championships.

For more information on how to apply, please visit: tinyurl.com/mktrdks

Community Morning Tea

If you would like to share an early morning coffee or tea with me, please phone my friendly electorate staff on **9822 4422** to register for an upcoming community morning tea.

Have your say!

If you can't make it to a community event, please visit my website and fill out an online survey or call my office to discuss any issues.

Arrange a visit

If you would like me to attend your community event or visit your organisation or business in Higgins, please send me an email at kelly.odwyer.mp@aph.gov.au

Electorate Services

If I can help you with any of the following services please phone my office or send me an email at kelly.odwyer.mp@aph.gov.au

- Milestone birthday and anniversary messages
- Grants assistance
- Nominate Local Sporting Champions
- Borrow my community marquee

KELLY ODWYER
Federal Member for Higgins

I'm here to help If I can assist you, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



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