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Weekly Update - 26 January 2013

The Weekly Update provides links, media announcements, and current information.

"Congratulations to all the new citizens who will celebrate the granting of their citizenship on Saturday as they mark the end of their migrant journey and the start of their new lives in Australia. Queensland will welcome almost 5,000 people from more than 120 countries in 82 special citizenship ceremonies on Saturday, the most new citizens of than any state or territory."

Congratulations to all of those receiving awards in the Australia Day Honours List. The Australian of the Year, Ita Buttrose AO OBE; Senior Australian of the Year, Prof Ian Maddocks AM; Young Australian of the Year, Akram Azimi and Australia's Local Hero, Shane Phillips. *The List of recipients of those receiving Australia Day Honours is [here](#).*



Australia Day Citizenship 2013 - The Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP, welcomes a record 17,059 people from 145 countries who are becoming Australian citizens as part of Australia Day celebrations. Brisbane City Council will host the largest single ceremony in the country at the Brisbane Convention and

Exhibition Centre in Southbank, with almost 1,200 people making the pledge.

The newest Australians join more than four and a half million others who have chosen to become Australian citizens since the first citizenship ceremony in 1949.

Celebrating Aboriginal Culture & Indigenous Constitutional Recognition - The Australian Government is providing \$90,000 to support this weekend's *Saltwater Freshwater Festival* [[more here](#)] which is the third annual event to celebrate Indigenous culture and help build public awareness and community support for Indigenous constitutional recognition.

Saltwater Freshwater Arts Alliance Aboriginal Corporation, which runs the festival, is a key participant in the Many Rivers Regional Partnership Agreement, which aims to increase Indigenous employment and economic development in the region.

On top of the funding for the festival and campaign, the Government is also providing the Alliance with \$55,000 over the next year for its own operations, as it creates jobs and business opportunities for Indigenous people and communities, establishes pathways to education and employment for trainees and employees and builds social inclusion and helps to meet the goals of the *Regional Partnership Agreement* [[more here](#)].

The Australian Government provided \$10 million to *Reconciliation Australia* [[more here](#)] to build public awareness and community support for Indigenous constitutional recognition, which has more than 125,000 supporters to date.

Strategy for National Security - The Prime Minister announced the dramatic economic and strategic shift towards the Asia-Pacific on Wednesday. The strategy will ensure Australia has the right mix of policies to keep the country secure and safe, to guard our sovereignty, to protect our institutions and infrastructure and to promote a favourable international environment. Copies are available online at www.dpm.gov.au.

Graduates earning more, meet needs of economy - A new report on the Australian university system has highlighted the extra earning power of graduates and the future benefits to the national economy. The report, [Mapping Australian higher education 2013](#), found that earnings for both men and women graduates increased by about \$80k between 2006 and 2011.

Increase in Organ Donation & Transplantation - There has been a steady increase in organ donation in 2012 resulting in more lives being saved through transplantation. The generosity of 354 donors and their families who agreed to donation gave 1052 Australians a second chance at life. [The Organ & Tissue Authority's 2012 Performance Report](#) is available.

The Facts for Federal Infrastructure for QLD- The Commonwealth is making unprecedented investment in Queensland's road, rail and public transport infrastructure; since being elected in late 2007, this Labor government has more than doubled the annual infrastructure spending from **\$143 to \$314 per Queenslander**. A total of some **\$8.7 billion** over six years of the current [Nation Building Program](#).

Federal Labor is investing more than \$6.3 billion in road, rail & public transport projects in Brisbane & the South East: Ipswich west Motorway - \$2.5 billion; Gold Coast south Pacific Motorway - \$420m; Sunshine Coast Bruce Highway - \$195m and includes funding for: Moreton Bay Rail Link - \$742m; Gold Coast Rapid Transit - \$365m; and regionally: Brisbane to Cairns Bruce Highway - \$3.3 billion; Warrego Highway - \$140 m over six years to maintain & upgrade.

Queenslanders ready for Winter Games - Three Queensland athletes leave for South Korea this week to compete in the 10th Special Olympics World Winter Games, from 26 Jan to 6 Feb the three will join around 2300 other athletes from 125 countries to compete in eight sports - alpine skiing, cross country skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, short-track speed skating, figure skating, floor hockey and floor ball. Progress and 'herograms' [link here](#).

Hard working Social and Community Workers Rewarded - Employers have started receiving the Commonwealth's share of social and community sector workers pay rises from the Government's **\$2.8 billion Pay Equity Special Account**. In Oct 2012 the announcement of this funding over the next 8 years towards pay rises for the sector's workers, about 120,000 of the 150,000 are women, will give increases of between 23% and 45%.

Communities Grants for LandCare - New **Community Landcare Grants** [CLGs] of between \$5000 and \$50,000 announced on Wednesday will support community groups and their work to keep the productive land healthy, resilient and sustainable. The building on the previous Community Action Grants the renewed focus is on agricultural innovation, sustainable farming and fisheries, and community capacity building. Applications for the next round close at 5pm (AEDT) on 20 Mar 2013. More information on CLGs [here](#) or call 1800 552 008.



February is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month- During this time Ovarian Cancer Australia informs women of the risks and symptoms of ovarian cancer. There is no early detection test for ovarian cancer. The Pap smear tests for cervical cancer only.

Through hosting an **Afternoon Teal** at your home or workplace you can help raise awareness of ovarian cancer and raise funds for Ovarian Cancer

Australia's support and research programs. Hosting an event is simple -For more information and to [register your Afternoon Teal](#) visit www.ovariancancer.net.au, use the registration form attached or [email us](#).

Purple Day for Epilepsy - Purple Day (26th March) is a global effort dedicated to raising epilepsy awareness, founded in 2008, by nine-year-old Cassidy Megan of Nova Scotia, Canada. Motivated by her own struggles with epilepsy, Cassidy started **Purple Day** in an effort to get people talking about the condition and inform those with seizures that they are not alone. She named the day **Purple Day** after the internationally recognised colour for epilepsy, lavender. More [here](#)



What's on – What's URGENT!

Australia Day Sat 26 Jan

<http://www.australiaday.org.au/events/queensland/australia-day-festival.aspx>

Wynnum Manly - Everything is FREE! 7.00am - midday at Bandstand Park, Esplanade Wynnum.

Highfields Pioneer Village - Event starts at 9:30am. More [here](#).

Kawana Waters Rotary Club – 10.00am start. La Balsa Park, Harbour Parade, Buddina. Info [here](#).

Marcoola Rocks Life Saving Club – 10.00am – 7pm. Marcoola Esplanade, Marcoola. Info [here](#).

Public Holiday 28 Jan, 'Fernberg' will be open to the public. Details found [here](#).

Free TV & Computer Recycling Services - Chandler 728 Tilley Rd; Nudgee 1560 Nudgee Rd; Willawong 360 Sherbrooke Rd; Ferny Grove 101 Upper Kedron Rd. Further Info [here](#).

TECHFEST 2013 - Great Hall, Parliament House Wed, 13 Feb 2013, 1.00 - 6:00 pm (EST). Info [link](#).

Queensland's Electoral Law [discussion paper](#) . Consultation closes **1 Mar 2013**. Submissions by email: electoralreform@justice.qld.gov.au

World's Greatest Shave 14-17 Mar 2013 – Leukaemia Foundation Event. [Link here](#) to participate

Current Senate Committee Inquiries

To make a submission to an inquiry, visit the Parliament website, [here](#)

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse - An interim report will be prepared by no later than 30 June 2014. Updated information and *Terms of Reference* on this [website](#). [A plain English version is on Claire's [webpage](#)].

Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Amendment [Retaining Federal Approval Powers] Bill 2012. Reporting 25 Feb. [Link](#).

Australian Broadcasting Corporation's commitment to reflecting & representing regional diversity. Reporting 14 Mar. [Link](#).

Recent Trends in & preparedness for extreme weather events. Reporting: 20 Mar. [Link](#).

Private Health Insurance Amendment (Lifetime Health Cover Loading & Other Measures) Bill 2012. Reporting 12 Mar. [Link](#).

National Disability Insurance Scheme Bill Reporting 3 Mar 2013. [Link](#).

The Involuntary or Coerced Sterilisation of people with disabilities in Australia. Submissions 22 Feb. Reporting 24 April 2013. [Link](#).

The conditions of employment of state public sector employees & the adequacy of protection of their rights at work compared with other employees. Submissions 15 Feb. Reporting 7 Jun. [Link](#).

The impacts on health of air quality in Australia Submissions 8 Mar. Reporting 16 May. [Link](#).

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 27 Mar. [Link](#).

Keep up to date on all [Senate Inquiries here](#), and all [House Representatives Inquiries here](#).

Petitioning the Senate [here](#). Petitioning the House of Representatives [here](#)