



Fiona McNamara and Laura Fraser Hardy both addressed the EMILY's List Valentines Day Breakfast yesterday.



## Senator Claire Moore Weekly Update 15 Feb 2013

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***Why should we support women?** This questions still comes up despite the stark imbalance in representation of women throughout Parliaments in Australia. It's really important that Parliaments, wherever they are, reflect the communities they represent. Our Parliaments cannot be truly representative until there is a balance of genders in positions of power. Australian women have been voting since 1901 yet the proportion of women in Parliament has only slowly increased. The EMILY's List journey began in 1994, when the ALP National Conference passed an Affirmative Action Rule requiring women be preselected in 35 per cent of winnable seats at all elections by 2002. Despite this landmark achievement the numbers of women pre selected in winnable seats has not met this target. EMILY's List has much more to do.*

*Senator Claire Moore, Labor Senator for Queensland*

**EXTRA HELP FOR QUEENSLAND FARMS AND BUSINESSES** - More flood-affected primary producers and small business owners in some of the hardest hit regions of Queensland can now apply for clean-up and recovery grants. The grants of up to \$25,000 will provide extra help with the economic impacts these devastating floods have had on local businesses and the wider community. **Primary producers** in the local government areas of **South Burnett, Gladstone and Scenic Rim** and targeted areas in **Banana, Goondiwindi, Ipswich, Somerset, Southern Downs and Toowoomba** will be able to apply for the assistance under the jointly funded Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. **Small businesses** in targeted areas within the **Gladstone and Southern Downs** local government areas will also be able to apply. These grants are already available in the local government areas of **Bundaberg, Fraser Coast, Gympie, Lockyer Valley and North Burnett**. The grants will help recipients with the cost of cleaning up and removing debris, replacing damaged equipment and stock, and help ensure their business isn't disrupted beyond the next season. **This assistance does not compensate for income losses and is not intended to replace insurance.**

The new assistance for flood affected primary producers and small business owners join the various types of disaster assistance available under the NDRRA across **53 local governments in Queensland**. Flood Affected Queenslanders can apply for **Personal Hardship and Distress Assistance, Primary Producers can apply for Concessional Interest Rates Loans and Freight subsidies, Small Businesses may also be eligible for Concessional Interest Rate Loans. Council and State Government Agencies may apply for Counter Disaster Operations Assistance and Restoration of Public Assets Assistance.** NDRRA assistance will be extended to other communities if they are impacted.

More information about the assistance that available in each affected local government area can be found at [www.disasterassist.gov.au](http://www.disasterassist.gov.au).

More information about how to apply for the clean-up and recovery grants is available at [www.qraa.qld.gov.au](http://www.qraa.qld.gov.au).

More information about how to apply for hardship and distress payments is available at [www.qld.gov.au/community/disasters-emergencies/recovery-after-disaster/](http://www.qld.gov.au/community/disasters-emergencies/recovery-after-disaster/).

## **MOBILE SERVICE CENTRE ENSURES HELP IS BACK AT HAND IN TEXAS, BOONAH AND NORTH STRADBROKE, MACLEAY and RUSSELL ISLANDS**

The Centrelink Mobile Service Centre will give people in Queensland easy access to essential Government payments and services this month. The **Mobile Service Centre** 'Kangaroo Paw' will visit towns in South East Queensland in coming weeks, and provide **Centrelink, Medicare, Australian Hearing** and **Child Support** services. The Centre resumed normal servicing after spending three weeks providing on-the-ground emergency support for flood-affected Queensland communities in the Wide Bay and Burnett region. Claire said the Australian Government is committed to providing a between service for rural Australians, especially where residents have difficulty accessing help. **"Last year, our two Mobile Service Centres visited 357 rural communities across Australia and assisted more than 10,000 people. This included visiting 110 new locations and assisting 300 customers for the first-time, keeping more communities connected to vital Australian Government payments and services. The staff on board the Mobile Service Centre live and work in rural communities and they understand the needs of each community and can tailor services to suit, providing information and assistance to seniors, families and farmers,"** Claire said. Mobile Service Centre staff can assist people with a range of services, including:

- **New claims for a wide range of Centrelink payments**
- **Updating personal information**
- **Confirming documents and supporting information**
- **Information on how financial matters may impact on Centrelink Payments**
- **Payment and service options to suit individual circumstances**
- **Non-cash Medicare transactions such as arranging cheque or EFTPOS claim payments**
- **Medicare enrolments**
- **Specialist support and referrals**
- **Free Australian Hearing Health checks.**

The Mobile Service Centre will be at

**Texas** on Friday **22 February**, near the **Memorial Hall, Hight Street, between 10.20 am to 2.30 pm.**

**Boonah** on Monday **25 February**, at the **Recreation Centre car park on the Corner of Yeates Ave and Coronation Drive, between 9.30 am to 3.00 pm.**

**North Stradbroke Island** on Tuesday **26 February**, next to the **Centrelink Agency, East Coast Road, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.**

**Macleay Island** on Wednesday **27 February**, at the **Macleay Island Community Centre, South Sea Terrace between 9.30 am to 2.30 pm.**

**Russell Island** on Thursday **28 February**, at the **Russel Island Community Centre, Jackson Road, between 9.45 am to 2.30 pm.**

# The Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012

The Australian Government introduced legislation into Parliament in March 2012 to retain and improve the Equal Opportunity for women in the Workplace (EOWW) Act and the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency. The EOWW Amendment Bill successfully passed through Parliament on 22 November 2012.

The new Act is called the Workplace Gender Equality Act and the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency is now the Workplace Gender Equality Agency.

The principal objects of the amended Act are:

- to promote and improve gender equality (including equal remuneration between women and men) in employment and in the workplace; and
- to support employers to remove barriers to the full and equal participation of women

in the workforce, in recognition of the disadvantaged position of women in relation to employment matters; and

- to promote, amongst employers, the elimination of discrimination on the basis of gender in relation to employment matters (including in relation to family and caring responsibilities); and
- to foster workplace consultation between employers and employees on issues concerning gender equality in employment and in the workplace; and
- to improve the productivity and competitiveness of Australian business through the advancement of gender equality in employment and in the workplace.

For more information click [here](#)

## Hands off our public health services!

**WYNNUM MANLY HOSPITAL RALLY** - March to Save Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit on Saturday 16 February 2013. Metro South Hospital and Health Service (HHS) has closed Wynnum Hospital emergency department and soon will close Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit. This will severely affect frontline services in the area. The Queensland Nurses' Union invites you to join together with nurses, midwives, and local community members to stand up and tell Metro South HHS and the Newman Government that these cuts are not on.

**Date:** Saturday 16 February

**Time:** 7.30am for 8:00am start

**Place:** Save Wynnum Hospital ED depart Little Bayside Park, Esplanade, Manly. Save MBNCU depart Pandanus Beach, Esplanade, Wynnum. Both groups meet at George Clayton Park, Esplanade, Darling Point.

**RSVP:** [savebaysidehealthservices@gmail.com](mailto:savebaysidehealthservices@gmail.com)

You can find out more via Facebook page [here](#).

**Toowoomba Theatre Night** - Join Toowoomba Labor supporters for **I AM A CAMERA**. Set in the early 30s in Berlin aspiring writer Christopher Isherwood is captivated by the vivacious entertainer Sally Bowles, Christopher watches as she falls in and out of love. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$12 for concession. This includes supper and drinks.

For more information please contact Jack Lloyd on 46389697.

Friday February 22, from 7 pm to 10.30 pm at Toowoomba Repertory Theatre Society 94 Margaret Street, Toowoomba, Queensland 4350. You can also RSVP via Facebook [here](#) .

### Claire's current committee work:

**The National Disability Insurance Scheme Bill 2012. Submissions are closed.** Reporting date: 13 March 2013

**Australia's domestic response to the World health Organisation's (WHO) Commission on Social Determinants of health report "Closing the gap within a generation".** Reporting date: 27 Mar 2013

**The conditions of employment of state public sector employees and the adequacy of protection of their rights at work compared with other employees.** Submissions by 15 Feb 2013. Reporting date: 7 Jun 2013.

**The Involuntary or Coerced Sterilisation of people with disabilities in Australia.** Submissions by 22 Feb 2013. Reporting date: 24 April 2013

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](#).**