

Senate F&PA Committee
Tabled Document

Inquiry: Budget Estimates
Date/Time: 27/5 1:55 pm
Business Name: Sen Ronaldson

Friday 30 April

CCSTU Bulletin

Message from Jenny Macklin – Rudd Government Delivering for Pensioners

Pension Reforms and 2nd Round of Increases

Last year, the Government delivered significant improvements to the pension system through *Secure and Sustainable Pension Reforms*. The pension was substantially increased and its operation was made simpler. The reforms also make the pension sustainable into the future. On 20 March 2010, pension payments increased by \$29.20 a fortnight for single pensioners on the maximum rate and \$44.00 a fortnight for pensioner couples, combined, on the maximum rate. These new rates represent an increase in pension payments of around \$100.00 a fortnight for single pensioners and around \$74.00 a fortnight for pensioner couples, combined, as a result of the Government's pension improvements from September 2009 and indexation. For further information, go to

http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/internet/jennymacklin.nsf/content/im_m_pensionsincrease_6march2010..htm

Broadband for Seniors

The Broadband for Seniors Program is also up and running, with more than 500 active kiosks and 150 more to be rolled out. Applications are still being taken for this program and it provides an ideal local campaigning opportunity. For further information on kiosks in your electorate or on the program, go to

<http://www.necseniors.net.au/>

Seniors' Kits

A reminder that the revised Seniors' information kit is available. For electorate offices that haven't yet accessed/distributed this, please contact the CCSTU at ccstu@aph.gov.au

Pensioner Forums Encouraged

I have also been joining local members for pensioner forums. These have already been conducted in several electorates including Petrie, Hasluck and Stirling. Justine Elliot has been conducting similar forums around the country and they have proven incredibly successful in providing local pensioners with information on the pension reforms and in local campaigning on the Government's strong record in better supporting pensioners and senior Australians.

Solar Panel Feed-in Tariff

There has been recent media coverage on the impact of income earned by pensioners through state government solar feed-in tariff schemes. Standard lines on this issue are available in the social policy folder of the share drive [LINK](#).

Please contact Max Jeganathan Max.jeganathan@fahcsia.gov.au in my office on x7560 with questions or for further information.

CCSTU Contacts

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For access to the FPLP Caucus Share Drive or for inclusion in any of the central e-mail distribution lists, please send a request to CCSTU e-mail.

(over) →

Watch for the CCSTU Alert on Sunday Afternoon for material on the
Henry Tax Review

Message from the Office of Julia Gillard

Dear Caucus and Staff

On the share drive is a petition we suggest Caucus should circulate in their electorates that calls on the Opposition to 'Save Our Schools' and guarantee BER funding if they win the election. The aim is to have these tabled in Parliament when it next sits.

To be able to be tabled in Parliament, a *principal petitioner* must include their name and address on the first page of the petition. Under these rules, **MPs are not permitted to be the principal petitioner or even sign a petition.** However, this obviously does not exclude candidates or anyone else wishing to be a principal petitioner.

Information on petitions, including requirements of the principal petitioner is available at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/work/petitions.htm>
Contact: Alexandra.williamson@dpm.gov.au

Kate Ellis – Rural and Remote Child Care Services

Kate Ellis today announced an extra funding for 13 child care services in rural and remote Australia. The Rudd Government is providing \$3 million over three years to give a helping hand to long day care services in rural and remote areas. The funding will be used to upgrade child care centres to better meet the education and care needs of the children they care for.

The *Child Care Services Support Program* helps ensure children in country regions and other areas of need have access to high quality child care programs. Details on which areas will be receiving funding and a shell media release are now available on the share drive [LINK](#).
Contact Jamila.rizvi@deewr.gov.au

New Documents

- CLO's list updated [LINK](#)
- Pensioners and solar electricity grid buy back [LINK](#)
- NBN and Telstra shareholders [LINK](#)
- My School Campaign updated [LINK](#)
- Deferral of CPRS [LINK](#)
- COMET Grants [LINK](#)
- Bowen - portfolio contacts [LINK](#)
- Future of Financial Security [LINK](#)
- Youth Attainment and Transitions [LINK](#)
- Tobacco Excise (NB, update forthcoming) [LINK](#)
- Child care services rural and remote [LINK](#)
- Save our Schools Petition [LINK](#)
- Caucus Distribution lists – Updated [LINK](#)

Budget information in next weeks Bulletin

Greg Combet's new CLO

Tim Fitzsimmons 6277 7620 tim.fitzsimmons@climatechange.gov.au

Storage Space on your EO Drive

If you are running out of storage space on your EO drive you might like to consider an external hard drive. External hard drives can be arranged through EO IT Support contact the Help Desk if you aren't sure 02 6215 3333

Diary Notes

- **7.30am Fri 7 May National Press Club Population Reform Forum and Free Breakfast** presented by Kelvin Thomson, Dick Smith and Sustainable Population Australia with speakers Barry Cohen (former Hawke Government Environment Minister), Crispin Hull (former Canberra Times editor) and Mark O'Connor (author of Overloading Australia) RSVP: ASAP to Anthony Cianflone on (03) 9350 5777 or Kelvin.Thomson.MP@aph.gov.au
- **7pm Mon 10 May The Jewel of India, Manuka Curtin Curry Night with Mark Dreyfus** Curtin Sub-Branch in Canberra is organising another of their famous curry nights and all ALP members are invited to attend and bring along their friends. Cost is \$40 Waged, \$35 Unwaged, RSVP by Wed 5 May to Chris Condon at chrismcondon@hotmail.com or 0422 018 616, or Karl Maftoum at kmaftoum@fastmail.com.au or 0419 320 484.
- **6.30pm for 7pm, Wed 12 May, The Lotus Room, Southern Cross Yacht Club, Yarralumla** \$60 waged, \$55 unwaged, Drinks available at the bar. Join panelists Sharryn Jackson Chair, Standing Committee on Employment and Workplace Relations (Equal Pay Inquiry Report) and Sarah Schoonwater, Lawyer at Slater and Gordon and former Secretary of the ACT CFMEU with **Kate Lundy** as MC RSVP and payment for your tickets to: Meg Martin on 6230 0411, fax 6230 0413 or meg.martin@aph.gov.au **IA** **over** →
- **6pm Wed 26 May House of Reps Alcove Chronic Illness, Carers and Workplace Flexibility – The New Workforce Challenge** See page 6 for more details

Accommodation

Braddon

Furnished room available - from 1 April \$195 wk (this includes bills). Two professionals looking for 3rd person to share a large 3 bedroom townhouse in Braddon. Great location, short walk to city and park, bus stop outside front door. The room is furnished - has a bed, bedside table and shelves and large built-in wardrobe. You would be sharing the bathroom with one person. The place is two stories with the large open living room / kitchen area, laundry, toilet and cute courtyard downstairs and the 3 bedrooms upstairs. Would suit someone looking for short to medium term accommodation. We're friendly, clean and tidy, non-smoking, easy going and like to share a meal and a bottle of wine every now and then. Please email Claire.Harris@csiro.au if you are interested.

Kingston Foreshore

Room with own large bathroom and secure underground car park available in modern apartment in the Kingston Foreshore. The apartment is fully furnished with large living areas, balcony and reverse cycle air-conditioning. The room is unfurnished but has a built-