



Dear Resident of the Berowra Electorate,

On Tuesday the Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg handed down the 2021-22 Federal Budget.

Australia is coming through this pandemic far better than most countries. The economies of the United Kingdom, France and Italy all contracted by more than 8 per cent, while the Japanese and Canadian economies have contracted by around 5 per cent. The Australian economy has contracted just 2.5 percent during this once-in-a-lifetime pandemic. JobKeeper kept 3.8 million people in jobs and unemployment is lower, at 5.6%, now than it was in 2013 when we came to Government. In fact, unemployment has fallen by more than 100,000 people since JobKeeper ended.

While the COVID-19 pandemic is still with us, we are better placed than most other countries in the world to meet the economic challenges that lie ahead. **The Budget is the next stage of the Government's plan to secure Australia's economic recovery and support Australians.**

As the Treasurer said, this Budget is *"a plan that continues to protect Australians from COVID. A plan that creates more jobs. A plan that guarantees essential services. And a plan that builds a more resilient and secure Australia. It is a plan guided by our enduring values. Reward for effort. The power of aspiration and enterprise. Upholding personal responsibility. And always providing a helping hand to those who need it. That is what the Coalition stands for."*

In this newsletter, you will find further information about what this Budget means for you, your family, and the Berowra community.

Please feel welcome to share this newsletter with others who may be interested.

Anyone who wants to be added to the newsletter distribution list should email julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au.

If you would like to come and discuss the Budget or any other matter with me, I will be conducting Community Catch-ups next weekend. Please feel free to come along!

Friday 21 May 2021

- The Brook, 10.00am**
Cherrybrook Shopping Village
- Café 'N More, 11.30am**
Westleigh Village
- CoHo Café, 1.00pm**
Berowra Village

Saturday 22 May 2021

- Local Collective, 8.30am**
Galston Shopping Village
- Savvy Coffee, 10.00am**
Pacific Highway Asquith

If ever my staff or I can assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to phone my office on (02) 9980 1822 or send an email.

Kind regards,

Julian Leeser

Telecommunications: A Win for Berowra

One of the most exciting measures in the Budget for our electorate is the Peri-Urban Mobile Protection Program (PUMP). PUMP was introduced in response to the campaign for better telecommunications for outer metro areas that we have been running in Berowra. PUMP provides a dedicated fund to encourage telecommunications companies to build mobile towers in outer-metropolitan disaster-prone areas, like the Berowra electorate. \$16.4 million has been set aside for the program in this Budget,

which will be delivered over the next three years.

This package would not have been delivered without the ongoing efforts of all those who have joined me in my efforts to hold Telstra and other telecommunications companies to account. Paul Fletcher, the Minister for Communications and the Arts, announced PUMP in Kenthurst last week and acknowledged that community campaigning was crucial to this new program being implemented. This is a very significant step forward, but I will not be giving up this fight until the telecommunication companies, and particularly Telstra, step up to take their part.



7News reported on the announcement last week and you can view that report by clicking below:



I also spoke to Alan Jones, who is a vocal advocate for better telecommunications:

[Watch my discussion with Alan Jones](#)

The Sydney Morning Herald has also reported on the Private Member's Bill on this issue which I am preparing. You can read that article here:

[Read the SMH article](#)

Extended tax relief

Over 10 million low- and middle-income earners will receive a tax cut, with those eligible receiving up to \$1080 in tax relief for individuals and \$2160 for couples. **This will benefit around 57,000 taxpayers in Berowra.**



Support for small and medium businesses

For small and medium businesses, the Government has extended the instant asset write-off. About **19,900 businesses in Berowra will benefit from the extension of the instant asset write off.**

The temporary loss carry-back scheme is being extended by one year. **8,700 Berowra businesses will be eligible to use the scheme** in order to offset losses in this financial year against previously taxed profits.

The Government is also extending the SME Recovery Loan Scheme, which builds on the SME Guarantee scheme. If you are interested, you can find more information here:

[SME Recovery Loan Scheme](#)

Infrastructure spending

Investing in infrastructure benefits every Australian. The Government is supporting major projects, including an upgrade of the Great Western Highway and M5 Motorway. The Government's Roads to Recovery (RTR) program is also directly supporting road upgrades in our community, including upgrades to **Annangrove Road, Gilbert Road, and Glenhaven Road**. Under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund, **the Hills and Hornsby Councils are receiving around \$9 million and \$7 million**

respectively to support them in delivering priority infrastructure to support local roads and communities.

Re-training support

Our Government is investing \$6.4 billion into skills training for Australians. We know it is more important than ever to support people to upskill in critical industries and digital skills. To do so, the Government will commit an additional \$500 million, matched by the state and territory governments, to expand the JobTrainer Fund by 163,000 places and extend the availability of those places until the end of 2022.

We are also extending the Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements program, which pays businesses a 50% wage subsidy over 12 months for newly commencing apprentices or trainees. The has **already supported 432 apprenticeships and traineeships in Berowra**. A further \$2.7 billion is being invested in the program to support more than 170,000 new apprentices and trainees before 31 March next year. If you have benefited from this program, as an individual or business, I would love to hear from you.



Self-Funded Retirees

Our Government has committed to **removing the current \$450 per month minimum income threshold** for the superannuation guarantee to help women with their superannuation, who tend to retire with less superannuation than men. This will provide greater economic security in retirement for around 200,000 women. Additionally, **Australians aged between 67 and 74 will no longer be required to complete a certain amount of work in order to make voluntary contributions to superannuation.**

Australians aged **over 60 are now able to contribute up to \$300,000 into their superannuation if they downsize their home** and therefore free up housing stock for young families.



Childcare package

The Government is investing an additional \$1.7 billion into childcare under this Budget. Under the current arrangement, the maximum childcare subsidy is 85% per child, regardless of the number of children which a family has in childcare. Going forward, for the second and every subsequent child aged five and under, the maximum subsidy will be 95% of childcare costs. The Commonwealth contribution will be tapered depending on family income.

This measure will reduce childcare costs for more than 1,100 families in the Berowra electorate who have two children under 5.



Support for First Home Buyers

Our Government is funding the First Home Loan Deposit scheme into 2021-22, which will enable **10,000 first home buyers** to buy a home with a 5% deposit.

Supporting Australian innovation

We have launched a new 'patent box' in this Budget. Under the patent box, income earned from new patents that have been developed in Australia will be subject to a 17% tax rate, which is almost half of the rate at which large companies are taxed. The patent box will initially apply to the medical and biotech sectors and consultations will be held about expanding it to the clean energy sector.

Tax relief for breweries and distilleries

Australia's brewing and distilling industry employs around 15,000 Australians. Currently, they are entitled to a rebate of 60% on the excise which they pay on sales of their products, up to an annual cap of \$100,000. That cap has now been lifted to \$350,000, which will benefit those businesses by \$55,000 per year on average. **This is great news for the breweries and distilleries which operate in the electorate, like the Ekim and Canoelands breweries.**

Mental Health

Mental health and suicide prevention touches so many people in our community. Many know it is a particular passion of mine. I am proud to serve in a Government that has doubled spending on mental health since it came to office, including \$2.3 billion in this year's Budget.

Aftercare

I am particularly pleased to see a comprehensive plan to improve aftercare services, for which I have been strongly advocating. When people have a hip operation, they go to rehab. If someone presents to hospital following a suicide attempt, there needs to be similar follow-up support. We know the people who are most likely to die by suicide are those who have previously attempted suicide, and this is where aftercare comes in.

In last year's Productivity Commission Report into mental health and suicide prevention, **aftercare was the only suicide prevention action which had a clear number attached about how many suicides it could prevent.** The **\$158.6 million investment in aftercare** will allow the Government to work with the states and territories to ensure every Australian discharged from hospital following a suicide attempt receives the appropriate aftercare support. This should have a real impact on reducing the number of people who die by suicide each year.

Other measures

Other key measures to address mental health include:

- the establishment of a National Suicide Prevention Office
- the headspace network is being expanded
- Forty Head to Health Adult Mental Health centres will be established
- \$26.9 million will be used to support people with eating disorders and their families including establishing a National Eating Disorder Research Centre.

Support for Australian Women

Our Government is committed to supporting Australian women and I believe this Budget is clear evidence of that commitment. I have included some of our key funding commitments below, however, the Government has produced a full summary of what this Budget means for women, which you can read here:

[What this Budget means for Women](#)

Women's health

As part of the 2021-22 Budget, the Government is investing **\$353.9 million over the next four years to support women's health**. The investment includes \$100.4 million for improvements to cervical and breast cancer screening programs, \$47.4 million to support the mental health and wellbeing of new and expectant parents, and \$22 million for additional gynaecology items under Medicare. The Government is also listing Oriprom progesterone on the PBS, which is used to prevent women going into premature labour.

As the husband of an endometriosis sufferer, I understand the devastating effect which it can have on Australian women. **Endometriosis** is very common but chronically underdiagnosed, often because women and doctors believe it just to be normal period pain. The Pelvic Pain Foundation of Australia has developed a Period Pain and Endometriosis Program (PPEP-Talk), which helps students, teachers and parents to learn how to recognise when menstruation symptoms are not normal and where to go for advice and help. That program has proved to be very effective, so our Government is dedicating \$5 million to make PPEP-Talk available to thousands more young people, teachers, and parents.

Women's safety

Domestic violence is completely unacceptable but, sadly, it is all too common in Australia. In our community, the recent inquest into the 2018 death of the Edwards children in West Pennant Hills is a reminder that domestic violence touches every community. We must do more to end all forms of violence against women and children.

Under the 2021-22 Budget, our Government is investing an additional **\$1.1 billion towards women's safety**. That will deliver more emergency accommodation, legal assistance, and counselling. Greater financial support will be available to those escaping abusive relationships and there will be more services targeted at supporting particularly vulnerable groups, such as Indigenous, disabled and refugee women. We are also committed to reforming the family law system to make sure that it works better for all involved and provides greater access to justice for victims of domestic violence. These are important measures to truly reduce the prevalence of domestic violence and also support victims where it does occur. Too many lives have already been lost to domestic violence and we are committed to seeing that end.

Aged Care

Many of you have written to me raising concerns about Australia's aged care system, particularly in light of the Royal Commission. The Government is delivering **record additional funding of \$17.7 billion to significantly improve the system**. That includes funding for **80,000 new home care packages** and training for personal carers. Residential aged care providers will also be required to report and publish the care time personally given to residents, with a baseline minimum of over 3 hours per day. That will improve transparency in the system and ensure older Australians receive the care they deserve.



NDIS

I have personally seen on many occasions what a difference the NDIS has made to the lives of families in my electorate. We are committing an **additional \$13.2 billion to sustain the NDIS**, in addition to the \$3.9 billion committed in last year's Budget. The NDIS is growing at a rate well beyond any initial projections and this funding will help it to continue supporting Australians. As we go forward, we are consulting extensively with disability organisations, participants, and their families to ensure that the next chapter of the NDIS gives them **more flexibility, choice and control**, while ensuring the scheme is financially sustainable.
