



Senator Claire Moore Weekly Update 18 April 2013

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2013 Anzac Day poster

This year the poster marks the 70th anniversary of the construction of the Hellfire Pass on the Burma-Thailand Railway.

The poster depicts Australian prisoners of war labouring on the railway and a train passing over a prisoner-built trestle bridge. Almost 10,000 Australian prisoners of war worked on the construction of the Burma-Thailand Railway in appalling physical conditions. Construction of the notorious Hellfire Pass began in April 1943.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs produces Anzac Day posters every year commemorating a particular theme or anniversary in our wartime history. [Read more about the posters here.](#)

ANZAC Day Thursday, 25 April—The ANZAC tradition—the ideals of courage, endurance and mateship that are still relevant today—was established on 25 April 1915 when the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

It was the start of a campaign that lasted eight months and resulted in some 25,000 Australian casualties, including 8,700 who were killed or died of wounds or disease.

The men who served on the Gallipoli Peninsula created a legend, adding the word 'ANZAC' to our vocabulary and creating the notion of the ANZAC spirit.

In 1916, the first anniversary of the landing was observed in Australia, New Zealand and England and by troops in Egypt. That year, 25 April was officially named 'ANZAC Day' by the Acting Prime Minister, George Pearce.

By the 1920s, ANZAC Day ceremonies were held throughout Australia. All States had designated ANZAC Day as a public holiday. In the 1940s, Second World War veterans joined parades around the country. In the ensuing decades, returned servicemen and women from the conflicts in Korea, Malaya, Indonesia, Vietnam and Iraq, veterans from allied countries and peacekeepers joined the parades.

- **Anzac Square**
Dawn Service – Ann St, Brisbane CBD
Start: From 4:30am
- **Anzac Day Parade**
Cnr George and Elizabeth Streets, Brisbane City
Start: 10:00am
Finish: 1:00pm

You can find more information on about [Anzac Day ceremonies across Queensland here.](#)

For ANZAC Day ceremonies being held [overseas read here.](#)

Read more about ANZAC Day 2013 [here.](#)

The National Plan for School Improvement



Labor has a plan for properly resourcing all our classrooms, teachers and kids for generations to come. The National Plan for School Improvement will establish a new, fairer school funding approach, based on the needs of individual students and linked to reforms that will improve school performance. Our plan will see our classrooms in the top 5 in the world by 2025.

We believe so strongly in this plan we'll effectively put \$2 in for every \$1 state and territory governments invest.

This will deliver an extra \$14.5 billion for Australian schools over the next six years. This money will help pay for new literacy and numeracy coaches. It will pay for specialist staff like language teachers. It will mean schools have enough money for the teaching resources and modern equipment they need.

However the new funding is reliant on the state and territory governments putting kids first and agreeing to pay their share. The Premiers and Chief Ministers have until the 30th of June to prioritise school funding and agree to the new education reforms or the deal will be taken off the table. Any Premier or Chief Minister who decides not to take part in our plan will have a tough time explaining why – given that we are willing to invest substantially in their schools and have the plan in place to give every student a better start in life. Read more [here](#).

We're committed to delivering Disability Care Australia - Like Labor delivered Medicare, Labor will deliver Disability Care. We are launching the scheme in July this year. We delivered \$1 billion in new funding for the first stage of Disability Care Australia, the NDIS. We want to see this scheme rolled out across the country, so that all Australians have peace of mind that if something happens to them or to a loved one, they will get the care and support they need.

Every Australian Counts are asking the public to call their local state and federal MPs to make them commit to this reform. We want all states and territories to show they are serious about reform. [Read more here](#).

\$121 Million to support people with mental illness and their carers - Australians with severe mental illness, their families and carers will have greater access to support services and other practical assistance locally in their communities thanks to a \$121 million boost from the Gillard Government announced today.

The new and expanded services are part of the Government's record \$2.2 billion national mental health reform package. The boost to the Personal Helpers and Mentors program (PHaMs) will build on existing investments by delivering more than 230 extra personal helpers and mentors who will work one-on-one with people with mental illness across Australia.

This Funding will ensure we're delivering practical assistance to people with mental illness to help them achieve their personal goals, participate more fully in their community and in work, develop better relationships with family and friends, and manage their everyday tasks. [Read more here](#).

Closing the Gap - The Australian Government is providing \$777 million to fund its share of a renewed National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes for a further three years to 30 June 2016.

This funding will ensure indigenous Australians continue to benefit from improved health services and support our commitment to close the gap on Indigenous disadvantage.

In particular, our health funding will help us achieve our commitment to close the gap in life expectancy between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians within a generation, and to halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade.

Superannuation changes - The Australian Government is improving superannuation (super) to help all Australians save for their future. From 1 July 2013, you'll start to benefit from the first of many improvements.

The super reforms will make our super system stronger and more efficient to better protect the retirement savings of our current and future generations. The improvements to super will:

- reduce unnecessary fees and charges
- increase retirement savings
- help provide a more comfortable and secure retirement.

From 1 July 2013, the super guarantee rate is going up. The rate will increase gradually over 7 years from 9% to 12% by 2019.

For more information on the changes to superannuation and details of how these changes will effect you visit <http://superfuture.gov.au/>

Under Labor your super contributions will start to rise from July 1.

from 9 to 12%

For a 30 year old on an average wage, this will mean \$118,000 more super in retirement.

Labor = Superannuation

Authorized by Wayne Swan, MP 1162 Sandstone Rd, N. ruckeb.

3.6 million workers are now benefiting from tax free super contributions.

This means up to \$500 more a year in your super account.

Labor = Superannuation

Authorized by Wayne Swan, MP 1162 Sandstone Rd, N. ruckeb.

Unexplained Wealth Laws - The Commonwealth government is working towards creating National Unexplained Wealth laws in order to help to seize more money and assets from criminals. This would mean more money for the National Crime Prevention Fund announced today. A national system is essential because criminals don't care about state borders. A national system will mean there are no safe havens for criminals and will help police seize more assets from criminals.

National Crime Prevention Fund — The Prime Minister and Jason Clare announced a new \$40 million National Crime Prevention Fund, to be funded by assets seized from criminals under the Proceeds of Crime Fund. The National Crime Prevention Fund will target crime hotspots and will fund:

- Grants to local councils for security infrastructure like closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems and lighting.
- Youth mentoring and outreach programs run by not-for-profit community organisations.
- Grants to Police Citizen Youth Clubs (PCYC) and Blue Light organisations for projects that target socio-economic disadvantage and crime amongst young people.
- \$5 million to expand Father Chris Riley's Youth off the Streets Outreach Service.

This is a great opportunity for local councils, not-for-profit groups and PCYCs to fund local crime prevention projects. Applications for grants will open in the first week of May, and will be open for four weeks. Projects must be completed by the end of June 2015.

[For more information read here.](#)

Food Security - the Federal Labor Government has invested over \$1 Billion dollars in rural research and development to build the innovative food sector we will need to meet future Asian demand. The Government has also announced a new Food Innovation Precinct as part of Labor's wider \$1 billion Industry and Innovation Statement. This will bring together the various parts of the food supply chain and promote research and development. The precinct, set to be based in Melbourne, is one of the ways the government is working to assist our producers and food manufacturers to build their capacity and improve their competitiveness in overseas markets like Asia. [Read more here.](#)

Practical support for mature-age job seekers and employers - The Australian Government has announced new incentives and support for mature-age job seekers and their employers. Funding of \$10 million (over four years) has been committed under the Experience + Jobs Bonus program for employers who offer a genuine, ongoing employment opportunity to mature-age (at least 50 years of age) job seekers. A Jobs Bonus of \$1,000 (GST exclusive) is available for up to 2500 employers each financial year who employ an eligible mature-age job seeker. Detailed information on eligibility and how to claim a Jobs Bonus is available from www.deewr.gov.au/experience-jobs-bonus.

In 2013, the Government will be rolling out the new Experience+ Work Ready program to assist eligible mature-age job seekers. The program will provide eligible mature-age job seekers, aged 50 year and over, with intensive job preparation assistance including refresher or basic training in information technology, undertaking job-specific training and participation in paid work placements.

The Experience+ Career Advice service provides professional career counselling and a resume appraisal service to mature-age Australians aged 45 years and over. This service has been extended beyond its original end date of 30 June 2014 to 30 June 2016. Over 9700 people have now used this service and the feedback has been very positive. To book an appointment call **13 17 64**. Career Advice is delivered by telephone and email anywhere in Australia.

For more information on support for mature-age job seekers visit <http://deewr.gov.au/experience>

High Speed Rail - Minister Albanese has released, the second and final report High Speed Rail (HSR) connecting the nation's East Coast capital cities. The report identifies a potential route for HSR between Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane. HSR has the potential to be a game-changer, transforming the way Australians live, work and take holidays. The government welcomes is initiating a comprehensive program of public consultation and debate on the role HSR could play in Australia's transport future.

The full report and feedback forms are available at: www.infrastructure.gov.au/hsr

Achievements – Gender Equality - The Australian Government is proudly continuing Labor's long legacy of reform to advance gender equality. Our support for families includes Australia's first [Paid Parental Leave scheme](#) and [Dad and Partner Pay](#), a record amount invested to make quality [early childhood education and care](#) more affordable and accessible, and a [national Carer Strategy](#) to help carers, the majority of whom are women, to participate more fully in work, family and community life.

WHAT'S ON? UPCOMING EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

MIFQ Community Walk - The Mental Illness Fellowship Queensland is holding a community walk to raise awareness of mental illness and to celebrate Schizophrenia Awareness Week. The 3km walk will be held on Saturday, 18th of May and will start at Broadwater Parklands, Southport at 9.30am. Participants are invited to wear yellow to show their support. Registrations are essential - \$10 per person or \$25 per family. To register email goldcoast@mifq.org.au or call (07) 5563 8855. A light brunch will be provided. [Further details here.](#)

Discover your family history with the Genealogical Society of Queensland – The Genealogical Society of Queensland invites you to join them on a journey to discover your family history. The society will be answering questions and providing advice relating to researching family history at their Library Centre on Saturday, 4th May 2013 between the hours of 10am and 4pm. Entry is free and morning tea is provided. There will also be library tours on a ½ hourly basis. The library centre is located at 38 Fisher Street, East Brisbane. For further information visit the website at www.qsg.org.au or call 3891 5085.

Run Boggo Road Gaol for public good, not private profit – The Queensland Government has given commercial control of the historic Boggo Road Gaol museum site in Dutton Park, Brisbane to a private business. This interim privatisation of the visitor services at Boggo Road Gaol has been an issue for some. Community organisations and stakeholders have not been granted fair access, entry fees are the highest for any Queensland heritage site and the revenue and jobs promised by the private business have not materialised. Please sign the petition at Change.org to send your message to Premier Campbell Newman and Public Works Minister Tim Mander that Boggo Road Gaol is a public asset that needs to be managed for public good under a not-for-profit model. The petition can be accessed [here](#).

Fundraiser - Watch Iron Man 3 – Come along to the Palace Barracks Cinemas at 6pm on May 2nd to watch Iron Man 3 and support Laura Fraser Hardy. The cost is \$20 and includes movie ticket and soft drink. Tickets must be pre-purchased. Please RSVP by April 23rd to Kerry Hackett on 0409 037 629.

Payments can be made by direct debit – ask Kerry for the details.

Further donations can be made on the night or by contacting Laura on 0401 568 047.



Highfields Pioneer Village Ambulance Museum – curated by Vince Little – Come along to the official opening of the Highfields Pioneer Village Ambulance Museum on Saturday 20 April 2013. The opening, by Mayor Paul Antonio, starts at 11.00am. Highfields Pioneer Village is at 73 Wirraglen Rd, Highfields.

[Read more about the Highfields Pioneer Village here.](#)

Be apart of the Austrlian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health (ALSWH) –The Australian Longitudinal Study on Women’s Health (ALSWH) is a longitudinal survey of over 40,000 women in three cohorts who were aged 18-23, 45-50 and 70-75 when surveys began in 1996. Since its inception ALSWH has provided invaluable data about the health of women across the lifespan, and informed federal and state government policies across a wide range of issues.

ALSWH is now recruiting a new cohort of 18-23 year old women - see below for details, or for further information visit their website at: <http://www.alswh.org.au/>

National Families Week – Each year, tens of thousands of people and hundreds of organisations celebrate National Families Week – Australia’s annual celebration of families.

The aim of National Families Week 2013 is to celebrate the vital role that families play. This year’s theme is ‘Families working together: Getting the balance right’.

Become involved in National Families Week - a calendar of local public events is available on the Families Australia website and will be frequently updated until the week draws closer.

To find out when and where these event are being held head to: www.familiesaustralia.org.au/familiesweek/index

When: 15th May to the 21st May 2013

NATIONAL FAMILIES WEEK 15-21 MAY 2013
Families working together: Getting the balance right



Ryan Trivia Night Fundraiser Come to the **Ryan Trivia Night** with 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



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://carersqld.asn.au/2013-carer-friendly-business-awards-open-for-business>

Exposure draft – Public Housing Tenants’ Support Bill 2013

Housing Payment Deduction Scheme

The Australian Government has released an exposure draft of a Bill aimed at assisting in the prevention of evictions and possible homelessness of public housing tenants (including tenants of state owned and managed Indigenous housing) due to unpaid rent.

The **Housing Payment Deduction Scheme** will give affect to a recommendation in [*The Road Home – The Australian Government White Paper on Homelessness*](#), and agreement by the Commonwealth and state and territory governments under the [*National Affordable Housing Agreement*](#).

The draft [*Public Housing Tenants’ Support Bill 2013*](#) will allow public housing costs required to be paid under a public housing lease to be deducted from the lessee’s income support payment providing they are either in arrears or are at risk of arrears.

Not all tenants of public housing will be included. Tenants will have deductions made from their income support payments as a last resort to prevent build-up of arrears and possible eviction from public housing.

The measure will also reduce the cost of managing arrears for public housing authorities, and for welfare organisations which assist people facing eviction due to non-payment of rent. [Read more here](#)

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](#).

Australian Economy Fact Sheet

Australia's economy stands as a beacon of resilience in the world. Unlike other countries, we avoided recession and saved hundreds of thousands of jobs in the face of the worst global conditions since the Great Depression.

- **Economy:** more than 13% larger since Labor came to office, despite the worst global conditions since the Great Depression.
- **Solid growth:** Australia has seen 21 consecutive years of economic growth. Our economy grew by 3.1 per cent over the past year, around its trend rate, and faster than any major advanced economy.
- **Australia now the 12th largest economy in the world:** Since Labor came to office Australia has moved up 3 places to now be the 12th largest economy in the world, passing South Korea, Mexico and Spain.
- **AAA credit rating:** Australia has AAA credit rating (with a stable outlook) from all three ratings agencies – for the first time in our history. We are amongst only seven other nations in the world to have this triple rating (with a stable outlook).
- **Low unemployment rate (5.6%):** Australia has less than half the unemployment rate seen in Europe (12.0%) and significantly below other advanced economies.
- **Exceptional job creation record:** Around 900,000 jobs have been created since Labor came to office, despite millions lost worldwide.
- **Contained inflation:** with underlying inflation well within the RBA's target band (2.3% through the year to December).
- **Low cash rate:** The Reserve Bank's official cash rate is 3 per cent- lower than it was at any time under the last Liberal government. This means a family with a \$300,000 mortgage is paying around \$5,000 less in repayments a year than the Liberals saddled them with when they left office.
- **Strong investment outlook:** A strong investment outlook remains for Australia, with \$268 billion of resource investment at an advanced stage – helping to boost the productive capacity of our economy.

- **Very Low debt and strong public finances:** Commonwealth Government net debt as a % of GDP is around a tenth of the peak across major advanced economies. This is a fraction of our peers.
- **Cutting taxes for Australian workers:** The Labor Government has delivered tax cuts worth \$2,053 for those on \$50,000 and tax cuts worth \$2,153 for those on \$100,000. And we have tripled the tax free threshold to \$18,200.
- **Business Tax Reform:** Business tax reductions worth \$4.4 billion, including tax breaks for 2.7 million small businesses.
- **Increase in the Superannuation Guarantee :** The Gillard Government will boost retirement savings for 8.4 million workers by progressively increasing the superannuation guarantee from 9% to 12% from 1 July 2013
- **Supporting Manufacturing:** Investing \$5.4 billion in a New Car Plan, stronger protection against unfair competition from overseas by reforming the anti-dumping system and PM's Taskforce on Manufacturing
- **Small Business Tax deductions:** Small businesses now get an instant asset write-off for each business asset below \$6,500, as well as an instant asset write-off for the first \$5,000 of any car purchased.
- **Paid Parental Leave Scheme:** The Gillard Government delivered the first ever Paid Parental Leave scheme on 1 January 2011 - 18 weeks of leave paid at the minimum wage. Dad and Partner Pay from 2013 – giving dads and other partners two weeks of leave.
- **School Kids Bonus:** Eligible families to get \$410 a year for kids in primary school and \$820 a year for kids in high school. Payment is automatic, in full and upfront.
- **Child Care Rebate:** 50 per cent of out-of-pocket child care expenses, providing families with up to \$7,500 per child per year.

To learn more about Australia's resilient economy please visit:

<http://www.treasurer.gov.au/economy.aspx?PageID=004&min=wms>