



Community News May 2023

Dr Mike Frelander MP Member for Macarthur

PM in Macarthur

Macarthur is home to many wonderful businesses and organisations that employ and build locally, which greatly benefits the Australian economy.

One such example is DECO Australia, which is in Minto and employs over 100 local men and women.

I had the great pleasure of welcoming the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese MP, to Macarthur recently where he met with DECO staff and formally opened their newly constructed Innovation Centre & Testing Laboratory.

The Prime Minister has visited Macarthur many times in the past, including a previous visit to DECO in 2021, and is a great supporter of Macarthur manufacturers like DECO.

DECO produces a range of aluminium products, such as railway station signage, that is produced by Australian workers contributing directly back into the Australian economy.

I look forward to working with my Federal colleagues to continue supporting Australian workers, businesses, employers and manufacturers going forward.

Macarthur School Fund-Boost

I am happy to announce that 10 schools in Macarthur will benefit from a share of \$32 million in grants to upgrade school infrastructure and equipment.

These projects differ from school to school, with some including refurbishing classrooms, installing air-conditioning,



or building new outdoor learning spaces. The schools receiving funding are:

- ▶ Oran Park High School
- ▶ Airids High School
- ▶ Thomas Reddall High School
- ▶ Ruse Public School
- ▶ Gledswood Hills Public School
- ▶ Ingleburn Public School
- ▶ Eschol Park Public School
- ▶ Sarah Redfern High School
- ▶ John Therry Catholic College

This is excellent for the students and teachers of Macarthur and I thank the Minister for Education, Jason Clare, for his work on this.

Message from Mike

I have spent over 40 years of my life here in Macarthur – raising a family, setting up my clinic, working in our local hospitals and now serving as your Federal Member, and I know how fortunate we are to live in this beautiful part of the world.

That is why I am very proud to represent Macarthur and I am very excited for our region and our country with a Federal Labor Government and now a NSW Labor Government leading the way forward.

This is so important and as we look towards our future, I will continue to advocate for the interests and issues of Macarthur.

This includes, but is not limited to, our local healthcare

system, our local economy, our local infrastructure needs and the need to protect our environment.

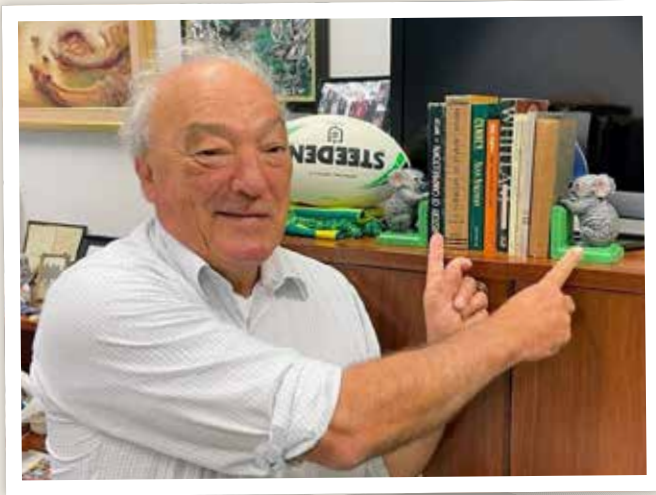
Please do not hesitate to contact my office to speak with my friendly staff and I.

We can be reached via phone **4620 0293**, email **mike.frelander.mp@aph.gov.au** or in our office, which is located at **37 Queen St, Campbelltown**.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Mike Frelander MP
MEMBER FOR MACARTHUR

Macarthur koalas in Parliament!



I recently celebrated my birthday, and my wonderful staff bought me a set of Koala bookends, who I have appropriately called Mac & Arthur!

They sit proudly in my Parliamentary office and are a hit with other MP's and visitors to the office.

I am committed to protecting our local environment, particularly our local koala colony.

I recently established the Parliamentary Friends of Threatened Species with Jenny Ware MP to advocate for our flora and fauna that are threatened with extinction and habitat loss.

Supporting local manufacturers

Macarthur is home to over 680 manufacturing businesses, who employ thousands of locals and contribute greatly to our economy.

Our government understands the importance of Australian manufacturing and its vital role in our economy.

Minister for Industry and Science, Ed Husic MP, visited Macarthur recently and together we toured the Noumi factory in Ingleburn. Noumi produces quality dairy and non-dairy products for brands such as MILKLAB, Crankt Protein and Australia's Own Foods.



Pay rise for Aged Care workers!

I entered politics to provide a voice for our community, especially for those who struggle to have their voices heard. That is why I am very proud that **more than 250,000 aged care workers will receive a 15% pay increase** as part of our Budget.

This means that a:

- ▶ Registered nurse on a level 2.3 award wage will be paid an additional \$196.08 a week (more than \$10,000 a year)

- ▶ An enrolled nurse on a level 2 award wage will be paid an additional \$145.54 a week (more than \$7500 a year)
- ▶ An assistant in nursing on a level 3 award wage will be paid an additional \$136.68 a week (more than \$7100 a year)
- ▶ A personal care worker on a level 4 (aged care award) or a home care worker on a level 3.1 (SCHADS award) will be paid an additional \$141.10 a week (more

than \$7300 a year)

- ▶ A recreational activity officer on a level 3 (aged care award) will be paid an additional \$139.54 a week (more than \$7200 a year)
- ▶ A head chef/cook on a level 4 (aged care award) will be paid an additional \$141.12 a week (more than \$7300 a year)
- ▶ A staff member with a Certificate III qualification moves from earning only \$940 per week to \$1,082

Long COVID Inquiry

As the Chair for the Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport, I was very proud to have our Long COVID Inquiry report, titled *Sick and tired: Casting a long shadow*, finished and published

This report will shape our national approach to Long COVID and repeated COVID infections and I thank all Committee members, the secretariat and those who made submissions for making this possible. We received over 560 submissions, which ranged from those suffering from Long COVID to those researching it.

I am thankful also to the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon. Mark Butler MP, for his support, interest, and guidance



Ms Melissa McIntosh MP and I presented our Long COVID Inquiry to the Federal Parliament recently.

throughout this inquiry. Following the publication of our report, Minister Butler announced that \$50 million from the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) will be provided for research into Long COVID.

This funding will help improve our

knowledge of Long COVID in the Australian context and generate evidence to inform policy and clinical guidance, improve health outcomes, and increase awareness in our community.

Importance of early education



Who doesn't love story time? Minister Aly and I gained a few friends during our visit to Macarthur early education centres.

Our fantastic Minister for Early Education, Anne Aly MP, visited Macarthur recently and we met with the staff and children of Goodstart Early Learning in Willowdale.

From 1 July 2023, approximately 96% of all families in Australia with a child in early education and care will benefit from our more affordable early learning and care policy.

This will benefit 9200 Macarthur families, and is another way that we are delivering cost of living relief whilst also boosting productivity in our community.

BUDGET

I am very proud to be part of an Albanese Government that is working hard for Macarthur.

Some big wins include:

- ✔ **The largest ever investment in Medicare** for bulkbilling, which benefits over 103,000 Macarthur residents. This historic \$3.5 billion investment triples the bulk billing incentive which is an immediate injection to support patients and GP's,
- ✔ Over 9200 Macarthur families will be better off under our **Early Education package**,
- ✔ Nearly 3000 Macarthur households will benefit from our **Commonwealth Rental Assistance boost**,
- ✔ 46,000 Macarthur residents will benefit from our pharmaceutical changes by **introducing two-for-one prescriptions**, and
- ✔ 4000 Macarthur residents will benefit from **investments in Paid Parental leave, Jobseeker and Austudy**.



There are many more benefits from this Budget and there is still more work to do. I look forward to working for you with my Federal colleagues going forward.

Heart Health Checks



I welcome this announcement with a full heart.

Heart disease is Australia's biggest killer- one Australian has a heart attack or stroke every 4 minutes.

Heart Health Checks help save lives and this will help ensure more Australians receive the diagnosis and treatment they need.

This is a vital service and I am proud to be part of a government who cares for such a service.



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