



## Senator Claire Moore

Labor Senator for Queensland

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Paul Antonio [Mayor of Toowoomba], Nicola Roxon [Federal Minister for Emergency Services] and Claire in Toowoomba at the memorial on the Jellicoe Street Bridge commemorating the Floods of 2010-11 .

### Weekly Update – 18 January 2013

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

**Festival Fever hits Regional Australia** – Circus skills workshops, Indonesia art displays and Gubbi Gubbi dreaming stories are some of the unique events and festivals on offer in regional Australia this year thanks to a federal funding boost.

The Festivals' Australia announcement on 17 Jan of the allocation of about \$500,000 to 27 projects and community festivals to showcase the creative and artistic talents of the regions.

The Festivals Australia program supports regional communities to develop and nurture local artistic and creative talent by providing funding for an array of festivals, events and skill and training workshops.

The grants provide an outlet for the wealth of artistic talent in our regions. These festivals and events originate in the regions and are produced and performed in the regions, for the regions. The projects empower regional communities by building and sharing the skills of regional arts practitioners and stimulating and promoting local creative talent.

There were 53 applications received, of which 27 were awarded funds, a success rate of over 50%. The total amount requested was \$914,722, of which \$492,031 was approved.

The successful applicants in Queensland include:

- **Sunshine Coast Council (QLD), \$11,500** - Floating Land's collaborative performance of projections and performance about art and nature as part of the "Floating Land" Festival, Boreen Point.
  - **United Synergies (QLD), \$16,450** - Traditional and contemporary dances and song lyrics to share the Gubbi Gubbi dreaming stories as part of the "Booin Gari" Festival, Tewantin
  - **Bundaberg Regional Council (QLD), \$11,133** - To conduct street theatre and circus workshops so community members can perform at "Childers Festival", Bundaberg.
  - **Fraser Coast Cultural Festival (QLD), \$18,000** - Dugong Community Arts Project will celebrate art environment sense of place and shared history as part of the "Fraser Coast Cultural Festival", Hervey Bay and Maryborough.
  - **Keppel Coast Arts Council (QLD), \$20,490** - To provide Circus workshops in two regional communities then performances at the "Village Festival", Yeppoon and Mount Morgan.
  - **MLTAQ Darling Downs Branch (QLD), \$11,760** - Professional Arts Workers and community members (all Indonesian nationals) to provide Indonesian art in the Indonesian Cultural Performance spectacular as part of the Toowoomba Languages and Cultures Festival, Toowoomba.
  - **Meurant, Carmel (QLD), \$19,000** - Outback music, lyric and song workshops to be held as part of the "Music in the Mulga" Festival, Eulo.
  - **Queensland Music Festival Pty Ltd (QLD), \$33,570** - Gladstone Celebration community engagement will be a landmark regional community music theatre project as part of the Queensland Music Festival, Gladstone.
- Further information <http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/touring/national-touring>, and Grants information:: [www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants](http://www.australiacouncil.gov.au/grants)

***The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*** – The Commission members are the Head: Justice Peter McClellan, Justice Jennifer Coate, Professor Helen Milroy, Andrew Murray and Bob Atkinson. Gail Furness SC appointed Counsel Assisting; more are required.

Justice McClellan stated that: the Commission's main priority is staffing of the hotline on **1800 099 340** which people can register to become a witness; the Commission would not hesitate to use its powers to compel the production of evidence, even under confidentiality agreements; that it will be months before public hearings begin; they will meet wherever it is required with commissioners split to take evidence; some hearings may take place in private or names of witnesses may be changed; the Commission is "*not charged with*" identifying whether victims should get compensation, but may set up bodies to do so.

**An interim report will be prepared by no later than 30 June 2014.** The website for updated information and the **Terms of Reference** [[click here](#)] [*A plain English version of the ToR is on Claire's [webpage](#)*].

***CQ University is the latest victim of Newman's TAFE cuts*** - A proposal to create Queensland's first dual-sector university in Central Queensland is under threat by the Newman Government's refusal to commit to on-going funding.

Federal Minister, Sen Chris Evans, rejected claims by the Newman Government that it is withdrawing support for a merger between Central QLD University [CQU] and Central Queensland Institute of TAFE.

"The Gillard Government is determined to offer Central Queenslanders world-class education facilities that will benefit the university and the entire region, whether the merger goes ahead or not," Senator Evans said. "However, the Newman Government's intention to slash funding for TAFEs will impact the financial viability of the proposed merger.

Sen Evans has written twice to Minister Langbroek seeking assurances that the Qld Government will not reduce access and funding to the ***Queensland Vocational Educational and Training system***, particularly for CQIT. He asked the Queensland Government to guarantee that it will not cut funding to CQIT. Minister Langbroek has failed to respond to Sen Evans' concerns. In the absence of assurances from the Queensland Government, CQU has been invited to submit a revised application for funding.

The Gillard Government is committed to the success of CQU in providing tertiary education in Central Queensland. Since coming to government, more than \$611m has been invested in CQU.

The number of students studying at CQU has grown from 5,893 in 2007 to an estimated 6,982 in 2012, an increase of 18.5%.

In addition, under the new ***National Partnerships for Skills Reform***, the Commonwealth has allocated over \$18 million to support vocational education and training in Queensland over the next five years.

***\$600million on Defence Infrastructure in Townsville*** – Over the past 5 years, Federal Labor has invested over \$600 million in Defence infrastructure in Townsville. This is more than double spent by the Coalition over the same period from 2003-07.

Since 2008 Labor has demonstrated its commitment to the people of NQ and Defence by investing:

- \$278 million under the Enhanced Land Force Project spent in Townsville for the relocation of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, from Sydney to Townsville;
- \$207 million on Lavarack Barracks, including the refurbishment and extension of physical training facilities, new medical facilities, office accommodation, storage areas, logistical and training facilities, vehicle workshops and road infrastructure;
- \$115 million on new accommodation for single members of the ADF; and
- up to \$30 million toward the upgrading of the Port of Townsville Berth 10, in order to accommodate the new Landing Helicopter Docks (LHDs).

Spending on infrastructure will continue this year, including on ***Single LEAP*** housing for single live-in members of the ADF, as well as on ***Land 17 Phase 1A Infrastructure Project***. These projects alone will be worth approximately \$20 million.

**Breaking the Cycle of Depression & Anxiety**- On Tue, 15 Jan, Minister for Mental Health & Ageing, Mark Butler, launched a new DVD for parents with mental illness across the country.

Over a million Australian children live in a household where at least one parent has a mental illness and this is a significant indicator that a child may grow up with their own mental health challenges, it is estimated that up to 23% of children live in a household where mental illness is experienced.

Funded by the Australian Government, the DVD, called '**Family Focus**' is based on an approach developed by an acclaimed specialist in mental illness prevention and was developed in collaboration with Australian psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health nurses, occupational therapists, social workers, researchers and Australian parents and children with lived experience of parental depression/anxiety.

The DVD is available FREE from: [www.familyfocusdvd.com.au](http://www.familyfocusdvd.com.au).

**Feedback sought on review of Industry Training Packages** – The Community Services & Health Industry Skills Council (CS&HISC) is conducting a [review of its training packages](#). Feedback is sought on draft qualifications, units of competency and assessment requirements.

The draft package includes suggested changes to **Disability Support Qualifications** which include:

- replacement of Cert III in Disability with Cert III in Individual Support Work, with specialisation
- removal of both Diploma & Advanced Diploma of Disability, replaced by alternate qualifications, a 'more appropriate pathway'.

The current draft packages are open for comment until **8 Feb 2013**, submissions by close of business Wed 30 Jan 2013 via online form [here](#).

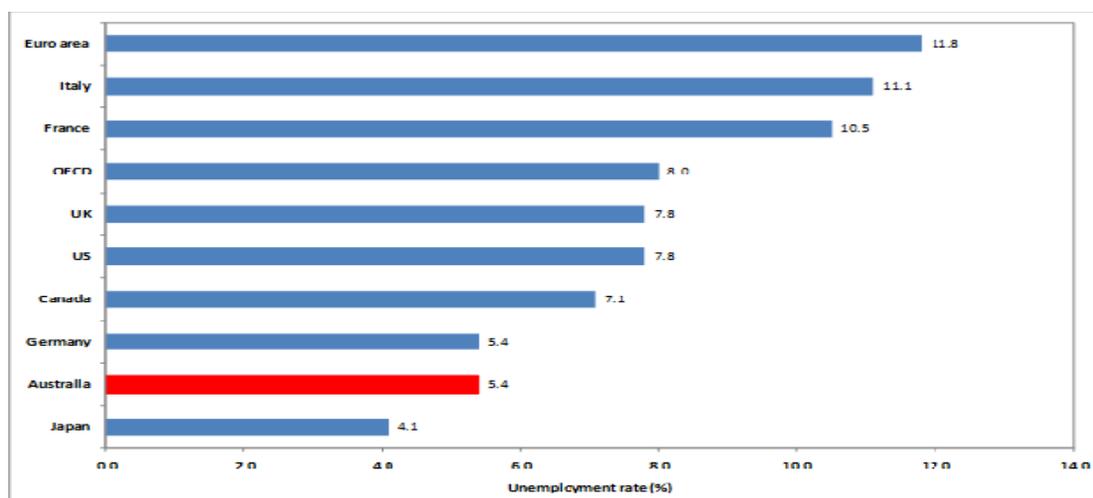
**Australia's unemployment rate remains one of the lowest in the industrialised world** - Figures released Thur by the ABS show Australia's labour market remains resilient in the face of uncertainties in the global economy.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by 0.1% to 5.4% in Dec 2012, below most other advanced economies, and stands in contrast to 7.8% recorded in the US and 11.8% in the European area.

Seasonally adjusted employment fell by 5,500 in Dec 2012, from a record high in November. This result was largely driven by Queensland (where employment fell 22,900), partly offset by solid jobs growth in other states such as Victoria and New South Wales. Jobs growth was also strong in South Australia, with 4,900 jobs created in Dec 2012.

Seasonally adjusted full-time employment fell by 13,800 in Dec, to stand at 8,112,500, while part-time employment increased by 8,300 to stand at 3,426,400. The labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 65.1%.

Nearly 840,000 jobs have been created since the Labor Government came to office in Nov 2007, an outstanding result given that much of developed world is experiencing high levels of unemployment, weak or negative economic growth and crippling debt levels.



## What's on – What's URGENT!

**Wynnum Manly Australia Day Breakfast Sat 26 Jan – Everything is FREE!** This Brisbane City Council sponsored and Community supported event is on again! – **7.00am to 12 noon** with free sausage sizzle, pancakes, icy cones, popcorn, tea and damper; children's rides and entertainment - there is also a colouring in competition! **Thanks to the Volunteers** from the local service clubs. Sponsors for the day are the Wynnum RSL, the Wynnum Leagues Club and Caltex.

**Highfields Pioneer Village Australia Day celebrations Sat 26 Jan 2013.** Program has smithing in tin, silver and iron, sheep shearing, wool spinning and weaving. The event starts at 9:30am. Find out more about the day's activities by clicking [here](#).

On the **Australia Day 2013** public holiday, 28 Jan, '**Fernberg**' will be opened to the public. Government House is located in Paddington and is the official residence of the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley, AC. Details for the day can be found are [here](#).

**TECHFEST 2013** will provide participants with the opportunity to network with global and local leaders in government, industry, education and research. There will be invaluable insights from expert speakers on digital transformation and join the debate regarding the ICT skills gap in Australia.

The Great Hall, Parliament House Wednesday, 13 Feb 2013 from 1.00 - 6:00 pm (EST). There will be the opportunity to interact with the latest technology. For more information follow the [link](#).

**Queensland's Electoral Law [discussion paper](#)** released at the beginning of January seeks to explore the 'issues and options for improvement and change to Queensland's electoral law'. Feedback is sought from the public and organisations, **consultation closes on 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** – This Leukaemia Foundation event is to raise funds for patients and their families living with leukaemia, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders. Once again thousands of Queenslanders are expected to shave or colour their hair to raise funds and show their support for the people the Foundation helps every day. [Link here](#) to see how you can participate

**Looking After You swot session for expectant mums** – Meet other mums & find out what to really expect when you bring home your new baby at the next **Looking After You** seminar at **Women's Health Queensland Wide, 165 Gregory Tce, Spring Hill**. This is **FREE**, but bookings are **ESSENTIAL** & close 48 hrs before the session, which run from 10am to 2pm on Thursday – 31 Jan, 7 Feb, 14 Feb & 21 Feb. Contact: 07 3839 9962 for bookings & info. Website at: <http://www.womhealth.org.au>

## Current Senate Committee Inquiries

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

Private Health Insurance Amendment (Lifetime Health Cover Loading & Other Measures) Bill 2012. Closing date 25 Jan 2013. Reporting date: 12 Mar 2013.

National Disability Insurance Scheme Bill Closing date 25 Jan 2013. Reporting date: 13 Mar 2013.

The impacts on health of air quality in Australia Closing 8 Mar 2013. Reporting date: 16 May 2013.

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

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

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](#)**