

Your Federal Member for Macarthur

Dr Mike Freelander MP

Community News March 2017



Fighting cuts to penalty rates

On 23 February the Fair Work Commission handed down the decision to cut Sunday penalty rates. Over 700,000 workers will suffer a large pay cut of approx. \$77 per week – perhaps even more. In Macarthur there are 10,741 people who work in the retail and hospitality sector, and 1 in 6 of these workers will be affected by the changes to Sunday penalty rates.



The Fair Work decision affects us all. It will make housing affordability, family lifestyles and children's lives profoundly different. Australians have every right to expect that the parliament will discharge its role in protecting the common good.

Labor is determined to stop this damage being inflicted on

our local workers and economy. Labor brought forward a Private Member's Bill to prevent the wages of workers relying on the award from being cut. Labor's bill would stop the penalty rates cut from taking effect and ensure penalty rates cannot be cut in the future if it results in a reduction in workers' take-home pay.

Message from Mike

Hi Everyone,

I can't believe it's now time for my second newsletter. Parliament is up and running for the year and already there have been some controversial issues. The Centrelink robo-debt debacle is of great concern to me and I will try and help anyone who feels they have not been treated well. Many people have been bullied into paying money they don't owe. If you are having issues please contact my office.

I am also deeply concerned about housing affordability, as are most sensible politicians. However the government seems paralysed and unable to take the necessary steps that even its own chairman of the Housing Inquiry John Alexander wants. I will be bringing this up again on the floor of Parliament as I want all of us and our children to be able to afford the great Australian dream of home ownership.

I will also be trying very hard to stop this government from continuing to destroy Medicare and trying to Americanise the Australian healthcare system. The rollout of the NDIS has been bumpy and I am trying to support those who are struggling to get adequate resources.

Local Infrastructure issues continue to plague us. I have recently met with relevant Ministers to try and push them to begin the upgrade of Appin Road.

I have also once again continued to push the Government to develop rail services to Badgerys Creek and on to the North ready for the first plane at the new airport.

Please don't hesitate to contact me about any relevant federal issues.

Dr Mike Freelander MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACARTHUR

PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION ON PAGE 4.

Office: 37 Queen St Campbelltown NSW 2560 Mail: PO BOX 88 Campbelltown NSW 2560

Phone: (02) 4620 0293 Fax: (02) 4620 4414 Email: Mike.Freelander.MP@aph.gov.au

Medicare's birthday

- NEW MINISTER THINKS PRIVATISATION

On 1 February it was the 33rd anniversary of Medicare, the greatest social reform Australia has seen.

It is important to remember that these reforms were hard fought and often opposed by the Conservatives at every point. It took two Labor governments more than two decades to embed what is now Medicare. Medicare ensures people can access life-saving treatment when they need it. Last year around 21 million Australians accessed Medicare services - including GP visits, vital tests and scans, and hospital treatments.

It is at this point we need to reflect where Medicare and our health system are at ... For Australians healthcare is a right not an option.

At the last election a pretty strong message was sent to the Liberal-National Party - but Malcolm Turnbull doesn't seem to be listening. He is determined to go down the same path as America when it comes to healthcare.

We have already seen a drop in bulk billing rates, with many Australians already paying more to see their doctor. Now Malcolm Turnbull is going even further, with over \$2 billion in new cuts to Medicare still to come.

Middle and working class Australians will be paying more out-of-pocket costs for:

- ▶ Visits to your local GP;
- ▶ Prescription medicine;
- ▶ Medical tests and scans;
- ▶ Cancer treatment; and
- ▶ Dental services.

We cannot let our health system go down the same path as America, access to healthcare should rely on your Medicare card and not your credit card.

I will continue to fight for the protection of our healthcare system and the reversal of Mr Turnbull's savage cuts.



Cystic Fibrosis rally, Canberra



It was fantastic to join Cystic Fibrosis Australia on the lawns of Parliament House where we welcomed the news that the drug Kalydecco will be available on the Pharmaceutical Benefit Scheme.

I was honoured to meet many young people and children who live with Cystic Fibrosis, including Lauren Rowe from the Macarthur electorate

who lives with Cystic Fibrosis and has started her own charity GiftedLife to support survivors of lung transplants like herself.

NDIS FORUM SUCCESS

The first Macarthur NDIS forum was a great success - it saw people with disabilities, families and service providers gather for an information session with an NDIS representative and a presentation from Family Advocacy.



It was fantastic to have an open dialogue with an NDIS representative which allowed many of the teething issues to be talked through.

Due the success of the first NDIS forum, we will be holding a second forum to ensure that those who were not able to make it have the opportunity to attend.

WHEN: Tuesday 4 April, 6:30pm

WHERE: Greg Percival Community Centre, Ingleburn

RSVP: mike.freeland.mf@aph.gov.au OR 4620 0293

SPREAD THE WORD AND SEE YOU THERE.

O-week, Western Sydney University Campbelltown



I was very happy to help out with o-week at Western Sydney University, Campbelltown. I met with many new students, and some old patients. I am very optimistic about our future when I see such a diverse, talented and hard-working younger generation coming through.

Local 2017 Australia Day Awards

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- ▶ Campbelltown City Citizen of the Year – **Peter Jakobsson**
- ▶ Campbelltown City Sportsperson of the Year – **Cameron Nonemacher**
- ▶ Campbelltown City Young Citizen of the Year – **Adam Herman**
- ▶ Community Group Initiative of the Year – **Campbelltown Lost Found and Injured Pets**
- ▶ Camden Council Citizen of the Year – **Robyne Meek**
- ▶ Camden Council Young of the Year – **Johann Marais**
- ▶ Camden Council Sportsperson Award – **Guy Creber**
- ▶ Camden Council – Young sportsperson of the Year – **Hannah Trethewy and Nathaneal Stewart**
- ▶ Camden Council community event award – **Macarthur Lions ANZAC Run**
- ▶ Camden Council Group Award – **Youth Solutions Youth Advisory Group**



LOCAL SPORTING CHAMPIONS PROGRAM

\$500 grants are now available to support junior sportspeople and their families with travel, accommodation and other costs. These grants allow talented young sportspeople in Macarthur some extra financial support.

Young sportspeople aged between 12 and 18 years of age who compete at a state, national or international level and who travel more than 250km (return).

YOU CAN APPLY ONLINE AT:

www.ausport.gov.au/participating/local_sporting_champions

For any further enquires you can contact my office.

Centrelink debt debacle

Over the summer we have seen the absolute mess that is the Centrelink robo-debt collection.

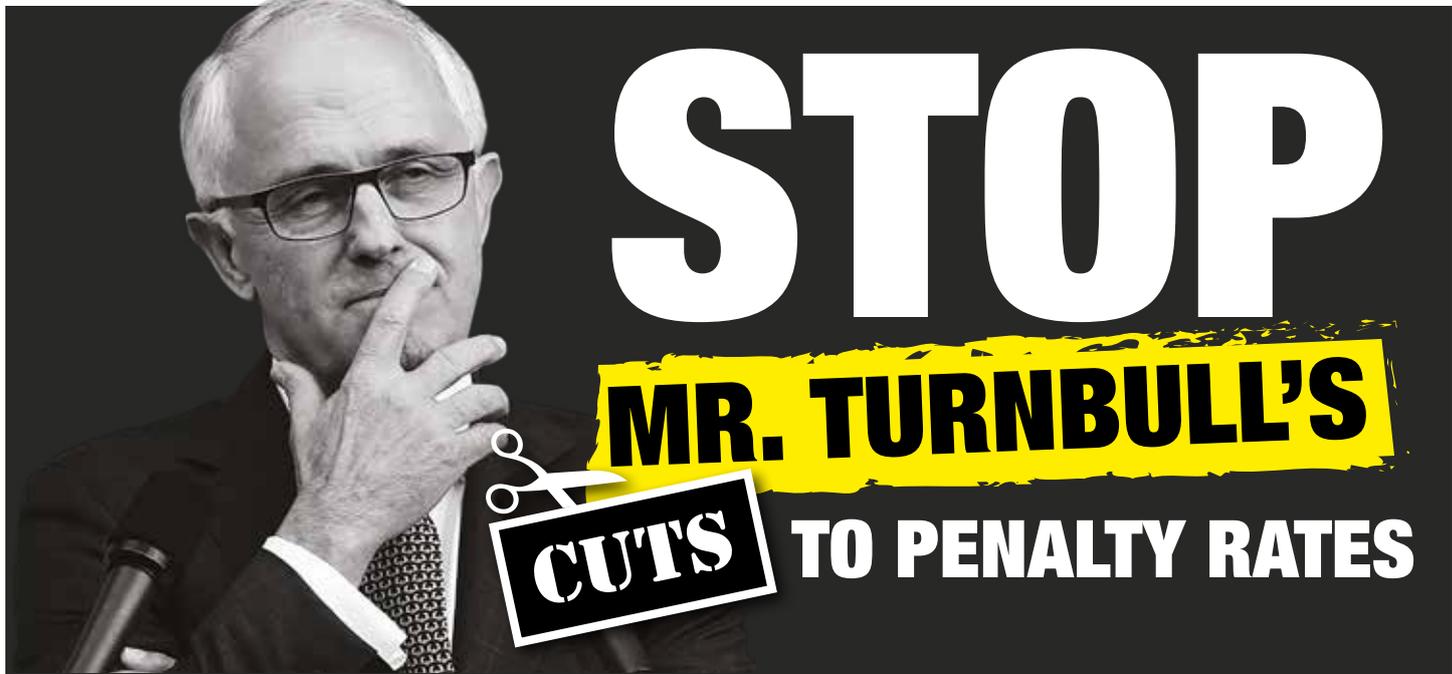
Since December last year the Liberal Government has been sending out 20,000 letters a week which accuse people of failing to properly declare their income to Centrelink. It has become very alarming that 1 in 5 of these letters are going to people who have correctly declared their income and consequently do not owe any debt.

My office has been contacted by many people who have been incorrectly accused of having Centrelink debts. We have heard from pensioners who, after receiving the robo-call and letter from Centrelink have paid the incorrect 'debt' because they were too scared about what would happen if they did not.

This whole process has become such a mess that Centrelink is now referring any enquiries from my constituents directly to my office so that we can write a representation on their behalf. Centrelink staff are overwhelmed. My major concern is the process and the complete disregard of what we should expect of our government.

Actions by the Liberal Government are making people feel scared and targeted – no one should be forced to feel this way.

I have called on Malcolm Turnbull to give a Prime Ministerial apology to all those damaged by this fiasco. If you have received an incorrect debt letter please don't hesitate to get in contact.



Mr Turnbull is backing cuts to workers wages and penalty rates.

Workers will have their pay cut by up to \$77 per week.

Penalty rates pay the bills and put food on the table for millions of families.

Sign the petition and tell Mr Turnbull he is completely out of touch.



NAME:	PHONE:	SIGNATURE:
EMAIL:		
ADDRESS:		
NAME:	PHONE:	SIGNATURE:
EMAIL:		
ADDRESS:		

www.ProtectOurPenaltyRates.org.au



Please sign and return your completed petition to: Dr Mike Freelander MP, PO Box 88, Campbelltown NSW 2560. You can scan and return by email to Mike.Freelander.MP@aph.gov.au
For more petitions please phone Dr Mike Freelander's office on **(02) 4620 0293**.



**ALWAYS
AVAILABLE
TO HELP**

As your local MP, I can help you and your family with enquiries or problems with Commonwealth Government departments including the Family Assistance Office, Medicare, Pharmaceutical Benefits, Superannuation, Taxation, Workplace Relations, Veterans Affairs, Citizenship, Passports, Centrelink, Immigration, Defence, Science, Sport and the Arts. **Dr Mike Freelander MP** FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACARTHUR