



Claire with [front] Sue Mason Baker & Pat Mulhall, [behind] Stewart Wood, Gary Cox, Dr Frank Lewins, John Bartsch and Mick Graham at the Katie Rose Cottage, Sunshine Coast Community Hospice, on 23 Jan.

## Senator Claire Moore

Labor Senator for Queensland

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### Weekly Update

### 8 February 2013

*"This week in the Senate I spoke about a local Sunshine Coast resident, Vicki Chan. Vicki is a midwife who shares her time between Australia and Africa.*

*When she is in Africa Vicki works at the Fremo Maternity Centre helping to train locals on how to deliver babies safely. The Fremo Maternity Hospital is in Kawangware on the outskirts of Nairobi. You can read more about the great work being done by Vicki and the team at her blog <http://vicki-chan.blogspot.com.au/>*

*This weekend we welcome the start of the Chinese New year and the Lunar New Year. 2013 is the Year of the Snake.*

*Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February will see many families gathering with friends to welcome in the New Year.*

*I would like to extend my best wishes to everyone celebrating the Year of the Snake and wish you all a Happy New Year.*

**Extra Disaster Assistance for Severely Flood Affected Communities** - Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payments (AGDRP) have been extended to people severely affected by flooding in the local government areas of Rockhampton and Somerset in Queensland. Eligible residents can claim disaster recovery payments of \$1,000 for each adult and \$400 for each child.

The easiest way to lodge a claim for the AGDRP is online at [www.humanservices.gov.au/disaster](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/disaster) or by calling the Australian Government Information Line on 180 22 66 from 8am to 8pm local time, seven days a week. Completed claim forms can also be lodged in person at a Commonwealth Department of Human Services service centre.

Information Australian Government Assistance is available here: [www.disasterassist.gov.au](http://www.disasterassist.gov.au).

The Commonwealth Government's **Disaster Income Recovery Subsidy** is also available to individuals that have suffered a loss of income as a direct result of ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald and associated flooding in the Queensland local government areas of Bundaberg, Gympie, Fraser Coast, North Burnett, and Lockyer Valley. The subsidy provides fortnightly payments for 13 weeks equivalent to the maximum rate of Newstart Allowance and can be claimed through Centrelink.

This Australian Government assistance is over and above the support already being provided under the **Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA)**, jointly funded by the Australian Government and the states.

There are now 53 local government areas in Queensland eligible for various types of disaster assistance under the NDRRA. Assistance information available in each affected local government area at <http://www.qld.gov.au/community/disasters-emergencies/recovery-after-disaster/> or on 1800 173 349

**\$20 million in Commonwealth flood help for Bundaberg** - More than \$20 million has been deposited directly into the bank accounts of those flood-affected residents in Bundaberg who need it.

Centrelink staff from across the country were deployed as soon as they could make it into Bundaberg, with the first claims processed and paid immediately following the payment being activated on 29 Jan.

More than 19,000 claims have been granted, worth more than \$20 million, Centrelink has been providing support and assistance to locals at three separate recovery centres in Bundaberg.

Those registered with Centrelink Online Services can lodge at [www.humanservices.gov.au/disaster](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/disaster), this also gives information on the **Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment** eligibility rules and claim information. Call the Australian Government Emergency Information Line on 180 22 66 8am - 8pm, seven days.

**Queensland Flood Assistance** - Over the past weeks Queensland has experienced significant natural disasters. Queenslanders have shown their natural resilience in meeting the challenges of those floods and storms. The Gillard Government will be shoulder-to-shoulder with them as we rebuild together.

The Government has been activating emergency measures and assistance for families, communities, primary producers and small businesses since the disaster hit. Queenslanders want to see the right assistance rolled out and the work underway to rebuild their communities and that's what the Federal Government is working with state and local governments to do.

The Federal Government will partner with Queensland to develop and deliver a **National Partnership Arrangement** and the packages that meet the needs of the state to rebuild, be stronger, and get back on its feet. Details of payments of disaster assistance made to Queensland:

<i>Date paid</i>	<i>Advance</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
7 Mar 2011	\$1,000,000,000	Advance 2010-11 summer Floods
7 Jun 2011	\$1,000,000,000	Advance 2010-11 summer Floods
7 Jun 2011	\$50,000,000	Advance Cyclone Yasi
28 Jun 2011	\$260,000,000	Advance QLD Local Assistance Package
7 Feb 2012	\$500,000,000	Advance 2010-11 summer floods & Cyclone Yasi
7 Feb 2012	\$1,400,000,000	Advance Pre2010-11 disasters & 2010-11 summer floods
7 Feb 2012	\$1,050,957,923	Disaster expenditure 2008-9, 2009-10 & 2010-11
	<b>\$5,206,957,923</b>	

The Disaster Assist website – [www.disasterassist.gov.au](http://www.disasterassist.gov.au) provides a breakdown of what support is available in each Local Government Area and how to access it through the state government.

**\$5million for Mental Health Research** Suicide prevention, substance abuse and better mental health planning will be the focus of research efforts at two new Centres of Research Excellence, the **Centre for Research Excellence in Suicide Prevention** and the **Centre for Research Excellence in Mental Health and Substance Use Translating Innovative Prevention and Treatment**.

The centres, which form part of the Federal Government's 2011 Budget commitment of over \$26m over five years, will play an important role in advancing the understanding of correlations between substance use and mental health, and will improve suicide prevention efforts.

The two research centres will identify strategies which encourage people to seek help, and will give better evidence about the appropriate mix of services and support, and help to better understand the impact of substance use on mental health.

**Securities Register Saving Thousands** - A national register helping people avoid financial disaster by checking security interests over what they buy, and making it easier for people to use goods as collateral has celebrated its first year of operation.

*The Personal Property Securities Register (PPSR)* includes more than 7 million registrations and more than 6 million searches have been made by users of the Register. The Register replaces more than 70 different Commonwealth, state and territory acts and registers used to regulate personal property used as security. For more on PPS reform, and access to the PPS register available at [www.ppsr.gov.au](http://www.ppsr.gov.au)

**Local Sporting Champions Grants** - Claire encourages young athletes and teams to apply for funding support to help them realise their sporting dreams. The Gillard Government's **Local Sporting Champions program** is aimed at helping our junior sport stars meet the costs of participation at eligible sporting competitions, providing \$3.17 million in funding to support junior athletes perform at a championship level.

Local junior athletes can apply for a grant of \$500 for individuals and \$3000 for teams, to cover the cost of travel, accommodation, uniforms or equipment associated with participating in an eligible championship. Applications close on 28 Feb. More here: [www.ausport.gov.au/champions](http://www.ausport.gov.au/champions).

***Female Indigenous students get a sporting chance*** - Three hundred female indigenous students in Queensland and Northern NSW will benefit from new ***Sporting Chance*** programs, run by ***Titans 4 Tomorrow (T4T)***, helping them stay in school and complete their education.

The Gillard Government is providing \$630,000 over the next year to ***establish three new Sporting Chance Academies***, which use student interest in sport as a way to keep them engaged in school.

T4T programs aim to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and communities through improved education and employment outcomes with activities that enhance school attendance and retention.

Sporting Chance is a national program with 75 projects currently running; assisting 13,200 students and, by the ***end of 2013, the Gillard Government will invest \$58 million***.

Under the Government's ***National Plan for School Improvement***, every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student will be entitled to extra funding, whichever school they attend. Every Indigenous student will also have a personalised learning plan to help them achieve their best.

For further information, visit: <http://deewr.gov.au/sporting-chance-program>.

***Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness*** - The Gillard Government will invest \$73 million over three years to help vulnerable young people break the cycle of homelessness, the funding will support more than 100 ***Reconnect*** services across Australia until June 2016.

The funding provides certainty to 30 specialist services which assist Indigenous Australians, newly arrived youth, people struggling with mental health issues, and young LGBTI Australians, and will ensure important support continues to be provided including counselling, mediation, group work and practical support for young people and their families.

Since 2000, Reconnect has helped more than 67,000 young people work their way from homelessness, including more than 5,700 in 2011-12 alone.

An independent evaluation of the program last year reported it was consistently successful in improving the lives of young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Most of the recommendations of the evaluation would be implemented straight away to further improve outcomes under the program.

The independent evaluation is available online at [www.fahcsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/housing-support/publications-articles/homelessness-youth](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/housing-support/publications-articles/homelessness-youth)

***Carbon Price funds energy efficient street lights across Brisbane*** - Brisbane's street lights are set to become brighter and more energy efficient in what is believed to be the largest street lighting retrofit project ever undertaken in Australia.

The Gillard Labor Government is providing almost \$5m from the ***Community Energy Efficiency Program*** after reaching a funding agreement with Brisbane City Council to replace 25,000 of the city's street lights with more energy efficient lamps.

The ***\$200m Community Energy Efficiency Program***, funded by the carbon price, is helping inform the community about the benefits of smart energy use, while providing improved services and amenities, buildings and community facilities. The project will result in \$500,000 worth of savings to the Council's annual electricity bill, saving ratepayers' money.

A wide range of high quality proposals were received in the first round of the Community Energy Efficiency Program, with 63 projects awarded funding. Applications for round two are currently being assessed.

***Early Childhood Target to be reached in 2013*** - More Indigenous children than ever before have access to preschool or kindergarten programs as a result of the Gillard Government's unprecedented efforts to Close the Gap on Indigenous disadvantage. The ***Closing the Gap*** target that all Indigenous four-year-olds living in remote communities have access to early childhood education by 2013 will be met this year.

The ***Closing the Gap Prime Minister's Report 2013*** was tabled in Parliament this week and with the target of halving the gap for Year 12 attainment. The target of halving the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five by 2018 is also on track to be met.

The report is available at <https://www.fahcsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/indigenous-australians/programs-services/closing-the-gap/closing-the-gap-prime-ministers-report-2013>

**Reconciliation Australia Funding** - The Australian Government announced funding of \$14.4m over four years for *Reconciliation Australia's* work to promote reconciliation and build stronger relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

Reconciliation Australia helps businesses and organizations develop **Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs)** which include practical steps to build understanding and create opportunities for Indigenous Australians. More than 350 organizations have developed a Reconciliation Action Plan. Approximately 1.7 million Australians work or study in an organization with a RAP.

The plans have helped to secure almost 20,000 jobs for Indigenous Australians, more than \$15 million for educational scholarships for Indigenous students and about \$58 million in transactions with Indigenous businesses.

This Government is committed to recognising Indigenous people in Australia's Constitution and we want meaningful reform that reflects the hopes and aspirations of Indigenous people.

Constitutional recognition of Indigenous Australians will be a significant step towards reconciliation and building a nation based on strong relations and mutual respect, which recognises the unique and special place of our first peoples. Visit [www.reconciliation.org.au](http://www.reconciliation.org.au) for more information.



Daniel Mac Mahon is 15 years old and a year 10 student at Caboolture State High School.

Daniel has been Irish Dancing since he was 3½ years old and he has been the Queensland State Champion. Daniel has the opportunity to represent Australia at the *World Titles for Irish Dancing* which will be held in Boston in March 2013.

Daniel is seeking sponsorship to help him achieve his dream. His family are helping however the financial costs are huge so he is seeking sponsorship.

If you would like to help you can contact his mother on [annette\\_mac@live.com.au](mailto:annette_mac@live.com.au) or 0448 491 559 or his father Ardal on 0412 806 928 (Daytime).

**Samford Area Mens Shed** -Update for the newly established Samford Men Shed; they have made application for Incorporation and expect a result by the end of Feb; have at least 60 paid up members, with continuing interest; weekly meetings, fortnightly guest speakers at the Cedar Creek Public Hall; have a Photography Group; and a woodworking group.

The SAMS have had two 300 sq m donated by Mt Maria College at Mitchelton and had an indication from Moreton Bay Regional Council that there may be land available. Contact: [sammensshed@gmail.com](mailto:sammensshed@gmail.com).

**EMILY's List Queensland is having the Annual Valentine's Day Breakfast! You are invited!**



The event is hosted by Kerry Rae and Amanda Richards with Guest Speakers Fiona McNamara and Laura Fraser Hardy

7:15 am for a 7:30am start, on Thursday 14 February 2013 at Level 2, TLC Building, 16 Peel Street, South Brisbane.

Cost: \$30/\$25 Concession.

We will accept cash, credit card, or cheque. Payment will be accepted online, at the door or mailed.

**RSVP:** email: [qldemilys@gmail.com](mailto:qldemilys@gmail.com) . For more information:

<http://www.emilyslist.org.au/events-training/events>

**What's on – What's URGENT!**

**Important Flood & Emergency Contacts**

**Natural Disaster Information:** [http://www.health.qld.gov.au/recovery\\_resources/html/the\\_centre.asp](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/recovery_resources/html/the_centre.asp)

**QLD Government:** <http://www.qld.gov.au/disaster/>;

**Dept of Community Safety:** <http://www.emergency.qld.gov.au/>;

**QLD Disaster Management:** <http://www.disaster.qld.gov.au/default.asp>;

**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](mailto:electoralreform@justice.qld.gov.au)

**World's Greatest Shave 14-17 Mar 2013** – Leukaemia Foundation Event. [Link here](#) to participate  
**Purple Day** (26th March) dedicated to raising epilepsy awareness, to get people talking about the condition and inform those with seizures that they are not alone. More [here](#)

*2013 Federal election timetable*      Polling Day      Sat 14 Sep 2013

Issue of Writ - 12 Aug; Close of Rolls- 8pm, 19 Aug;

Close of Candidates Nominations - Noon, 22 Aug 2013;

Declaration of Candidates Nominations - Noon, Fri 23 Aug;

### Current Senate Committee Inquiries

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

**Supply of Drugs such as Docetaxel** - **Submissions date not yet finalised**. Reporting 22 April 2013. [link](#)

**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 Inquires here](#), and all [House Representatives Inquiries here](#).

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