



Dear Residents of the Berowra Electorate,

This week the Government announced it will extend the JobSeeker Coronavirus Supplement at a reduced rate, until the end of March 2021. Whilst many businesses are back to full operation, there are still many in our community who are without a job or have not returned to their normal hours of work.

This extension is an important announcement to support Australians who are currently without work.

This newsletter provides you with more information on this and other important developments and updates for our community.

As we commemorate Remembrance Day this week, I also want to take this opportunity to thank all those in our community who have dedicated their lives to protecting our country.

On Wednesday I joined my colleagues at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra to honour the sacrifice and service of those who have defended our country in uniform.



Please feel welcome to share this newsletter with others who may be interested. I encourage you to follow my social media for up-to-date news too. Anyone who wants to be added to the newsletter distribution list should email julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au.

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

JobSeeker Coronavirus Supplement Extended

It is important to get the right balance between providing temporary support for Australians hardest hit by the economic impact of the pandemic while also creating incentives for people to return to work.

Temporary support for Australians seeking work has been extended for a further three months as economic confidence and momentum builds.

Both existing and new JobSeekers will be paid the Coronavirus Supplement at a rate of \$150 per fortnight from 1 January 2021 through to 31 March 2021 on top of their base rate of payment and other supplements they are eligible to receive.

Our number one priority now is to get more Australians into work. As the jobs market improves we want to encourage people to return to work.



Expanded criteria will provide payment access for permanent employees who are stood down, sole traders and the self-employed until 31 March 2021. The relaxed partner income test will also continue meaning that a JobSeeker can still access payments where their partner earns about \$80,000 annually.

[Find out more](#)

Tax Relief from Next Week

Tax relief starts next week.

Under the Morrison Government's tax policy, if you are earning between \$50,000 and \$85,000 you will be \$1080 better off throughout the year. You will also get an additional \$1080 benefit from the Low and Middle Income Tax Offset (LMITO) when you lodge your 2020-21 tax return.

Bringing forward these tax cuts and providing the LMITO for an additional year will help to create 50,000 more jobs across the country and allow hardworking Australians to keep more of what they earn.

Depending on an employee's pay cycle, Australians should be seeing more money in their pay packets by Christmas.

Businesses have until 16 November to update their payroll system to reflect the tax changes.

Grants programs open

Veteran and Community Grants

Grants for projects supporting the health and wellbeing of veterans and their families are open for application.

Veteran and Community Grants are for activities and services that improve the health and wellbeing of members of the veteran community.

Grants can provide seed funding for projects that promote a healthy lifestyle, help veterans to remain living independently in their own homes, reduce social isolation, support carers and improve access to community services.

Grants of up to \$20,000 for local, community-based projects and activities are available. A small number of large grants of up to \$150,000 are available for projects that deliver wellbeing support services and activities of broad-scale benefit to the veteran community.

I encourage any local ex-services organisation or community organisation with ideas for practical projects and activities that support safe environments for veterans and their families to connect and engage to consider making an application.

Grant applications will close 29 January 2021. Assistance with grant application queries is also available by phone: 1800 020 283 or by email:

support@communitygrants.gov.au.

Information on How to Apply

Citizen Science Grants

Local organisations in the Berowra electorate with research project ideas are invited to apply for a Citizen Science grant.

Grants of between \$150,000 and \$500,000 are available to support projects that enable community participation in four key research areas: disaster resilience and preparedness, environmental change, cyber security and artificial intelligence, and food and agribusiness.

Citizen Science grants are all about coming up with innovative solutions to some of our biggest national challenges. I encourage organisations in the Berowra electorate to put their research project ideas forward for grants.



Applications for Round 2 are open until 17 December.

[Apply Here](#)

National Recycling Week

This week is National Recycling Week and I caught up with Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management Trevor Evans MP to get some tips on how we can all be improving our recycling practices. Click below to hear his tips.



Progress on Greenway Park

Greenway Park Clubhouse is going up! Last week I attended Greenway Park as the next stage of the sports house development was put in place. This is a huge development for what is an incredible community project. This sports house is the result of a \$2.8million Federal Government investment in Greenway Park and is the culmination of the work of so many people and sports codes in our community, including:

- WPHCCC - West Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Cricket Club
- Pennant Hills Demons AFL Club
- Pennant Hills Demons Junior AFL Club
- Westbrook Junior AFL Club
- Cherrybrook Senior Athletics
- Greenway Giants
- Pennant Hills/Cherrybrook Rugby League Club
- Cherrybrook United Netball Club

The sports house should be open to the public in January 2021.





Update on Securing Better Telecommunications

I am continuing to fight for better telecommunications service in our area and will not give up the fight.

The Government has recently sought input into the next round of its Mobile Blackspot Program and I am fighting hard to have our area prioritised in that program so that we can get more mobile towers to fix the serious problems we are facing. I am also continuing to push Telstra and NBN to commit to better infrastructure in our area.

Recently I took Telstra to Dangar Island to speak with the community there about the delivery of a long-promised mobile tower.



As always, if these matters affect you, please contact my office and we will do the best we can to advocate on your behalf.

Update from Parliament This Week

This week I took the chance to thank Jill Turlas, who is retiring as Galston High School Principal, for her service to our community. I also spoke in Parliament about the need to support travel agents who continue to face significant financial losses during the pandemic, the importance of the migrants have access to the English language classes they need and the importance of the National Commissioner for Veteran Suicide.

Honouring Jillian Turlas



Jill Turlas retired as Principal of Galston High School at the end of Term 3 after serving the school for 10 years and committing almost 40 years of her life to the education of children. Jill leaves a proud legacy.

Supporting Our Travel Agents



Travel agents have been hit particularly hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. The unique characteristics of the industry warrant industry-specific support.

Ensuring Migrants Have the English Language Skills They Need



The recent changes to the Adult Migrant English Program, providing unlimited free English classes to migrants, changes the opportunities for people in Australia who can't speak English and allows us as a society to be stronger, more cohesive and more united.

The National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide



The National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide, is an important demonstration of the Government understanding and underscoring the value of our veterans and those who are prepared to serve. As the Chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Suicide Prevention I'm proud to be part of a government that is so committed to dealing with veteran suicide.