



Claire, Mark Butler MP and Laura Hardy Fraser at the Social Policy Forum held at the Wynnum Workers Club at Tingalpa in the electorate of Bonner on the afternoon Thurs 4 April.



Senator Claire Moore Weekly Update 5 Apr 2013

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"I learned a lot at yesterday's social policy forum with Laura Fraser Hardy, the Labor Candidate for Bonner, Mark Butler MP the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Social Inclusion, Housing and Homelessness and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on Mental Health Reform.

The issues discussed and the concerns raised were similar to those I've heard throughout Queensland. The availability of affordable housing and rental accommodation, Campbell Newman's cuts to the community and services sectors, the discrimination elderly Australians often face re-entering the workforce and the difficulties of taking care of children and finding work while on the Newstart Allowance.

These issues are, often fiercely, contested across Australia and hearing from those affected is one of the most important jobs I do. I appreciate everybody who attended for sharing with the Minister, Laura and I."

Senator Claire Moore, Labor Senator for Queensland

Superannuation Reforms – The Gillard Government has announced reforms to improve the fairness, efficiency and sustainability of the superannuation system. In just four years, 20 per cent of Australia's population will be over 65. In the context of an aging population, the Australian superannuation system needs to be fair and it needs to be sustainable. The announced reforms will ensure our nation is prepared for the opportunities presented by an ageing population and will help restore a number of the original intentions of the superannuation system that Labor created 20 years ago.

The reforms include capping the tax exemption on superannuation assets supporting income streams at \$100,000, with a concessional tax rate of 15 per cent applying thereafter, and apply the same treatment to defined benefit funds, simplifying the design and administration of the higher concessional contributions cap by providing an unindexed \$35,000 concessional cap to anyone who meets certain age requirements, reform the treatment of concessional contributions in excess of the annual cap and extending the normal deeming rules to superannuation account-based income streams for the purposes of the pension income test to ensure all financial investments are assessed fairly and under the same rules. The Government will establish a Council of Superannuation Custodians to ensure that any future changes are consistent with an agreed Charter of Superannuation Adequacy and Sustainability.

The reforms will make superannuation fairer for those on low incomes and more sustainable for the future by:

1. A person aged 30 today on average full-time earnings will now retire with an extra \$118,000 in superannuation savings.
2. Only people with superannuation savings of \$2 million or more will be affected by these changes – this is only 0.4% of Australians retiring in 2014-15.
3. The Liberals want to cut additional superannuation support for 3.6 million low paid Australians, including 2.1 million women, and oppose these changes for 16,000 wealthy Australians.

Here are the links: [Tax Treatment of Earnings on Superannuation Assets Supporting Income Streams](#) ;
[Reforms to make the superannuation system fairer](#)

Acquisition and transfer of land mines and cluster munitions now unlawful in Australia -

Australia has become a party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions with legislation commencing on April 1st making it an offence in Australia to develop, keep or transfer land mines or cluster munitions.

The *Criminal Code Amendment (Cluster Munitions Prohibition) Act 2012* ensures Australian law is consistent with international obligations under the Convention on Cluster Munitions, making it an offence punishable by up to ten years jail for a person to use, develop, produce, acquire, stockpile, retain or transfer cluster munitions.

Cluster munitions have claimed 10,000 civilian lives worldwide, including 4,000 children and Australia has taken a leading role in the banning and clearance of land mines and other cluster munitions addressing the tragic humanitarian impact of cluster munitions.

Locals show support for DisabilityCare Australia -

Families in Bayswater North, Victoria came out to show their support for **DisabilityCare Australia**, the national disability insurance scheme. Minister for Disability Reform, Jenny Macklin MP joined Federal Labor Member for Deakin, Mike Symon MP at Irabina Childhood Autism Services to talk with local parents and carers about the work underway to build DisabilityCare Australia.

DisabilityCare Australia will transform the way care and support is delivered for people with disability, their families and carers. The Gillard Labor Government is investing \$1 billion to deliver the first stage of the national disability insurance scheme, which will begin in five locations across the country from July this year. About 26,000 people will benefit from the first stage of DisabilityCare Australia, and important lessons will be learned as we work to roll out the scheme across the country.

Social Policy Forum with Mark Butler, MP -

Claire invited organisations and members of the public to a Social Policy Forum with Mark Butler MP, Minister for Mental Health & Ageing, Housing and Homelessness & Social Inclusion at the Wynnum Workers Club at Tingalpa on Thu 4 April.

Social policy primarily refers to the development and the putting in place of the guidelines, principles, legislation and activities which will affect the living conditions of an individual, a family or a community.

Over 60 people - individuals and groups - attended the event, the discussion was wide-ranging and the ideas and suggestions informative.

New funding to help keep children safe from the start -

Additional Australian Government funding will help vulnerable children affected by recent fires and floods in Tasmania and Queensland gain access to a therapeutic resource kit aimed at reducing the impact of trauma, abuse and violence. The resource kit includes children's books, cards, puppets, posters, training resources on CD and DVD and some tips on ways to deal with violence and trauma.

An additional \$15,000 funding for the Salvation Army Tasmania [Safe from the Start](#) training program will allow the project to expand on the already 1000 people that have participated in training and 700 resource kits distributed to more rural and remote areas and deal with the increase demand on resources since the January and February floods and fires.

Australian kids doing better in key development indicators -

According to the latest round of data from the [Australian Early Development Index \(AEDI\)](#), Australian five-year olds are developing better than they were three years ago and have improved in four of the five development indicators.

The 2012 data showed a decrease of 1.6% in the number of children who were developmentally vulnerable in one or more areas compared to the results from the first AEDI in 2009, showing the work that communities and governments have been doing to better support children and families has been paying off. Queensland showed the most improvement with a decrease in the number of developmentally vulnerable children of 3.4%.

These results demonstrate the benefits of the Gillard's Government strong focus on early childhood education and care. Labor is committed to giving every young Australian the best start to life, investing a record \$23.3 billion in early childhood education and care over the next four years and implementing the [National Plan for School Improvement](#).

Regions ready for key Mental Health Initiative -

A key part of the Gillard Labor Government's \$2.2 billion mental health reform package is a step closer with preferred applicants being selected for the \$550 million [Partners in Recovery](#) program. Partners in Recovery is designed to pull together services like income support, housing, employment, medical care and education and the program will provide coordinated support and flexible funding for people with severe and ongoing mental illness with complex support needs. So far lead organisations in

49 of the 61 **Medicare Local** regions are ready for stage one of the *Partners in Recovery* rollout, with further work occurring in the remaining regions. Contract negotiations with the successful applicants will now begin and funding for the program to roll out shortly after. Further details on the *Partners to Recovery* program are available at: <http://www.health.gov.au/mentalhealth>

Nation Building Program: Public Transport – Federal Labor has a plan to keep our cities moving, one that involves investing in both roads and rail infrastructure, doubling the roads budget and committing more to urban public transport infrastructure than all predecessors since Federation combined. Over the last five years, the Labor government has been rebuilding more than a third of the Interstate Rail Freight Network, delivering some 4,000 kilometres of new and upgraded track. As a result travel times from Perth to the east coast will be cut by nine hours and between Melbourne and Brisbane by seven hours.

Petition to Run Boggo Road Gaol for Public Good, not private profit – Chris Dawson, the Secretary of the Boggo Road Gaol Historical Society (Inc.), has started a petition: "**Queensland Government: Run Boggo Road Gaol museum for public good, not private profit.**" as the first round of their campaign about the privatisation of the Boggo Road Gaol, a unique heritage-listed public asset that should be run for public benefit, not personal profit.

You can sign the petition [by clicking here](#). Links to the Boggo Road Gaol Historical Society (Inc.), are: info@boggoroadgaol.com.au | web www.boggoroadgaol.com.au

WHAT'S ON Upcoming Events and Fundraisers

Youth Homelessness Matters Day is celebrated across Australia every year aiming to raise awareness about youth homelessness and the factors that cause it.

On April 10th 2013 at 10.30am, local Youth Homelessness Services will launch Brisbane's Youth Homelessness Matters Day event in Fortitude Valley featuring young people's stories of surviving homelessness and show casing visual and digital art. Queensland Youth Housing Coalition representative, Adam Barnes, describes the Brisbane launch as a chance to celebrate young people ending their experience of homelessness.

Youth homelessness services invite the community to attend and learn more about Youth Homelessness. To RSVP or for more information, please don't hesitate to contact Adam Barnes on (07)3252 3750 or via adambarnes@brisyouth.org.

Ryan Trivia Night

Come to the **Ryan Trivia Night** with candidate Damien Hamwood at **7.30pm on Friday 24th May 2013** at **Taringa Soccer Club, Fairly St, Indooroopilly**.

\$15 unwaged, \$20 waged. Includes cakes, sandwiches, nibbles, tea and coffee. Drinks will be on sale at the bar.

Please book a seat or table at Fundraise@Labor4Ryan.com or 0417 608 920



Labor Environmental Action Network Forum on Electricity Pricing – A forum on **Electricity Pricing** is being held on Tue 16 Apr on the 2nd floor of the TLC Building, 16 Peel St, South Brisbane, by **Labor Environmental Action Network (LEAN)**, one of the fringe groups of the party that focuses on environmental policy.

The forum will look at:

- Why are electricity prices increasing?
- How Labor's policies can:
 - a) Encourage energy conservation and transition to renewables
 - b) Protect vulnerable consumers from unaffordable price rises
 - c) Protect public sector jobs in the energy industry

Speakers include **Peter Simpson** (Secretary of the Electrical Trades Union), **Peter Casey** (former Sustainability Manager at Energex), **Rob Farrago** (co-founder of Local Power) and **Ngaire McGaw** (ex-convenor of LEAN QLD and Sustainable Jamboree) and **Curtis Pitt MP** (Shadow Minister for Energy).

RSVPs are **not** necessary. If you have any enquiries contact Dick Copeman on 0439 728 992.

National Youth Week and new awards to recognise outstanding young people -

Youth Week is a joint Australian, state, territory and local government initiative and the nation's biggest celebration of young people which has been held annually since 2000. This year it will run from April 5th - 14th with the theme - *Be active. Be happy. Be you.* - encouraging all young people to realise the future is theirs to shape. For more information on National Youth Week events and activities in your local area visit: www.youthweek.com.au



The Gillard Government will be holding the first National Youth Awards in August to recognise and celebrate the hard work and dedication of young people as well as the important contribution they make to the nation. These awards will be designed by young Australians for their peers. Applications will open in May.

Applications now open for Native Title Anthropologist Grants Program -

Applications are now open for funding to support anthropologists interested in Native Title work. Anthropologists play an integral part of the native title claims system and a shortage of anthropologists leads to a delay in the resolution of claims. All eligible applicants are encouraged to apply for the grants program in order to promote the professional development of anthropologists working in the native title system. More Information [here](#).

The closing date for applications is 19 Apr 2013 at 5:00pm.

2013 Carer- friendly Business Awards – Nominations for the 2013 Carer-Friendly Business Awards are now open. These awards recognise businesses and individuals who have gone the extra mile for carers. To nominate for the awards visit <http://www.carerqld.asn.au>

DVA Officers' visits for April 2013 – Periodically DVA Officers visit various centres in Queensland to conduct personal interviews with veterans, war widows and their families seeking to access information on the complete range of Departmental services and benefits.

Location	Day & Date	Times	Contact number for Appointment
Redlands RSL	Tuesday 9 April	9.00am – 1.00pm	07 3488 1105
Redcliffe RSL	Thursday 18 April	10.00am – 2.30pm	07 3889 4872
Bribie Island RSL	Tuesday 23 April	9.00am – 1.00pm	07 3408 0450

Claire's current committee work:

- Aged Care (Living Longer Living Better) Bill 2013; Australian Aged Care Quality Agency Bill 2013; Australian Aged Care Quality Agency (Transitional Provisions) Bill 2013; Aged Care (Bond Security) Amendment Bill 2013; Aged Care (Bond Security) Levy Amendment Bill 2013
- Aboriginal Land Rights and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013
- Therapeutic Goods Amendment (2013 Measures No. 1) Bill 2013
- The involuntary or coerced sterilisation of people with disabilities in Australia
- Impacts on health of air quality in Australia
- Supply of chemotherapy drugs such as Docetaxel
- Care and management of younger and older Australians living with dementia and behavioural and psychiatric symptoms of dementia (BPSD)

You can be involved in the work of a committee by lodging a submission to current inquiries. Claire has been involved in many Senate committees, and encourages everyone to [find out more info](#) on the role of committees, and to have a look at the [list of current committee inquiries](#).

Want to know how to get the Federal Government to consider your petition? Find out about petitioning the Senate [here](#), or petitioning the House of Representatives, [here](#).